
 STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1972 No. 1865

ROAD TRAFFIC

**The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing)
(Amendment) Regulations 1972**

Made - - - 30th November 1972

Laid before Parliament 8th December 1972

Coming into Operation 29th December 1972

The Secretary of State for the Environment, in exercise of powers conferred by section 23 of the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971(a) (as modified by section 39(1) of, and paragraph 20 of Part I of Schedule 7 to, that Act) and by section 37 of that Act and (as respects Regulation 6(c) of these Regulations) by section 78(5) of the Road Traffic Act 1972(b), and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with the provisions of section 199(2) of the said Act of 1972, and of all other enabling powers, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1.—(1) These Regulations shall come into operation on 29th December 1972 and may be cited as the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 1972.

(2) The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 1971(c) are hereby revoked but the provisions of Regulation 2 (revocation, etc.) of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1971(d), shall, so far as relevant, apply in relation to the Regulations hereby revoked as they apply in relation to the Regulations revoked by the said Regulation 2.

2. The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1971 shall be amended so as to have effect in accordance with the following provisions of these Regulations.

3. In Regulation 3(1) (interpretation), in the definition of “invalid vehicle”, for the figure “8” there shall be substituted the word “ten”.

4. In the proviso to Regulation 16(1) (exhibition of licences), for the words “any post office for the time being authorised by the Secretary of State to issue vehicle licences” there shall be substituted the words “any post office authorised for the time being to issue vehicle licences in accordance with arrangements for that purpose made between the Post Office and the Secretary of State”.

5. In Regulation 26 (provisions as to registration of certain vehicles exempt from licence duty), for paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) there shall be substituted

(a) 1971 c. 10.

(c) S.I. 1971/1285 (1971 II, p. 3679).

(b) 1972 c. 20.

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

the following paragraphs:—

“(1) This Regulation applies to mechanically propelled vehicles which are exempt from duty by or under section 4 or 6 or subsections (1), (3), (4) or (5) of section 7 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 which are exempt from duty under section 7(2) of the Act or section 7 of the Finance Act 1971(b).

(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 paragraph (3) below, he desired to take out a licence for the vehicle, and in the case of a vehicle for which exemption is claimed under section 7(2) of the Act or section 7 of the Finance Act 1971 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—

(a) in a case to which section 7(2) of the Act applies, that he has obtained, or is eligible for, a grant under section 33(3) of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968(c) in relation to that vehicle; and

(b) in a case to which section 7 of the Finance Act 1971 applies, that—

(i) he has a particular disability that so incapacitates him in the use of his limbs that he has to be driven and cared for by a full-time constant attendant, and

(ii) he is sufficiently disabled to be eligible under the said Act of 1968 for an invalid tricycle if he were not too disabled to drive it.

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

(3A) Upon receipt of such declaration and particulars and any certificate the Secretary of State shall—

(a) if the vehicle has not previously been registered under the Act, register the vehicle, assign to the vehicle a registration mark and issue to the owner a registration book with the appropriate particulars of the vehicle in respect of which it is issued entered therein, and any registration mark so assigned shall be deemed to be assigned under section 19 of the Act for the purposes of subsection (2) of that section and these Regulations; and

(b) issue to the owner of the vehicle a document in respect thereof in the form of a licence valid for a period of twelve months running from the beginning of the month in which the document first has effect with the word “NIL” marked in the space provided for indicating the amount of duty payable.”.

6. In Part II of Schedule 2 (size, shape and character of registration marks)—

(a) in paragraph 1(b)—

(i) after the words “paragraph 6 or 7 of this Schedule” there shall be inserted the words “or the white or, as the case may be, the yellow background upon which a registration mark is formed in

(a) 1970 c. 44.

(b) 1971 c. 68.

(c) 1968 c. 46.

accordance with paragraph 5B or, as the case may be, paragraph 5C of this Schedule or the said paragraph 5B as applied by paragraph 8 of this Schedule”, and

- (ii) for the words “black surface”, in the second and third places where they occur, and for the words “said surface”, there shall be substituted the words “surface or background”;
- (b) in paragraphs 11, 13(1)(b) and (2)(b), 16 and 18(1)(b) and (2)(b), for the words “black surface” and “said surface”, in each place where they occur, there shall be substituted the words “surface or background” and in the said paragraph 18(1)(b), for the figure “ $1\frac{1}{4}$ ”, in the first place where it occurs, there shall be substituted the figure “ $1\frac{3}{4}$ ”;
- (c) for paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 there shall be substituted the following paragraphs:—

“Character of registration marks

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

- (a) a vehicle having an unladen weight exceeding 3 tons, being a vehicle on which, or on whose load, there is fitted, in accordance with such of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles (Rear Markings) Regulations 1970(a) as amended (b) as apply in relation to the vehicle or, as the case may be, to its load, a rear marking such as is mentioned in those Regulations;
- (b) a vehicle which is used wholly or mainly as a stage carriage within the meaning of section 117 of the Road Traffic Act 1960(c); and
- (c) a bicycle, an invalid vehicle, a pedestrian controlled vehicle, a works truck and an agricultural machine.

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

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

(a) S.I. 1970/1700 (1970 III, p. 5577).

(b) The relevant amending instrument is S. I. 1972/842 (1972 II, p. 2681).

(c) 1960 c. 16.

complies with the British Standard Specification mentioned above,
but nothing in this paragraph shall apply to the registration mark required to be fixed on a vehicle when that mark, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 22, is displayed on the back of a trailer attached to that vehicle.

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

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

5D. Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 below shall apply to the registration mark required to be fixed—

- (a) on a vehicle which is first registered before 1st January 1973; and
- (b) on a vehicle, not being a bicycle, an invalid vehicle or a pedestrian controlled vehicle (but subject, in each of those cases, to paragraph 8A below) or a vehicle to which paragraph 5B above applies, which is first registered on or after that date.

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

7. Where a registration mark to which this paragraph applies is so designed and constructed as to be illuminated from behind in the manner mentioned in paragraph 6 above, the mark shall be formed of white letters and figures upon a black surface and all the letters and figures shall, when the mark is so illuminated during the hours of darkness, appear white against a black background.

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

and which—

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

and, in either such case, the provisions of sub-paragraphs (a) to (c) of the said paragraph 5B shall apply in relation to the mark and to the plate on which it is exhibited as they apply in relation to a registration mark mentioned in that paragraph and to the plate on which that mark is exhibited.

8A. Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 above shall apply to the registration mark required to be fixed on any of the following vehicles, that is to say, a bicycle, an invalid vehicle or a pedestrian controlled vehicle (being, in any such case, a vehicle which is first registered on or after 1st January 1973) but only insofar as relating to the mark required to be fixed on the front of the vehicle, and in their application to such a registration mark for the purposes of this paragraph the provisions of the said paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 shall have effect accordingly.

8B. Where, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 22, the registration mark required to be fixed on a vehicle is displayed on the back of a trailer attached to that vehicle, the mark may be exhibited on a plate which is constructed of reflex reflecting material, but in any such case the plate shall comply in all respects with such of the provisions of paragraph 5B above or, as the case may be, of paragraph 8 above as apply in relation to the plate when (in accordance with the provisions in question) it is exhibited on the back of the vehicle to which the trailer is attached.

8C. Nothing in paragraph 5B, 5C, 8, 8A or 8B above shall be taken to authorise any person to apply a specification number as mentioned in any of the first three of those paragraphs in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968(a).”

(a) 1968 c. 29.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State.

30th November 1972.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations make further amendments to the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1971. The principal amendments provide—

- (a) for the declaration to be made and the particulars to be furnished in respect of certain vehicles exempt from licence duty under certain provisions of the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971 and under section 7 of the Finance Act 1971, in particular in relation to vehicles used by disabled persons for which new provision is made by section 128 of the Finance Act 1972 (c.41) (Regulations 3 and 5); and
- (b) that the registration mark of certain vehicles first registered on or after 1st January 1973 shall be exhibited on a plate constructed of reflex reflecting material and that the registration mark of certain vehicles first registered before that date may be exhibited on such a plate, and for the requirements applicable with respect to the mark and plate, in particular that the plate shall comply with the appropriate British Standard Specification (Regulation 6).

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