

1971 No. 937

ROAD TRAFFIC

**The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations
1971**

<i>Made - - - -</i>	<i>3rd June 1971</i>
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	<i>11th June 1971</i>
<i>Coming into Operation</i>	<i>14th June 1971</i>

The Secretary of State for the Environment in exercise of his powers under paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of section 23(1) of the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971(a), as substituted by virtue of section 39(1) of, and paragraph 20 of Part I of Schedule 7 to, that Act, section 37(1) and (2) of that Act, and Articles 5(4) and (5) and 6(1) of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order 1957(b), as varied by the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Amendment) Order 1971(c), and of all other enabling powers, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Commencement and citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations 1971 and shall come into operation on the 14th June 1971.

Revocation

2.—(1) The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations 1965(d) and the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Amendment) Regulations 1969(e) are hereby revoked.

(2) This Regulation shall not affect any document issued or other thing done under any Regulation hereby revoked and so far as it could have been issued or done under these Regulations shall have effect as if issued or done under the corresponding provision of these Regulations.

Interpretation

3.—(1) In these Regulations, except where the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively that is to say—

“certificate of insurance” and “certificate of security” have the same meanings as in Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1960(f);

(a) 1971 c. 10.

(c) S.I. 1971/869 (1971 II, p. 2541).

(e) S.I. 1969/667 (1969 II, p. 1829).

(b) S.I. 1957/1074 (1957 II, p. 2154).

(d) S.I. 1965/329 (1965 I, p. 1067).

(f) 1960 c. 16.

“the Convention of 1926” means the International Convention relative to Motor Traffic concluded at Paris in the year 1926(a);

“the Convention of 1949” means the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Geneva in the year 1949(b);

“the date of importation”, in relation to a vehicle, means the date on which that vehicle was last brought into the United Kingdom;

“the Excise Act” means the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971;

“exempted vehicle” means a vehicle exempt from excise duty by virtue of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order 1957 as varied by the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Amendment) Order 1971;

“insurance card” has the same meaning as in the Motor Vehicles (International Motor Insurance Card) Regulations 1971(c);

“local authority” has the same meaning as in Regulation 15(2) of the Regulations of 1971;

“nationality sign” means a sign complying with the provisions of annex 4 to the Convention of 1949 or of annex C to the Convention of 1926 and bearing the distinctive letters specified in or under the Convention for the country under the law of which the vehicle is registered;

“registration authority” means the Royal Automobile Club, the Automobile Association, the Royal Scottish Automobile Club or the Greater London Council;

“registration card” means a card issued under Regulation 6 of these Regulations or issued in Northern Ireland under provisions corresponding to Regulation 6;

“the Regulations of 1971” means the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1971(d);

“the Secretary of State” means the Secretary of State for the Environment;

“vehicle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle intended or adapted for use on roads;

“visiting vehicle” means a vehicle brought temporarily into Great Britain by a person resident outside the United Kingdom which has not remained in the United Kingdom for a period of more than one year from its date of importation;

“visitor’s registration document” means—

(a) in the case of a vehicle registered in a country outside the United Kingdom, a registration certificate issued under the law of any country in respect of which a nationality sign has been assigned in, or notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations under, the Convention of 1926 or the Convention of 1949 whether or not that country is a party to either of the said Conventions and containing a registration mark, the name or the trade mark of the maker of the vehicle, the maker’s identification or serial number, the date of its registration and the full name and permanent place of residence of the applicant for the said certificate; or

(b) a certificate in form D in Schedule 1 to the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order 1957, issued under the law of a country outside the United Kingdom which is a party to the Convention of 1926; or

(a) Cmd. 3510.

(c) S.I. 1971/792 (1971 II, p. 2256).

(b) Cmd. 7997.

(d) S.I. 1971/450 (1971 I, p. 1305).

- (c) in the case of a vehicle registered in accordance with the registration system of the British Authorities in Germany or the registration system of the United States authorities in Germany or France, a registration certificate specifying the registered letter and number allotted to the vehicle under the system.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(a) shall apply for the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament, and as if for the purposes of section 38 of that Act these Regulations were an Act of Parliament and the Regulations revoked by Regulation 2 of these Regulations were Acts of Parliament thereby repealed.

(3) Any reference in these Regulations to any provision in an Act of Parliament or in subordinate legislation shall be construed as a reference to that provision as amended by any other such provision.

Production of documents

4.—(1) A person resident outside the United Kingdom who brings into Great Britain a visiting vehicle shall, if he is at any reasonable time required to do so, produce to a registration authority such of the documents as have been issued in respect of that vehicle and are specified in the next following paragraph.

(2) The documents referred to in paragraph (1) of this Regulation are:

- (a) a certificate of insurance, or a certificate of security or an insurance card;
- (b) a visitor's registration document;
- (c) a registration card.

(3) The powers of a police officer under Regulation 8(2) of the Regulations of 1971 (which inter alia authorises a police officer to demand the production of a registration book) shall apply to a visitor's registration document as they apply to a registration book.

Registration marks for visiting vehicles which are exempted vehicles

5. The registration mark hereby assigned to a visiting vehicle, being an exempted vehicle, is, subject to the provisions of Regulation 8(5) of these Regulations—

- (a) in the case of a vehicle in respect of which there has been issued and there is held by the driver thereof a visitor's registration document recording a registration mark which consists of no letters or numerals other than Roman letters or ordinary European numerals or both, that mark;
- (b) in any other case either—
 - (i) the registration mark assigned to the vehicle under provisions applying in Northern Ireland and corresponding to the provisions of the next succeeding sub-paragraph of this Regulation; or
 - (ii) if no such mark has been assigned under those provisions, a registration mark consisting of the letters QA, QB, QC, QD, QE, QF, QG, QH, QJ, QK, QL, QM, QN, QP, QQ, QR, QS, QT, QU, QV, QW, QX and QY and of a registered number which has been assigned to that vehicle by a registration authority.

Registration cards

6.—(1) Where a registration authority assigns a registration mark to a visiting vehicle under Regulation 5(b) (ii) of these Regulations, they shall issue to the person who brought that vehicle into Great Britain a registration card in respect of that vehicle containing such particulars as the Secretary of State may direct.

(2) The following provisions of the Regulations of 1971, that is to say—

(a) paragraphs (2) and (4) of Regulation 8 (which relate to the production of registration books and to their defacement or mutilation); and

(b) Regulation 6 (which relates to duplicate registration books),

shall apply in relation to a registration card as they apply in relation to a registration book but with the substitution of references to the registration authority for the references to the Secretary of State.

(3) Whenever a visiting vehicle in respect of which a registration card has been issued under paragraph (1) of this Regulation or under provisions applying in Northern Ireland and corresponding to the provisions of the said paragraph (1)—

(a) is sold or transferred, or

(b) is removed to a country outside the United Kingdom, or

(c) is destroyed

then the holder of the registration card shall surrender it to a registration authority informing them of the reason for the transfer and, in a case where that vehicle has been sold or transferred, of the name of the new owner and of his address, if any, in the United Kingdom.

(4) The registration authority (where other than the Greater London Council) to whom a registration card is so surrendered shall forward it to the Greater London Council and inform that Council of the date of surrender and of the reason therefor.

(5) In paragraph (3) of this Regulation references to a registration authority include references to any authority who shall have the functions in Northern Ireland of a registration authority under provisions corresponding to these Regulations.

Excise licences and registration marks

7.—(1) A person who has brought a visiting vehicle which is not an exempted vehicle into Great Britain shall apply for an excise licence under the Excise Act for that vehicle to the Greater London Council notwithstanding the provisions of Regulation 4 of the Regulations of 1971.

(2) The registration mark to be assigned under section 19(1) of the Excise Act to a vehicle falling within paragraph (1) of this Regulation shall be the registration mark which would have been assigned under Regulation 5 of these Regulations if the vehicle had been an exempted vehicle.

(3) Regulation 9 of the Regulations of 1971 shall not apply in relation to a visiting vehicle which is not an exempted vehicle, but if at any time before the vehicle ceases to be a visiting vehicle it is sold or transferred that Regulation shall apply in relation to the vehicle as from that time.

Provision as to registration marks assigned under Regulation 5 or 7

8.—(1) Regulation 17 of, and Schedule 2 to, the Regulations of 1971 shall apply to a visiting vehicle as if the reference therein to any registration mark which is required to be fixed on a vehicle by virtue of the Excise Act included a reference to the registration mark assigned under Regulation 5 or by virtue of Regulation 7(2) of these Regulations and Regulation 20 of, and Schedule 3 to, the Regulations of 1971 shall apply to a visiting vehicle as if it were a vehicle registered before 1st October 1938:

Provided that—

- (a) Regulation 17 of, and Schedule 2 to, the Regulations of 1971 (which impose requirements as to the form of registration marks) shall not apply as respects a registration mark mentioned in Regulation 5(a) of these Regulations if the corresponding requirements of the law under which, or the authority by whom, the registration mark was issued are complied with, and
- (b) a registration mark mentioned in the said Regulation 5(a) need not be exhibited at the front of the vehicle if that is not required by the law under which, or the authority by whom, the registration mark was issued.

(2) At the back of a visiting vehicle on which is exhibited a registration mark mentioned in Regulation 5(a) there shall be exhibited so as to be clearly distinguishable a nationality sign indicating the country under the law of which the registration mark was issued:

Provided that no nationality sign need be shown on a visiting vehicle in a case where the visitor's registration document falls within paragraph (c) of the definition of that expression in these Regulations.

(3) Regulation 22 of the Regulations of 1971 shall apply to any trailer drawn by a visiting vehicle as if references therein to the registration mark were references to the registration mark displayed by a visiting vehicle by virtue of Regulation 5 or Regulation 7(2) of these Regulations:

Provided that in a case where—

- (a) the registration mark to be displayed by the visiting vehicle is that under Regulation 5(a) of these Regulations; and
- (b) the trailer has been brought temporarily into Great Britain by a person resident outside the United Kingdom,

a registration mark issued to the trailer under the law of a country outside the United Kingdom which is a party to the Convention of 1949 may be displayed at the back of the trailer instead of the registration mark to be displayed by the visiting vehicle.

(4) When a visiting vehicle which in pursuance of this Regulation must carry a nationality sign is drawing one or more trailers, the nationality sign shall be carried in like manner at the back of the trailer or rearmost trailer:

Provided that a trailer carrying a registration mark in pursuance of the proviso to the last foregoing paragraph shall carry a nationality sign indicating the country under the law of which that registration mark was issued to the trailer instead of any other nationality sign indicating the country under the law of which a registration mark was issued to the visiting vehicle.

(5) A registration mark assigned under Regulation 5 or by virtue of Regulation 7(2) of these Regulations shall become void at the expiration of one year from the date of importation of the vehicle, but if the vehicle is before the

expiration of that period sold or transferred then it shall become void at that earlier time, and if the vehicle is used in Great Britain after a mark has become void a new registration mark shall be obtained under the Excise Act.

Records to be kept by registration authorities

9.—(1) Each registration authority shall, in relation to every visiting vehicle to which a registration mark mentioned in Regulation 5(b) (ii) of these Regulations is assigned, keep a record of the following particulars:

- (a) the name of the person applying in respect of the vehicle for that mark, his address in the United Kingdom and (if available) his home address;
- (b) make of vehicle and chassis number or engine number;
- (c) the registration mark assigned to the vehicle, and the date and place at which it was assigned; and
- (d) (if available), the date and place of entry of the vehicle into the United Kingdom.

(2) Each registration authority other than the Greater London Council shall forward to the Greater London Council a copy of the particulars so recorded.

(3) The Greater London Council shall preserve for not less than two years the copies forwarded to them under the last foregoing paragraph and any records made by the Greater London Council themselves under paragraph (1) of this Regulation.

(4) The Greater London Council shall also preserve for not less than two years a record of any particulars forwarded to them for recording under provisions made in Northern Ireland corresponding to paragraph (2) of this Regulation as respects a vehicle to which a registration mark has been assigned in Northern Ireland under provisions corresponding to Regulation 5(b) (ii) of these Regulations.

(5) The Greater London Council shall, on application therefor, furnish free of charge any particulars recorded in any documents preserved by them under this Regulation to the Secretary of State, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, the Ministry of Development for Northern Ireland, any registration authority, any local authority, or any chief officer of police in the United Kingdom, and shall upon payment of 25p furnish to any other person who can show to the satisfaction of the Greater London Council that he has reasonable cause therefor the name and address shown in respect of any registration mark contained in any records preserved under this Regulation.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State 3rd June 1971.

John Peyton,
Minister for Transport Industries,
Department of the Environment.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations re-enact with amendments the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations 1965. They provide for the assignment of registration marks in respect of motor vehicles brought temporarily into Great Britain by persons resident outside the United Kingdom (Regulation 5), for the issue in certain cases of registration cards to such persons (Regulation 6) and for the licensing, where necessary, of such vehicles (Regulation 7). Provision is also made for the production, when required, of registration and motor insurance documents to a registration authority or the police (Regulation 4), for the form and exhibition of registration marks (Regulation 8) and as to the records to be kept by a registration authority (Regulation 9). The main changes from the 1965 Regulations are that a visitor requiring a vehicles excise licence for his vehicle must now only apply to the Greater London Council (Regulation 7(1)); that a visiting vehicle which is not exempt from vehicles excise duty will not initially be issued with a British registration mark except one in the Q series (Regulation 7(2)); and that all marks in the Q series and any foreign registration mark will become void after one year, or on sale or transfer of the vehicle if that is earlier (Regulation 8(5)).

SI 1971/ 937
ISBN 0-11-010937-6

