EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Road Vehicles Lighting (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019

S.R. No. 20

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Infrastructure to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under Articles 55(1), (2), (4) and (6) and 110(2) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

2.1. The purpose of the Regulations is to amend the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 ("the Lighting Regulations") to take account of the establishment of a UK wide Trailer Registration Scheme created under powers contained in the Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018.

3. Background

3.1. The Trailer Registration Scheme, which was introduced by the Trailer Registration Regulations 2018, requires drivers of certain types of trailers to carry a registration certificate when travelling internationally and to display the registration number on the rear of the trailer. Illumination of the trailer registration plate is not required.

3.2. These Regulations amend the Lighting Regulations to remove the requirement for NI hauliers to illuminate the trailer registration plate and ensures that NI retains consistency with GB.

4. Consultation

4.1. A UK wide consultation on the Haulage Permits and Trailer Registration Act 2018 was carried out by the Department for Transport (DfT) in May/June 2018. DfT carried out a separate, focused consultation on proposed changes to their equivalent Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989 with key industry bodies including UK wide bodies, the Freight Transport Association and Road Haulage Association. The majority of responses expressed support for the proposals.

5. Equality Impact

5.1. Consideration has been given to compliance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. No equality issues have been identified by the Department.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1. A Regulatory Impact Assessment was not considered necessary as the proposal does not result in any costs or savings to business, charities or the voluntary bodies.

7. Financial Implications

7.1. None

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1. There are no matters of concern relating to compatability with section 24.

9. EU Implications

9.1. None

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. The equivalent GB legislation is contained in paragraph 1 of Schedule 3 to the Trailer Registration Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/1203).

11. Additional Information

11.1. Not applicable