Road Traffic Act 1988

1988 CHAPTER 52

PART VII

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Forgery, false statements, etc.

173 Forgery of documents, etc.

(1) A person who, with intent to deceive—

(a) forges, alters or uses a document or other thing to which this section applies, or

(b) lends to, or allows to be used by, any other person a document or other thing to which this section applies, or

(c) makes or has in his possession any document or other thing so closely resembling a document or other thing to which this section applies as to be calculated to deceive,

is guilty of an offence.

(2) This section applies to the following documents and other things—

(a) any licence under any Part of this Act **[**[F1]or in the case of a licence to drive any counterpart of such licence,**]**

(b) any test certificate, goods vehicle test certificate, plating certificate, certificate of conformity or Minister's approval certificate (within the meaning of Part II of this Act),

(c) any certificate required as a condition of any exception prescribed under section 14 of this Act,

[[F2](cc) any seal required by regulations made under section 41 of this Act with respect to speed limiters,**]**

(d) **[**[F3]any plate containing particulars required to be marked on a vehicle by regulations under section 41 of this Act**]** or containing other particulars required to be marked on a goods vehicle by sections 54 to 58 of this Act or regulations under those sections,

Status: *Point in time view as at 01/07/1992. This version of this provision has been superseded.*
Changes to legislation: *Road Traffic Act 1988, Section 173 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 23 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

[[F4](dd) any document evidencing the appointment of an examiner under section 66A of this Act,**]**

(e) any records required to be kept by virtue of section 74 of this Act,

(f) any document which, in pursuance of section 89(3) [F5]. . .of this Act, is issued as evidence of the result of a test of competence to drive,

[[F6](ff) any certificate provided for by regulations under section 97(3A) of this Act relating to the completion of a training course for motor cyclists,**]**

(g) any badge or certificate prescribed by regulations made by virtue of section 135 of this Act,

(h) any certificate of insurance or certificate of security under Part VI of this Act,

(j) any document produced as evidence of insurance in pursuance of Regulation 6 of the [M1]Motor Vehicles (Compulsory Insurance) (No. 2) Regulations 1973,

(k) any document issued under regulations made by the Secretary of State in pursuance of his power under section 165(2)(a) of this Act to prescribe evidence which may be produced in lieu of a certificate of insurance or a certificate of security, [F7]. . .

(l) any international road haulage permit. **[**[F8]and

(m) a certificate of the kind referred to in section 34B(1) of the Road Traffic Offenders Act 1988.**]**

(3) In the application of this section to England and Wales "forges" means makes a false document or other thing in order that it may be used as genuine.

[[F9](4) In this section "counterpart", in relation to a licence to drive under Part III of this Act, has the same meaning as in that Part.**]**

Textual Amendments

F1 Words inserted by S.I. 1990/144, regs. 2(1), 3, **Sch. 1 para. 11(a)**

F2 S. 173(2)(cc) commencing "any seal" inserted (1.4.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para. 73(2)**; S.I. 1992/421, art. 2, **Sch.**

F3 Words in s. 173(2)(d) substituted (1.4.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, 84, **Sch. 4 para. 73(3)**; S.I. 1992/421, art. 2, **Sch.**

F4 S. 173(2)(dd) inserted (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para. 73(4)**; S.I. 1992/1286, **art. 2**,Sch.

F5 Words in s. 173(2)(f) repealed (1.4.1991) by Road Traffic (Driver Licensing and Information Systems) Act 1989 (c. 22, SIF 107:1), ss. 7, 16, Sch. 3 para. 22, **Sch. 6**

F6 S. 173(2)(ff) inserted (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para. 73(5)**; S.I. 1992/1286, **art. 2**,Sch.

F7 Word in s. 173(2)(k) repealed (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 83, **Sch 8**; S.I. 1992/1286, **art. 2**,Sch.

F8 S. 173(2)(m) and word "and" preceding it added (1.7.1992) by Road Traffic Act 1991 (c. 40, SIF 107:1), s. 48, **Sch. 4 para. 73(6)**; S.I. 1992/1286, **art. 2**,Sch.

F9 S. 173(4) inserted by S.I. 1990/144, regs. 2(1), 3, **Sch. 1 para. 11(b)**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 S. 173 applied with modifications by S.I. 1987/1378, **reg. 25(3)** (as amended by S.I. 1990/842, **reg. 9**)

Marginal Citations

M1 S.I. 1973/2143.

Status:
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