

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS SUPPLEMENT

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S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S

2026 No. 54

**THE ROADS (FERRY DEVELOPMENT AND
MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS, 2026**

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S T A T U T O R Y I N S T R U M E N T S

2026 No. 54

The Roads (Ferry Development and Management) Regulations, 2026

(Under section 76 of the Roads Act, Cap. 346)

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred upon the Minister responsible for roads by section 76 of the Roads Act, these Regulations are made this 11th day of June, 2026.

1. Citation

These Regulations may be cited as the Roads (Ferry Development and Management) Regulations, 2026.

2. Interpretation

In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“Act” means the Roads Act;

“currency point” has the value assigned to it in Schedule 1 to these Regulations;

“ferry” means a public vessel that carries passengers, vehicles and cargo, across a body of water and connects at least one public road;

“ferry landing” means a specialised docking facility that receives a ferryboat;

“master” means a person having command of a ferry;

“ferry operator” means a road authority or any other entity responsible for managing and providing ferry services, which involve the transportation of passengers, vehicles, and cargo across bodies of water using ferries;

“ferry route” means a designated path, course or a demarcated band of a specified distance on either side of the Global Positioning System points that a ferry, shall follow between specific points or locations across a water body;

“hazardous load or cargo” means—

- (a) toxic, corrosive, explosive, oxidising, flammable, harmful or irritant solid, liquid or gases, which when, inhaled, ingested or comes into contact with human skin causes or is likely to cause harm or damage;
- (b) a substance which due to its physical or chemical properties and its use creates a risk to human health and environment; and
- (c) any dust whether in form of solid particles or fibrous materials or other material is capable of forming an explosive mixture in air or an explosive atmosphere.

3. Ferry and ferry landing development

(1) A ferry operator shall—

- (a) develop ferries in line with the minimum requirements in Schedule 2 to these Regulations;
- (b) submit to the Minister all proposed ferry projects for comprehensive assessment, prior to commencing the project; and
- (c) collaborate with the relevant maritime authorities and local communities throughout the planning, construction and operation of a ferry or ferry landing.

(2) The Minister shall—

- (a) on the advice of the Engineer-In-Chief, review the proposed projects in subregulation (1) in accordance with international and regional standards; and
- (b) while reviewing the proposed projects consider key aspects, including vessel design construction compliance, emission standards, navigational safety, passenger capacity, lifesaving equipment criteria and emergency response protocols.

4. Access to ferry route

(1) A person shall not undertake any activity including fishing or anchoring within a ferry route.

(2) A person who contravenes subregulation (1) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding two hundred currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both.

5. Access to ferry landing

(1) A person may access a ferry landing on the authorisation of a ferry operator.

(2) A person authorised to access the ferry landing shall follow the procedure stipulated at the ferry landing.

(3) A ferry operator other than a road authority may use the road authority's ferry landing with authorisation from an authorised officer upon payment of a fee prescribed in Schedule 3 to these Regulations.

6. Vehicle and cargo loads accessing ferry or ferry landing

(1) An owner of a vehicle accessing a ferry or ferry landing shall ensure that the vehicle is in good mechanical condition.

(2) A person who intends to transport cargo on a ferry shall, prior to loading the cargo on the ferry declare the contents of the cargo to the road authority using the form set out in Schedule 4 to these Regulations.

(3) Notwithstanding subregulations (1) and (2), a master may deny any cargo, luggage or vehicle access to the ferry if the master considers it a risk to the safety, security protocols or operational feasibility of the ferry.

7. Broken down or abandoned vehicle and cargo

(1) A road authority shall immediately remove a vehicle which breaks down on the ferry or ferry landing at the cost of the owner of the vehicle.

(2) A broken down or abandoned vehicle and cargo shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of section 56 of the Act.

8. Requirements for driver accessing ferry or ferry landing

A driver of a vehicle accessing a ferry or ferry landing shall—

- (a) possess a valid driver's licence for the class of vehicle the driver intends to load onto the ferry;
- (b) follow the loading and off-loading procedure as indicated on the ferry; and
- (c) in line with the operational guidelines issued by a road authority, firmly and properly secure the cargo on the vehicle before loading it on a ferry.

9. Permissible maximum dimensions and load

A road authority shall not permit a load whose—

- (a) length goes beyond the ramp used for loading and off-loading vehicles and passengers to access the ferry or ferry landing; and
- (b) weight exceeds the allowable weight on the ferry.

10. Ferry operations

A road authority shall—

- (a) maintain a schedule for ferry departures and arrivals;
- (b) adhere to the passenger and cargo capacity for safety reasons;
- (c) ensure the presence of adequate navigation aids, including buoys, lights and markers to facilitate safe navigation; and
- (d) publish the schedule in paragraph (a) on their website, display it on the notice board at a ferry landing and circulate it in public media of wide coverage.

11. Ferry crew and management

A ferry operator shall in accordance with the Inland Water Transport Act, appoint qualified personnel to oversee ferry operations.

12. Record keeping

A ferry operator shall—

- (a) keep accurate records of passenger counts, vehicles, cargo manifests, maintenance activities and incidents; and
- (b) keep the records in paragraph (a) for a minimum of five years or the duration prescribed for record-keeping by the Government.

13. Ferry inspection and maintenance

A road authority shall inspect a ferry regularly to ensure compliance with safety standards and operational integrity.

14. Dry docking and mandatory surveys

A road authority shall—

- (a) have a schedule in place for dry docking in order to assess vessel conditions and perform necessary repairs; and
- (b) periodically conduct mandatory surveys to ensure continued safety, seaworthiness and compliance with applicable regulations and standards for ferries.

15. Transportation of hazardous cargo

(1) A person who intends to transport hazardous cargo on a ferry shall transport the hazardous cargo in accordance with section 37 of the Act.

(2) A master may deny access of hazardous cargo to the ferry if the master considers the hazardous cargo to be non-compliant with subregulation (1).

16. Transportation of other types of cargo or animals

A person transporting—

- (a) cargo on a ferry other than cargo laden on a vehicle shall firmly secure or properly package the cargo; and
- (b) an animal on a ferry shall firmly secure or properly confine the animal.

17. Passenger guidelines

A ferry operator shall ensure that passengers—

- (a) follow the instructions at a ferry landing while boarding and disembarking; and
- (b) with limited mobility receive necessary assistance while boarding and disembarking at a ferry landing.

18. Passenger safety requirements

(1) A ferry operator and a passenger shall adhere to the passenger safety requirements prescribed in the Inland Water Transport Act.

(2) A ferry operator shall not be liable for any harm, injury or loss resulting from non-compliance to the requirements prescribed in subregulation (1).

(3) A person who contravenes subregulation (1) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding twelve currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or both.

19. Suspension of ferry operations

(1) A road authority may suspend ferry operations.

(2) A road authority shall give notice of suspension of operations in a newspaper of wide circulation at least fourteen days prior to the suspension of ferry operations.

(3) Notwithstanding subregulation (2), a road authority may suspend ferry operations without prior notice if a road authority is satisfied that the continued operation of the ferry is a risk or likely to be a risk to the safety of the passengers.

20. Damage occasioned to ferry or ferry landing

(1) A person who damages or whose property damages a ferry or ferry landing operated by a road authority shall pay for the damage occasioned to the ferry or ferry landing.

(2) A road authority shall assess the damage and serve a demand notice to the person in subregulation (1) for payment of the damage occasioned to the ferry or ferry landing.

(3) A person on whom a demand notice has been served under subregulation (2) shall pay to a road authority, within fourteen days from the date of receipt of the demand notice the amount assessed.

(4) A vehicle, which damages a ferry or ferry landing operated by a road authority, shall be impounded and towed at the cost of the owner to the nearest police station or police post, where it shall be kept until payment for the damage is settled.

(5) A road authority shall establish the extent of any damage to the ferry or ferry landing in liaison with the relevant Government department or agency.

21. Vandalising ferry or ferry landing

(1) A person shall not vandalise a ferry or ferry landing.

(2) A person who vandalises a ferry or ferry landing owned and operated by a road authority-

- (a) commits an offence and is liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding twelve currency points or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or both; and
- (b) shall in addition to the penalty in sub regulation(2)(a) pay compensation for the damage caused to a ferry or ferry landing.

22. Independent assessment

(1) A person who disputes a damage assessment report shall within seven days of receipt of the report notify a road authority stating the reasons for the dispute.

(2) Upon receipt of a notification under subregulation (1), a road authority shall request the Engineers Registration Board to assess the damage.

(3) The Board shall—

- (a) review the damage assessment and may receive representations from a road authority and the person disputing the damage assessment; and
- (b) issue a final assessment within thirty days from the date of receipt of the request from the road authority.

(4) A person who disputes a damage assessment may seek redress from the courts of law.

23. Safety, environment, emergency and incident management

A ferry operator shall—

- (a) display detailed safety procedures for passengers and crew members in a conspicuous place in the ferry;
- (b) sensitise passengers on safety measures and procedures on every voyage;
- (c) integrate environmental management measures into ferry operations; and
- (d) put in place emergency and incident reporting and management procedures in line with the existing laws and regulations including the Inland Water Transport Act.

24. Revocation of S.I No. 46 of 2017

The Uganda National Roads Authority (Ferry Management) Regulations, 2017 are revoked.

SCHEDULES

Schedule 1

Regulation 2

Currency Point

A currency point is equivalent to twenty thousand shillings.

Minimum Requirements for Ferry or Ferry Landing

1. The standard scope of ferry infrastructure at a ferry landing will include the following: ferry, ferry landings or jetties for all tide levels, administration block or offices, toilets, security and its guardhouse, fuel storage, passenger cafeteria, landscaping, fencing, axle load control (if possible), rescue boat and its docking point, staff quarters, recreation and training area, and access road.
2. **Dock or pier:** The dock or pier shall be constructed using durable materials that can withstand the corrosion. It shall also be designed with appropriate fendering systems to protect both the ferry and the structure during docking.
3. **Mooring facilities:** Bollards and cleats shall be strategically placed along the dock to allow for secure and stable mooring of the ferry. Fenders or rubber bumpers shall be installed to prevent damage during contact.
4. **Passenger waiting area:** The waiting area shall be comfortable and sheltered from adverse weather conditions. It may include seating, restrooms, and public address systems for announcements and passenger information.
5. **Vehicle loading area:** If the ferry transports vehicles, the loading area shall be designed with ramps or bridges to facilitate the safe and efficient boarding and disembarking of vehicles. It will also have space for vehicle queuing.
6. **Ticketing and information booths:** Ticketing booths or kiosks shall be well-organized to handle ticket sales, and information booths shall be staffed by knowledgeable personnel to assist passengers with inquiries.

7. **Safety equipment:** Adequate life-saving equipment shall be readily available and well-maintained. Signage indicating the location of life vests and lifebuoys shall be clearly visible.
8. **Lighting:** Adequate and uniform lighting is crucial for night-time operations and for ensuring passenger safety during low-light conditions. Lighting shall meet safety standards and minimise light pollution to protect the environment.
9. **Accessibility:** The facility shall adhere to accessibility standards, ensuring that passengers who may require additional assistance can comfortably use all amenities. This includes ramps, elevators, and accessible restrooms.
10. **Security measures:** Depending on the location and local regulations, security measures like perimeter fencing, surveillance cameras, and trained security personnel may be required to ensure the safety of passengers and the facility.
11. **Environmental considerations:** Measures shall be in place to protect the environment, including the prevention of oil and fuel spills, proper waste disposal facilities, and noise mitigation strategies to reduce the impact on nearby communities and wildlife.
12. **Navigation aids:** Navigational aids such as buoys, beacons, and navigational lights will be properly maintained to guide the ferry safely to and from the landing facility, especially in areas with challenging navigation conditions.
13. **Approach and departure channels:** These waterways shall be regularly dredged and maintained to ensure the appropriate depth for safe passage. Adequate signage and markers shall be in place to guide vessels.
14. **Emergency response plan:** A comprehensive emergency response plan shall be developed and regularly reviewed,

encompassing procedures for evacuating passengers, containing spills, and handling medical emergencies.

15. **Regulatory compliance:** Compliance with all applicable regulations shall be essential. This includes obtaining the necessary permits, licences, and certifications, as well as adhering to safety and environmental standards.
16. **Maintenance and inspection:** Regular maintenance schedules and inspections shall be established to identify and address any structural or operational issues promptly. Preventive maintenance ensures the long-term reliability of the facility.

Schedule 3

Regulation 5(3)

Fees for Private Use of Ferry Landing

S/N	Type of Private Use	Fee (Currency Points)	Notes or Conditions
1.	Light vehicles Parking	0.25	Parking fee per day. Covers Saloons, Station Wagons, Pickups, Vans
2.	Medium and large goods Vehicles, medium and large buses Parking	0.5	Parking fee per day. Covers Buses, Trucks, Heavy Equipment
3.	Vehicle Loading and Unloading	1	Applies per vehicle accessing the ferry landing per day; inspection and declaration form submission required
4.	Cargo Transfer (Small, < 5 tons)	1.5	For light cargo transfers per Use; hazardous material must comply with additional regulations
5.	Cargo Transfer (Heavy,>5 tons)	2.5	For heavy cargo transfers per use. These Heavy Vehicles are subject to weight limitations and must be declared with detailed cargo forms
6.	Commercial Marine Operations (Small vessels, < 25 gross tons and/or not more than 3metres long)	1	For marine operators using the landing for loading or unloading of small vessels per day
7.	Commercial Marine Operations (Large vessels > 25 gross tons and/or more than 3metres long)	1.5	For marine operators using the landing for loading or unloading of large vessels per day
8.	Temporary Structure Setup such as stalls	2.5	Fees per day per structure. Temporary structures are permitted for a maximum of seven days.

Additional Notes:

(1) Fees are subject to compliance with the **Inland Water Transport Act**, ensuring safety and environmental standards.

(2) For **hazardous or special cargo**, additional requirements in Schedule 2 (Minimum Requirements) and Schedule 4 (Cargo Declaration Form) and must be Observed.

(3) Vessels under stress shall be allowed to dock in the landing for a grace period of seven days thereafter pay half of the rates for appropriate commercial marine operations above for another 14 days, and full rates thereafter.

(4) Government vessels not engaged in trade, Military and Police Vessels shall be exempted.

Cargo Declaration Form

Serial Number.....

PART A: PARTICULARS OF DECLARANT						
Name:						
Postal Address (If applicable):						
Village, Parish or Sub County Address:						
Identity Card No (National ID or Passport):						
Telephone contact:						
PART B: PARTICULARS OF CARGO						
Describe the cargo to be loaded on the ferry						
PART C: DECLARATION						
I/We hereby declare that the particulars herein are true and correct and that I/ We undertake to abide by the terms and conditions as stipulated by the Road Authority						
First Name			Last Name			
Other Names						
Signature/Thumb Print			Date		Place	

PART E: FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY			
Road authority			
Declaration Number		Date of Return:	
File Reference Number			
Observations regarding cargo to be declared			
Final Recommendation	Suitable		Not Suitable
Date of Assessment			
Reason if NOT approved			
Authorisation Number			
Approved by Master	Sign		Date

Cross References

Inland Water Transport Act, Cap. 345

National Environment Act, Cap. 181

HON. FRED BYAMUKAMA (MP),
Minister of Works and Transport