

1973. No. 490

[C]

## ROAD VEHICLES

## Registration and Licensing

REGULATIONS, DATED 11TH DECEMBER 1973, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER SECTIONS 2(1)(c), 7, 12, 16, 17, 19, 23 (AS MODIFIED BY SECTION 37(1) AND PARAGRAPH 20 OF PART I OF SCHEDULE 9), 34 AND 35(5) OF AND PARAGRAPH 2 OF PART I OF SCHEDULE 2 AND PARAGRAPH 8 OF PART I OF SCHEDULE 4 TO THE VEHICLES (EXCISE) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1972.

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The Ministry of Home Affairs, on behalf of the Secretary of State and in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by sections 2(1)(c), 7, 12, 16, 17, 19, 23 (as modified by section 37(1) and paragraph 20 of Part I of Schedule 9), 34 and 35(5) of the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(a) and under paragraph 2 of Part I of Schedule 2 and paragraph 8 of Part II of Schedule 4 to that Act, and of all other enabling powers, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

#### PART I—PRELIMINARY

##### *Citation and commencement*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973 and shall come into operation on 11th December 1973.

##### *Revocation, savings and transitional provisions*

2. The Regulations specified in Schedule 1 are hereby revoked but—

(a) in so far as any application made, particulars furnished, notification given, licence, certificate, registration book or other document or trade plate issued, record kept, registration mark assigned or other thing done under the Regulations specified could have been made, furnished, given, issued, kept, assigned or done under a corresponding provision of these Regulations, it shall not be invalidated by the said revocation, but shall have effect as if made, furnished, given, issued, kept, assigned or done under that corresponding provision;

(b) any reference in such application, declaration, particulars, notification, certificate, registration book or other document to any provision of the Regulations specified whether specifically or by means of a general description, shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be construed as a reference to a corresponding provision of these Regulations.

##### *Interpretation*

3. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say:—

“the Act” means the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1972;

“agricultural machine” has the same meaning as in Schedule 3 to the Act;

“bicycle” means a mechanically propelled bicycle (including a motor scooter, a bicycle with an attachment for propelling it by mechanical power and a mechanically propelled bicycle used for drawing a trailer or side-car) not exceeding 8 hundredweight in weight unladen;

“hours of darkness” means the time between half-an-hour after sunset and half-an-hour before sunrise;

“invalid vehicle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle (including a cycle with an attachment for propelling it by mechanical power) which does not exceed 10 hundredweight in weight unladen and is adapted and used or kept on a road for an invalid or invalids;

“the Ministry” means the Ministry of Home Affairs;

“owner” in relation to a vehicle means the person by whom the vehicle is kept and used and the expression “ownership” shall be construed accordingly;

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(a) 1972. c. 10 (N.I.).

“pedestrian controlled vehicle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle with three or more wheels which does not exceed 8 hundredweight in weight unladen and which is neither constructed nor adapted for use nor used for the carriage of a driver or passenger;

“prescribed form” means such one of the forms indicated in Schedule 4;

“register” means the record kept by or on behalf of the Ministry of the mechanically propelled vehicles registered by it in pursuance of section 19 of the Act or which in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations are required to be registered with it;

“road” has the same meaning as in section 190 of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(b);

“trade licence” has the meaning assigned to it by section 16 of the Act;

“trade plates” has the meaning assigned thereto in Regulation 32;

“tricycle” means a mechanically propelled tricycle (including a motor scooter and a tricycle with an attachment for propelling it by mechanical power) not exceeding 8 hundredweight in weight unladen and not being a pedestrian controlled vehicle.

“works truck” means a mechanically propelled vehicle designed for use in private premises and used on a road only in delivering goods from or to such premises to or from a vehicle on a road in the immediate neighbourhood, or in passing from one part of any such premises to another or to other private premises in the immediate neighbourhood or in connection with road works while at or in the immediate neighbourhood of the site of such works.

## PART II—LICENSING AND REGISTRATION

### *Application for licences*

4. A person who keeps a mechanically propelled vehicle and who desires to obtain a licence for it under the Act may apply for it to the Ministry by means of a declaration in the prescribed form not more than 14 days before the licence is to have effect, and shall include with his application and such documents as are required to be produced by him on the application by virtue of Regulation 10 of the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Risks) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1972(c), and Regulation 8 of the Motor Vehicles (International Motor Insurance Card) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1969(d), the following—

- (a) where a registration book has been issued in respect of a vehicle, the registration book; and
- (b) the amount of duty payable on the licence under the Act in respect of the vehicle:

Provided that the renewal of a licence shall not be made at a post office authorised as in Regulation 17(1) to issue licences after the expiration of 14 days from the date on which the licence expired.

### *Restriction or registration of vehicles chargeable with car tax*

5.—(1) The Ministry may refuse to register a vehicle under section 19 of the Act unless there is produced to it at the time when it would otherwise be required by that section to register the vehicle, a document purporting to be issued by, or by authority of, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise which certifies either—

(b) 1970, c. 2 (N.I.).  
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972, No. 235.

(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1969, No. 129.

- (a) that the vehicle is not a chargeable vehicle; or
- (b) that the car tax chargeable on it has been or will be paid;
- or
- (c) that car tax on it has been remitted.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in relation to the registration of a vehicle which is chargeable with duty under the Act by virtue of section 1 thereof and Schedule 1 or Schedule 3 thereto, but shall otherwise apply without prejudice to any other requirement of these Regulations.

(3) In this Regulation "chargeable vehicle" and "car tax" have the same meaning as in section 52 of the Finance Act 1972(e).

#### *Surrender of licences*

6. The holder of a licence who wishes to surrender his licence and claim a rebate in respect of the unexpired term of the licence in accordance with the provisions of section 17 of the Act (as modified by section 37(1) thereof and paragraphs 13 to 16 of Part I of Schedule 9 thereto) shall make an application in writing, signed by the applicant, to the Ministry and at the same time he shall deliver up his licence to the Ministry and, in the case of a trade licence, return any trade plates issued to him in connection therewith.

#### *Application for duplicate licence or registration book*

7.—(1) If a licence or a registration book issued in respect of a vehicle under these Regulations is lost, destroyed, mutilated or accidentally defaced or the figures and particulars thereon have become illegible or the colour of the licence has become altered by fading or otherwise, the owner of the vehicle shall apply to the Ministry for the issue of a duplicate licence or registration book, as the case may be, and the Ministry upon being satisfied as to such loss, destruction, mutilation, defacement, illegibility or alteration as aforesaid and, where the licence or registration book has been mutilated or accidentally defaced or the figures and particulars thereon have become illegible or the colour of the licence has become altered by fading or otherwise, upon the receipt of the licence or registration book, shall issue a duplicate so marked on payment of a fee of 25p and the duplicate so issued shall have the same effect as the original licence or registration book:

Provided that where the Ministry is satisfied that the figures or particulars have become illegible or the colour of the licence has become altered by fading or otherwise without any act or neglect on the part of the holder of the licence it shall issue a duplicate so marked free of charge.

(2) In the case of the loss of any licence or registration book, if at any time after the issue of a duplicate licence or registration book the original licence or registration book is found, the owner of the vehicle, if it is in his possession, shall return it to the Ministry, or if it is not in his possession but he becomes aware that it is found, shall take all reasonable steps to obtain possession of it and if successful shall return it to the Ministry, so, however, that if possession is not obtained, such fact shall be notified to the Ministry by the owner of the vehicle without delay.

*Alteration of licences and similar offences*

8.—(1) No person shall alter, deface, mutilate or add anything to any licence for any mechanically propelled vehicle or exhibit on any mechanically propelled vehicle any licence which has been altered, defaced, mutilated or added to as aforesaid or upon which the figures or particulars have become illegible or the colour has become altered by fading or otherwise.

(2) No person shall exhibit on any mechanically propelled vehicle anything which is intended to be or could be mistaken for a licence.

*Registration books*

9.—(1) The Ministry may, before issuing a registration book or a duplicate thereof to the owner of a mechanically propelled vehicle, require the owner to satisfy the Ministry by production of the vehicle for inspection or other sufficient evidence that the vehicle accords with the declaration furnished in respect of the vehicle.

(2) The owner of a mechanically propelled vehicle in respect of which a registration book has been issued shall produce it for inspection if he is at any reasonable time required to do so by a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary or by a person acting on behalf of the Ministry.

(3) The Ministry may require the owner of a mechanically propelled vehicle to surrender to it for correction the registration book issued in respect of the vehicle in any case where the Ministry has reason to believe that the registration book contains particulars which are not correct, and upon being so required the owner of the vehicle shall surrender it to the Ministry forthwith and the Ministry shall, after correcting the particulars, return it to the owner.

(4) No person other than a person acting on behalf of the Ministry shall deface or mutilate any registration book or alter or obliterate any entry made therein or, except as provided by Regulations 13(2) and 14, make any entry in or addition to a registration book.

*Assignment of registration marks*

10.—(1) The registration mark assigned to a vehicle in accordance with section 19, of the Act shall consist of an index mark followed or preceded by the registered number of the vehicle.

(2) The registration mark assigned to a vehicle shall remain the registration mark of that vehicle until the vehicle is broken up, destroyed or sent permanently out of Northern Ireland.

(3) The index mark and registration number which are declared to have been the index mark and registration number of any vehicle at 31st December 1920 shall be the registration mark of the vehicle and shall thereafter remain the registration mark of that vehicle until the same is broken up, destroyed or sent permanently out of Northern Ireland:

Provided that if the Ministry is not satisfied that such index mark and registration number were at 31st December 1920 registered in respect of that vehicle under Article III or Article IV of the Motor Car (Registration and Licensing) Order 1903(f) or under Article III or Article IV of the Motor Car Registration and Licensing (Scotland) Order 1903(g) or under Article III or Article IV of the Motor Car (Registration and Licensing) (Ireland) Order 1903(h), as the case may be, the Ministry may assign to the vehicle a

(f) S.R. & O. 1903, No. 998 (Rev. 1903, VIII Locomotive, p. 23; 1903 I, p. 986).

(g) S.R. & O. 1903, No. 1001 (Rev. 1903, VIII Locomotive, p. 44; 1903 I, p. 1007).

(h) S.R. & O. 1903, No. 1002 (Rev. 1903, VIII Locomotive, p. 63; 1903 I, p. 1026).

new registration mark in the form described in paragraph (1) of this Regulation, and in any such case any licence and registration book issued in respect of the vehicle shall be surrendered to the Ministry which shall issue an amended licence and registration book containing the new registration mark.

(4) The assignment of registration marks to vehicles brought temporarily into Northern Ireland by persons resident outside the United Kingdom shall be effected in accordance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Registrations and Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963(i) or the Motor Car (Irish Circulation) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1925(j), as the case may be.

(5) For the purposes of this Regulation the expression "index mark" means such letters of the alphabet as fall to be assigned to a vehicle in pursuance of arrangements in that behalf made by the Ministry.

#### *Notification of alteration of vehicles*

11.—(1) If any alteration, other than an alteration of the nature referred to in Regulation 12, is made to a mechanically propelled vehicle, which renders any of the particulars contained in the registration book issued in respect of the vehicle incorrect, the owner of the vehicle shall notify the alteration in writing forthwith to the Ministry and at the same time send the registration book to the Ministry for amendment and the Ministry shall after recording the alteration in the register return it amended to show the correct particulars of the vehicle.

(2) Where any such alteration renders incorrect any of the particulars shown upon the licence for the vehicle, the owner of the vehicle shall at the same time as he sends the registration book to the Ministry send the licence to it, and the Ministry shall issue without charge an amended licence showing the correct particulars of the vehicle.

12.—(1) Where a licence has been taken out for a mechanically propelled vehicle and the vehicle is at any time while the licence is in force used in an altered condition or in a manner or for a purpose so that duty at a higher rate becomes chargeable in respect of the licence for the vehicle in accordance with section 18 of the Act, the owner of the vehicle shall furnish a new declaration appropriate to the vehicle and send the same to the Ministry together with the licence and registration book issued in respect of the vehicle and the additional duty chargeable calculated in accordance with the provisions of section 18(2) of the Act.

(2) Where the Ministry issues a new licence in exchange for another in accordance with the provisions of section 18(2) of the Act, it shall after recording the alteration in the register return the registration book sent to it in accordance with the preceding paragraph amended to show the correct particulars of the vehicle.

#### *Notification of change of ownership*

13.—(1) On a change of ownership of a mechanically propelled vehicle the previous owner of the vehicle shall deliver the registration book issued in respect of the vehicle and may deliver any current licence issued in respect of the vehicle to the new owner and shall notify in writing forthwith the change of ownership to the Ministry stating the registration mark of the vehicle, its make and class and the name and address of the new owner.

(i) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1963, No. 79.

(j) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1925, No. 164.

- (2) Upon acquiring the vehicle the new owner shall—
- (a) if he intends to use or keep the vehicle upon public roads otherwise than under a trade licence, forthwith insert his name and address in the appropriate part of the registration book and deliver it to the Ministry;
  - (b) if he does not intend to use or keep the vehicle upon the public roads, forthwith notify the Ministry in writing that he is the owner of the vehicle, and he shall state in such notification the registration mark of the vehicle, its make and class, the name and address of the previous owner and the fact that he does not intend to use or keep the vehicle on public roads;
  - (c) if he intends to use the vehicle upon public roads solely under a trade licence, at the expiration of three months from the date when he became the owner of the vehicle or, if a further change of ownership occurs, on the date of that change, whichever is the sooner, notify the Ministry in writing of his name and address and those of the previous owner.

*Notification of change of address of owner*

14. If the owner of a mechanically propelled vehicle changes his address he shall forthwith enter particulars of his new address in the space provided in the registration book issued in respect of the vehicle and send the book to the Ministry.

*Notification of destruction or permanent export*

15. When any vehicle is broken up, destroyed or sent permanently out of Northern Ireland, the owner shall forthwith notify the Ministry of that fact and shall at the same time surrender the registration book to the Ministry.

*Notification of registration and licensing particulars*

16.—(1) The Ministry, upon being requested to do so by a district council for any purpose connected with the investigation of an offence, by a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary or by a Collector of Customs and Excise, shall supply to that person free of charge such particulars contained in the register as may be requested of any vehicle registered with the Ministry, and, upon being requested to do so by any person who can show to the satisfaction of the Ministry that he has reasonable cause for his request, shall supply to that person on payment of 25p the name and address of the owner of any vehicle registered with the Ministry together with a copy of the particulars shown in the last licence issued in respect of the vehicle.

(2) In this Regulation “district council” has the same meanings as in section 1 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(k).

PART III—EXHIBITION OF LICENCES AND REGISTRATION MARKS

*Exhibition of licences*

17.—(1) Every licence issued under the Act and in force for a mechanically propelled vehicle shall be fixed to and exhibited on the vehicle in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation at all times while the vehicle is being used or kept on a public road:



Provided that when such a licence is delivered up with an application for a new licence to any post office authorised for the time being to issue vehicle licences in accordance with arrangements for that purpose made between the post office and the Ministry, no licence shall be required to be fixed to and exhibited on the vehicle until the new licence is obtained, when that licence shall be deemed to be the licence in force for the vehicle for the purposes of this Regulation.

(2) Each such licence shall be fixed to the vehicle in a holder sufficient to protect the licence from any effects of the weather to which it would otherwise be exposed.

(3) The licence shall be exhibited on the vehicle—

(a) in the case of a tricycle, bicycle or invalid vehicle, other than a case specified in sub-paragraph (b) or (c) of this paragraph, on the near side of the vehicle, in front of the driving seat so that all the particulars thereon are clearly visible by daylight from the near side of the road;

(b) in the case of a bicycle drawing a side-car or to which a side-car is attached when the bicycle is being kept on a public road, on the near side of the handlebars of the bicycle or on the near side of the side-car in front of the driving seat so that all the particulars thereon are clearly visible by daylight from the near side of the road;

(c) in the case of any vehicle fitted with a glass windscreen in front of the driver extending across the vehicle to its near side, on or adjacent to the near side lower corner of the windscreen, so that all particulars thereon are clearly visible by daylight from the near side of the road;

(d) in the case of any other vehicle, if the vehicle is fitted with a driver's cab containing a near side window, on such window, or on the near side of the vehicle in front of the driver's seat or towards the front of the vehicle in the case of a pedestrian controlled vehicle and not less than 2 feet 6 inches and not more than 6 feet above the surface of the road, so that in each case all the particulars thereon are clearly visible by daylight from the near side of the road.

#### *Form of registration marks*

18. The size, shape and character of any registration mark which is required to be fixed on a vehicle by virtue of the Act shall be in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 2 to these Regulations.

#### *Vehicles registered on or after 1st January 1948*

19.—(1) The provisions of this Regulation shall apply to vehicles, other than works trucks and agricultural machines, first registered on or after 1st January 1948.

(2) In this and the next following Regulation the expression "relevant area" in relation to a registration mark on a vehicle means the area contained in a square described on the ground, in front of the vehicle in the case of a registration mark on the front of the vehicle and behind the vehicle in the case of a registration mark on the back of the vehicle, where one corner of the square is below the middle of the registration mark and the diagonal of the square from that corner is parallel to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle, but excluding any part of the square within ten feet of the vehicle.

(3) The registration mark of the vehicle shall be fixed and displayed on both the front and the back of the vehicle, so that in normal daylight the letters and figures are easily legible from every part of the relevant area, the diagonal of the square governing the relevant area being 75 feet, except in the case of a bicycle, an invalid vehicle or a pedestrian controlled vehicle, when it shall be 60 feet:

Provided that in the case of the three last mentioned vehicles the registration mark at the front of the vehicle may instead be displayed either,

(i) on a plate with duplicate faces, fixed to the vehicle so that each faces sideways, or

(ii) on both sides of the front mudguard,

so that the registration mark is clearly legible from both sides of the vehicle.

**20.**—(1) The provisions of this Regulation shall apply to vehicles, other than works trucks, first registered on or after 1st January 1948.

(2) A person using or keeping a mechanically propelled vehicle upon a public road during the hours of darkness shall ensure that every letter and figure of the registration mark displayed on the back of the vehicle, or in the case of a vehicle having attached thereto a trailer or trailers, on the trailer or rearmost trailer (as the case may be) so attached, is at all times so illuminated that in the absence of fog the letters and figures are easily legible from every part of the relevant area, the diagonal of the square governing the relevant area being 60 feet, except in the case of a bicycle, an invalid vehicle or a pedestrian controlled vehicle, when it shall be 50 feet.

(3) The provisions of the foregoing paragraph shall not apply in cases where, under Regulation 56(4) of the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969(1), consent has been given to the use of a parking place or a stand for hackney carriages by vehicles without lights.

#### *Vehicles registered before 1st January 1948*

**21.** The provisions of Schedule 3 shall apply to mechanically propelled vehicles, other than works trucks and agricultural machines, first registered before 1st January 1948 as regards the exhibition of registration marks.

#### *Works trucks and agricultural machines*

**22.** The owner of a works truck or an agricultural machine shall ensure that the registration mark of the vehicle is displayed either on both sides of the vehicle so that it is clearly legible from both sides of the vehicle, or on the back of the vehicle so that it is clearly legible from behind the vehicle, and in either case he shall ensure that the registration mark is so fixed to the vehicle that the letters and figures thereon are in the vertical.

#### *Trailers*

**23.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (3) of this Regulation, where one or more trailers are attached to a mechanically propelled vehicle the owner of the vehicle shall ensure that there is displayed on the trailer or rearmost trailer (as the case may be) the registration mark of the mechanically propelled vehicle, and that such registration mark is fixed to and displayed on the trailer as if the trailer were a vehicle of the same class or description as the mechanically propelled vehicle.

(2) Where the registration mark of a mechanically propelled vehicle is fixed to and displayed on a trailer attached to it in accordance with the foregoing paragraph, the requirement of these Regulations as to the fixing to and display of a registration mark on the back of a mechanically propelled vehicle shall not apply to the vehicle drawing the trailer.

(3) Where the mechanically propelled vehicle is a restricted vehicle, the registration mark fixed to and displayed on the trailer in accordance with paragraph (1) of this Regulation may, instead of being that of the vehicle to which the trailer is attached be that of any other restricted vehicle belonging to the owner of the vehicle to which the trailer is attached, and in such a case the duty in the said paragraph (1) as to fixing and display shall apply as if the other restricted vehicle were the vehicle to which the trailer was attached.

(4) In this Regulation "restricted vehicle" means a vehicle mentioned in section 7(1) of the Act or paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 3 thereto.

#### PART IV—VEHICLES EXEMPT FROM LICENCE DUTY

##### *Extension of provisions as to registration*

24. The provisions of Parts II and III as to registration and matters incidental thereto shall extend to the mechanically propelled vehicles to which Regulations 25, 26 and 27 apply (being vehicles in respect of which duty is not chargeable under the Act) subject to the modifications specified in those Regulations.

##### *Vehicles belonging to the Crown*

25.—(1) A Government Department which keeps or uses on a road a mechanically propelled vehicle belonging to the Crown which has not previously been registered under the Act or the Roads Act 1920(m) shall make a declaration as if, subject to the provisions of the next following paragraph, the Department desired to obtain a licence for the vehicle.

(2) Such declaration shall be forwarded to the Ministry.

(3) Upon receipt of such declaration the Ministry shall register the vehicle and assign to the vehicle a registration mark, and any registration mark so assigned shall be deemed to be assigned under section 19 of the Act for the purposes of subsection (2) of that section and these Regulations.

(4) No licence or registration book shall be issued by the Ministry in respect of the vehicle so registered.

(5) Every mechanically propelled vehicle belonging to the Crown which is kept or used on a road shall for the purposes of identification carry a certificate of Crown ownership signed by a duly authorised officer of the Government Department by which the vehicle is kept or used as aforesaid, and the provisions of Regulation 8 (which relates to the alteration of licences and similar offences) and Regulation 17 (which relates to the exhibition of licences) shall apply as if each reference in those Regulations to a licence issued under the Act included a reference to a certificate of Crown ownership.

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(m) 10 & 11 Geo. 5 c. 72.

(6) The provisions of Regulation 11 (which relates to notification of alteration of vehicles), Regulation 13 (which relates to notification of change of ownership of vehicles), Regulation 14 (which relates to notification of change of address of owners of vehicles) and Regulation 15 (which relates to notification of destruction or permanent export of vehicles) shall not, except in so far as Regulation 13 places duties on the previous owner of a vehicle acquired by the Crown, apply in the case of vehicles belonging to the Crown.

(7) Upon the acquisition by the Crown of the ownership of a vehicle which has been registered under the Act, or the transfer of such a vehicle from one Government Department to another, a duly authorised officer of the Department which has acquired the vehicle shall notify the change in writing to the Ministry, and where the registration book has been delivered to the Crown in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 13(1) any such notification shall be accompanied by the registration book of the vehicle.

(8) Upon the receipt of a notification under the preceding paragraph the Ministry shall register the vehicle in the name of the Department from which the notification was received unless that Department has certified that the vehicle is used or appropriated for use for naval, military or air force purposes, and shall retain the registration book accompanying the notification.

(9) Where the ownership of a vehicle registered in the name of a Government Department is acquired by a person other than a Government Department, or such a vehicle is broken up, destroyed or sent permanently out of Northern Ireland, a duly authorised officer of the Department shall forthwith notify the fact to the Ministry.

(10) Where the ownership of a vehicle registered in the name of a Government Department is acquired by a person other than a Government Department, a registration book in respect of the vehicle shall be issued to that person by the Ministry.

(11) None of the provisions of Parts II and III and of this Regulation except paragraphs (7) and (8) shall apply to any vehicle belonging to the Crown which is used or appropriated for use for naval, military or air force purposes.

#### *Vehicles used for special purposes*

26.—(1) This Regulation applies to mechanically propelled vehicles, other than those belonging to the Crown, which are used exclusively on roads not repairable at the public expense or which are exempt from duty by virtue of the provisions of paragraphs (a), (c), (d) or (e) of section 4(1) or section 7(1) of the Act.

(2) The owner of a vehicle to which this Regulation applies which has not previously been registered under the Act shall make a declaration as if he desired to take out a licence for the vehicle in accordance with Regulation 4.

(3) Upon receipt of such declaration the Ministry shall—

(a) register the vehicle and assign to the vehicle a registration mark, and any registration mark so assigned shall be deemed to be assigned under section 19 of the Act for the purposes of sub-section (2) of that section and these Regulations; and

(b) issue to the owner a registration book with the appropriate particulars of the vehicle in respect of which it is issued entered therein, but no licence shall be issued in respect of the vehicle.

*Other exempt vehicles*

27.—(1) This Regulation applies to mechanically propelled vehicles which are exempt from duty by or under section 4 or 6 or section 7(1), (3), (4) or (5) of the Act, other than vehicles to which the last preceding Regulation applies and other than invalid carriages complying with requirements prescribed under Article 13 of the Road Traffic (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 1973(n), and to mechanically propelled vehicles which are exempt from duty under section 7(2) or (2A) of the Act, as amended (o).

(2) The owner of a vehicle to which this Regulation applies shall annually make a declaration as if, subject to paragraph (3), he desired to take out a licence for the vehicle, and in the case of a vehicle for which exemption is claimed under section 7(2) or (2A) of the Act he shall include with the declaration a certificate issued by the Ministry of Health and Social Services stating—

- (a) in a case to which section 7(2) of the Act applies, that he has obtained, or is eligible for, a grant under section 27(3) of the Health Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1971(p) in relation to that vehicle; and
- (b) in a case to which section 7(2A) of the Act applies, that—
  - (i) he has a particular disability that so incapacitates him in the use of his limbs that he has to be driven and cared for by a full-time constant attendant, and
  - (ii) he is sufficiently disabled to be eligible under the said Act of 1971 for an invalid tricycle if he were not too disabled to drive it.

(3) Such declaration and any certificate shall be forwarded to the Ministry.

(4) Upon receipt of such declaration and any certificate the Ministry shall—

- (a) if the vehicle had not previously been registered under the Act, register the vehicle, assign to the vehicle a registration mark and issue to the owner a registration book with the appropriate particulars of the vehicle in respect of which it is issued entered therein, and any registration mark so assigned shall be deemed to be assigned under section 19 of the Act for the purposes of subsection (2) of that section and these Regulations; and
- (b) issue to the owner of the vehicle a document in respect thereof in the form of a licence valid for a period of twelve months running from the beginning of the month in which the document first has effect with the word "NIL" marked in the space provided for indicating the amount of duty payable.

(5) If at any time duty becomes chargeable under the Act in respect of a mechanically propelled vehicle to which this Regulation applies the owner of the vehicle shall forthwith return to the Ministry any document issued by it for exhibition on the vehicle which indicates that no duty was payable in respect of it.

(6) The provisions of Regulation 8 (which relates to the alteration of licences and similar offences) and Regulation 17 (which relates to the exhibition of licences) shall apply in relation to a vehicle to which this Regulation applies as if each reference therein to a licence issued under the Act included a reference to any such document issued in respect of the vehicle as is mentioned in the last preceding paragraph of this Regulation.

(n) S.I. 1973, No. 1229 (N.I. 17).

(o) The relevant amending instrument is S.I. 1972, No. 1100 (N.I. 11).

(p) 1971, c. 1 (N.I.).

*Civil Defence vehicles*

28.—(1) A mechanically propelled vehicle shall not be chargeable with duty under the Act by reason only of any use made of it for the purpose of the functions of a public body or the Police Authority in connection with civil defence as defined in the Civil Defence Act (Northern Ireland) 1950(q), or by reason of its being kept on a road for such use.

(2) In this Regulation the expression "Police Authority" has the same meaning as in the Police Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(r).

## PART V—TRADE LICENCES

*Applications for trade licences*

29. For the purposes of section 16 of the Act the prescribed manner for—

- (a) a motor trader to make an application to take out a licence under that section for all mechanically propelled vehicles which are from time to time temporarily in his possession in the course of his business as a motor trader and all recovery vehicles kept by him for the purposes of dealing with disabled vehicles in the course of that business;
- (b) a vehicle tester to make an application to take out a licence under that section for all mechanically propelled vehicles which are from time to time submitted to him for testing in the course of his business as a vehicle tester; or
- (c) a motor trader, who is a manufacturer of mechanically propelled vehicles, to make an application to take out a licence under that section for all vehicles kept and used by him solely for purposes of conducting research and development in the course of his business as such a manufacturer,

shall be to furnish the particulars and to make the declaration on the prescribed form to the Ministry.

*Period for review of decision refusing an application for a trade licence*

30. For the purposes of section 25(1)(c) of the Act (which relates to the review by the Ministry of its decision refusing an application by a motor trader or vehicle tester for a trade licence) the period within which such a trader or tester shall request the Ministry for such review shall be 28 days calculated from the end of the day on which the decision was given.

*Notification of change of address, etc.*

31. If the holder of a trade licence changes the name of his business or his business address he shall notify this fact and the new name or address forthwith to the Ministry and shall at the same time send to the Ministry the licence for any necessary amendment.

*Issue of trade plates and replacements therefor*

32.—(1) The Ministry shall issue to every holder of a trade licence in respect of that licence two plates (in these Regulations referred to as "trade plates") appropriate to the class of vehicles on which they will be used showing the general registration mark assigned to the holder of the licence, and one of the plates so issued shall contain means whereby the licence may be fixed thereto:

(q) 1950. c. 11.

(r) 1970. c. 9 (N.I.).

Provided that where the holder of a trade licence satisfies the Ministry that the vehicles which he will use by virtue of the licence include vehicles which would otherwise be liable to duty under Schedule 1 to the Act and other vehicles he shall be entitled to be issued free of charge with two additional trade plates in respect of the vehicles first mentioned in this proviso.

(2) Each trade plate shall remain the property of the Ministry and shall be returned forthwith to the Ministry if the person to whom it was issued no longer holds a trade licence which is in force or if that person ceases to be a motor trader or a vehicle tester.

(3) If a trade plate issued by the Ministry to the holder of a trade licence is lost, destroyed, mutilated or defaced or the figures and particulars thereon have become illegible or the colour of the plate has become altered by fading or otherwise, the holder shall apply to the Ministry for the issue to him of a replacement for that plate, and the Ministry upon being satisfied as to such loss, destruction, mutilation, defacement, illegibility or alteration as aforesaid, and upon the receipt of the plate except where the plate has been lost or destroyed, shall issue a replacement for the plate on payment of a fee of 90p if the plate was issued in respect of vehicles otherwise liable to duty under Schedule 1 to the Act or a fee of £1.35 in any other case, and the replacement so issued shall have the same effect as the plate which it replaces:

Provided that where the Ministry is satisfied that the figures or particulars have become illegible or the colour of the plate has become altered by fading or otherwise without any act or neglect on the part of the holder of the trade licence he shall issue a replacement free of charge.

(4) In the case of the loss of any trade plate, if at any time after the issue of a replacement the original plate is found, the holder of the trade licence, if the plate is in his possession, shall forthwith return it to the Ministry, or if it is not in his possession but he becomes aware that it is found, shall take all reasonable steps to obtain possession of it and if successful shall forthwith return it to the Ministry, so, however, that if possession is not obtained, such fact shall be notified to the Ministry by the holder of the licence without delay.

#### *Alteration of trade plates and similar offences*

**33.**—(1) No person shall alter, deface, mutilate or add anything to any trade plate or exhibit upon any mechanically propelled vehicle any trade plate which has been altered, defaced, mutilated, or added to as aforesaid or upon which the figures or particulars have become illegible or the colour has become altered by fading or otherwise.

(2) No person shall exhibit on any mechanically propelled vehicle anything which could be mistaken for a trade plate.

#### *Exhibition of trade plates and licences*

**34.** No person shall use a vehicle on a public road by virtue of a trade licence except in accordance with the following provisions, that is to say—

(a) there shall be fixed to and displayed on the vehicle the trade plates issued by the Ministry in such a manner that, if the trade plates contained a registration mark assigned to the vehicle, the provisions of Regulations 19 and 20 would be complied with, notwithstanding the vehicle may not have been first registered on or after 1st January 1948 or it is a works truck or an agricultural machine; and

- (b) where in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph a trade plate is required to be fixed to the front of a vehicle, the trade plate so fixed shall be that containing means for fixing the licence thereto, and the trade licence shall be fixed to the vehicle by means of that plate and exhibited on that plate so as to be at all times clearly visible by daylight.

*Restriction on use of trade plates and licences*

35. No persons, not being the holder of a trade licence, shall use on a public road a vehicle on which there is displayed a trade plate or a trade licence, so, however, that nothing in this Regulation shall apply so as to prevent a person with the consent of the holder of the trade licence from driving a vehicle when the vehicle is being used on a public road by virtue of a trade licence and by the holder thereof.

*Purposes for which a vehicle may be used*

36.—(1) In this Regulation, “business purpose”, in relation to a motor trader, means—

- (a) a purpose connected with his business as a manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in mechanically propelled vehicles, or
- (b) a purpose connected with his business as a manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in trailers carried on in conjunction with his business as a motor trader.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraphs (a) to (k) of paragraph (4) of this Regulation, where a mechanically propelled vehicle is used on a public road by virtue of a trade licence and that vehicle is drawing a trailer, the vehicle and trailer shall be deemed to constitute a single vehicle.

(3) Save as provided in Regulation 37, no person, being a motor trader and the holder of a trade licence, shall use any mechanically propelled vehicle on a public road by virtue of that licence unless it is a vehicle which is temporarily in his possession in the course of his business as a motor trader or a recovery vehicle kept by him for the purpose of dealing with disabled vehicles in the course of that business.

(4) Save as provided in Regulation 37 and without derogation from the provisions of the last preceding paragraph of this Regulation, no person, being a motor trader and the holder of a trade licence, shall use any mechanically propelled vehicle on a public road by virtue of that licence for a purpose other than a business purpose and other than one of the following purposes:

- (a) for its test or trial or the test or trial of its accessories or equipment in the ordinary course of construction or repair or after completion in either such case;
- (b) for proceeding to or from a public weighbridge for ascertaining its unladen weight or to or from any place for its registration or inspection by a person acting on behalf of the Ministry;
- (c) for its test or trial for the benefit of a prospective purchaser, for proceeding at the instance of a prospective purchaser to any place for the purpose of such test or trial, or for returning after such test or trial;
- (d) for its test or trial for the benefit of a person interested in promoting publicity in regard to it, for proceeding at the instance of such a person to any place for the purpose of such test or trial, or for returning after such test or trial;



- (e) for delivering it to the place where the purchaser intends to keep it;
- (f) for demonstrating its operation or the operation of its accessories or equipment when being handed over to the purchaser;
- (g) for delivering it from one part of his premises to another part of his premises, or for delivering it from his premises to the premises of, or between parts of premises of, another manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in mechanically propelled vehicles or removing it from the premises of another manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in mechanically propelled vehicles direct to his own premises;
- (h) for proceeding to or returning from a workshop in which a body or a special type of equipment or accessory is to be or has been fitted to it or in which it is to be or has been painted or repaired;
- (i) for proceeding from the premises of a manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in mechanically propelled vehicles to a place from which it is to be transported by train, ship or aircraft or for proceeding to the premises of such a manufacturer, repairer or dealer from a place to which it has been so transported;
- (j) for proceeding to or returning from any garage, auction room or other place at which vehicles are usually stored or usually or periodically offered for sale and at which the vehicle is to be or has been stored or is to be or has been offered for sale as the case may be;
- (k) for proceeding to or returning from a place where it is to be or has been tested, or for proceeding to a place where it is to be broken up or otherwise dismantled; or
- (l) in the case of a recovery vehicle—
  - (i) for proceeding to or returning from a place where assistance is to be, or has been, rendered to a disabled vehicle,
  - (ii) for proceeding to or returning from a place where it is to be, or has been, held available for rendering assistance to a disabled vehicle, or
  - (iii) for carrying a disabled vehicle, or for towing such a vehicle (whether with the assistance of a trailer or not), from the place where it has broken down or from such other place where it is subsequently for the time being situated to a place for repair or storage or breaking up.

37. No person, being a motor trader and who is a manufacturer of mechanically propelled vehicles and the holder of a trade licence, shall use any mechanically propelled vehicle, kept by him solely for the purposes of conducting research and development in the course of his business as such a manufacturer, on a public road by virtue of that licence except for such a purpose.

38. No person, being a vehicle tester and the holder of a trade licence, shall use any mechanically propelled vehicle on a public road by virtue of that licence for any purpose other than testing it or any trailer drawn thereby or any of the accessories or equipment on such vehicle or trailer in the course of his business as a vehicle tester.

#### *Conveyance of goods or burden*

39.—(1) No person, being a motor trader and the holder of a trade licence, shall use a mechanically propelled vehicle on a public road by virtue of that licence for the conveyance of goods or burden of any description other than—

- (a) a load which is carried by a vehicle being used for a relevant purpose and is carried solely for the purpose of testing or demonstrating the vehicle or any of its accessories or equipment and which is returned to the place of loading without having been removed from the vehicle except for such last mentioned purpose or in the case of accident:

In this sub-paragraph "relevant purpose" means a purpose mentioned in Regulation 36(4)(a), (c), (d) and (f); or

- (b) in the case of a recovery vehicle, being used for a relevant purpose, any such load as is referred to in the definition of such a vehicle contained in section 16(10) of the Act or a load consisting of a disabled vehicle:

In this sub-paragraph "relevant purpose" means a purpose mentioned in Regulation 36(4)(l); or

- (c) any load built in as part of the vehicle or permanently attached thereto; or
- (d) a load consisting of parts, accessories or equipment designed to be fitted to the vehicle and of tools for so fitting them, the vehicle being used for a relevant purpose:

In this sub-paragraph "relevant purpose" means a purpose mentioned in Regulation 36(4)(g), (h) or (i); or

- (e) a load consisting of a trailer, the vehicle carrying the trailer being used for a relevant purpose:

In this sub-paragraph "relevant purpose" means a purpose mentioned in Regulation 36(4)(e), (h) or (i).

(2) No person, being a motor trader and who is a manufacturer of mechanically propelled vehicles and the holder of a trade licence, shall use any mechanically propelled vehicle, kept by him solely for the purposes of conducting research and development in the course of his business as such a manufacturer, on a public road by virtue of that licence for the conveyance of goods or burden of any description other than—

- (a) a load which is carried solely for the purpose of testing the vehicle or any of its accessories or equipment and which is returned to the place of loading without having been removed from the vehicle except for such purpose or in the case of accident; or

(b) any load built in as part of the vehicle or permanently attached thereto, and nothing in the last preceding paragraph of this Regulation shall be taken as applying to a mechanically propelled vehicle the use of which is restricted by this paragraph.

(3) For the purposes of this Regulation and the next succeeding Regulation, where a vehicle is so constructed that a trailer may by partial superimposition be attached to the vehicle in such a manner as to cause a substantial part of the weight of the trailer to be borne by the vehicle, the vehicle and the trailer shall be deemed to constitute a single vehicle.

40. No person, being a vehicle tester and the holder of a trade licence, shall use a mechanically propelled vehicle on a public road by virtue of that licence for the conveyance of goods or burden of any description other than—

- (a) a load which is carried solely for the purpose of testing or demonstrating the vehicle or any of its accessories or equipment and which is returned to the place of loading without having been removed from the vehicle except for such purpose or in the case of accident; or
- (b) any load built in as part of the vehicle or permanently attached thereto.

*Carriage of passengers*

41.—(1) No person, being the holder of a trade licence, shall use a mechanically propelled vehicle on a public road by virtue of that licence for carrying any person on the vehicle or on any trailer drawn thereby other than—

- (a) the driver of the vehicle, being the holder of the licence, an employee of the holder, or any other person driving with the consent of the holder while (except in the case of a vehicle which is constructed to carry only one person) accompanied by the holder or an employee of his;
- (b) any person required to be on the vehicle or trailer by Regulations made under section 26 of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970;
- (c) any person carried for the purpose of fulfilling his statutory duties in connection with an inspection of the vehicle or trailer;
- (d) any person in a disabled vehicle being towed;
- (e) the holder of the trade licence or an employee of his, if in either case his presence is necessary for the purpose for which the vehicle is being used;
- (f) an employee of the holder of the trade licence proceeding to a place for the purpose of driving vehicles on behalf of the holder of the trade licence in the course of his business as a motor trader;
- (g) a prospective purchaser or his servant or agent or any person requested to accompany the said prospective purchaser, or in the case of a vehicle being used for the purpose mentioned in Regulation 36(4)(f), the purchaser or his servant or agent or any person requested to accompany the said purchaser; or
- (h) a person mentioned in Regulation 36(4)(d).

(2) Where a person coming within sub-paragraph (g) or (h) of the preceding paragraph of this Regulation is carried he shall be accompanied (except in the case of a vehicle which is constructed to carry only one person) by the holder of the trade licence or an employee of his.

## PART VI—HACKNEY CARRIAGES

*Holiday seasons for hackney carriages*

42. For the purposes of section 2(1)(c)(i) of the Act (which enables holiday seasons to be prescribed for certain hackney carriages) the holiday seasons during which a licence for any period of seven consecutive days may be taken out shall be Christmas, Easter, the last Monday in May and 12th July.

*Seating capacity of hackney carriages*

43.—(1) For the purposes of Schedule 2 to the Act (which prescribes the annual rates of duty on hackney carriages) the seating capacity of a vehicle shall be determined as follows:—

- (a) where separate seats for each person are provided one person shall be counted for each separate seat provided; and
- (b) where the vehicle is fitted with continuous seats one person shall be counted for each complete length of 16 inches measured in a straight line lengthwise on the front of each seat; and where any such continuous seat is fitted with arms for the purpose of separating the seating spaces and such arms are so constructed that they can be folded back or otherwise put out of use such seat shall be measured for the purposes of this Regulation as if it had not been fitted with such arms:

Provided that in calculating the seating capacity of any vehicle the driver's seat shall be excluded, and where on any vehicle there are seats alongside the driver's seat, whether separate from or continuous with the driver's seat, and the Ministry is satisfied that those seats will not during the currency of the licence to be issued be permitted to be used by members of the public travelling on the vehicle, those seats shall be excluded in calculating the seating capacity of the vehicle.

(2) For the purposes of this Regulation the expression "the driver's seat" means any separate seat occupied by the driver of the vehicle, or, where no such separate seat is provided and the driver occupies a portion of a continuous seat, so much of that seat as extends from the right edge of the seat in the case of a vehicle steered from the right-hand side, or from the left edge of the seat in the case of a vehicle steered from the left-hand side, to a point 18 inches left or right, as the case may be, of the point on the seat directly in rear of the centre of the steering column.

#### PART VII—MISCELLANEOUS

##### *Horse-power*

44.—(1) For the purposes of any rate of duty under the Act the horse-power of any mechanically propelled vehicle deriving its motive power wholly from an internal combustion engine worked by a cylinder or cylinders shall be taken to be—

- (a) in the case of a single-cylinder engine, the horse-power attributable to the cylinder of the engine; and
- (b) in the case of an engine having two or more cylinders, the sum of the horse-powers attributable to the separate cylinders.

(2) The horse-power attributable to any cylinder of an internal combustion engine shall be deemed to be equal to the square of the internal diameter of such cylinder measured in inches divided by, in the case of a cylinder having a single piston, 2·5, and in the case of a cylinder having two pistons, 1·6.

(3) The horse-power of any mechanically propelled vehicle deriving its power wholly from a steam engine shall be taken to be proportional to the effective heating surface of the boiler supplying steam to such engine, at the rate of 1 horse-power for every 3 square feet in such effective heating surface, and the effective heating surface shall be taken to be—

- (a) in the case of a boiler having horizontal or approximately horizontal tubes, the whole of that surface of the tubes which is exposed to the flame or hot gases; and
- (b) in the case of a boiler having vertical or approximately vertical tubes, half of that surface of the tubes which is exposed to the flame or hot gases.

(4) In measuring cylinders and boilers for the purpose of calculating horse-power, and in calculating horse-power, fractions of inches and feet and fractions of a unit of horse-power are to be taken into account:

Provided that in the final calculation of horse-power a resultant fraction of less than 0·1 of a unit of horse-power shall be omitted.

##### *Cylinder capacity*

45.—(1) For the purposes of any rate of duty under the Act the cylinder capacity of any mechanically propelled vehicle deriving its motive power wholly from an internal combustion engine worked by a cylinder or cylinders shall be taken to be—

- (a) in the case of a single-cylinder engine, the cylinder capacity attributable to the cylinder of the engine; and
  - (b) in the case of an engine having two or more cylinders, the sum of the cylinder capacities attributable to the separate cylinders.
- (2) The cylinder capacity attributable to any cylinder of an internal combustion engine shall be deemed to be equal to—
- (a) in the case of a cylinder having a single piston, the product expressed in cubic centimetres of the square of the internal diameter of such cylinder measured in centimetres, and the distance through which the piston associated with that cylinder moves during one half of a revolution of the engine measured in centimetres multiplied by 0.7854; and
  - (b) in the case of a cylinder having more than one piston, the sum of the products expressed in cubic centimetres of the square of the internal diameter of each part of the cylinder in which a piston moves measured in centimetres, and the distance through which the piston associated with that diameter moves during one half of a revolution of the engine measured in centimetres multiplied by 0.7854.
- (3) In measuring cylinders for the purpose of calculating cylinder capacity, and in calculating cylinder capacity, fractions of centimetres are to be taken into account.

#### *Unladen weight*

46. The owner of a vehicle in respect of which duty under the Act is, or may be, payable by reference to its unladen weight, on being required in writing to do so by a person acting on behalf of the Ministry, shall—

- (a) furnish the prescribed declaration of weight; or
- (b) produce the vehicle at a specified time and weighbridge (which time shall be not less than seven days after the date of the requirement) together with any alternative bodies or parts which are by virtue of paragraph 1 of Schedule 7 to the Act required to be included in its unladen weight and cause the vehicle to be weighed at that time and place in the presence of a person acting as aforesaid,

in accordance with whichever course the requirement may specify.

#### *Exemption of agricultural machines from duty as goods vehicles in certain cases*

47.—(1) This Regulation applies to vehicles which are agricultural machines (as defined in Part I of Schedule 3 to the Act) which do not draw trailers and which are constructed or adapted for use and used for the conveyance in removable appliances fitted to the vehicle of goods or burden the haulage of which is permissible under paragraphs (a) to (e) of paragraph 2(1) of that Part of that Schedule.

(2) An appliance, not being a tined appliance, which has an external width not exceeding 8 feet 2 inches, an external length not exceeding 5 feet 2 inches and an external height not exceeding 2 feet 2 inches and which does not satisfy condition (b) in paragraph 7(2) of Part I of Schedule 4 to the Act, is hereby prescribed for the purposes of sub-paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) of paragraph 8 of that Part of that Schedule.

(3) Paragraph 7(2) of Part I of Schedule 4 to the Act shall not apply to a vehicle to which this Regulation applies which is fitted with an appliance of the description prescribed by paragraph (2) of this Regulation unless the appliance is used in the following circumstances, that is to say—

- (a) another appliance with the same dimensions shall be fitted at the opposite end of the vehicle;
- (b) each such appliance shall be so fitted to the vehicle that its longitudinal axis lies in the same vertical plane as the longitudinal axis of the vehicle;
- (c) the weight of any goods or burden carried in each such appliance shall not exceed  $6\frac{1}{2}$  cwt;
- (d) the weight of any goods or burden carried in the two appliances shall be distributed equally between them;
- (e) the goods or burden carried in each appliance shall not be above the highest point of that appliance; and
- (f) the vehicle shall not proceed on a public road at a speed exceeding 10 miles per hour.

(4) Paragraph 7(2)(b) of Part I of Schedule 4 to the Act shall not have effect in relation to appliances of the description prescribed by paragraph (2) of this Regulation, but in relation thereto paragraph 7(4) of that Part of that Schedule shall have effect with the substitution of the distance of three miles for the distance of fifteen miles specified therein.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this 11th day of December 1973.

(L.S.)

*W. A. Willis,*  
Assistant Secretary.

## SCHEDULE 1 (See Regulation 2)

## Regulations revoked

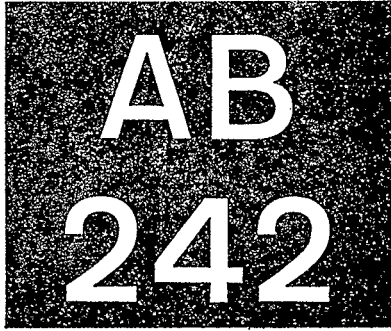
- The Road Vehicles (Part Year Licensing) (Northern Ireland) Order 1937 (S.R. & O. 1937, No. 130).
- The Hackney Carriages (Seating Capacity) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1939 (S.R. & O. 1939, No. 13).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1947 (S.R. & O. 1947, No. 167).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1951 (S.R. & O. 1951, No. 164).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1954 (S.R. & O. 1954, No. 12).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1958 (S.R. & O. 1958, No. 3).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1960 (S.R. & O. 1960, No. 153).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963 (S.R. & O. 1963, No. 111).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1964 (S.R. & O. 1964, No. 122).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1965 (S.R. & O. 1965, No. 259).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968 (S.R. & O. 1968, No. 37).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969 (S.R. & O. 1969, No. 350).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970 (S.R. & O. 1970, No. 290).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1972 (S.R. & O. 1972, No. 366).
- The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973 (S.R. & O. 1973, No. 228).

SCHEDULE 2 (See Règlement 18)

Form of registration marks

PART I

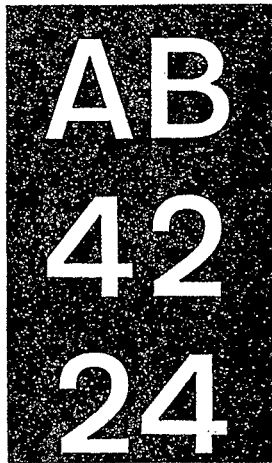
Diagrams showing arrangements of specimen registration marks



*Diagram No. 1*

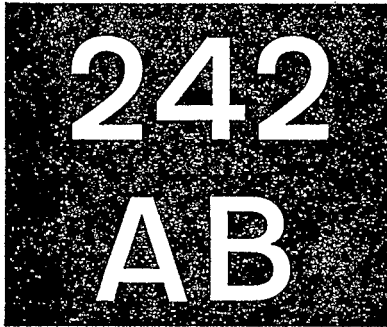


*Diagram No. 2*



*Diagram No. 3*

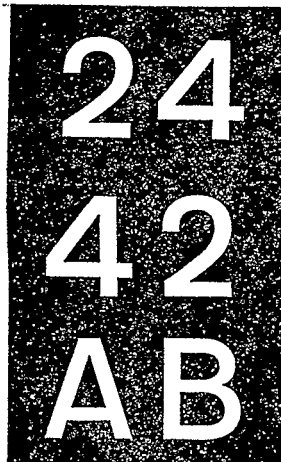




*Diagram No. 4*



*Diagram No. 5*



*Diagram No. 6*

## PART II

## Size, shape and character of registration marks

*Interpretation*

1. For the purposes of this Schedule—

- (a) any reference to a numbered diagram is a reference to the diagram of that number set out in Part I;
- (b) the expressions “upper margin”, “lower margin” and “side margin”, in relation to the black surface upon which a registration mark is inscribed or formed in accordance with paragraph 8 or 9 or the white or, as the case may be, the yellow background upon which a registration mark is formed in accordance with paragraph 5 or, as the case may be, paragraph 6 or the said paragraph 5 as applied by paragraph 10, mean respectively the space between the upper edge of the said surface or background and the nearest part of each letter and figure situated nearest that edge, the space between the lower edge of the said surface or background and the nearest part of each letter and figure situated nearest that edge, and the space between a side of the surface or background and the nearest part of each letter and figure situated nearest that side; and
- (c) references to a registration mark which is embossed or pressed are references to a registration mark which consists either of a single plate with letters and figures embossed or pressed thereon or with separate letters and figures attached thereto or of separate plates each with a single letter or figure embossed or pressed thereon or attached thereto.

*Arrangement of numbers and letters*

2. Where a registration mark consists of an index mark followed by a registered number it shall at the option of the owner be arranged in conformity with either diagram No. 1 or diagram No. 2 or, in the case of a registration mark assigned to a bicycle or an agricultural machine and exhibited on the back of the vehicle, being a mark which consists of an index mark comprising two letters followed by a registered number comprising four figures in conformity with diagram No. 3.

3. Where a registration mark consists of an index mark preceded by a registered number it shall at the option of the owner be arranged in conformity with either diagram No. 4 or diagram No. 5 or, in the case of a registration mark assigned to a bicycle or an agricultural machine and exhibited on the back of the vehicle, being a mark which consists of an index mark comprising two letters preceded by a registered number comprising four figures, in conformity with diagram No. 6.

*Character of registration marks*

4. Paragraph 5 shall apply to the registration mark required to be fixed on a vehicle which is first registered on or after 1st January 1973 other than—

- (a) a vehicle having an unladen weight exceeding 3 tons, being a vehicle on which, or on whose load, there is fitted, in accordance with such of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles (Rear Markings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971(s), as amended(t), as apply in relation to the vehicle or, as the case may be, to its load, a rear marking such as is mentioned in those Regulations;
- (b) a vehicle which is used wholly or mainly as a stage carriage within the meaning of the Public Service Vehicles (Construction) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1960(u), as amended(v); and
- (c) a bicycle, an invalid vehicle, a pedestrian controlled vehicle, a works truck and an agricultural machine.

(s) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1971, No. 71.

(u) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1960, No. 91.

(t) S.R. & O. (N.I.), 1972, No. 195.

(v) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1971, No. 316.

5. A registration mark to which this paragraph applies shall be exhibited on a plate which is constructed of reflex reflecting material, being a plate which complies with the requirements laid down by the British Standard Specification for Reflex Reflecting Number Plates published on 11th September 1972 under the number B.S. AU 145a and is of a type in respect of which there has been issued by the Secretary of State a certificate that a plate of that type complies with those requirements, and in such a case—

- (a) the registration mark, where it is displayed on the front of the vehicle, shall be formed in black letters and figures upon a white background and where it is displayed on the back of the vehicle shall be formed of black letters and figures upon a yellow background;
- (b) that part of the plate which comprises the said background shall be constructed of reflex reflecting material which shall at all times be maintained in a clean and efficient condition;
- (c) no reflex reflecting material shall be applied to any part of the said letters or figures; and
- (d) there shall be legibly and permanently marked on the plate the specification number B.S. AU 145a to indicate that it complies with the British Standard Specification mentioned above,

but nothing in this paragraph shall apply to the registration mark required to be fixed on a vehicle when that mark, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 23, is displayed on the back of a trailer attached to that vehicle.

6. The registration mark required to be fixed on the back of any of the following vehicles, that is to say, a bicycle, an invalid vehicle or a pedestrian controlled vehicle (being, in any such case, a vehicle first registered on or after 1st January 1973) shall be exhibited on a plate which is constructed of reflex reflecting material, being a plate which complies with the requirements of the British Standard Specification mentioned in paragraph 5 and is of a type in respect of which a certificate such as is mentioned in that paragraph has been issued by the Secretary of State, and in such a case—

- (a) the registration mark shall be formed of black letters and figures upon a yellow background;
- (b) that part of the plate which comprises the said background shall be constructed of reflex reflecting material which shall at all times be maintained in a clean and efficient condition;
- (c) no reflex reflecting material shall be applied to any part of the said letters or figures; and
- (d) there shall be legibly and permanently marked on the plate the specification number B.S. AU 145a to indicate that it complies with the British Standard Specification mentioned in the said paragraph 5.

7. Paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 shall apply to the registration mark required to be fixed—

- (a) on a vehicle which is first registered before 1st January 1973; and
- (b) on a vehicle, not being a bicycle, an invalid vehicle or a pedestrian controlled vehicle (but subject, in each of those cases, to paragraph 11) or a vehicle to which paragraph 5 applies, which is first registered on or after that date.

8. A registration mark to which this paragraph applies shall, except where it is so designed and constructed that it may be illuminated from behind by means of the translucency of the letters and figures comprised in the mark or is exhibited on a plate in accordance with paragraph 10, be formed of white, silver or light grey letters and figures upon a black surface and every letter and figure shall be indelibly inscribed upon that surface or so attached to the surface that it cannot readily be detached therefrom, and in a case where the letters and figures are exhibited on a flat plate the plate may be constructed of cast or pressed metal having raised letters and figures.

9. Where a registration mark to which this paragraph applies is so designed and constructed as to be illuminated from behind in the manner mentioned in paragraph 8, the mark shall be formed of white letters and figures upon a black surface and all the letters and figures shall, when the mark is so illuminated during the hours of darkness, appear white against a black background.

10. A registration mark to which this paragraph applies may be exhibited on a plate which is constructed of reflex reflecting material and which—

- (a) in the case of the registration mark of a vehicle first registered before 1st January 1973, either complies with the requirements laid down by the British Standard Specification for Reflex Reflecting Number Plates published on 31st October 1967 under the number B.S. AU 145: 1967, the plate being permanently and legibly marked with the specification number B.S. AU 145 to indicate that it complies with the said Specification, or complies with the requirements of the British Standard Specification mentioned in paragraph 5 and is of a type in respect of which a certificate such as is mentioned in that paragraph has been issued by the Secretary of State, the plate being permanently and legibly marked as mentioned in sub-paragraph (d) of that paragraph; and
- (b) in the case of the registration mark of a vehicle first registered on or after 1st January 1973, complies with the requirements of the British Standard Specification mentioned in the said paragraph 5 and is of a type in respect of which a certificate such as is mentioned in that paragraph has been issued by the Secretary of State, the plate being permanently and legibly marked as mentioned in sub-paragraph (d) of that paragraph.
- and, in either such case, the provisions of sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) of the said paragraph 5 shall apply in relation to the mark and to the plate on which it is exhibited as they apply in relation to a registration mark mentioned in that paragraph and to the plate on which that mark is exhibited.

11. Paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 shall apply to the registration mark required to be fixed on any of the following vehicles, that is to say, a bicycle, an invalid vehicle or a pedestrian controlled vehicle (being, in any such case, a vehicle which is first registered on or after 1st January 1973) but only insofar as relating to the mark required to be fixed on the front of the vehicle, and in their application to such a registration mark for the purposes of this paragraph the provisions of the said paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 shall have effect accordingly.

12. Where, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 23, the registration mark required to be fixed on a vehicle is displayed on the back of a trailer attached to that vehicle, the mark may be exhibited on a plate which is constructed of reflex reflecting material, but in any such case the plate shall comply in all respects with such of the provisions of paragraph 5 or, as the case may be, of paragraph 10 as apply in relation to the plate when (in accordance with the provisions in question) it is exhibited on the back of the vehicle to which the trailer is attached.

13. Nothing in paragraph 5, 6, 10, 11 or 12 shall be taken to authorise any person to apply a specification number as mentioned in any of the first three of those paragraphs in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968(w).

#### *Size and shape*

14.—(1) Except as is provided in paragraph 18 or 23 the registration marks displayed on a vehicle shall be displayed on a flat rectangular plate or on a rectangular, flat and unbroken area on the surface of the vehicle, and such marks shall at the option of the owner of the vehicle conform either to the group of provisions contained in paragraphs 15 to 18 or to the group of provisions contained in paragraphs 19 to 23.

(2) For the purposes of the following paragraphs of this Schedule any letter contained in the registered number of a vehicle shall be deemed to be a figure contained in that number.

*First group of provisions as to size and shape*

15. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 18, each letter and figure shall be  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, every part of each letter and figure shall be  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch broad, and the total width of the space taken by each letter and figure, except in the case of the figure "1", shall be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

16. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 18, there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the surface or background upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed of at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, there shall be a side margin on each side of the said surface of at least 1 inch and the space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and between the nearest parts of adjoining figures shall be  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, except that where the registration mark is embossed or pressed the space between the nearest parts of two adjoining figures "1" shall be not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch nor more than  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches and the space between the nearest part of a figure "1" and the nearest part of any other adjoining figure shall be not less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch nor more than  $1\frac{1}{16}$  inches.

17. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 18, where the registration mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1 or diagram No. 4, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch, where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 3 or diagram No. 6, the space between the upper and middle lines and the space between the middle and lower lines, shall in each case be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch, and where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2 or diagram No. 5, the space between the letters and the figures shall be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, except that where the registration mark is embossed or pressed the said space of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches may be exceeded by not more than  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch.

18. As respects the registration mark assigned to a bicycle, an invalid vehicle or a pedestrian controlled vehicle—

- (1) where the registration mark is displayed on the front of the vehicle—
  - (a) the plate or area upon which the mark is inscribed or formed need not be rectangular if the letters and figures comprised in the mark conform as nearly as possible with the arrangements shown in that one of the diagrams with which, in accordance with paragraph 2 or 3, the mark has been selected to conform; and
  - (b) the following requirements may be complied with instead of the requirements specified in paragraphs 15, 16 and 17, that is to say:—
    - (i) each letter and figure shall be  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches high, every part of each letter and figure shall be  $\frac{5}{16}$  inch broad, and the total width of the space taken by each letter and figure, except in the case of the figure "1", shall be  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches,
    - (ii) there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the surface or background upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed of at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch and there shall be a side margin on each side of the surface or background of at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch; the space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and between the nearest parts of adjoining figures shall be  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and
    - (iii) where the mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1 or diagram No. 4, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch and where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2 or diagram No. 5, the space between the letters and the figures shall be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch; and
- (2) where the registration mark is displayed on the back of the vehicle on a plate—

- (a) the corners of the plate may be rounded off, the letters comprised in the index mark (if the arrangement shown in diagram No. 1 is selected) or the figures comprised in the registered number (if the arrangement shown in diagram No. 4 is selected) may be placed to the left so, however, that no part of the first of such letters or the first of such figures, as the case may be, is nearer to the left-hand edge of the plate than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch; and
- (b) the following requirements may be complied with instead of the requirements specified in paragraphs 15, 16 and 17, that is to say:—
- (i) each letter and figure shall be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, every part of each letter and figure shall be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch broad, and the total width of the space taken by each letter and figure, except in the case of the figure "1", shall be  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches,
  - (ii) there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the surface or background upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed, and a side margin on each side of the surface or background, of at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch; the space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and adjoining figures shall be  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and
  - (iii) where the mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1 or diagram No. 4, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 3 or diagram No. 6, the space between the upper and middle lines and the space between the middle and lower lines, shall in each case be  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2 or diagram No. 5, the space between the letters and the figures shall be 1 inch.

*Alternative group of provisions as to size and shape*

19. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 23, each letter and figure shall be  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches high, every part of each letter and figure shall be  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch broad, and the total width of the space taken by each letter and figure, except in the case of the figure "1", shall be  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

20. Without prejudice to the provisions of the foregoing paragraph, part of the visible surface of every letter and figure comprised in a registration mark which is embossed or pressed shall be flat, every part of the width of the said flat part shall be not less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch, and every such letter and figure shall be so arranged that the said flat part is parallel to the surface of the plate on which the letter or figure appears, and no part of any such letter or figure shall project from the surface of the said plate by more than  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch.

21. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 23 of this Schedule, there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the surface or background upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed, and a side margin on each side of the surface or background of at least  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch and the space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and between the nearest parts of adjoining figures shall be  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch, except that where the registration mark is embossed or pressed the space between the nearest parts of two adjoining figures "1" shall be not less than  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch nor more than  $2\frac{1}{8}$  inches and the space between the nearest part of a figure "1" and the nearest part of any other adjoining figure shall be not less than  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch nor more than  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches.

22. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 23, where the registration mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1 or diagram No. 4, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch, where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 3 or diagram No. 6, the space between the upper and middle lines and the space between the middle and lower lines, shall in each case be  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch, and where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2 or diagram No. 5, the space between the letters and the figures shall be  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches, except that where the registration mark is embossed or pressed the said space of  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches may be exceeded by not more than  $\frac{2}{32}$  inch.

23. As respects the registration mark assigned to a bicycle, an invalid vehicle or a pedestrian controlled vehicle—

- (1) where the registration mark is displayed on the front of the vehicle—
- (a) the plate or area upon which the mark is inscribed or formed need not be rectangular if the letters and figures comprised in the mark conform as nearly as possible with the arrangement shown in that one of the diagrams with which, in accordance with paragraph 2 or 3, the mark has been selected to conform; and
  - (b) the following requirements may be complied with instead of the requirements specified in paragraphs 19, 21 and 22, that is to say—
    - (i) each letter and figure shall be  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches high, every part of each letter and figure shall be  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch broad, and the total width of the space taken by each letter and figure, except in the case of the figure "1", shall be  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches,
    - (ii) there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the surface or background upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed, and a side margin on each side of the surface or background, of at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch; the space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and the nearest parts of adjoining figures shall be  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch, and
    - (iii) where the mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1 or diagram No. 4, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch and where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2 or diagram No. 5, the space between the letters and the figures shall be  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch; and
- (2) where the registration mark is displayed on the back of the vehicle on a plate—
- (a) the corners of the plate may be rounded off, the letters comprised in the index mark (if the arrangement shown in diagram No. 1 is selected) or the figures comprised in the registered number (if the arrangement shown in diagram No. 4 is selected) may be placed to the left so, however, that no part of the first of such letters or the first of such figures, as the case may be, is nearer to the left-hand edge of the plate than  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch, and
  - (b) the following requirements may be complied with instead of the requirements specified in paragraphs 19, 21 and 22, that is to say—
    - (i) each letter and figure shall be  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches high, every part of each letter and figure shall be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch broad, and the total width of the space taken by each letter and figure, except in the case of the figure "1", shall be  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches,
    - (ii) there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the surface or background upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed, and a side margin on each side of the surface or background of at least  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch; the space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and adjoining figures shall be  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch, and
    - (iii) where the mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1 or diagram No. 4, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 3 or diagram No. 6, the space between the upper and middle lines and between the middle and lower lines, shall in each case be  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, and where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2 or diagram No. 5, the space between the letters and figures shall be 1 inch.

## SCHEDULE 3 (See Regulation 21)

**Exhibition of registration marks on certain vehicles registered before  
1st January 1948***Interpretation*

1. In this Schedule "vehicle" means a mechanically propelled vehicle, other than a works truck or an agricultural machine, first registered before 1st January 1948.

*Position and visibility of registration marks*

2. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 3 the registration mark of any vehicle shall be exhibited on the front of, and on the back of, the vehicle in a vertical position, so that every letter or figure of the registration mark is vertical and easily distinguishable, in the case of the letters and figures placed on the front of the vehicle, from in front of the vehicle, and in the case of the letters and figures placed on the back of the vehicle, from behind the vehicle.

3. In the case of a vehicle being a bicycle, an invalid vehicle or a pedestrian controlled vehicle the front registration mark may be displayed either—

- (a) on a flat plate having duplicate faces both conforming with Schedule 2, and fixed on the vehicle in a vertical position, or
- (b) on both sides of the vehicle in a vertical position on a flat unbroken surface forming part of the front mudguard,

in such a manner that from whichever side the vehicle is viewed the letters and figures on one or other face of the plate or side of the mudguard, as the case may be, are easily distinguishable although they may not be distinguishable from the front of the vehicle.

*Illumination of registration marks*

4. Whenever during the hours of darkness a vehicle is upon a public road, a lamp shall be kept burning on the vehicle, so contrived as to illuminate by means of reflection or otherwise, and render easily distinguishable, every letter and figure of the registration mark exhibited on the back of the vehicle or on the rearmost vehicle attached to the back of the vehicle, as the case may be.



## SCHEDULE 4 (See Regulation 3)

**Forms prescribed for purposes of these Regulations**

- Form V55 — Application for a licence for a new motor vehicle and declaration for registration.
- Form RF1A — Application to re-licence a motor vehicle.
- Form RF1/1 — Application for a licence for a motor car.
- Form RF1/2 — Application for a licence for a motor cycle, etc.
- Form RF3 — Application for a licence for an exempt vehicle.
- Form RF4 — Application for a licence for a goods vehicle.
- Form RF4/1 — Application for a licence for an electrically propelled goods vehicle, a showman's goods vehicle or a tower wagon.
- Form RF4/2 — Application for a licence for a farmer's goods vehicle.
- Form RF5 — Application for a licence for an agricultural tractor, agricultural engine, trench digger, mobile crane, mowing machine, etc.
- Form RF5/1 — Application for a licence for a general haulage tractor.
- Form RF7 — Application for a trade licence.
- Form RF8 — Application for a licence for a hackney carriage.
- Form RF12/9 — Certificate of weight.
- Form RF47 — Application for a refund of duty on surrender of an unexpired vehicle licence.
- Form RF48 — Application for a refund of duty on surrender of an unexpired trade licence.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)*

These Regulations consolidate, with amendment, the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1947 and the Regulations which amended them as specified in Schedule 1 to these Regulations. The amendments now made are consequential on the transfer to the Ministry of Home Affairs, on 1 October 1973, of the functions of levying excise duty on vehicles and licensing and registration of vehicles conferred on local authorities by the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954.