

DIRECTORATE GENERAL BORDER ROADS
GENERAL MAINTENANCE INSTRUCTION No 43
ON
DAMAGE TO CLUTCH DISC OF ALL 'B' VEHICLES CORRECT
DRIVING TECHNIQUE WHEN COASTING DOWN HILL

Aim. This instruction, lays down the direct technique when coasting down gradients, which will followed by all drivers.

Summary. Severe damage to clutch disc can be caused through coasting down hill in gear and with the clutch disengaged (i.e., with clutch pedal depressed). Under these disc may be rotating at a fairly high speed depending on the gear in which the vehicle is in. This difference in speeds, disc within a few feet of such operation.

As soon as a vehicle begins to descend a gradient, vehicle will be brought into gear and the clutch pedal released. The vehicle will then coast down at a safe speed, the engine acting a brake. The particular gear to be engaged will depend on the vehicle and the gradient. The principle to be followed is to engage that gear which would be used on that particular vehicle for ascending that particular gradient. E.g., A vehicle 4x4 WILLYS ascending a gradient of 1 in 10 may use the 2nd gear. Thus, while coasting down the same gradient, second gear should only be used.

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