1963 No. 437

ROAD TRAFFIC

The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations 1963

Made - - - -	*4th March* 1963
Laid before Parliament	*14th March* 1963
Coming into Operation	*15th April* 1963

The Minister of Transport in exercise of his powers under sections 8, 16, and 23 of the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1962(a), and Articles 5 and 6 of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order 1957(b), as varied by the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Amendment) Order 1962(c), and of all other powers him enabling in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

Furnishing of particulars and insurance documents

1. A person resident outside the United Kingdom who brings temporarily into Great Britain a vehicle which, subject to compliance by that person with these regulations, is exempt from excise duty by virtue of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Orders 1957 and 1962 shall:—

(1) furnish a registration authority with the particulars set out in the Schedule to these regulations, and

(2) produce to a registration authority a certificate of insurance or a certificate of security or an insurance card for that vehicle, any such certificate or card being valid at the time when it is produced for the purposes of this regulation.

Registration marks for exempted vehicles

2.—(1) A registration authority shall assign to an exempted vehicle a registration mark which shall be—

(*a*) the registration mark recorded in the visitor's registration document in the case of a vehicle in respect of which there is produced a visitor's registration document recording a registration mark which in the opinion of the registration authority consists of no letters or numerals other than Roman letters or ordinary European numerals or both, and

(*b*) in any other case 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) Regulations 21, 22 and 25 of, and Schedule 3 to, the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1955(d), as amended by the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 1962(e), shall apply to an exempted vehicle as if references therein to the registration

(a) 10 & 11 Eliz. 2. c. 13. (b) S.I. 1957/1074 (1957 II, p. 2154).
(c) S.I. 1962/1344 (1962 II, p. 1483). (d) S.I. 1955/1664 (1955 II, p. 2353).
(e) S.I. 1962/1610 (1962 II, p. 1861).

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 the Regulations of 1955 (which would otherwise apply instead of Regulations 22 and 25 thereof in the case of vehicles first registered on or after 1st October 1938):

Provided that—

(*a*) Regulation 21 of, and Schedule 3 to, the Regulations of 1955 (which impose requirements as to the size, shape and character of registration marks) shall not apply as respects a registration mark assigned under paragraph (1) (*a*) 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

(*b*) a registration mark assigned under the said paragraph (1) (*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) At the back of an exempted vehicle to which a registration mark has been assigned under the said paragraph (1) (*a*) there shall be exhibited so as to be clearly distinguishable a nationality sign indicating the country under the law of which the registration mark was issued:

Provided that no nationality sign need be shown on a vehicle in a case where the visitor's 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) Regulation 23 of the Regulations of 1955 shall apply to any trailer drawn by an exempted vehicle as if references therein to the registration mark were references to the registration mark assigned to the exempted vehicle under this regulation:

Provided that in a case where—

(*a*) the registration mark was assigned to the exempted vehicle under the said paragraph 1 (*a*) of this regulation, and

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

a registration mark issued 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 registration mark so assigned to the exempted vehicle.

(5) When an exempted 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 mark 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 mark was issued to the trailer instead of any other nationality sign indicating the country under the law of which a registration mark was issued to the exempted vehicle.

(6) In relation to an exempted vehicle in respect of which a visitor's registration document was produced and to which a registration mark was assigned under paragraph (1) (*a*) of this regulation, Regulation 6 (2) of the Regulations of 1955 (which authorises a police constable or Local Taxation Officer to demand the production of a registration book) shall apply to the visitor's registration document as it applies to a registration book.

Registration cards

3.—(1) Where a registration authority assign a registration mark to a vehicle under regulation 2 (1) (*b*) of these regulations, they shall issue to the person who brought that vehicle into Great Britain a registration card in respect of that vehicle containing such particulars as the Minister may direct.

(2) The following provisions of the Regulations of 1955, that is to say—

(*a*) Regulation 6 (2) and Regulation 6 (3) (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.

(3) Whenever a vehicle in respect of which a registration card has been issued under paragraph (1) of this regulation—

(*a*) is sold or transferred, or

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

(*c*) is destroyed,

then the holder of the registration card 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.

(4) The registration authority to whom a registration card is so surrendered shall forward it to the London County Council and inform that Council of the date of surrender.

(5) In paragraph (3) of this regulation references to a registration authority include references to any authority who shall have the functions in Northern Ireland of a registration authority under provisions corresponding to these regulations.

Excise Licences for vehicles brought temporarily into Great Britain

4.—(1) A person who has brought a motor vehicle into Great Britain may be granted an excise licence under the Excise Act 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 Regulations of 1955, if he satisfies them—

(*a*) that he is resident outside the United Kingdom and that the 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 section 13 (1) of the Excise Act to a vehicle brought temporarily into Great Britain by a person resident outside the United Kingdom shall be:—

(*a*) the registration mark recorded in a visitor's registration document produced in respect of that vehicle if the said registration mark is such as is specified in regulation 2 (1) (*a*) of these regulations and the visitor does not elect to have a registration mark assigned under paragraph (2) (*c*) of this regulation, or

(*b*) if no visitor's registration document recording such a registration mark is produced in respect of that vehicle, the registration mark, if any, previously assigned to that vehicle under regulation 2 (1) (*b*) of these regulations, or under provisions applying in Northern Ireland and corresponding to the provisions of that regulation, or

(*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 paragraph (2) (*a*) or (2) (*b*) of this regulation shall become void at the expiration of one year from the date of importation of the vehicle, 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 shall be obtained.

(4) Where a registration mark is assigned to a vehicle in pursuance of paragraph (2) (*a*) or (2) (*b*) of this regulation then, until the expiration of one year from the date of importation of the vehicle, or if the vehicle is before the expiration of that period, sold or transferred, until such sale or transfer—

(*a*) Regulations 21, 22, 23 and 25 of, and Schedule 3 to, the Regulations of 1955 shall apply in relation to the vehicle subject to the same exceptions and limitations as those subject to which they are applied by regulation 2 of these regulations, and Regulations 22 and 25 of the Regulations of 1955 shall apply to the exclusion of Regulation 26 thereof (which would otherwise apply instead of those Regulations in respect of a vehicle first registered on or after 1st October 1938); and

(*b*) in a case where the registration mark is assigned under paragraph (2) (*a*) of this regulation, then regulation 2 (3) and regulation 2 (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

5.—(1) Each registration authority shall, in respect of an exempted vehicle not being a vehicle which immediately before it was brought into Great Britain was exempt from excise duty in Northern Ireland, record the particulars described in the next following paragraph of this regulation on the back of the duplicate page of an insurance card surrendered to the registration authority in respect of that vehicle or, if no such duplicate page is surrendered, on a form approved by the Minister.

(2) The particulars referred to in paragraph (1) of this regulation are:—

(*a*) the particulars set out in the Schedule to these regulations so far as those particulars are not shown on the face of any duplicate page so surrendered, and

(*b*) particulars of any certificate of insurance or certificate of security produced to the registration authority in accordance with regulation 1 (2) of these regulations in respect of the vehicle, which particulars shall include the dates of commencement and expiry of the insurance, the name and address of the insurer and of the persons or classes of persons authorised to drive the vehicle specified in the certificate of insurance or the certificate of security.

(3) Each registration authority other than the London County Council shall forward to the London County Council a copy of the particulars so recorded.

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

(2) The London County Council shall in relation to every vehicle to which a registration mark is assigned in pursuance of regulation 4 (2) (*a*) or 4 (2) (*b*) of these regulations, preserve for not less than two years a record of the following particulars :—

(*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 a 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 preserve for not less than two years any documents forwarded to them under provisions made in Northern Ireland corresponding to regulation 5 (3) of these regulations in respect of a vehicle which immediately before it was brought into Great Britain was exempt from excise duty in Northern Ireland and a record of any particulars forwarded to them for recording under provisions made in Northern Ireland corresponding to the preceding paragraph of this regulation as respects a vehicle to which a registration mark has been assigned in Northern Ireland under provisions corresponding to regulation 4 (2) (*a*) or 4 (2) (*b*) of these regulations.

(4) The London County Council shall, on application therefor, 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

7.—(1) In these regulations :—

" certificate of insurance " and " certificate of security " have the same meanings as in Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1960 ;

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

" the Convention of 1949 " means the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Geneva in the year 1949(**b**) ;

" Council " in relation to England and Scotland means county council as construed in accordance with section 24 (1) and (5) of the Excise Act, and in relation to Northern Ireland means the council of a county or county borough ;

" the date of importation ", in relation to a vehicle, means the date on which that vehicle was last brought into the United Kingdom ;

" the Excise Act " means the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1962 ;

" exempted vehicle " means a vehicle exempt from excise duty by virtue of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Orders 1957 and 1962 :

" insurance card " and " duplicate page " have the same meanings as in the Motor Vehicles (International Motor Insurance Card) Regulations 1963(**c**) ;

(**a**) Cmd. 3510. (**b**) Cmd. 7997. (**c**) S.I. 1963/436 (1963 I, p. 492).

"the Minister" means the Minister of Transport;

"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;

"the Regulations of 1955" means the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1955 as amended by the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 1962;

"visitor's registration document" means—

(*a*) in the case of a vehicle registered in a country outside the United Kingdom, a registration certificate issued under the law of any country in respect of which a nationality sign has been assigned in, or notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations under, the Convention of 1926 or the Convention of 1949 whether or not that country is a party to either of the said Coventions and containing a registration mark, 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 Schedule 1 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.

8.—(1) The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations 1957(b) 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 38 of the Interpretation Act 1889, as applied by these regulations.

(a) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63. (b) S.I. 1957/1246 (1957 II, p. 2170).

9. These regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations 1963 and shall come into operation on the 15th April 1963.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport the 4th March 1963.

(L.S.) *Ernest Marples,*
The Minister of Transport.

SCHEDULE

Particulars to be furnished to the Registration Authority

1. The full name and address of the person who has brought the vehicle into Great Britain.

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

3. The make 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 who has brought the vehicle into Great Britain 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.

7. The date of expiry of the period for which the vehicle is, subject to compliance with these regulations, exempt from excise duty.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

The Regulations supersede the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations 1957.

Regulation 1 and the Schedule relate to the particulars to be provided to registration authorities as defined in Regulation 7, if exemption from excise duty under the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Orders 1957 and 1962 is to be secured.

Regulation 2 provides for the assignment by registration authorities of special registration marks to motor vehicles which are granted exemption from excise duty and for the exhibition of these marks on vehicles, and requires that certain vehicles to which are assigned their foreign registration marks must carry in addition nationality signs indicating the country in which the vehicles are registered.

Regulation 3 provides for the issue in certain cases of registration cards for motor vehicles by registration authorities and for the surrender and disposal of registration cards in specified circumstances.

Regulation 4 permits a Council as defined in Regulation 7 to issue a licence under the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1962 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 the Act, and the period of validity of the registration mark so assigned.

Regulation 5 requires registration authorities to record particulars relating to exempted vehicles, particulars relating to the persons who brought the vehicles into Great Britain and particulars relating to motor insurance unless all these particulars have already been recorded in Northern Ireland, and requires registration authorities other than the London County Council to forward the particulars to that Council.

Regulation 6 requires Councils other than the London County Council to forward to that Council certain particulars relating to vehicles licensed in accordance with Regulation 4; it also requires the London County Council to preserve these particulars as well as any particulars recorded by themselves, or forwarded to them under Regulation 5, or under the corresponding provisions in Northern Ireland, and to furnish these particulars to certain authorities and persons.