

Amendment to the Road Traffic Act for L4 automated driving



National Police Agency of Japan

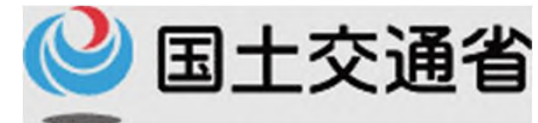
Jan 2026

Japanese laws/regulations on automated driving



Road

Road Act etc.



MLIT:
Ministry of Land,
Infrastructure,
Transport and Tourism



**Vehicle
performance**

Road Vehicles Act
etc.



Traffic rules

Road Traffic Act etc.



警察庁
National Police Agency

NPA:
National Police
Agency

Japanese laws/regulations on automated driving

◇ Japan has

47 prefectures.

47 Prefectural Public Safety Commissions (PPSC).

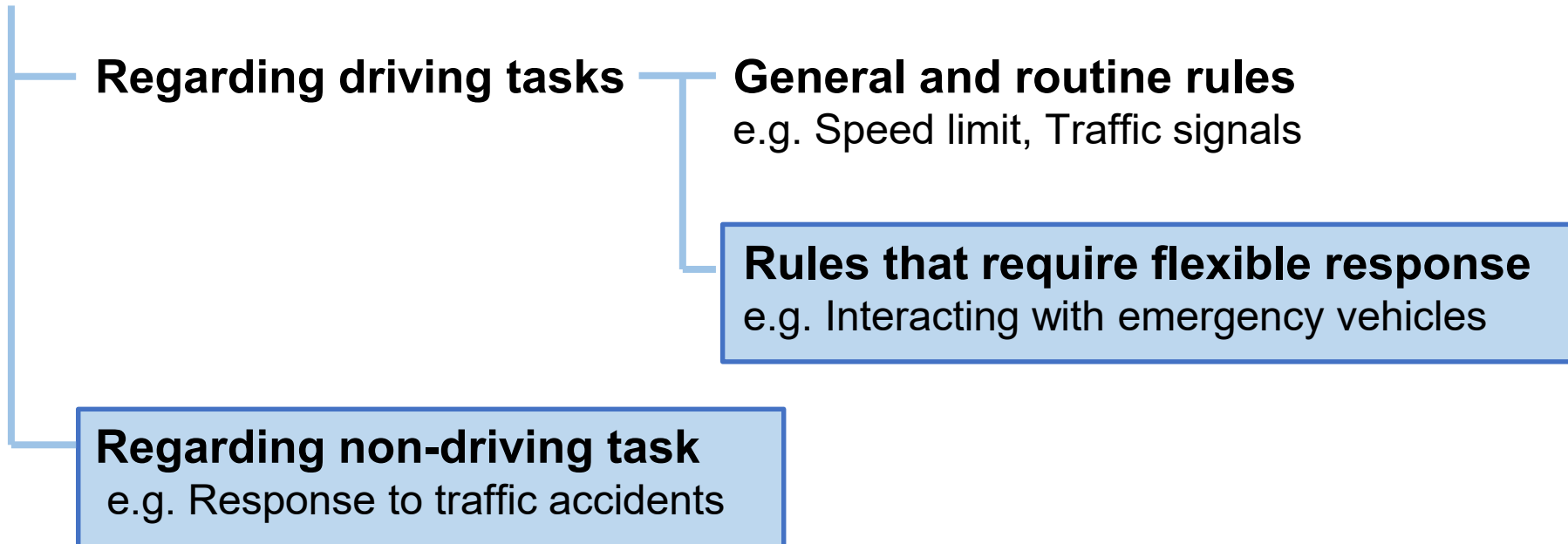
47 Prefectural Police forces.

◇ **The Road Traffic Act is a uniform national law**
that applies to all of them.



How to handle “Driver’s task” on automated driving

Traffic rules for human driver



ADS cannot handle these tasks, so a framework was required to specify who to take responsibilities of these tasks.

2022 Amendment to the Road Traffic Act for **SAE Lv4** automated driving

- ◇ Defining **SAE Lv4 automated driving** as **“Specified Automated Operation”**.
- ◇ **SAO** is clearly separated from **“Driving”**.

Def. of **Specified Automated Operation (SAO)**:

Operating a motor vehicle equipped with an ADS on a road, using the ADS in accordance with its ODD.

※ An ADS used for SAO is limited to devices that can **immediately and automatically stop** the motor vehicle **in a safe manner** when **the motor vehicle equipped with the ADS is an improperly maintained vehicle** or when **the use of the ADS no longer conforms to its ODD**.

※ Cases where an operator manipulates the vehicle's devices based on road or traffic conditions are excluded from the definition of SAO.

(Article 2-17-2 , Road Traffic Act)

2022 Amendment to the Road Traffic Act for SAO

(1) Permission for SAO

- A person seeking to conduct SAO must obtain **permission from the Prefectural Public Safety Commission (PPSC)** having jurisdiction over the place where SAO is to be conducted.
- A person seeking to obtain a SAO permission must submit a written application containing **the plan concerning the SAO**.
- The SAO must comply with the permitted SAO plan.

(2) Rules to be observed while SAO is running

- **The SAO implementer (who has obtained the permission for the SAO)** must take either:
 - (a) measures to equip a place to manage the SAO with a **remote-monitoring equipment** and **place a supervisor of SAO** there; or
 - (b) measures to place a supervisor of the SAO in that vehicle for the SAO.

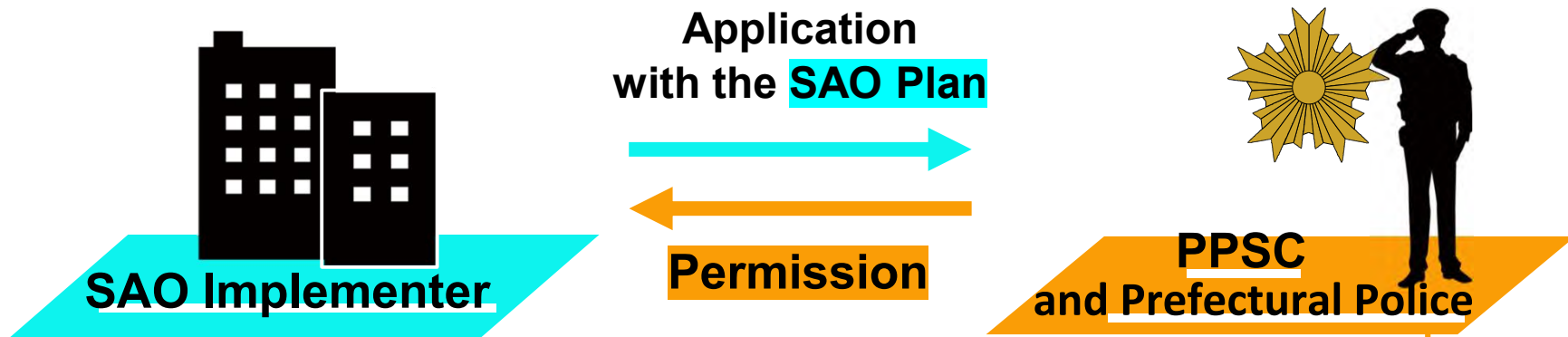
(3) Measures to be taken in the event of a traffic accident during the SAO

- The SAO supervisor placed must immediately take measures to **send a person responsible for on-site measures** to the scene and **notify the nearest fire department** if needed.

(4) Administrative disposition to the SAO implementer

- In a case where the SAO implementer or the SAO staff violate laws and regulations in relation to the SAO, **a PPSC may instruct the SAO implementer to take necessary measures** concerning the SAO.
- **A PPSC may revoke the permission or suspend its validity for a period**, if the SAO implementer or the SAO staff violate RTA, an order under RTA, or measures under RTA in relation to the SAO, etc.

- (1) Permission for SAO (specified automated operation)
- (2) Rules to be observed while SAO is running



Before giving permission, the PPSC

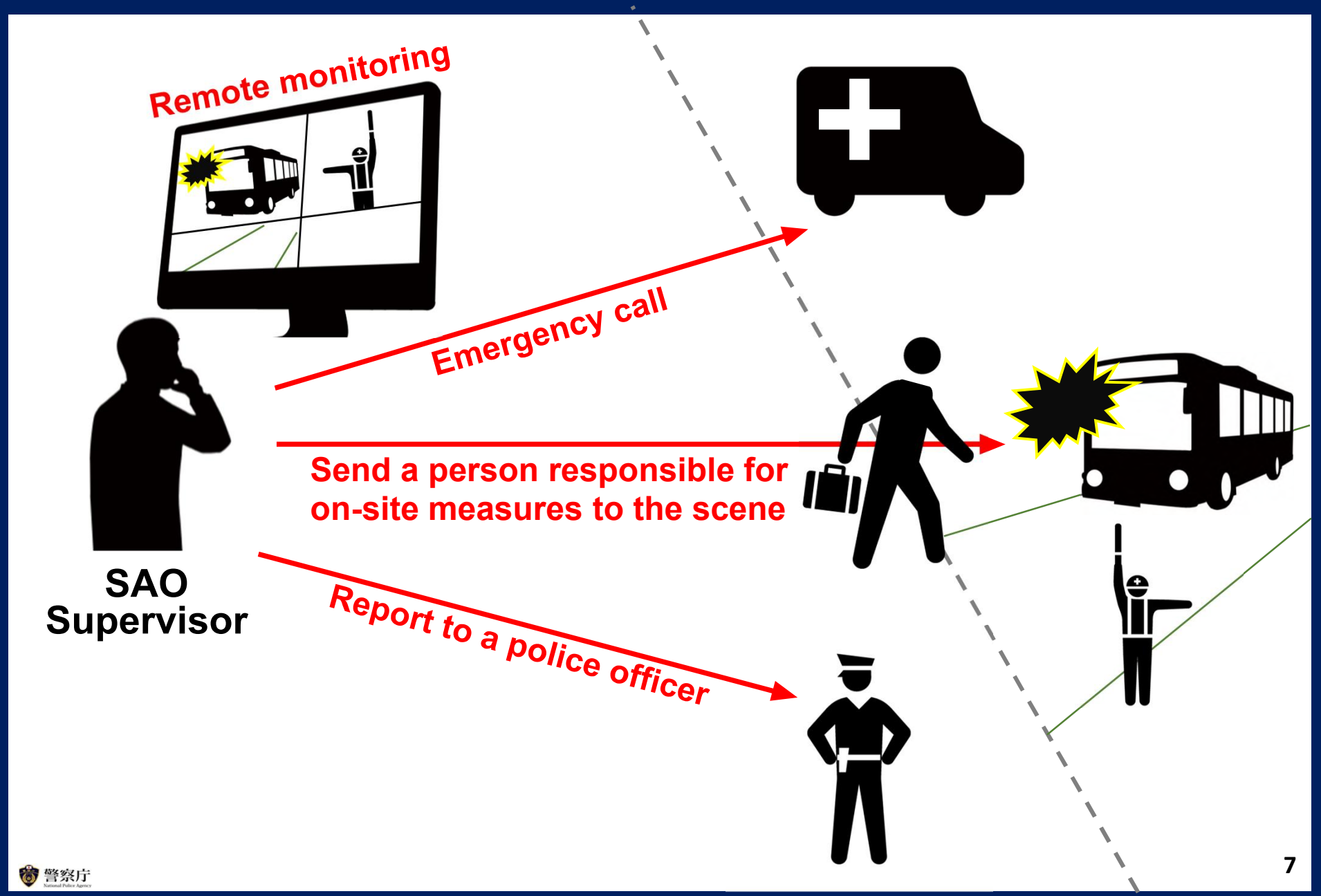
- ◇ Review the SAO plan
- ◇ Confirm that; the SAO is not likely to significantly interfere with other traffic and contributes to the improvement of convenience or welfare for local residents, etc.



When SAO is halted, the SAO supervisor must

- ◇ Check the road and traffic conditions around the vehicle and the conditions of the vehicle
- ◇ Take the necessary measures if needed

(3) Obligations of SAO Supervisor for the scene of accident



(4) Administrative disposition to the SAO implementer

In a case where a SAO implementer or a SAO staff **violates laws and regulations in relation to the SAO**

The **PPSC** may instruct the SAO implementer to take necessary **measures** concerning the SAO.

In a case where a SAO implementer or a SAO staff **violates RTA, an order under RTA, or measures under RTA in relation to the SAO, etc.**

The **PPSC** may revoke the permission or suspend its validity for a period.

Thank you!