1957 No. 1246

The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations, 1957

Made - - - -	12*th July*, 1957
Laid before Parliament	18*th July*, 1957
Coming into Operation	7*th August*, 1957

The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation in exercise of his powers under sections nine, sixteen, seventeen, twenty and twenty-five of the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949(a), and Articles 5 and 6 of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order, 1957(b), and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

International Circulation Permits

1.—(1) A person bringing a motor vehicle into Great Britain may, subject to and in accordance with these regulations, be granted an international circulation permit, and a vehicle as respects which an international circulation permit is in force shall be exempt from any duty of excise under the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949.

(2) An international circulation permit shall be granted to a person bringing a motor vehicle into Great Britain if he—

(*a*) furnishes a registration authority with such particulars as are specified in the First Schedule to these regulations, and

(*b*) satisfies the registration authority that he is resident outside the United Kingdom and that the motor vehicle is only temporarily in Great Britain ; and

(*c*) produces for the vehicle a certificate of insurance or certificate of security valid for the currency of the permit to be issued or an insurance card valid at the time it is produced, and

(*d*) in the case of a vehicle other than one to which the Public Service Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations, 1948(c), apply, satisfies the registration authority that it is not intended during the currency of the permit to use the vehicle in the United Kingdom for the carriage of passengers for hire or reward, and

(*e*) in the case of a vehicle constructed or adapted to be used for the conveyance of goods or burden, satisfies the registration authority that it is not intended during the currency of the permit so to use the vehicle in the United Kingdom for hire or reward or for or in connection with a trade or business.

(3) An international circulation permit shall not be granted for a heavy locomotive, light locomotive or motor tractor.

(4) An international circulation permit shall be in the form in, and contain the particulars required by, the Second Schedule to these regulations.

(a) 12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6. c. 89. (b) S.I. 1957/1074 (p. 2154 above).
(c) S.I. 1948/609 (Rev. XX, p. 430: 1948 I, p. 3748).

(5) In this regulation—

"certificate of insurance" and "certificate of security" have the same meanings as in the Road Traffic Act, 1930(a);

"heavy locomotive", "light locomotive" and "motor tractor" have the meanings assigned to them by subsection (1) of section two of the said Act;

"insurance card" has the same meaning as in the Motor Vehicles (International Motor Insurance Card) Regulations, 1957(b).

2.—(1) An international circulation permit shall not be granted for a period any part of which falls after the ninetieth day from the date on which the vehicle was last brought into Great Britain, and the periods for which international circulation permits may be granted to any person in any one calendar year shall not exceed ninety days in all:

Provided that an international circulation permit issued on production of a fiscal permit may notwithstanding the foregoing limitations be granted for any period within the currency of the fiscal permit so long as the period or periods for which international circulation permits are granted which fall within the currency of that international fiscal permit do not exceed ninety days in all.

(2) In determining under this regulation the period for which an international circulation permit may be issued, account shall be taken of any permit issued in Northern Ireland under provisions corresponding to these regulations, as if it were a permit issued under these regulations.

3.—(1) The following provisions of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955(c), that is to say—

(*a*) paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) of regulation 4 and the Second Schedule (which specify the manner in which an excise licence is to be displayed on a vehicle),

(*b*) regulation 5 (which relates to defacements and mutilations of such a licence),

(*c*) regulation 12 (which relates to duplicates),

shall apply in relation to a permit under these regulations as they apply in relation to an excise licence but with the substitution of references to the registration authority for the references to the Council.

(2) The said sub-paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) of regulation 4 of the said Regulations of 1955 and the Second Schedule thereto shall apply in like manner in relation to a permit issued in Northern Ireland under provisions corresponding to these regulations for a motor vehicle subsequently brought into Great Britain.

4.—(1) Where a vehicle in respect of which an international circulation permit is in force—

(*a*) is sold or transferred, or

(*b*) is removed to a country outside the United Kingdom, or

(*c*) is destroyed,

the holder of the international circulation permit shall surrender it to a registration authority informing them, in a case where the vehicle has been sold or transferred, of the name of the new owner and of his address, if any, in the United Kingdom.

(a) 20 & 21 Geo. 5. c. 43. (b) S.I. 1957/891 (p. 2179 below).
(c) S.I. 1955/1664 (1955 II, p. 2353).

(2) The holder of an international circulation permit which has expired shall surrender it to a registration authority or, if he is applying to a Council for an excise licence under the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949, to that Council.

(3) The holder of an international circulation permit may, before the expiration of the permit, surrender it to a registration authority and thereupon the permit shall cease to be valid.

(4) The registration authority or Council (not being the London County Council) to whom an international circulation permit is surrendered shall forward that permit to the London County Council and inform them of the date of surrender.

(5) In this regulation references to a registration authority include references to any authority having power to issue a permit in Northern Ireland under provisions corresponding to these regulations.

Registration marks for vehicles carrying international circulation permits

5.—(1) A registration authority shall assign to a vehicle for which they issue an international circulation permit a registration mark which shall be—

(*a*) in the case of a vehicle in respect of which a visitors' registration document is produced, the registration mark recorded in that document, and

(*b*) in the case of any other vehicle, a registration mark consisting of the letters, QA, QB, QC, QD, QE, QF, QG, QH, QJ, QK, QL, QM, QN, QP, QQ, or QS, and of a registered number.

(2) During the currency of an international circulation permit, regulations 21, 22 and 25 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955, and the Third Schedule thereto, shall apply to the vehicle to which the permit relates as if references therein to the registration mark were references to the registration mark assigned to the vehicle under this regulation, and shall so apply to the exclusion of regulation 26 of those Regulations (which would otherwise apply instead of regulations 22 and 25 in the case of vehicles registered since the first day of October, 1938):

Provided that—

(*a*) the said regulation 21 and the said Third Schedule (which impose requirements as to the size, shape and character of registration marks) shall not apply as respects a registration mark assigned under sub-paragraph (*a*) of paragraph (1) of this regulation if the corresponding requirements of the law under which, or authority by whom, the registration mark was issued are complied with, and if any letters in the registration mark are in Roman characters, and any figures ordinary European numerals,

(*b*) a registration mark assigned under the said sub-paragraph (*a*) need not be exhibited at the front of the vehicle if that is not required by the law under which, or the authority by whom, the registration mark was issued.

(3) During the currency of an international circulation permit issued for a vehicle to which a registration mark was assigned under the said sub-paragraph (*a*) a nationality sign indicating the country under the law of which it was issued, shall be exhibited at the back of the vehicle so as to be clearly distinguishable:

Provided that no nationality sign need be shown on a vehicle in a case where the visitors' registration document produced in respect of the vehicle

is one which falls within paragraph (*c*) of the definition of that expression in these regulations.

(4) During the currency of an international circulation permit, regulation 23 of the said Regulations of 1955 shall apply to any trailer drawn by the vehicle to which the permit relates as if references therein to the registration mark were references to the registration mark assigned to the vehicle under this regulation:

Provided that in a case where—

(*a*) the registration mark was assigned under the said sub-paragraph (*a*) of paragraph (1) of this regulation, and

(*b*) the trailer has been brought temporarily into Great Britain by a person resident outside the United Kingdom,

a registration number allotted to the trailer under the law of a country outside the United Kingdom which is a party to the Convention of 1949 may be exhibited at the back of the trailer instead of the said registration mark.

(5) When a vehicle which in pursuance of this regulation must carry a nationality sign is drawing one or more trailers, the nationality sign shall be carried in like manner at the back of the trailer or rearmost trailer:

Provided that a trailer carrying a registration number in pursuance of the proviso to the last foregoing paragraph shall carry a nationality sign indicating the country under the law of which that registration number was issued (if different to the country under the law of which the registration mark was issued) instead of the other nationality sign.

(6) During the currency of an international circulation permit issued for a vehicle in respect of which a visitors' registration document was produced and to which a registration mark was assigned under sub-paragraph (*a*) of paragraph (1) of this regulation, paragraph (2) of regulation 6 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955 (which authorises a police constable or Local Taxation Officer to demand the production of a registration book) shall apply to the visitors' registration document as it applies to a registration book.

(7) Paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) of this regulation shall apply with the necessary modifications in relation to a vehicle for which a permit is issued in Northern Ireland under provisions corresponding to the provisions of these regulations and which is subsequently brought into Great Britain.

6.—(1) Where a registration authority assign a registration mark to a vehicle under sub-paragraph (*b*) of paragraph (1) of the last foregoing regulation, they shall issue with the international circulation permit a registration card containing such particulars as the Minister may direct.

(2) If, on any occasion, the holder of an international circulation permit surrenders it in accordance with regulation 4 of these regulations, the registration card, if any, held for the same vehicle shall be surrendered at the same time and shall be forwarded with the permit to the London County Council.

(3) The following provisions of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955, that is to say—

(*a*) paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 6 (which relate to the production of registration books and to their defacement or mutilation), and

(*b*) regulation 12 (which relates to duplicate registration books)

shall apply in relation to a registration card as they apply in relation to a registration book but with the substitution of references to the registration authority for the references to the Council.

(4) The said paragraph (2) of regulation 6 of the said Regulations of 1955 shall apply in like manner in relation to a registration card issued in Northern Ireland under provisions corresponding to the provisions of these regulations for a vehicle subsequently brought into Great Britain.

Excise licences for vehicles brought temporarily into Great Britain

7.—(1) A person who has brought into Great Britain a motor vehicle may be granted an excise licence under the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949, for the vehicle by any Council in whose area he is for the time being, notwithstanding that they are not the Council to whom he ought to apply under regulation 2 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955, if he satisfies them—

(*a*) that he is resident outside the United Kingdom and that the motor vehicle is only temporarily in Great Britain, and

(*b*) that he has not a principal place of business or usual place of abode in Great Britain.

(2) The registration mark to be assigned under subsection (1) of section sixteen of the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949, to a motor vehicle brought temporarily into Great Britain by a person resident outside the United Kingdom shall be—

(*a*) in a case where a visitors' registration document is produced in respect of the vehicle, the registration mark recorded in that document,

(*b*) in a case where no visitors' registration document is produced, but a registration mark has previously been assigned to that vehicle under sub-paragraph (*b*) of paragraph (1) of regulation 5 of these regulations, or under provisions applying in Northern Ireland and corresponding to the provisions of these regulations, that registration mark,

(*c*) in any other case, such a registration mark as would be assigned to a vehicle permanently in this country.

(3) A registration mark assigned under sub-paragraph (*a*) of the last foregoing paragraph shall become void at the expiration of one year from the date when the vehicle was last brought into the United Kingdom or, if the vehicle is before the expiration of that period sold or transferred, at that earlier time, and if the vehicle is used in Great Britain thereafter a new registration mark must be obtained.

(4) Where a registration mark is assigned to a vehicle in pursuance of sub-paragraph (*a*) or (*b*) of paragraph (2) of this regulation then, until the expiration of one year from the date when the vehicle was last brought into the United Kingdom, or, if the vehicle is before the expiration of that period sold or transferred, until the sale or transfer—

(*a*) regulations 22 and 25 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955, shall apply to the exclusion of regulation 26 (which would otherwise apply instead of those regulations in the case of a vehicle first registered after the first day of October, 1938),

(*b*) the said regulations 22 and 25, and regulations 21 and 23 of the said Regulations, and the Third Schedule thereto shall apply in relation to the vehicle subject to the same exceptions and limitations as those subject to which they are applied by regulation 5 of these regulations, and

(*c*) in a case where the registration mark is assigned under the said sub-paragraph (*a*), paragraphs (3) and (5) of regulation 5 of these regulations shall apply as respects the carrying of nationality signs by the vehicle and any trailer drawn by it.

Records to be kept by registration authorities

8. Each registration authority shall, on issuing an international circulation permit, record in a form approved by the Minister the particulars furnished in accordance with sub-paragraph (*a*) of paragraph (2) of regulation 1 of these regulations and—

(*a*) the serial number of the permit,

(*b*) the period for which the permit is valid, and

(*c*) the registration mark assigned to the vehicle to which the permit relates,

and each registration authority other than the London County Council shall forward to the London County Council a copy of the matters so recorded in that form.

9.—(1) The London County Council shall preserve the copies forwarded to them under the last foregoing regulation and any records made by the Council themselves under that regulation for not less than four years.

(2) The London County Council shall as respects every motor vehicle to which a registration mark is assigned in pursuance of sub-paragraph (*a*) or (*b*) of paragraph (2) of regulation 7 of these regulations preserve for not less than four years a record of the following particulars, that is to say—

(*a*) the name of the person applying in respect of the vehicle, his address in the United Kingdom and (if available) his home address, and

(*b*) the registration mark assigned to the vehicle,

and where the registration mark was so assigned by some other Council, that other Council shall forward those particulars to the London County Council for recording.

(3) The London County Council shall, as respects any documents forwarded to them in connection with permits issued in Northern Ireland under provisions corresponding to these regulations, or as respects any registration marks assigned in Northern Ireland under such provisions, have the like duties as are imposed on them under the foregoing provisions of this Article as respects permits issued and registration marks assigned under these regulations.

(4) The London County Council shall, on application in that behalf, furnish free of charge any particulars recorded in any documents preserved by them under this regulation to the Minister, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, the Ministry of Commerce for Northern Ireland, any registration authority or Council in the United Kingdom, or any superior officer of police in a police force in the United Kingdom, and shall upon payment of one shilling furnish to any person showing to the London County Council that he has reasonable cause therefor the name and address recorded against any registration mark under this regulation.

Interpretation, revocation, citation and commencement

10.—(1) In these regulations—

"the Convention of 1926" means the International Convention relative to Motor Traffic concluded at Paris in the year 1926;

"the Convention of 1949" means the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Geneva in the year 1949;

"Council" in relation to England and Scotland, shall be construed in accordance with sections twenty-seven and twenty-eight of the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949, and in relation to Northern Ireland means the council of a county or county borough.

"fiscal permit" means a permit in form C in the First Schedule to the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order, 1957, issued by a

country outside the United Kingdom which is a party to the Convention of 1931 therein mentioned;

"the Minister" means the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation;

"nationality sign" means a sign complying with the provisions of Annex 4 to the Convention of 1949 or of Annex C to the Convention of 1926 and bearing the distinctive letters specified in or under the Convention for the country under the law of which the vehicle is registered;

"registration authority" means the Royal Automobile Club, the Automobile Association, the Royal Scottish Automobile Club or the London County Council;

"visitor's registration document" means—

(*a*) in the case of a vehicle registered in a country outside the United Kingdom which is a party to the Convention of 1949, a registration certificate issued under the law of that country and containing the serial number or registration number, the name or the trade mark of the maker of the vehicle, the maker's identification or serial number, the date of its registration and the full name and permanent place of residence of the applicant for the said certificate; or

(*b*) a certificate in form D in the First Schedule to the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order, 1957, issued under the law of a country outside the United Kingdom which is a party to the Convention of 1926; or

(*c*) in the case of a motor vehicle registered in accordance with the registration system of the British authorities in Germany or the registration system of the United States authorities in Germany or France, a registration certificate specifying the registered letter and number allotted to the vehicle under the system.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889(a), 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 any provision in an Act of Parliament or in subordinate legislation shall be construed as a reference to that provision as amended by any other such provision.

11.—(1) The Regulations specified in the Third Schedule to these regulations, except so far as they apply in Northern Ireland, are hereby revoked.

(2) This regulation shall not affect any document issued or other thing done under any regulation hereby revoked and every such document and other thing shall continue in force and, so far as it could have been issued or done under these regulations, shall have effect as if issued or done under the corresponding provision of these regulations.

(3) Mention of particular matters in this regulation shall be without prejudice to the general application of section thirty-eight of the Interpretation Act, 1889, as applied by these regulations.

12.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations, 1957.

(2) These regulations shall come into operation on the seventh day of August, nineteen hundred and fifty-seven.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation this twelfth day of July, 1957.

(L.S.)

Harold Watkinson,
The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation.

(a) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

FIRST SCHEDULE

PARTICULARS NEEDED TO OBTAIN AN INTERNATIONAL CIRCULATION PERMIT

1. The full name and home address of the person to whom the international circulation permit is to be granted.

2. The date and place of entry into Great Britain of the vehicle in question.

3. The make and chassis number of the vehicle and such other particulars describing the vehicle as the Minister may direct.

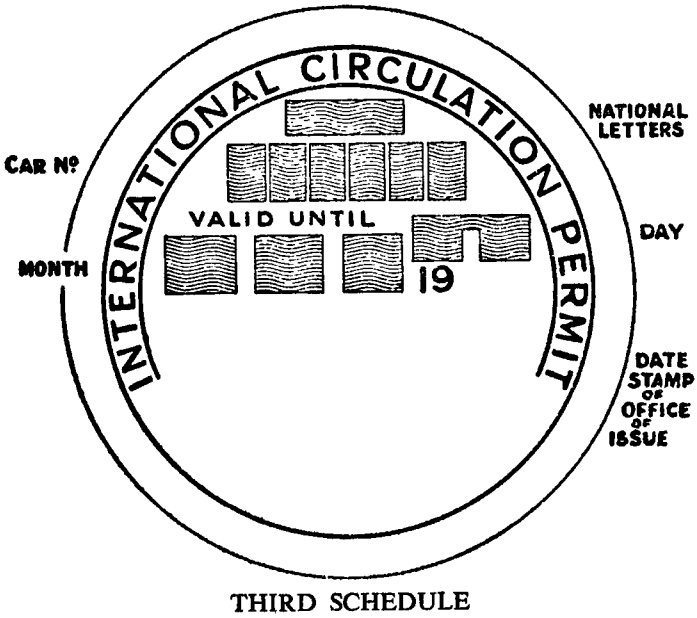
4. The letters and numbers on the registration plates (if any) of the vehicle and (if different) of any trailer drawn thereby, together with the country of registration.

5. In a case where the vehicle is drawing a trailer, the name of the manufacturer of the trailer and its serial or other identification number.

6. The address in the United Kingdom of the person to whom the permit is to be granted or, if none, the name and address in the United Kingdom of some other person through whom he may be contacted while in the United Kingdom.

SECOND SCHEDULE

FORM OF INTERNATIONAL CIRCULATION PERMIT



THIRD SCHEDULE

REGULATIONS REVOKED

The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations, 1941(a).

The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Amendment) Regulations, 1947(b).

The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Amendment) Regulations, 1948(c).

The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Amendment) Regulations, 1950(d).

The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Amendment) Regulations, 1952(e).

The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Amendment) Regulations, 1953(f).

Paragraph (2) of Regulation 14 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955.

(a) S.R. & O. 1941/1219 (Rev. XX, p. 514: 1941 I, p. 969).
(b) S.R. & O. 1947/61 (Rev. XX, p. 514: 1947 I, p. 1984).
(c) S.I. 1948/610 (Rev. XX, p. 514: 1948 I, p. 3747).
(d) S.I. 1950/334 (1950 II, p. 750.) (e) S.I. 1952/2152 (1952 III, p. 2891).
(f) S.I. 1953/1895 (1953 II, p. 1863).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These Regulations supersede the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations, 1941, the amending Regulations set out in the Third Schedule and Regulation 14 (2) of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955.

Regulation 1 and the First Schedule provide for the grant by registration authorities as defined in Regulation 10 of international circulation permits (which during their currency exempt vehicles from duties under the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949) for certain motor vehicles brought temporarily into Great Britain by persons resident outside the United Kingdom who comply with certain requirements.

Regulation 2 limits the period for which international circulation permits may be granted.

By Regulation 3 certain provisions of the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955, relating to excise licences are applied to international circulation permits granted under the Regulations and to permits issued in Northern Ireland for vehicles subsequently brought into Great Britain.

Regulation 4 provides for the surrender of international circulation permits either to registration authorities or, in specified circumstances, to Councils as defined in Regulation 10, and requires registration authorities and Councils to whom permits are surrendered to forward them to the London County Council.

Regulation 5 provides for the assignment by registration authorities of special registration marks to motor vehicles for which they grant international circulation permits and for the exhibition on vehicles of these marks, and introduces the requirement that vehicles carrying certain foreign registration marks must carry in addition nationality signs indicating the country in which the vehicles are registered.

Regulation 6 provides for the issue in certain cases of registration cards for motor vehicles by registration authorities and for the production and surrender of cards in specified circumstances.

Regulation 7 permits a Council to issue a licence under the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949, for a vehicle brought temporarily into Great Britain notwithstanding they are not the appropriate Council for this purpose under the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955, and makes special provision as to the registration mark to be assigned to, and carried on, such a vehicle when licensed under that Act.

Regulation 8 requires registration authorities on issuing an international circulation permit to record particulars relating to the permit and to the vehicle for which it is issued and requires those authorities other than the London County Council to forward the particulars to that Council.

Regulation 9 requires the London County Council to preserve documents containing particulars of international circulation permits and registration marks issued or assigned either in Great Britain or Northern Ireland and to furnish particulars recorded in those documents to certain authorities and persons.