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## Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO)

### Introduction

The Administrative Adjudication of Road Traffic Offences (AARTO) regulations are rolling out nationally from December 2025, with the demerit points system following in September 2026. These changes will reshape how fleet operators, drivers, and companies manage compliance, fines, and risk. This newsletter details the latest updates, so you understand the impact on your company fleet.

### 1. Key Points

- Phased Rollout:
  - *Dec 2025:* 69 major municipalities (Johannesburg, Cape Town, Durban, etc.)
  - *Apr 2026:* Remaining municipalities
  - *Sep 2026:* Demerit points system and rehabilitation programme go live
- Electronic Notices:
  - Fines and infringement notices will be served via email, SMS, or online portal, not just by post
- Demerit Points System:
  - Each traffic offence adds points to a driver's record.
  - 15 points = licence suspension (3 months per point over the limit).
  - Three suspensions = licence cancellation; retake required
- Company Accountability:
  - Fines for fleet vehicles are linked to the company's Business Registration Number (BRN), not the proxy's ID.
  - Unpaid fines block vehicle renewals and new registrations
- Driver Nomination:
  - Companies must nominate the responsible driver within 32 days of an infringement notice.
  - Failure to nominate means fines and points stay with the company

### 2. Impact on Fleet Operators & Employers

Alder Grove Automotive (Pty) Ltd  
Directors: V Pillay, R Banoo  
Company Registration: 2020/065084/07  
VAT Reg No: 4120293503

- Proxy Management:
  - Appoint and train a proxy to manage vehicle fines and driver nominations.
  - Maintain a register of all authorised drivers, including ID and contact details
- Employment Policies:
  - Update contracts to require valid licences and consent for regular AARTO checks.
  - Define procedures for handling suspended or cancelled licences
- Operational Risks:
  - Licence suspension or cancellation can disrupt fleet operations and expose companies to legal liability if non-compliant drivers continue working
- Record-Keeping:
  - Keep detailed records of fines, payments, driver nominations, and licence status.
  - Use fleet management software for tracking and compliance

### 3. For Drivers: What You Need to Know

- Act Fast:
  - Respond to infringement notices within 32 days to avoid extra penalties and enforcement orders
- Demerit Points:
  - Points accumulate for each offence; 15 points trigger suspension.
  - Points decrease by one every three months without offences, or up to four after rehabilitation
- Rehabilitation:
  - Suspended drivers must complete an approved rehabilitation programme before regaining driving privileges

### 4. Fines, Penalties & Enforcement

- Payment Deadlines:
  - Pay fines within 32 days for a 50% discount.
  - Missed deadlines lead to courtesy letters, enforcement orders, and blocked renewals
- Penalty Breakdown:
  - Speeding (minor): 1 point
  - Speeding (major): 3 points
  - Reckless driving: 5 points

- Drunk driving: 6 points
- Seatbelt violation: 1 point
- Using mobile while driving: 2 points

5. Industry Response & Best Practices

- Fleet Industry Actions:
  - Audit outstanding fines and implement verified payment systems.
  - Nominate/redirect fines to drivers promptly to avoid company liability.
  - Train staff on AARTO compliance and update internal policies
- Technology Solutions:
  - Use automated fine management platforms for redirection, tracking, and reporting.
  - Integrate driver verification tools to prevent misallocation or fraud
- Education & Communication:
  - Regularly brief drivers and managers on compliance requirements and timelines.
  - Prepare for possible driver suspensions and plan for rehabilitation logistics

6. Practical Checklist for Fleet Compliance

<u>Task</u>	<u>Responsible Party</u>	<u>Deadline/Notes</u>
Appoint & train proxy	Fleet manager	Immediate
Register all drivers	Fleet manager	Ongoing
Nominate driver for fines	Proxy/fleet manager	Within 32 days of notice
Pay fines	Proxy/driver	Within 32 days (50% discount)
Track demerit points	Fleet manager/driver	Monthly
Update employment contracts	HR/fleet manager	Before rollout
Prepare for rehabilitation	Fleet manager/driver	As needed
Educate staff	Fleet manager	Quarterly briefings

## 7. Key Dates to Remember

- 1 December 2025: AARTO rollout in major municipalities
- 1 April 2026: Expansion to all municipalities
- 1 September 2026: Demerit points system and rehabilitation programme go live

### **AARTO Infringements – Points & Fine Amounts (2025/2026)**

<u>Offence / Infringement</u>	<u>Demerit Points*</u> <u>(may change)</u>	<u>Typical minimum Fine</u> <u>Amount (ZAR)*</u>
Speeding (minor over limit)	1	R200
Speeding (major over limit)	3	R750
Reckless or negligent driving	5	R1,500
Drunk driving	6	R2,500
Driving without a valid licence	3	R1,000
Driving an unregistered vehicle	2	R500
Driving an unroadworthy vehicle	3	R1,000
Failure to stop at a red traffic light	2	R500
Failure to stop at a stop sign	2	R500
Failure to wear seatbelt	1	R250
Using a mobile phone while driving	2	R500
Illegal overtaking	2	R500
Failure to obey road signs	1	R250
Failure to display number plates	1	R250
Parking in a prohibited area	0	R250
Failure to pay toll fees	0	R250
Failure to carry driver's licence	1	R250
Overloading (goods/passengers)	3	R1,000
Unauthorised use of vehicle	3	R1,000
Failure to produce vehicle documents	1	R250
Failure to obey instructions of officer	2	R500
Obstructing traffic	1	R250
Driving without insurance	2	R500
Failure to renew vehicle licence	2	R500

## Key Notes

- 15 points = licence suspension (for 3 months per point over the limit).
- Three suspensions = licence cancellation; retest required.
- \*Fine amounts may vary by municipality and severity; above are typical values.
- Some minor offences (e.g., parking, tolls) do not carry demerit points but still incur fines.
- Discounts: Fines paid within 32 days may qualify for a 50% discount.

## Contact Us

For more information on how Alder Grove Automotive can assist your organization in staying compliant, please reach out to us at the following contact details:

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