
 STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1971 No. 450

ROAD TRAFFIC

 The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing)
 Regulations 1971

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ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

PART I—PRELIMINARY

	Regulation
Commencement and citation	1
Revocation, savings and transitional provisions	2
Interpretation	3

PART II—LICENSING AND REGISTRATION

Application for licences	4
Surrender of licences	5
Application for duplicate licence or registration book	6
Alteration of licences and similar offences	7
Registration books	8
Assignment of registration marks	9
Notification of alteration of vehicles	10 and 11
Notification of change of ownership	12
Notification of change of address of owner	13
Notification of destruction or permanent export	14
Notification of registration and licensing particulars	15

PART III—EXHIBITION OF LICENCES AND REGISTRATION MARKS

Exhibition of licences	16
Form of registration marks	17
Vehicles registered on or after 1st October 1938	18 and 19
Vehicles registered before 1st October 1938	20
Works trucks and agricultural machines	21
Trailers	22

PART IV—VEHICLES EXEMPT FROM LICENCE DUTY

Extension of provisions as to registration	23
Vehicles belonging to the Crown	24
Vehicles used for special purposes	25
Other exempt vehicles	26
Civil defence vehicles	27

PART V—TRADE LICENCES

	Regulation
Applications for trade licences	28
Period for review of decision refusing an application for a trade licence	29
Notification of change of address etc.	30
Issue of trade plates and replacements therefor	31
Alteration of trade plates and similar offences	32
Exhibition of trade plates and licences	33
Restriction on use of trade plates and licences	34
Purposes for which a vehicle may be used	35 to 37
Conveyance of goods or burden	38 and 39
Carriage of passengers	40

PART VI—HACKNEY CARRIAGES

Distinctive signs for hackney carriages	41
Seating capacity of hackney carriages	42

PART VII—MISCELLANEOUS

Horse-power	43
Cylinder capacity	44
Unladen weight	45
Exemption of agricultural machines from duty as goods vehicles in certain cases	46

SCHEDULES

	Page
1. Regulations revoked	22
2. Form of registration marks	23
3. Exhibition of registration marks on certain vehicles registered before 1st October 1938	31
4. Sign to be exhibited by hackney carriages	32

The Secretary of State for the Environment, in exercise of his powers under sections 7, 12, 16, 19, 21, 23 (as modified by section 39(1) and paragraph 20 of Part I of Schedule 7), 37 and 38(5) of the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971(a) and under paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 and paragraph 8 of Schedule 4 to that Act and (as respects the provisions of paragraphs 6 to 8 in Part II of Schedule 2 to these Regulations) under section 5(2) of the Road Transport Lighting Act 1957(b) as extended by section 2 of the Road Transport Lighting Act 1967(c) and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with the provisions of section 13 of the said Act of 1957, as amended by section 264 of, and Schedule 17 to, the Road Traffic Act 1960(d), and of all other enabling powers, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

PART I—PRELIMINARY

Commencement and citation

1. These Regulations shall come into operation on 1st April 1971 and may be cited as the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1971.

(a) 1971 c. 10.
(c) 1967 c. 55.

(b) 1957 c. 51.
(d) 1960 c. 16.

Revocation, savings and transitional provisions

2. The Regulations specified in Parts I and II of Schedule 1 to these Regulations are hereby revoked but—

- (a) in so far as any application or declaration 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 in the said Part I 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 in the said Part I, 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.—(1) 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 1971;

“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 sidecar) 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 8 hundredweight in weight unladen and is adapted and used or kept on a road for an invalid or invalids;

“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;

“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” means, in relation to any declaration or particulars, prescribed by the Road Vehicles (Excise) (Prescribed Particulars) Regulations 1966(a), as amended by the Road Vehicles (Excise) (Prescribed Particulars) (Amendment) Regulations 1969(b) and by the Road Vehicles (Excise) (Prescribed Particulars) (Amendment) Regulations 1970(c);

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

(a) S.I. 1966/224 (1966 I, p. 435).

(b) S.I. 1969/1782 (1969 III, p. 5579).

(c) S.I. 1970/1221 (1970 II, p. 4051).

“road” has the same meaning as in section 257 of the Road Traffic Act 1960;

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

“trade plates” has the meaning assigned thereto in Regulation 31 of these Regulations;

“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.

(2) Any reference in these Regulations to any enactment shall be construed as a reference to that enactment as amended by or under any subsequent enactment.

(3) 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.

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 Secretary of State not more than 14 days before the licence is to have effect, and shall include with his application (comprising the prescribed declaration and prescribed particulars) and such documents as are required to be produced by him on the application by virtue of the Motor Vehicles (Production of Test Certificates) Regulations 1969(b) or, as the case may require, the Goods Vehicles (Production of Test Certificates) Regulations 1970(c), Regulation 9 of the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Risks) Regulations 1961(d), as amended by the Motor Vehicles (Third Party Risks) (Amendment) Regulations 1969(e), and Regulation 8 of the Motor Vehicles (International Motor Insurance Card) Regulations 1969(f), the following—

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

Surrender of licences

5. The holder of a licence (other than a licence for a tramcar) 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 39(1) thereof and paragraphs 13 to 16 (inclusive) of Part I of Schedule 7 thereto) shall make an application in writing, signed by the applicant, to the

(a) 1889 c. 63.

(c) S.I. 1970/560 (1970 I, p. 1800).

(e) S.I. 1969/1733 (1969 III, p. 5445).

(b) S.I. 1969/418 (1969 I, p. 1203).

(d) S.I. 1961/1465 (1961 II, p. 2967).

(f) S.I. 1969/668 (1969 II, p. 1831).

Secretary of State and at the same time he shall deliver up his licence to the Secretary of State 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

6.—(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 Secretary of State for the issue of a duplicate licence or registration book, as the case may be, and the Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State 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 he 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 Secretary of State, 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 Secretary of State.

Alteration of licences and similar offences

7.—(1) No person shall alter, deface, mutilate or add anything to any licence for any mechanically propelled vehicle or exhibit upon 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

8.—(1) The Secretary of State may, before issuing a registration book or a duplicate thereof to the owner of a mechanically propelled vehicle, require the owner to satisfy him by production of the vehicle for inspection or other sufficient evidence that the vehicle accords with the prescribed particulars 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 police officer or by a person acting on behalf of the Secretary of State.

(3) The Secretary of State may require the owner of a mechanically propelled vehicle to surrender to him for correction the registration book issued in respect of the vehicle in any case where he 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 Secretary of State forthwith who shall, after correcting the particulars, return it to the owner.

(4) No person other than a person acting on behalf of the Secretary of State shall deface or mutilate any registration book or alter or obliterate any entry made therein or, except as provided by Regulation 12(2), make any entry in or addition to a registration book.

Assignment of registration marks

9.—(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 registered number may contain a single letter of the alphabet, which shall, where the registered number follows the index mark, follow the figures in the registered number, and, where the registered number precedes the index mark, precede the figures in the registered number.

(3) 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 Great Britain.

(4) The index mark and registration number which are declared to have been the index mark and registration number of any vehicle at the 31st day of 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 Great Britain:

Provided that if the Secretary of State is not satisfied that such index mark and registration number were at the 31st day of December 1920 registered in respect of that vehicle under Article III or Article IV of the Motor Car (Registration and Licensing) Order 1903(a) or under Article III or Article IV of the Motor Car Registration and Licensing (Scotland) Order 1903(b) or under Article III or Article IV of the Motor Car (Registration and Licensing) (Ireland) Order 1903(c), as the case may be, he may assign to the vehicle a 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 Secretary of State who shall issue an amended licence and registration book containing the new registration mark.

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

Notification of alteration of vehicles

10.—(1) If any alteration, other than an alteration of the nature referred to in the next following Regulation, 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 Secretary of State and at the same time send the registration book to him for amendment and he shall after recording the alteration in the register return it amended to show the correct particulars of the vehicle.

(a) S.R. & O. 1903/998 (Rev. 1903, VIII Locomotive, p. 23: 1903 I, p. 986).

(b) S.R. & O. 1903/1001 (Rev. 1903, VIII Locomotive, p. 44: 1903 I, p. 1007).

(c) S.R. & O. 1903/1002 (Rev. 1903, VIII Locomotive, p. 63: 1903 I, p. 1026).

(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 Secretary of State send the licence to him, and he shall issue without charge an amended licence showing the correct particulars of the vehicle.

11.—(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 the prescribed particulars and make the prescribed declaration appropriate to the vehicle and send the same to the Secretary of State together with the licence and the 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 Secretary of State issues a new licence in exchange for another in accordance with the provisions of section 18(2) of the Act, he shall after recording the alteration in the register return the registration book sent to him in accordance with the preceding paragraph amended to show the correct particulars of the vehicle.

Notification of change of ownership

12.—(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 Secretary of State stating the registration mark of the vehicle, its make and class and the name and address of the new owner.

(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 Secretary of State;
- (b) if he does not intend to use or keep the vehicle upon public roads, forthwith notify the Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State in writing of his name and address and those of the previous owner.

Notification of change of address of owner

13. 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 Secretary of State.

Notification of destruction or permanent export

14. When any vehicle is broken up, destroyed or sent permanently out of Great Britain, the owner shall forthwith notify the Secretary of State of that fact and shall at the same time surrender the registration book to him.

Notification of registration and licensing particulars

15.—(1) The Secretary of State, upon being requested to do so by a local authority for any purpose connected with the investigation of an offence, or by or on behalf of a chief officer of police, shall supply to that person free of charge such particulars contained in the register as may be requested of any vehicle registered with the Secretary of State, and upon being requested to do so by any person who can show to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State together with a copy of the particulars shown in the last licence issued in respect of the vehicle.

(2) In this Regulation “local authority” means in relation to England and Wales the council of a county, or the council of a county district, the Common Council of the City of London, or the council of a London borough, and in relation to Scotland means a county council or a town council.

PART III—EXHIBITION OF LICENCES AND REGISTRATION MARKS

Exhibition of licences

16.—(1) Every licence issued under the Act and in force for a mechanically propelled vehicle, excepting a tramcar, 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 for the time being authorised by the Secretary of State to issue vehicle licences, 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 an invalid vehicle, tricycle or bicycle, 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

17. 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 October 1938

18.—(1) The provisions of this Regulation shall apply to vehicles, other than works trucks and agricultural machines, first registered on or after the 1st October 1938.

(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.

19.—(1) The provisions of this Regulation shall apply to vehicles, other than works trucks and (until 1st April 1972) other than agricultural machines, first registered on or after 1st October 1938.

(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 relation to any vehicle when that vehicle is exempted, whether wholly or partially, by virtue of Regulations under the Road Transport Lighting Act 1957 from showing to the front and to the rear the lights which, but for those Regulations, would be required to be shown by that vehicle by virtue of that Act.

Vehicles registered before 1st October 1938

20. The provisions of Schedule 3 to these Regulations shall apply to mechanically propelled vehicles, other than works trucks and agricultural machines, first registered before the 1st October 1938 as regards the exhibition of registration marks.

Works trucks and agricultural machines

21. 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

22.—(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 requirements 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

23. The provisions of Parts II and III of these Regulations as to registration and matters incidental thereto shall extend to the mechanically propelled vehicles to which the three next following Regulations 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

24.—(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, the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1962(a), the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1949(b), or the Roads Act 1920(c) shall make the prescribed declaration and furnish the prescribed particulars as if, subject to the provisions of the next following paragraph, the Department desired to obtain a licence for the vehicle.

(a) 1962 c. 13.
(c) 1920 c. 72.

(b) 1949 c. 89.

(2) Such declaration and particulars shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State.

(3) Upon receipt of such declaration and particulars the Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State 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 7 (which relates to the alteration of licences and similar offences) and Regulation 16 (which relates to the exhibition of licences) of these Regulations 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.

(6) The provisions of Regulation 10 (which relates to notification of alteration of vehicles), Regulation 12 (which relates to notification of change of ownership of vehicles), Regulation 13 (which relates to notification of change of address of owners of vehicles) and Regulation 14 (which relates to notification of destruction or permanent export of vehicles) of these Regulations shall not, except in so far as Regulation 12 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 Secretary of State, and where the registration book has been delivered to the Crown in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 12(1) of these Regulations 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 Secretary of State 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 any 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 Great Britain, a duly authorised officer of the Department shall forthwith notify the fact to the Secretary of State.

(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 Secretary of State.

(11) None of the provisions of Parts II and III of these Regulations 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

25.—(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 the prescribed declaration and furnish the prescribed particulars as if he desired to take out a licence for the vehicle in accordance with Regulation 4 of these Regulations.

(3) Upon receipt of such declaration and particulars the Secretary of State 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 subsection (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

26.—(1) This Regulation applies to mechanically propelled vehicles which are exempted from duty by or by virtue of the provisions of section 4, 5 or 7 (except subsection (2)) of the Act, other than vehicles to which the last preceding Regulation applies and other than invalid carriages complying with requirements prescribed under section 20 of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970(a), and to mechanically propelled vehicles fitted with controls enabling them to be driven by persons having particular disabilities which are exempted from duty by virtue of the provisions of section 7(2) of the Act, or which would be so exempted if registered in the name of a person suffering from a particular disability and for which exemption from duty is desired.

(2) The owner of a vehicle to which this Regulation applies shall annually make the prescribed declaration and furnish the prescribed particulars as if, subject to the next following paragraph, he desired to take out a licence for the vehicle, and in the case of a vehicle for which exemption is claimed by virtue of the provisions of the said section 7(2) he shall include with the prescribed declaration and particulars a certificate issued by the Secretary of State for Social Services or the Secretary of State for Scotland stating that he obtained a grant paid by either Secretary of State in respect of the cost of fitting controls to the vehicle out of moneys provided by Parliament or that his disability is of a kind in the case of which grants in respect of the fitting of such controls are so paid.

(3) Such declaration and particulars and any certificate shall be forwarded to the Secretary of State.

(4) 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 Secretary of State any document issued by him for exhibition on the vehicle which indicates that no duty was payable in respect of it.

(a) 1970 c. 44.

(5) The provisions of Regulation 7 (which relates to the alteration of licences and similar offences) and Regulation 16 (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.

Civil defence vehicles

27.—(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 a local or police authority's functions in connection with civil defence as defined in the Civil Defence Act 1948(a), or by reason of its being kept on a road for such use.

(2) In this Regulation the expression "police authority", as respects England and Wales, has the same meaning as in the Police Act 1964(b), and, as respects Scotland, as in the Police (Scotland) Act 1967(c).

PART V—TRADE LICENCES

Applications for trade licences

28. 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 purpose 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 the said 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 prescribed particulars and to make the prescribed declaration to the Secretary of State.

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

29. For the purposes of section 25(1)(c) of the Act (which relates to the review by the Secretary of State of his 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 Secretary of State for such a review shall be 28 days calculated from the end of the day on which the decision was given.

Notification of change of address etc.

30. 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 Secretary of State and shall at the same time send to the Secretary of State the licence for any necessary amendment.

(a) 1948 c. 5.
(c) 1967 c. 77.

(b) 1964 c. 48.

Issue of trade plates and replacements therefor

31.—(1) The Secretary of State 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:

Provided that where the holder of a trade licence satisfies the Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State, and shall be returned forthwith to the Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State for the issue to him of a replacement for that plate, and the Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State 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 Secretary of State, 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 Secretary of State, so, however, that if possession is not obtained, such fact shall be notified to the Secretary of State by the holder of the licence.

Alteration of trade plates and similar offences

32.—(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

33. 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 Secretary of State in such a manner that, if the trade plates contained a registration mark assigned to the vehicle, the provisions of Regulations 18 and 19 of these Regulations would be complied with, notwithstanding the vehicle may not have been first registered on or after 1st October 1938 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

34. No person, 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

35.—(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 36 of these Regulations, 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 the said Regulation 36 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 Secretary of State;
(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.

36. 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.

37. 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

38.—(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 35(4)(a), (c), (d) and (f) of these Regulations; 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(8) of the Act or a load consisting of a disabled vehicle:

In this sub-paragraph “relevant purpose” means a purpose mentioned in Regulation 35(4)(l) of these Regulations; 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 35(4)(g), (h) or (i) of these Regulations; 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 35(4)(e), (h) or (i) of these Regulations.

(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.

39. 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

40.—(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, or by virtue of, the Road Traffic Act 1960;
- (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 35(4)(f) of these Regulations, the purchaser or his servant or agent or any person requested to accompany the said purchaser; or
- (h) a person mentioned in Regulation 35(4)(d) of these Regulations.

(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

Distinctive signs for hackney carriages

41.—(1) The distinctive sign, which subject to the exceptions prescribed in paragraph (2) of this Regulation, every mechanically propelled vehicle which is chargeable with duty as a hackney carriage is required to exhibit in accordance with section 21 of the Act, shall comply with the diagram and specification set out in Schedule 4 to these Regulations, and shall be exhibited on the back of the vehicle in an upright position, so as at all times to be clearly visible in daylight from behind the vehicle.

(2) The following vehicles shall be excepted from the said requirement, that is to say—

- (a) tramcars;
- (b) vehicles in respect of which the rate of duty under the Act as a hackney carriage is not less than the rate of duty under Schedule 5 to the Act;
- (c) vehicles licensed to ply for hire which carry in a conspicuous position on the outside of the vehicle a mark in the form prescribed by the authority by whom it is so licensed indicating clearly that the vehicle is a hackney carriage so licensed;

- (d) hackney carriages temporarily adapted for and being used solely for the conveyance of goods in the course of trade; and
- (e) vehicles with a seating capacity for twenty persons or more.

Seating capacity of hackney carriages

42.—(1) For the purposes of the last preceding Regulation and 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 Secretary of State 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

43.—(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

44.—(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 cylinders 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

45. 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 Secretary of State, 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 6 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

46.—(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.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State 17th March 1971.

John Peyton,

Minister for Transport Industries
Department of the Environment.

SCHEDULE 1 (See Regulation 2)

REGULATIONS REVOKED

PART I—REGULATIONS RELATING TO REGISTRATION AND LICENSING

Title	Year and Number
The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1964	S.I. 1964/1178 (1964 II, p. 2722).
The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 1967	S.J. 1967/668 (1967 I, p. 2077).
The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1967	S.I. 1967/1844 (1967 III, p. 4908).
The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 1968	S.I. 1968/594 (1968 I, p. 1364).
The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 1969	S.I. 1969/1331 (1969 III, p. 3959).
The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1969	S.I. 1969/1589 (1969 III, p. 5066).
The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) (No. 3) Regulations 1969	S.I. 1969/1800 (1969 III, p. 5616).
The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 1970	S.I. 1970/409 (1970 I, p. 1433).
The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1970	S.I. 1970/1220 (1970 II, p. 4048).

PART II—REGULATIONS RELATING TO INDEX MARKS

Title	Year and Number
The Road Vehicles (Index Marks) Regulations 1964	S.I. 1964/404 (1964 I, p. 635).
The Road Vehicles (Index Marks) (Amendment) Regulations 1965	S.I. 1965/237 (1965 I, p. 593).
The Road Vehicles (Index Marks) (Amendment) Regulations 1966	S.I. 1966/250 (1966 I, p. 574).
The Road Vehicles (Index Marks) (Amendment) Regulations 1967	S.I. 1967/315 (1967 I, p. 1091).
The Road Vehicles (Index Marks) (Amendment) Regulations 1968	S.I. 1968/355 (1968 I, p. 1091).

SCHEDULE 2 (See Regulation 17)

FORM OF REGISTRATION MARKS

PART I

Diagrams showing arrangements of specimen registration marks



Diagram No. 1



Diagram No. 2

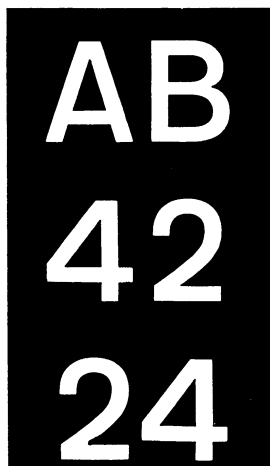


Diagram No. 3



Diagram No. 4



Diagram No. 5

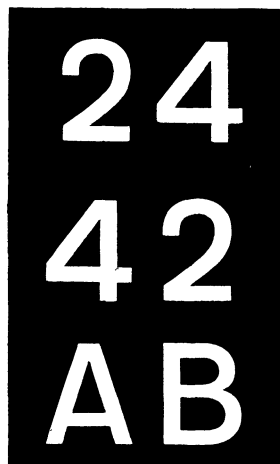


Diagram No. 6



Diagram No. 7



Diagram No. 8

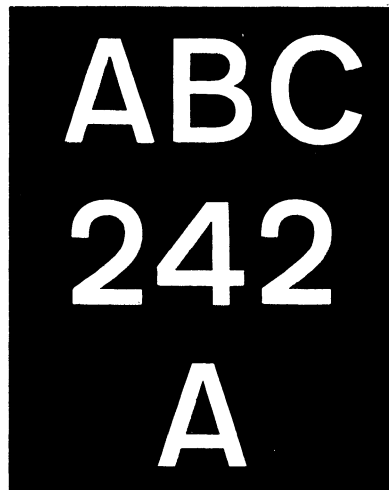


Diagram No. 9



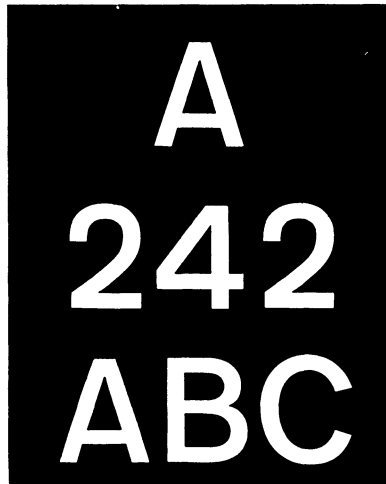
A242
ABC

Diagram No. 10



A242 ABC

Diagram No. 11



A
242
ABC

Diagram No. 12

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 of this Schedule;
- (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 6 or 7 of this Schedule, mean respectively the space between the upper edge of the said black surface and the nearest part of each letter and figure situated nearest that edge, the space between the lower edge of the said black surface and the nearest part of each letter and figure situated nearest that edge, and the space between a side of the said surface 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 not containing a letter 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 not containing a letter 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.

4. Where a registration mark consists of an index mark followed by a registered number containing a letter it shall at the option of the owner be arranged in conformity with either diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 8 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 three letters followed by a registered number comprising three figures and a letter, in conformity with diagram No. 9.

5. Where a registration mark consists of an index mark preceded by a registered number containing a letter it shall at the option of the owner be arranged in conformity with either diagram No. 10 or diagram No. 11 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 three letters preceded by a registered number comprising a letter and three figures, in conformity with diagram No. 12.

Colour and construction.

6. Unless a registration mark is so designed and constructed that it may be illuminated from behind by means of the translucency of the letters and figures, or is exhibited on a plate which is constructed of reflex reflecting material in accordance with paragraph 8 of this Part of this Schedule, it shall be formed of white, silver or light grey letters and figures upon a black surface and every letter or figure shall be indelibly inscribed upon or so attached to that surface that it cannot readily be detached therefrom and if 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.

7. If a registration mark is designed and constructed to be illuminated from behind as aforesaid it shall be formed of white letters and figures upon a black surface and all the letters and figures shall, when the registration mark is so illuminated during the hours of darkness, appear white against a black background.

8. A registration mark may be exhibited on a plate which is constructed of reflex reflecting material and if so exhibited:—

- (1) the registration mark if displayed on the front of the vehicle shall be formed of black letters and figures against a white background constructed of reflex reflecting material, but no reflecting material shall be applied to any part of the black letters or figures;
- (2) the registration mark if displayed on the back of the vehicle or on any trailer attached thereto shall be formed of black letters and figures against a yellow background constructed of reflex reflecting material, but no reflecting material shall be applied to any part of the black letters or figures; and
- (3) every plate on which the registration mark is exhibited shall be legibly and permanently marked with the specification number of the British Standard for reflex reflecting number plates, namely B.S. AU 145: 1967.

Size and shape

9.—(1) Except as is provided in paragraph 13 or 18 of this Schedule 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 10 to 13 inclusive of this Schedule or to the group of provisions contained in paragraphs 14 to 18 inclusive of this Schedule.

(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

10. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 of this Schedule, 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.

11. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 of this Schedule, there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the black surface 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 $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

12. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 13 of this Schedule, where the registration mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1, diagram No. 4, diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 10, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 3, diagram No. 6, diagram No. 9 or diagram No. 12, 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, diagram No. 5, diagram No. 8 or diagram No. 11, 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 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

13. 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 set out in this Schedule with which, in accordance with paragraph 2, 3, 4 or 5 of this Schedule, the mark has been selected to conform; and

(b) the following requirements may be complied with instead of the requirements specified in paragraphs 10, 11 and 12 of this Schedule, 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 $\frac{5}{8}$ 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 black surface upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed of at least $\frac{1}{4}$ inch and there shall be a side margin on each side of the said surface 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, and

(iii) where the mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1, diagram No. 4, diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 10, 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, diagram No. 5 diagram No. 8 or diagram No. 11, the space between the letters and the figures shall be $\frac{3}{8}$ 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 or diagram No. 7 is selected) or the figures comprised in the registered number (if the arrangement shown in diagram No. 4 or diagram No. 10 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 10, 11 and 12 of this Schedule, 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 black surface upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed, and a side margin on each side of the said surface, 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, diagram No. 4, diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 10, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 3, diagram No. 6, diagram No. 9 or diagram No. 12, 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, diagram No. 5, diagram No. 8 or diagram No. 11, the space between the letters and the figures shall be 1 inch.

Alternative group of provisions as to size and shape

14. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 18 of this Schedule, each letter and figure shall be $3\frac{1}{8}$ 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 $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

15. 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 $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

16. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 18 of this Schedule, there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the black surface upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed, and a side margin on each side of the said surface, of at least $\frac{7}{16}$ inch and the space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and between the nearest parts of adjoining figures shall be $\frac{7}{16}$ 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 $\frac{7}{16}$ 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 $\frac{7}{16}$ inch nor more than $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches.

17. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 18 of this Schedule, where the registration mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1, diagram No. 4, diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 10, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be $\frac{3}{4}$ inch, where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 3, diagram No. 6, diagram No. 9 or diagram No. 12, 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, diagram No. 5, diagram No. 8 or diagram No. 11, the space between the letters and the figures shall be $1\frac{1}{16}$ inches, except that where the registration mark is embossed or pressed the said space of $1\frac{1}{16}$ inches may be exceeded by not more than $\frac{3}{32}$ 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 arrangement shown in that one of the diagrams set out in this Schedule with which, in accordance with paragraph 2, 3, 4 or 5 of this Schedule, the mark has been selected to conform; and

(b) the following requirements may be complied with instead of the requirements specified in paragraphs 14, 16 and 17 of this Schedule, 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 $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches,

(ii) there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the black surface upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed, and a side margin on each side of the said surface, 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 $\frac{3}{16}$ inch, and

(iii) where the mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1, diagram No. 4, diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 10, 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, diagram No. 5, diagram No. 8 or diagram No. 11, the space between the letters and the figures shall be $\frac{9}{16}$ 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 or diagram No. 7 is selected) or the figures comprised in the registered number (if the arrangement shown in diagram No. 4 or diagram No. 10 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 14, 16 and 17 of this Schedule, 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 $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches,

- (ii) there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the black surface upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed, and a side margin on each side of the said surface 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, diagram No. 4, diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 10, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 3, diagram No. 6 diagram No. 9 or diagram No. 12, 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, diagram No. 5, diagram No. 8 or diagram No. 11, the space between the letters and the figures shall be 1 inch.

SCHEDULE 3 (See Regulation 20)

EXHIBITION OF REGISTRATION MARKS ON CERTAIN VEHICLES

REGISTERED BEFORE 1st OCTOBER 1938

Interpretation

1. In this Schedule "vehicle" means a mechanically propelled vehicle, other than a works truck or an agricultural machine first registered before 1st October 1938.

Position and visibility of registration marks

2. Subject to the provisions of the next following paragraph 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 to these Regulations, 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.

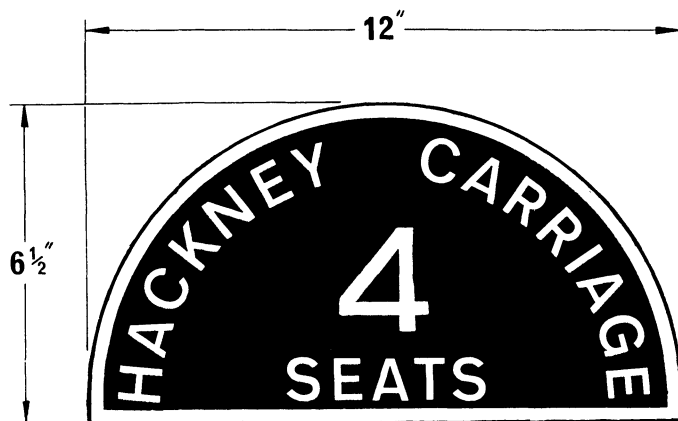
Illumination of registration marks

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 41)

SIGN TO BE EXHIBITED BY HACKNEY CARRIAGES

Diagram



Note: The diagram above is a specimen sign drawn approximately to the scale of one-fourth. The number is to be altered to indicate the actual seating capacity of the vehicle.

Specification

1. The hackney carriage sign is to be approximately semi-circular in shape and of the size shown upon the foregoing diagram and is to be exhibited upon a flat plate or upon a flat surface forming part of the vehicle.
2. The border, letters and figures of the sign must be indelibly inscribed in white, silver or light grey upon a black surface and no letter or figure shall be capable of being detached from such surface. If they are inscribed upon a plate the plate may be of cast or pressed aluminium having raised border, letters and figures.
3. The width of the surrounding border must be $\frac{1}{4}$ inch, the height of all letters 1 inch, and the width of face of letters $\frac{3}{8}$ inch; the number must be $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height of proportional width and $\frac{3}{8}$ inch width of face.
4. A number indicating the seating capacity of the vehicle is to be placed in the central position occupied by the figure "4" in the diagram.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations consolidate, with amendment, the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1964 and the Regulations which amended them as specified in Part I of Schedule 1 to these Regulations. The amendments now made are consequential on the transfer to the Secretary of State for the Environment, on 1st April 1971, of the functions of levying excise duty on vehicles and licensing and registration of vehicles conferred on local authorities by the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1962. The principal changes are that provision is no longer made as to the conditions applicable with respect to the issue of vehicle licences and registration books (as formerly applied to their issue by local authorities and by the post office); and as to the duty of keeping a record of the registration of vehicles. The Regulations also revoke, in consequence of the said transfer, the Regulations specified in Part II of Schedule 1 to these Regulations which relate to the index marks to be assigned to vehicles.

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