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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2002 No. 2742**

**The Road Vehicles (Registration  
and Licensing) Regulations 2002**

**PART VI**

**CROWN VEHICLES AND EXEMPT VEHICLES**

**Application of Regulations to Crown vehicles**

**29.**—(1) Except as provided by this Part of these Regulations, nothing in these Regulations applies to a vehicle kept by the Crown.

(2) Nothing in these Regulations or this Part of these Regulations applies to a vehicle kept by the Crown which is used or appropriated for use for naval, military or air force purposes.

**Registration of Crown vehicles**

**30.**—(1) A Government Department which uses or keeps or, intends to use or keep, a vehicle on a public road shall—

- (a) make to the Secretary of State such declaration and furnish him with such particulars as would be required by section 7 of the 1994 Act if the Department desired to take out a vehicle licence for the vehicle; and
- (b) make to the Secretary of State a declaration that the vehicle is only to be used for the purposes of the Crown.

(2) Upon receipt of the declaration and particulars the Secretary of State shall—

- (a) register the vehicle in the name of the Government Department;
- (b) if there is no registration mark for the time being assigned to the vehicle, assign a registration mark to it; and
- (c) issue a registration document for the vehicle.

(3) Any registration mark assigned under paragraph (2) shall be deemed to be assigned under section 23 of the 1994 Act for the purposes of subsection (2) of that section and of these Regulations.

(4) No vehicle licence or nil licence shall be issued by the Secretary of State in respect of the vehicle so registered.

(5) Where a Government Department is the registered keeper of a vehicle, regulations 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25 shall apply on a change in the keeper of a vehicle and regulations 20, 21, 22 and 25 shall apply on a change in the keeper of a vehicle from one Government Department to another.

**Certificates of Crown exemption**

**31.**—(1) Subject to regulation 29(2), for the purposes of identification, a certificate of Crown exemption shall be displayed on every vehicle belonging to the Crown which is used or kept on a public road.

(2) A certificate of Crown exemption is a certificate—

- (a) marked with the registration mark of the vehicle to which it relates;
- (b) stating that the vehicle is exempt from vehicle excise duty as a Crown vehicle;
- (c) signed by a duly authorised officer of the Government Department by which the vehicle is kept.

(3) Regulation 7 (exhibition of vehicle and nil licences) of these Regulations shall apply as if references to a vehicle licence included a reference to a certificate of Crown exemption.

### **Application of Regulations to exempt vehicles**

**32.** Subject to the provisions of these Regulations, these Regulations shall apply to exempt vehicles so far as they are capable of being applied to such vehicles.

### **Nil licences**

**33.—**(1) In this regulation “nil licensable vehicle” means a vehicle which is an exempt vehicle otherwise by virtue of paragraph 2, 2A, 3, 22 or 23 of Schedule 2 to the 1994 Act.

(2) A nil licence is required to be in force in respect of a nil licensable vehicle which is used or kept on a public road.

(3) A nil licence shall—

- (a) be granted for a period of 12 months beginning with the first day of the month in which the application for the licence is received by the Secretary of State; and
- (b) be in the same form as a vehicle licence with the word “NIL” marked in the space provided for indicating the amount of vehicle excise duty payable.

(4) The keeper of a nil licensable vehicle may apply to the Secretary of State for a nil licence by making to him such a declaration and furnishing him with such particulars and such documentary or other evidence as might be specified under section 7 of the 1994 Act if the keeper desired to take out a vehicle licence for the vehicle.

(5) The Secretary of State may accept a declaration given, and particulars furnished, orally by telephone.

(6) In the case of a vehicle which is an exempt vehicle by virtue of—

- (a) paragraph 19 of Schedule 2 to the 1994 Act, or
- (b) paragraph 7 of Schedule 4 to that Act,

the Secretary of State shall require the keeper to furnish him with a certificate that paragraph 19 of Schedule 2 or, as the case may be, paragraph 7 of Schedule 4 applies, unless the Secretary of State satisfies himself by other means that one of those paragraphs applies.

(7) The certificate shall be obtained by the keeper of the vehicle from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Secretary of State for Defence or the Department for Social Development for Northern Ireland, whichever is appropriate.

(8) Paragraphs (4) to (7) do not apply where the person applying for a nil licence agrees to comply with such conditions as may be specified in relation to him by the Secretary of State.

(9) If, following an application made in accordance with this regulation, the Secretary of State is satisfied that a vehicle is a nil licensable vehicle, he shall issue a nil licence to the keeper of the vehicle.

(10) If at any time vehicle excise duty becomes chargeable under the 1994 Act in respect of a vehicle which immediately before that time was a nil licensable vehicle, the keeper of the vehicle shall forthwith return to the Secretary of State—

- (a) any nil licence issued in respect of the vehicle; and
- (b) any certificate obtained by him for the purposes of paragraph (6) in relation to the vehicle.

**Exemptions from vehicle excise duty: vehicles imported by members of foreign armed forces and others**

**34.** Schedule 5, which provides for the exemption from vehicle excise duty of vehicles imported into Great Britain by members of foreign armed forces and other persons, shall have effect.