

1972 No. 842

## ROAD TRAFFIC

**The Motor Vehicles (Rear Markings) (Amendment)  
Regulations 1972**

<i>Made</i>	- - -	31st May 1972
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		8th June 1972
<i>Coming into Operation</i>		1st July 1972

The Secretary of State for the Environment, in exercise of his powers under section 64(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1960(a), as amended by section 51 of and Schedule 4 to the Road Traffic Act 1962(b), under section 5(2)(b) of the Road Transport Lighting Act 1957(c), as extended by section 2 of the Road Transport Lighting Act 1967(d), and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with the provisions of section 260(2) of the said Act of 1960, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1.—(1) These Regulations shall come into operation on 1st July 1972 and may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Rear Markings) (Amendment) Regulations 1972.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(e) shall apply for the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. The Motor Vehicles (Rear Markings) Regulations 1970(f) shall be amended in accordance with the following provisions of these Regulations.

3. Regulation 2(1) (Interpretation) shall have effect as though in the definition of “excepted vehicle”—

(a) for sub-paragraph (l), there were substituted the following sub-paragraph—

“(l) a vehicle designed and used for the transportation of two or more motor vehicles or vehicle bodies or two or more boats;”;

(b) for sub-paragraph (n) there were substituted the following sub-paragraphs—

“(n) a motor vehicle brought into Great Britain and displaying a registration mark mentioned in Regulation 5 of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations 1971(g), a period of twelve months not having elapsed since the vehicle in question was last brought into Great Britain;

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(a) 1960 c. 16.

(c) 1957 c. 51.

(e) 1889 c. 63.

(g) S.I. 1971/937 (1971 II, p. 2688).

(b) 1962 c. 59.

(d) 1967 c. 55.

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

(*nn*) a trailer brought into Great Britain and having a base or centre in a country outside Great Britain from which the use of the vehicle on a journey is normally commenced, a period of twelve months not having elapsed since the vehicle in question was last brought into Great Britain;” and

(*c*) there were added after sub-paragraph (*p*) the following sub-paragraphs:—

“(*q*) a vehicle owned by or in the service of the naval, military or air forces of Her Majesty raised in the United Kingdom and used for naval, military or air force purposes;

(*r*) a vehicle designed and used for the purpose of heating and dispensing tar or other similar material for the construction or maintenance of roads;

(*s*) a trailer being drying or mixing plant designed for the production of asphalt or of bituminous or tar macadam;”.

4. After Regulation 4 (Fitting of rear markings) there shall be added the following Regulation—

*“Alternative provision for fitting of rear markings*

5.—(1) This Regulation applies to a vehicle which is for the time being carrying a load which so projects to the rear of the vehicle that if any rear marking were to be fitted in accordance with the last preceding Regulation the marking would be so obscured by the load as not to be clearly visible within a reasonable distance to the rear of the vehicle.

(2) A vehicle to which this Regulation applies need not be fitted with a rear marking in accordance with the last preceding Regulation, if the marking which but for the foregoing provisions of this paragraph would be required or authorised by that Regulation to be fitted to the vehicle is instead fitted to the load it is carrying.

(3) In relation to a rear marking fitted to such a load in the course of being carried, the provisions of Part III of the Schedule to these Regulations shall apply to that marking, subject to the following modifications—

(*a*) in paragraphs 1, 2, 5 and 6 of that Part for any reference to the vehicle there shall be substituted a reference to the load; and

(*b*) in the said paragraph 6, for the words from “except while” to the end of that paragraph there shall be substituted the words “except while the load is being mounted on or removed from the vehicle.””.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State.

31st May 1972.

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

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations amend the Motor Vehicles (Rear Markings) Regulations 1970 which require certain motor vehicles and trailers to be fitted with rear markings unless they are "excepted vehicles". The principal changes are—

- (1) to include among the "excepted vehicles" home forces' vehicles and vehicles used as tar boilers or asphalt mixers;
- (2) to allow rear markings to be fitted to a rear projecting load in cases where that load would otherwise obscure a rear marking fitted to a vehicle.

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