

## **EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO**

### **The Road Vehicles Lighting (Amendment No. 3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011**

**SR 2011 No. 329**

#### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of the Environment to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Articles 55(1), (2), (4) and (6) and 110(2) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

#### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1. The purpose of these Regulations is to require the fitment of conspicuity markings (in the form of retro reflective tape) to new heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and trailers to comply with UNECE ("United Nations Economic Commission for Europe") Regulation 48 and to permit Driver and Vehicle Agency ("DVA") enforcement vehicles to use retro reflective Battenberg markings and dot matrix message panels.
- 2.2. Minor amendments in relation to side indicators, stop lamps, rear and front rear reflectors will also align the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 ("the 2000 Regulations") with UNECE Regulation 48.

#### **3. Background**

- 3.1. The UNECE has developed a range of technical Regulations providing alternative standards (to those of the European Commission) to which vehicles may be constructed. UNECE Regulation 48 covers the requirements for the installation of lighting and retro reflectors on vehicles and is broadly equivalent to the 2000 Regulations. Regulation 48 was recently amended to mandate conspicuity markings on certain new HGVs and trailers.
- 3.2. These Regulations will amend the 2000 Regulations to require in-scope goods vehicles (which could include most HGVs and trailers with a gross weight of over 7,500 kg) to be fitted with conspicuity markings in the form of retro reflective tape. This requirement would be mandatory from July 2011.
- 3.3. These Regulations will permit DVA road traffic enforcement vehicles to be fitted with retro reflective Battenberg markings and to permit the use of dot matrix message panels. It will remove the need to apply for Vehicle Special Orders every two years.

#### **4. Consultation**

- 4.1. The Department consulted on the proposed changes from 17th November 2010 to 9th February 2011

## **5. Equality Impact**

- 5.1. An equality screening exercise was carried out on these proposals in January 2010 and no equality issues were identified.

## **6. Regulatory Impact**

- 6.1. No impact assessment was carried out due to the lack of measurable impact on the public, private or voluntary sectors.

## **7. Financial Implications**

- 7.1. The Regulations have no measurable financial implications.

## **8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998**

- 8.1. The Regulations are considered compliant with section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

## **9. EU Implications**

- 9.1. The Regulations bring Northern Ireland into line with existing EU legislation.

## **10. Parity or Replicatory Measure**

- 10.1. The Regulations replicate the relevant Great Britain provisions.

## **11. Additional Information**

- 11.1.