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 STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS
 

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1975 No. 2213

## NORTHERN IRELAND

**The Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions)  
Regulations 1975**
*Laid before Parliament in draft**Made - - - - 22nd December 1975**Coming into Operation 5th January 1976*

Whereas a draft of these Regulations has been approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament:

Now, therefore, I the Right Honourable Merlyn Rees, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on me by section 24(1) of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1973(a), hereby make the following Regulations:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Regulations 1975 and shall come into operation on the fourteenth day after the day on which they are made.

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“district council's watering vehicle”, “road construction vehicle”, “street lighting authority” and “tower wagon” have the meanings respectively assigned to them by section 4(2) of the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(b); and

“motor vehicle” and “public service vehicle” have the same meanings as they have for the purposes of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(c).

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

(3) Any reference in these Regulations to an enactment shall be construed as a reference to that enactment as amended or extended by or under any other enactment.

3.—(1) Subject to Regulations 4 and 5 below, a person shall not, without reasonable excuse, the proof whereof shall lie on him, leave a motor vehicle unattended unless each of the following conditions is satisfied with respect to that vehicle, that is to say—

(a) any ignition key is taken away;

(b) all the doors (if any) are locked either internally or with a key and any key is taken away;

(c) all the windows (if any) and, where the vehicle is fitted with a collapsible or removable hood or with a sun roof, the hood or, as the case may be, the roof are so secured as to prevent entry to the vehicle; and

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(a) 1973 c. 53.

(b) 1972 c. 10(N.I.).

(c) 1970 c. 2(N.I.).

(d) 1889 c. 63.

(d) the steering mechanism is so locked as to prevent that mechanism from being moved sufficiently to steer the vehicle or the vehicle is otherwise rendered incapable of being driven in the state in which it is left and, in either case, any key used to immobilise the vehicle is taken away.

(2) For the purposes of this Regulation, a vehicle shall be treated as unattended unless at least one person not below the age of fifteen years is in attendance upon the vehicle, being a person who is either in or on the vehicle or in the immediate vicinity and sight of the vehicle and is not in attendance on any other vehicle.

4. These Regulations shall not have effect in relation to—

(a) a vehicle which is left in locked premises, access to which can only be obtained by a key which has been taken away;

(b) a vehicle whilst being used by a member of Her Majesty's Forces on duty or by a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary or the Royal Ulster Constabulary Reserve on duty;

(c) an ambulance, a fire engine or a vehicle whilst being used for the purposes of a fire brigade service;

(d) an agricultural tractor or other agricultural vehicle;

(e) a public service vehicle seating more than twelve persons in addition to the driver;

(f) a district council's watering vehicle, a road roller, a tower wagon used for the purposes of a street lighting authority or a road construction vehicle used solely for the conveyance of built-in road construction machinery.

5. During the period of three months beginning with the date of the coming into operation of these Regulations, paragraph (1) of Regulation 3 above shall have effect as if sub-paragraph (d) thereof were omitted.

*Merlyn Rees,*

One of Her Majesty's Principal  
Secretaries of State.

Northern Ireland Office.

22nd December 1975.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations require motor vehicles (including motor cycles) not to be left unattended unless any keys (including the ignition key) are taken away and the vehicle is locked and immobilised. (The immobilisation requirement does not take effect until three months after the date of the coming into operation of the Regulations (Regulation 5).)

Under Regulation 4, certain classes of vehicles are exempted from these requirements, including vehicles used by the police or members of the armed forces on duty, ambulances, fire engines, agricultural vehicles, road rollers and public service vehicles seating more than twelve persons in addition to the driver.

It is a summary offence under section 24(2) of the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1973 to contravene any provision of the Regulations.



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