1980 No. 262

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order (Northern Ireland) 1980

Made . . . . . *1st August 1980*

Coming into operation . . . *on a date to be notified in the Belfast Gazette*

To be laid before Parliament under paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Act 1952(**a**) and now vested in me(**b**) I hereby make the following Order:

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order (Northern Ireland) 1980 and shall come into operation on the date on which the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Vienna in 1968(**c**) is first in force for the United Kingdom, which date shall be notified in the Belfast Gazette.

Revocation

2. The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Road Traffic) Order (Northern Ireland) 1970(**d**) is hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3.—(1) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**e**) shall apply to Articles 1 and 2 and the following provisions of this Order as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

(2) In this Order—

"the Act" means the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(**f**);

"the Department" means the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland.

(3) References in this Order to a class of vehicles shall be construed as references to a class defined or described by reference to any characteristics of the vehicles or to any other circumstances whatsoever.

Visitors' driving permits

4.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Article, it shall be lawful for a person resident outside the United Kingdom who is temporarily in Northern Ireland and holds—

(*a*) a Convention driving permit,

(*b*) a domestic driving permit issued in a country outside the United Kingdom, or

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(a) 1952 c. 39
(b) 1973 c. 36, section 40 and paragraph 4 of Schedule 5
(c) Cmnd. 4032
(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1970 No. 196 (p. 1083)
(e) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)
(f) 1970 c. 2 (N.I.) as amended by S.I. 1973/1229 (N.I. 17); S.I. 1976/581 (N.I. 11); and S.I. 1978/1051 (N.I. 21)

(*c*) a British Forces (BFG) driving licence,

during a period of twelve months from the date of his last entry into the United Kingdom to drive, and, except in the case of a holder of a British Forces (BFG) driving licence, be employed in driving, in Northern Ireland a motor vehicle of any class which he is authorised by that permit or that licence to drive, notwithstanding that he is not the holder of a driving licence under Part I of the Act.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Article, it shall be lawful for a person resident outside the United Kingdom who is temporarily in Northern Ireland and holds—

(*a*) a Convention driving permit, or

(*b*) a domestic driving permit issued in a country outside the United Kingdom,

during a period of twelve months from the date of his last entry into the United Kingdom to drive, and be employed in driving, in Northern Ireland a public service vehicle (other than a public service vehicle seating not more than six persons in addition to the driver) or heavy goods vehicle [brought temporarily into Northern Ireland] which he is authorised by that permit to drive, notwithstanding that he is not the holder of such a licence as is required by Part IV of the Act.

(3) Nothing in the preceding provisions of this Article shall authorise any person to drive, or to be employed in driving, a vehicle of any class at a time when he is disqualified by virtue of section 2 of the Act (persons under age), as substituted by Article 3 of the Road Traffic (Drivers' Ages and Hours of Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1976(**g**), for holding or obtaining a driving licence authorising him to drive vehicles of that class, but in the case of any such person as is mentioned in paragraphs (1) or (2) of this Article, who is driving a vehicle which—

[(*a*) is brought temporarily into Northern Ireland,]

(*b*) is within the class specified in the first column at item 6 of the Table in subsection (1) of that section, and

(*c*) is either a vehicle registered in a Convention country or a goods vehicle in respect of which that person holds a certificate of competence which satisfies the international requirements,

the second column at item 6 of that Table, in its application for the purposes of this paragraph, shall have effect as if for '21' there were substituted '18'.

In this paragraph the following expressions have the meanings respectively assigned to them:—

"the international requirements" means—

(i) in relation to a person who is driving a goods vehicle on a journey to which Council Regulation (EEC) No. 543/69 of 25th March 1969 on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport(**h**) applies, the requirements of Article 5(1)(*b*) (minimum ages for goods vehicle drivers) of that Regulation;

(ii) in relation to a person who is driving a goods vehicle on a journey to which the European Agreement concerning the work of crews engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) signed at Geneva 25th March 1971(**i**) applies, the requirements of Article 5(1)(*b*) (conditions to be fulfilled by drivers) of that Agreement;

"Convention country" means a country which is not a Member State of the European Economic Community nor a party to the aforementioned European Agreement nor to the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Vienna in the year 1968 but is a party to the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at

(**g**) S.I. 1976/581 (N.I. 11)
(**h**) O.J. No. L. 77, 29.3.1969, p. 49
(**i**) Cmnd. 4858

Geneva in the year 1949(j) or the International Convention relative to Motor Traffic concluded at Paris in the year 1926(k).

(4) This Article shall not authorise a person to drive a motor vehicle of any class if, in consequence of a conviction or of the order of a court, he is disqualified for holding or obtaining a driving licence under Part I of the Act to drive a vehicle of that class.

(5) The Department may by order withdraw the right conferred by paragraph (1)(*b*), (1)(*c*) or (2)(*b*), or any two or more of those rights, either in the case of all domestic driving permits or British Forces (BFG) driving licences, or in the case of domestic driving permits or British Forces (BFG) driving licences of a description specified in the order or held by persons of a description so specified.

(6) In this Article—

"Convention driving permit" means either—

(i) a driving permit in the form A in Schedule 1 issued under the authority of a country outside the United Kingdom, whether or not that country is a party to the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Geneva in the year 1949 but not so issued as aforesaid after the expiry of a period of five years from the date of the entry into force of the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Vienna in the year 1968 in accordance with Article 47(1) thereof, if that country is a party to that Convention,

(ii) a driving permit in the form B in Schedule 1 issued under the authority of a country outside the United Kingdom which is a party to the International Convention relative to Motor Traffic concluded at Paris in the year 1926, but not to the Convention of 1949 nor to the Convention of 1968, or

(iii) a driving permit in the form C in Schedule 1 issued under the authority of a country outside the United Kingdom which is a party to the Convention of 1968;

"domestic driving permit", in relation to a country outside the United Kingdom, means a document issued under the law of that country and authorising the holder to drive motor vehicles, or a specified class of motor vehicles, in that country, and includes a driving permit issued by the armed forces of any country outside the United Kingdom for use in some other country outside the United Kingdom;

"British Forces (BFG) driving licence" means a driving licence issued in Germany to members of the British Forces or of the civilian component thereof or to the dependants of such members by the British authorities in that country in such a form and in accordance with such licensing system as may from time to time be approved by those authorities; and

"dependants", in relation to such a member of the British Forces or of the civilian component thereof, means any of the following persons, namely:—

(*a*) the wife or husband of that member, and

(*b*) any other person wholly or mainly maintained by him or in his custody, charge or care.

(7) The provisions of this Article which authorise the holder of a permit or a licence to drive a vehicle during a specified period shall not be construed as authorising the driving of a vehicle at a time when the permit or the licence has ceased to be valid and, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph (3), a Convention driving permit in the form C in Schedule 1 shall, if the validity of the permit is by special endorsement thereon made conditional upon the holder wearing certain devices or upon the vehicle being equipped in a certain manner to take account of his disability, not be valid at a time when any such condition is not satisfied.

(j) Cmd. 7997
(k) Cmd. 3510

5.—(1) It shall be lawful—

(*a*) for a member of a visiting force of a country to which Part I of the Visiting Forces Act 1952(**l**) for the time being applies who holds a driving permit issued under the law of any part of the sending country or issued by the service authorities of the visiting force, or

(*b*) for a member of a civilian component of such a visiting force who holds such a driving permit,

to drive, and be employed in driving, in Northern Ireland a motor vehicle of any class which he is authorised by that permit to drive, notwithstanding that he is not the holder of a driving licence under Part I of the Act.

(2) This Article shall not authorise a person to drive a motor vehicle of any class if, in consequence of a conviction or of the order of a court, he is disqualified for holding or obtaining a driving licence under Part I of the Act to drive a vehicle of that class.

(3) Nothing in this Article shall authorise any person to drive, or to be employed in driving, a vehicle of any class at a time when he is disqualified by virtue of section 2 of the Act (persons under age), as substituted by Article 3 of the Road Traffic (Drivers' Ages and Hours of Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1976, for holding or obtaining a driving licence authorising him to drive vehicles of that class.

(4) The interpretative provisions of the Visiting Forces Act 1952 shall apply for the interpretation of this Article.

6. Schedule 2 shall have effect as respects the driving permits referred to in Articles 4 and 5.

Lighting of vehicles brought temporarily into Northern Ireland

7. Regulations under sections 31 to 42 of the Act may either wholly or partially, and subject to any conditions, vary, or grant exemptions from, the requirements of those sections in the case of motor vehicles or trailers brought temporarily into Northern Ireland by persons resident outside the United Kingdom or in the case of any class of such vehicles.

Humphrey Atkins

Northern Ireland Office
1st August 1980

One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State

(**l**) 1952 c. 67

SCHEDULE 1 Article 4(6)

A

FORM OF INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT UNDER CONVENTION OF 1949

Page 1

**In a permit issued by some other country the name of that country will appear instead and pages 1 and 2 will be drawn up in the language of that country.*

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*
International Motor Traffic

INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT
Convention on International Road Traffic of 1949.

Issued at .....

Date .....

Signature or seal of issuing authority.

Seal or stamp of authority

Page 2

This permit is valid in the territory of all the Contracting States, with the exception of the territory of the Contracting State where issued, for the period of one year from the date of issue, for the driving of vehicles included in the category or categories mentioned on the last page of this permit.

List of Contracting States (optional)

It is understood that this permit shall in no way affect the obligation of the holder to conform strictly to the laws and regulations relating to residence or to the exercise of a profession which are in force in each country through which he travels.

Form of International Driving Permit

PART I

		Last
Particulars concerning the Driver:	Surname	1
	Other names*	2
	Place of birth**	3
	Date of birth***	4
	Permanent place of residence	5

Vehicles for which the permit is valid:

Motor cycles, with or without a sidecar, invalid carriages and three-wheeled motor vehicles with an unladen weight not exceeding 400 kg (900 lbs.).	A
Motor vehicles used for the transport of passengers and comprising, in addition to the driver's seat, at most eight seats, or those used for the transport of goods and having a permissible maximum weight not exceeding 3,500 kg (7,700 lbs.). Vehicles in this category may be coupled with a light trailer.	B
Motor vehicles used for the transport of goods and of which the permissible maximum weight exceeds 3,500 kg (7,700 lbs.). Vehicles in this category may be coupled with a light trailer.	C
Motor vehicles used for the transport of passengers and comprising, in addition to the driver's seat, more than eight seats. Vehicles in this category may be coupled with a light trailer.	D
Motor vehicles of categories B, C or D, as authorised above, with other than a light trailer.	E

"Permissible maximum weight" of a vehicle means the weight of the vehicle and its maximum load when the vehicle is ready for the road.

"Maximum load" means the weight of the load declared permissible by the competent authority of the country of registration of the vehicle.

"Light trailers" shall be those of a permissible maximum weight not exceeding 750 kg (1,650 lbs.).

EXCLUSION

Holder of this permit is deprived of the right to drive in (country)

.....

by reason .....

.....

Seal or stamp of authority

Place .....

Date .....

Signature .....

Exclusions: (countries I-VIII)

Should the above space be already filled, use any other space provided for "Exclusion".

The entire last page (Parts 1 and II) shall be drawn up in French.

Additional pages shall repeat in other languages the text of Part I of the last page. They shall be drawn up in English, Russian, Chinese and Spanish, and other languages may be added.

Page PART II

1. .....
2. .....
3. .....
4. .....
5. .....

A	Seal or stamp of authority
B	Seal or stamp of authority
C	Seal or stamp of authority
D	Sea or stamp of authority
E	Seal or stamp of authority

Photograph

Seal or stamp of authority

.....
Signature of holder****

EXCLUSIONS
(countries)

I ..... V .....

II ..... VI .....

III ..... VII .....

IV ..... VIII .....

* Father's or husband's name may be inserted.
** If known.
*** Or approximate age on date of issue.
**** Or thumb impression.

B

FORM OF INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT UNDER CONVENTION OF 1926

Page 1

**In a permit issued by some other country the name of that country will appear instead and the permit will be drawn up in the language of that country..*

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*

International Motor Traffic

INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT

International Convention of April 24th, 1926

ISSUE OF PERMIT

Issued at .....
Date .....

Seal of authority

(Signature of issuing authority).

Page 2

***This should be a reference to the last page of the permit.*

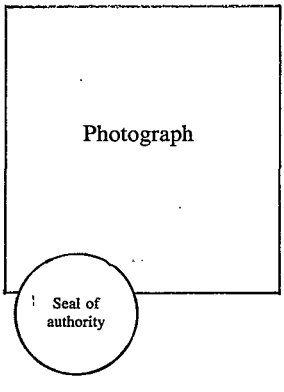
The present permit is valid in the territory of all the undermentioned contracting States for the period of one year from the date of issue for the driving of vehicles included in the category or categories mentioned on p. **

Here insert list of Contracting States

It is understood that this permit in no way diminishes the obligation of the holder to conform strictly to the laws and regulations relating to residence or to the exercise of a profession which are in force in each country through which he travels.

Page 3

PARTICULARS CONCERNING THE DRIVER



Surname .....(1)
Other names .....(2)
Place of birth .....(3)
Date of birth .....(4)
Home address .....(5)

Form of International Driving Permit under Convention of 1926

Page 4

(Name of country)

EXCLUSION

M. (surname and other names) .....
authorised as above by the authority of (country) .....
is deprived of the right to drive in (country) .....
by reason of .....
.....
.....
.....

Seal of authority

Place .....

Date .....

Signature .....

Page 5 and the following pages should repeat the particulars given on page 3 translated into as many languages as may be necessary to enable the International Permit to be used in all the Contracting States mentioned on page 2.

Here begin last page

A(1)	B (2)	C (3)
Seal of authority	Seal of authority	Seal of authority

(1) A.—Motor vehicles of which the laden weight does not exceed—
3,500 kilog.
(In all languages.)

(2) B.—Motor vehicles of which the laden weight exceeds—
3,500 kilog.
(In all languages.)

(3) C.—Motor cycles, with or without side-car.
(In all languages.)

(1) .....

(2) .....

(3) .....

(4) .....

(5) .....

C

FORM OF INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT
UNDER CONVENTION OF 1968

Page No. 1 (outside of front cover coloured grey)

**In a permit issued by some other country the name of that country and its distinguishing sign will appear instead and pages 1 and 2 will be drawn up in the language of that country.*

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland G.B.*

International Motor Traffic

INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT

No. .....

Convention on Road Traffic of 8 November, 1968

Valid until .....

Issued by .....

At .....

Date .....

Number of domestic
driving permit .....

Seal or stamp of the issuing authority or association

Signature of issuing authority or association

Page No. 2 (inside front cover coloured grey)

This permit is not valid for the territory of the United Kingdom.

It is valid for the territories of all the other Contracting Parties. The categories of vehicles for the driving of which it is valid are stated at the end of the booklet.

List of Contracting States (optional)

This permit shall in no way affect the obligation of the holder to conform to the laws and regulations relating to residence and to the exercise of a profession in each State through which he travels. In particular, it shall cease to be valid in a State if its holder establishes his normal residence there.

Form of International Driving Permit under Convention of 1968

Last left-hand page

The last two inside pages shall be facing pages printed in French, and the preceding inside pages shall consist of pages repeating the last left-hand page in several other languages which must include English, Russian and Spanish. All inside pages shall be white.

PARTICULARS CONCERNING THE DRIVER Surname	1
Other names(1)	2
Place of birth(2)	3
Date of birth(3)	4
Home address	5
CATEGORIES OF VEHICLES FOR WHICH THE PERMIT IS VALID	
Motor cycles	A
Motor vehicles, other than those in category A, having a permissible maximum weight not exceeding 3,500 kg. (7,700 lb.) and not more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat	B
Motor vehicles used for the carriage of goods and whose permissible maximum weight exceeds 3,500 kg. (7,700 lb.)	C
Motor vehicles used for the carriage of passengers and having more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat	D
Combinations of vehicles of which the drawing vehicle is in a category or categories for which the driver is licensed (B and/or C and/or D), but which are not themselves in that category or categories	E
RESTRICTIVE CONDITIONS OF USE(5)	
.....	
.....	
.....	

(1) Father's or husband's name may be inserted here.

(2) If the place of birth is unknown, leave blank.

(3) If date of birth is unknown, state approximate age on date of issue of permit.

(4) Seal or stamp of the authority or association issuing the permit. This seal or stamp shall be affixed against categories A, B, C, D and E only if the holder is licensed to drive vehicles in the category in question.

Form of International Driving Permit under Convention of 1968

Last right-hand page

The last two inside pages shall be facing pages printed in French. All inside pages shall be white.

1. .....
2. .....
3. .....
4. .....
5. .....

A (4)

B (4)

C (4)

D (4)

E (4)

Photograph (4)

Signature of holder(6).....

DISQUALIFICATIONS:

The holder is deprived of the right to drive in the territory of .....(7) until .....
At.....on .....
.....(8) (8)

The holder is deprived of the right to drive in the territory of .....(7) until .....
At.....on .....
.....(8) (8)

(5) For example, "Must wear corrective lenses", "Valid only for driving vehicle No. .....", "Vehicle must be equipped to be driven by a one-legged person".

(6) Or thumbprint.

(7) Name of State.

(8) Signature and seal or stamp of the authority which has invalidated the permit in its territory. If the spaces provided for disqualifications on this page have already been used, any further disqualifications should be entered overleaf.

SCHEDULE 2 Article 6

Visitors' Driving Permits

1. In this Schedule "driving permit" means a driving permit which by virtue of this Order authorises a person to drive a motor vehicle without holding a driving licence under Part I of the Act, "driving licence" has the meaning assigned to it in the Act and "Convention driving permit" has the meaning assigned to it by Article 4(6).

2.—(1) A court by whom the holder of a driving permit is convicted shall—

(*a*) if in consequence of the conviction or of the order of the court he is disqualified for holding or obtaining a driving licence, or

(*b*) if the court orders particulars of the conviction to be endorsed on any driving licence held by him,

send particulars of the conviction to the Department.

(2) A court shall in no circumstances enter any particulars in a driving permit.

3.—(1) The holder of a driving permit disqualified in consequence of a conviction or of the order of a court for holding or obtaining a driving licence for a driving licence for a specified class of vehicle shall, if so required by the court, produce his driving permit within five days, or such longer time as the court may determine, and the court shall forward it to the Department.

(2) The Department on receiving a permit forwarded under sub-paragraph (1) shall—

(*a*) if the disqualification does not apply to every class of motor vehicles for which the permit is, apart from the disqualification, valid, forward the permit to the holder and in any other case retain the permit until the disqualification ceases to have effect or until the holder leaves Northern Ireland, whichever is the earlier; and

(*b*) send the holder's name and address, together with the particulars of the disqualification, to the authority by whom the permit was issued; and

(*c*) if the permit is a Convention driving permit, record the particulars of the disqualification on the permit.

(3) A person failing to produce a driving permit in compliance with this paragraph shall be guilty of an offence which shall be treated for the purposes of section 166 of the Act and of Schedule 3 thereto as an offence against section 145(1) and he shall be liable to be prosecuted and punished accordingly.

4.—(1) A court, on ordering the removal under section 167(5) or (7) of the Act of a disqualification for holding or obtaining a driving licence, shall, if it appears that particulars of the disqualification have been forwarded to the Department under paragraph 2, cause particulars of the order also to be forwarded to the Department.

(2) The Department, on receiving particulars of a court order removing such a disqualification, shall—

(*a*) in the case of a permit on which particulars of a disqualification were entered in accordance with paragraph 3(2)(*c*), enter on the permit particulars of the order removing the disqualification;

(*b*) send the particulars of the order to the authority by whom the permit was issued; and

(*c*) return the permit to the holder.

5.—(1) In the following provisions of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970, references to a licence shall include references to a driving permit.

(2) The said provisions are—

(*a*) section 156 (which relates to the production of documents and the powers of constables),

(*b*) section 150(2) (which relates to the use of a licence by a person other than the holder and to forgery of such a licence).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

This Order which re-enacts with amendment the Order revoked by Article 2 deals with driver licensing and vehicle lighting requirements in relation to vehicles brought temporarily into Northern Ireland. It corresponds to Articles 2 to 4 of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order 1975 as amended by the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Amendment) Order 1980 and gives effect to certain provisions of the following international agreements—

(*a*) the Convention on Motor Traffic of 1926 (Cmd 3510),

(*b*) the Convention on Road Traffic of 1949 (Cmd 7997), and

(*c*) the Convention on Road Traffic of 1968 (Cmnd 4032),

as respects drivers visiting Northern Ireland from abroad; and

(*d*) Article IV of the Agreement regarding the Status of Forces of Parties to the North Atlantic Treaty (Cmd 8279) as respects driving permits of members of visiting forces and civilian components of such forces.

Apart from minor drafting amendments the main change is to give effect to certain provisions of the Convention on Road Traffic of 1968 which relate to licensing requirements for visiting drivers: an international driving permit issued outside the United Kingdom in the form (Article 4(6)(iii)) specified in that Convention is recognised, subject to certain conditions, as authority to drive for a period of up to 12 months from the date of last entry into the United Kingdom.

The following are the main provisions which are re-enacted—

Article 4(1) provides that persons resident outside the United Kingdom who hold either a Convention driving permit or a domestic driving permit or a British Forces (BFG) driving licence may for 12 months drive in Northern Ireland motor vehicles of the class which they are authorised by their permits to drive without holding driving licences issued under the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970.

Article 4(2) provides that persons resident outside the United Kingdom who hold either a Convention driving permit or a domestic driving permit may for 12 months drive in Northern Ireland public service vehicles (other than taxis) or heavy goods vehicles brought temporarily into Northern Ireland, which they are authorised by their permits to drive, without holding public service vehicle or heavy goods vehicle drivers' licences.

Article 4(3) provides that in relation to such persons, if over 18 years of age and driving motor vehicles brought temporarily into Northern Ireland, the restriction imposed by the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 on the driving of certain heavy motor vehicles by persons under 21 years shall not apply.

Article 4(4) provides that the previous provisions shall not authorise persons to drive motor vehicles if they are disqualified for holding or obtaining a driving licence in consequence of a conviction or of the order of a court.

Article 4(5) permits the Department to withdraw in the case of domestic driving permits and BFG driving licences the rights conferred by paragraphs (1)(*b*), (1)(*c*) and (2)(*b*) of that Article which are not obligatory under any of the above-mentioned Conventions of 1926, 1949 and 1968.

Article 4(6) defines the expressions "Convention driving permit", "domestic driving permit", "BFG driving licence" and "dependants".

Article 4(7) provides that the previous provisions of the Article shall not authorise a person to drive if the permit or the licence has ceased to be valid or if special conditions to which its issue and validity were subject have not been satisfied.

Article 5 makes provision in pursuance of Article IV of the above-mentioned Agreement regarding the Status of Forces for members of a visiting force and members of a civilian component of such a force who hold foreign driving permits and who are not disqualified from driving by virtue of a conviction or the order of a court to drive in Northern Ireland motor vehicles of any class which they are authorised by their permits to drive without holding driving licences issued under the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970.

Article 6 provides for modifications of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 in relation to the driving permits referred to in Articles 4 and 5.

Article 7 enables regulations to be made exempting vehicles brought temporarily into Northern Ireland from the requirements of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 regarding lighting.