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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2001 No. 561**

**The Road Vehicles (Display of  
Registration Marks) Regulations 2001**

**PART I**

**PRELIMINARY**

**Citation, commencement and revocation**

**1.—**(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001 and shall come into force—

- (a) for the purposes of this paragraph and regulation 17, on 21st March 2001, and
- (b) for all other purposes, on 1st September 2001.

(2) The regulations specified in Schedule 1 are hereby revoked.

**Interpretation: general**

**2.—**(1) In these Regulations the following expressions shall have the following meanings—

“the Act” means the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994;

“agricultural machine” means a vehicle which is—

- (a) an agricultural tractor, as defined in paragraph 4B(2) of Schedule 1 to the Act<sup>(1)</sup>, or
- (b) an off-road tractor, as defined in paragraph 4B(4) of that Schedule, or
- (c) a light agricultural vehicle, as defined in paragraph 4C(2) of that Schedule, or
- (d) an agricultural engine, or
- (e) a mowing machine;

“the Council Regulation” means Council Regulation (EC) No. 2411/98<sup>(2)</sup> on the recognition in intra-community traffic of the distinguishing signs of member states in which motor vehicles are registered;

“dual purpose plate” means a plate or other device which displays both the registration mark of the vehicle and the international distinguishing sign of the United Kingdom in accordance with the Council Regulation;

“EEA State” means a state which is a contracting party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area signed at Oporto on 2nd May 1992 as adjusted by the Protocol signed at Brussels on 17th March 1993;

“motor cycle” means a vehicle having 2 wheels and includes a vehicle of that description in combination with a sidecar;

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(1) Paragraphs 4B and 4C of Schedule 1 were inserted by the Finance Act 1995, Schedule 4, paragraph 10.  
(2) OJ No. L 299, 10.11.98, p. 1.

“motor tricycle” means a vehicle having 3 wheels symmetrically arranged;

“quadricycle” means a vehicle having four wheels, a maximum net engine power not exceeding 15 kilowatts and an unladen mass (excluding the mass of batteries in the case of an electrically-powered vehicle) not exceeding—

- (a) 550 kilograms in the case of a goods vehicle, and
- (b) 400 kilograms in any other case;

“registration plate” means a plate or other device displaying the registration mark of the vehicle and in the case of a dual purpose plate means such part of the plate as is not intended for the display the international distinguishing sign of the United Kingdom in accordance with the Council Regulation;

“prescribed font” means the style shown in Schedule 4 for a character of the height specified in that Schedule;

“relevant date” means—

- (a) in Great Britain, 1st October 1938, and
- (b) in Northern Ireland, 1st January 1948;

“works truck” means a vehicle which is—

- (a) designed for use in private premises, and
- (b) used on public roads only—
  - (i) for carrying goods between private premises and a vehicle on a road in the immediate vicinity, or
  - (ii) in passing from one part of private premises to another or between private premises and other private premises in the immediate vicinity, or
  - (iii) in connection with road works at or in the immediate vicinity of the site of the works.

(2) Unless the context otherwise requires, a reference in these Regulations to—

- (a) a registration plate fixed or to be fixed to a vehicle, or
- (b) a registration mark displayed or to be displayed on a plate,

is to be construed, where the vehicle is towing a trailer, so as to include a reference to the registration plate which is required under these Regulations to be fixed to the trailer or a reference to the mark displayed on the plate fixed to that trailer.

### **Exempt vehicles**

3. Nothing in these Regulations applies to—

- (a) an invalid vehicle, that is a vehicle the unladen weight of which does not exceed 254 kilograms and which is specially designed and constructed, and not merely adapted, for the use of a person suffering from a physical disability and solely used by that person; or
- (b) a pedestrian-controlled vehicle, that is a vehicle the unladen weight of which does not exceed 450 kilograms which is neither constructed nor adapted for the carriage of a driver or passenger.