STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1962 No. 1610

ROAD TRAFFIC

The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 1962

Made - - - -	*26th July* 1962
Laid before Parliament	*31st July* 1962
Coming into Operation	*14th August* 1962

The Minister of Transport, in exercise of his powers under section 16 and 23 of the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1962(a) and of all other powers him enabling in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations :—

1.—(1) These Regulations shall come into operation on 14th August 1962 and may be cited as the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations 1962.

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

2. The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1955(c) shall be amended in accordance with the following provisions of these Regulations.

3. In Regulation 1 (3) (interpretation)—

(*a*) after the definition of "limited trade licence" there shall be inserted the following definition :—

"'hours of darkness' means the time between half-an-hour after sunset and half-an-hour before sunrise;";

(*b*) at the end of the definition of "works truck" there shall be added the words "or in connection with road works while at or in the immediate neighbourhood of the site of such works.".

4. In Regulation 14 (which relates to the assignment of registration marks), in the proviso to paragraph (1) and in paragraph (3), for the words "an index mark allotted to the Council followed or preceded by a registered number" there shall be substituted the following words :—

"an index mark allotted to the Council—

(*a*) followed by a registered number, or

(*b*) preceded by a registered number, or

(*c*) followed by a registered number and a single letter of the alphabet which follows that number, or

(*d*) preceded by a registered number and a single letter of the alphabet which precedes that number".

5. At the beginning of Regulation 21 (which relates to the exhibition of registration marks) there shall be added the words "Except as provided by paragraphs 14 and 19 of Schedule 3 to these Regulations,".

(a) 10 & 11 Eliz. 2. c. 13. (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63. (c) S.I. 1955/1664 (1955 II, p. 2353).

6. In Regulation 25 (which relates to the illumination of registration marks) the words "as defined by subsection (4) of section 1 of the Road Transport Lighting Act 1927" shall be omitted.

7. In Regulation 26 (which relates to the position, visibility and illumination of registration marks on vehicles first registered on or after 1st October 1938)—

(*a*) in paragraph (1), the words "the expression 'hours of darkness' has the meaning assigned to it by subsection (4) of section 1 of the Road Transport Lighting Act 1927; and" shall be omitted; and

(*b*) in paragraph (2) (iv), for the proviso there shall be substituted the following proviso:—

"Provided that this sub-paragraph and the preceding Regulation shall not apply to any vehicle at any time when that vehicle is exempted, either wholly or partially, by virtue of regulations under the Road Transport Lighting Act 1957 from showing to the front and to the rear the lights which, but for those regulations, would be required to be shown by that vehicle by virtue of that Act.".

8. For Schedule 3 (which imposes requirements as to registration marks) there shall be substituted the Schedule to these Regulations.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport the 26th July 1962.

(L.S.)

Ernest Marples,
The Minister of Transport.

THE SCHEDULE (See Regulation 8)

REQUIREMENTS AS TO REGISTRATION MARKS

PART I

Diagrams showing alternative arrangements of specimen registration marks



Diagram No. 1



Diagram No. 2



Diagram No. 3



Diagram No. 4



Diagram No. 5



Diagram No. 6



Diagram No. 7



Diagram No. 8



Diagram No. 9



Diagram No. 10



Diagram No. 11



Diagram No. 12

PART II

Provisions to be complied with

1. For the purposes of this Part of this Schedule:—

(*a*) references to a registration mark are references to a registration mark assigned to a vehicle in pursuance of Regulation 14 of these Regulations;

(*b*) any reference to a numbered diagram is a reference to the diagram of that number set out in Part I of this Schedule;

(*c*) the expressions "upper margin", "lower margin" and "side margin", in relation to the black surface upon which a registration mark is inscribed or formed in accordance with paragraph 6 or 7 of this Schedule, mean respectively the space between the upper edge of the said black surface and the nearest part of each letter and figure situated nearest that edge, the space between the lower edge of the said black surface and the nearest part of each letter and figure situated nearest that edge, and the space between a side of the said surface and the nearest part of each letter and figure situated nearest that side;

(*d*) references to a registration mark which is embossed or pressed are references to a registration mark which consists either of a single plate with letters and figures embossed or pressed thereon or with separate letters and figures attached thereto or of separate plates each with a single letter or figure embossed or pressed thereon or attached thereto.

2. Where a registration mark consists of an index mark followed by a registered number it shall at the option of the owner be arranged in conformity with either diagram No. 1 or diagram No. 2 or, in the case of a registration mark assigned to a bicycle and exhibited on the back of the vehicle, being a mark which consists of an index mark comprising two letters followed by a registered number comprising four figures, in conformity with diagram No. 3.

3. Where a registration mark consists of an index mark preceded by a registered number it shall at the option of the owner be arranged in conformity with either diagram No. 4 or diagram No. 5 or, in the case of a registration mark assigned to a bicycle and exhibited on the back of the vehicle, being a mark which consists of an index mark comprising two letters preceded by a registered number comprising four figures, in conformity with diagram No. 6.

4. Where a registration mark consists of an index mark followed by a registered number and a letter it shall at the option of the owner be arranged in conformity with either diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 8 or, in the case of a registration mark assigned to a bicycle and exhibited on the back of the vehicle, being a mark which consists of an index mark comprising three letters followed by a registered number comprising three figures and followed by a letter, in conformity with diagram No. 9.

5. Where a registration mark consists of an index mark preceded by a letter and a registered number it shall at the option of the owner be arranged in conformity with either diagram No. 10 or diagram No. 11 or, in the case of a registration mark assigned to a bicycle and exhibited on the back of the vehicle, being a mark which consists of an index mark comprising three letters preceded by a letter and a registered number comprising three figures, in conformity with diagram No. 12.

6. Unless a registration mark is so constructed that it can be illuminated by transparency or translucency it shall be formed of white, silver or light grey letters and figures upon a black surface and every letter or figure shall be indelibly inscribed upon or so attached to that surface that it cannot readily be detached therefrom and if the letters and figures are exhibited on a flat plate the plate may be constructed of cast or pressed metal having raised letters and figures.

7. If a registration mark is so constructed that it can be illuminated by transparency or translucency it shall be formed of white letters and figures upon a black surface and all the letters and figures shall, when the registration mark is so illuminated during the hours of darkness, appear white against a black background.

8. The size, shape and character of registration marks shall be as prescribed in the following provisions of this Schedule.

9. A registration mark shall at the option of the owner conform either with the provisions of paragraphs 11 to 14 (inclusive) of this Schedule to the exclusion of any of the provisions of paragraphs 15 to 19 (inclusive) thereof, or with the provisions of the said paragraphs 15 to 19 to the exclusion of any of the provisions of the said paragraphs 11 to 14.

10. For the purposes of the following provisions of this Schedule the letter comprised in a registration mark as mentioned in paragraphs 4 and 5 of this Schedule shall be treated as if it were a figure comprised in that mark and accordingly the said provisions shall apply in relation to any such letter as they apply in relation to any such figure and as if the said letter were a figure comprised in the registered number which forms part of that mark.

First group of provisions as to size etc. of registration marks (see paragraph 9)

11. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 14 of this Schedule, each letter and figure shall be 3½ inches high, every part of each letter and figure shall be ¼ inch broad, and the total width of the space taken by each letter and figure, except in the case of the figure "1", shall be 2½ inches.

12. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 14 of this Schedule, there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the black surface upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed of at least ¼ inch and there shall be a side margin on each side of the said surface of at least 1 inch; the space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and between the nearest parts of adjoining figures shall be ¼ inch, except that where the registration mark is embossed or pressed the space between the nearest parts of two adjoining figures "'1" shall be not less than ¼ inch nor more than 2¼ inches and the space between the nearest part of a figure "1" and the nearest part of any other adjoining figure shall be not less than ¼ inch nor more than $1\frac{7}{16}$ inches.

13. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 14 of this Schedule, where the registration mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1, diagram No. 4, diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 10, the space between the upper and lower

lines shall be ¾ inch, where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 3, diagram No. 6, diagram No. 9 or diagram No. 12, the space between the upper and middle lines, and the space between the middle and lower lines, shall in each case be ¾ inch, and where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2, diagram No. 5, diagram No. 8 or diagram No. 11, the space between the letters and the figures shall be 1½ inches, except that where the registration mark is embossed or pressed the said space of 1½ inches may be exceeded by not more than ⅛ inch.

14. As respects the registration mark assigned to a bicycle, an invalid carriage or a pedestrian controlled vehicle—

(1) where the registration mark is exhibited on the front of the vehicle—

(*a*) the plate or surface upon which the mark is inscribed or formed need not be rectangular if the letters and figures comprised in the mark conform as nearly as possible with the arrangement shown in that one of the diagrams set out in this Schedule with which, in accordance with paragraph 2, 3, 4 or 5 of this Schedule, the mark has been selected to conform, and

(*b*) the following requirements may be complied with instead of the requirements specified in paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of this Schedule if each of the said requirements is complied with to the exclusion of each of the requirements specified in the said paragraphs 11, 12 and 13, that is to say:—

(i) each letter and figure shall be 1¾ inches high, every part of each letter and figure shall be ⅝ inch broad, and the total width of the space taken by each letter and figure, except in the case of the figure "1", shall be 1¾ inches,

(ii) there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the black surface upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed of at least ¾ inch and there shall be a side margin on each side of the said surface of at least ¾ inch; the space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and between the nearest parts of adjoining figures shall be ¾ inch, and

(iii) where the mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1, diagram No. 4, diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 10. the space between the upper and lower lines shall be ¾ inch and where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2, diagram No. 5, diagram No. 8 or diagram No. 11, the space between the letters and the figures shall be ¾ inch; and

(2) where the registration mark is exhibited on the back of the vehicle and is so exhibited on a plate—

(*a*) the corners of the plate may be rounded off, the letters comprised in the index mark (if the arrangement shown in diagram No. 1 or diagram No. 7 is selected) or the figures comprised in the registered number (if the arrangement shown in diagram No. 4 or diagram No. 10 is selected) may be placed to the left so, however, that no part of the first of such letters or the first of such figures, as the case may be, is nearer to the left-hand edge of the plate than ¾ inch, and

(*b*) the following requirements may be complied with instead of the requirements specified in paragraphs 11, 12 and 13 of this Schedule if each of the said requirements is complied with to the exclusion of each of the requirements specified in the said paragraphs 11, 12 and 13, that is to say:—

(i) each letter and figure shall be 2½ inches high, every part of each letter and figure shall be ¾ inch broad, and the total width of the space taken by each letter and figure, except in the case of the figure "1", shall be 1¾ inches,

(ii) there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the black surface upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed, and a side margin on each side of the said surface, of at least ¾ inch; the

space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and adjoining figures shall be ½ inch, and

(iii) where the mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1, diagram No. 4, diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 10, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be ½ inch, where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 3, diagram No. 6, diagram No. 9 or diagram No. 12, the space between the upper and middle lines, and the space between the middle and lower lines, shall in each case be ½ inch, and where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2, diagram No. 5, diagram No. 8 or diagram No. 11, the space between the letters and the figures shall be 1 inch.

Alternative group of provisions as to size etc. of registration marks
(see paragraph 9)

15. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 19 of this Schedule, all letters and figures shall be 3½ inches high, every part of each letter and figure shall be $\frac{9}{16}$ inch broad, and the total width of the space taken by each letter and figure, except in the case of the figure " 1 ", shall be 2½ inches.

16. Without prejudice to the provisions of the foregoing paragraph, part of the visible surface of every letter and figure comprised in a registration mark which is embossed or pressed shall be flat, every part of the width of the said flat part shall be not less than ¼ inch, and every such letter and figure shall be so arranged that the said flat part is parallel to the surface of the plate on which the letter or figure appears, and no part of any such letter or figure shall project from the surface of the said plate by more than $\frac{3}{16}$ inch.

17. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 19 of this Schedule, there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the black surface upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed, and a side margin on each side of the said surface, of at least $\frac{7}{16}$ inch; the space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and between the nearest parts of adjoining figures shall be $\frac{7}{16}$ inch, except that where the registration mark is embossed or pressed the space between the nearest parts of two adjoining figures " 1 " shall be not less than $\frac{7}{16}$ inch nor more than 2½ inches and the space between the nearest part of a figure " 1 " and the nearest part of any other adjoining figure shall be not less than $\frac{7}{16}$ inch nor more than $1\frac{5}{32}$ inches.

18. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 19 of this Schedule, where the registration mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1, diagram No. 4, diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 10, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be ½ inch, where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 3, diagram No. 6, diagram No. 9 or diagram No. 12, the space between the upper and middle lines, and the space between the middle and lower lines, shall in each case be ½ inch, and where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2, diagram No. 5, diagram No. 8 or diagram No. 11, the space between the letters and the figures shall be $1\frac{5}{16}$ inches, except that where the registration mark is embossed or pressed the said space of $1\frac{5}{16}$ inches may be exceeded by not more than $\frac{27}{32}$ inch.

19. As respects the registration mark assigned to a bicycle, an invalid carriage or a pedestrian controlled vehicle—

(1) where the registration mark is exhibited on the front of the vehicle—

(*a*) the plate or surface upon which the mark is inscribed or formed need not be rectangular if the letters and figures comprised in the mark conform as nearly as possible with the arrangement shown in that one of the diagrams set out in this Schedule with which, in accordance with paragraph 2, 3, 4 or 5 of this Schedule, the mark has been selected to conform, and

(*b*) the following requirements may be complied with instead of the requirements specified in paragraphs 15, 17 and 18 of this Schedule if each of the said requirements, and each of the requirements specified in paragraph 16 thereof, is complied with to the exclusion of each of the requirements specified in the said paragraphs 15, 17 and 18, that is to say:—

(i) each letter and figure shall be 1½ inches high, every part of each letter and figure shall be $\frac{5}{16}$ inch broad, and the total width of the space taken by each letter and figure, except in the case of the figure "1", shall be 1½ inches,

(ii) there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the black surface upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed, and a side margin on each side of the said surface, of at least ¼ inch; the space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and the nearest parts of adjoining figures shall be $\frac{3}{16}$ inch, and

(iii) where the mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1, diagram No. 4, diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 10, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be ¼ inch and where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2, diagram No. 5, diagram No. 8 or diagram No. 11, the space between the letters and the figures shall be $\frac{9}{16}$ inch; and

(2) where the registration mark is exhibited on the back of the vehicle and is so exhibited on a plate—

(*a*) the corners of the plate may be rounded off, the letters comprised in the index mark (if the arrangement shown in diagram No. 1 or diagram No. 7 is selected) or the figures comprised in the registered number (if the arrangement shown in diagram No. 4 or diagram No. 10 is selected) may be placed to the left so, however, that no part of the first of such letters or the first of such figures, as the case may be, is nearer to the left-hand edge of the plate than ¼ inch, and

(*b*) the following requirements may be complied with instead of the requirements specified in paragraphs 15, 17 and 18 of this Schedule if each of the said requirements, and each of the requirements specified in paragraph 16 thereof, is complied with to the exclusion of each of the requirements specified in the said paragraphs 15, 17 and 18, that is to say—

(i) each letter and figure shall be 2½ inches high, every part of each letter and figure shall be ½ inch broad, and the total width of the space taken by each letter and figure, except in the case of the figure "1", shall be 1½ inches,

(ii) there shall be an upper margin and a lower margin on the black surface upon which the registration mark is inscribed or formed, and a side margin on each side of the said surface, of at least ¼ inch; the space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and adjoining figures shall be ½ inch, and

(iii) where the mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1, diagram No. 4, diagram No. 7 or diagram No. 10, the space between the upper and lower lines shall be ¼ inch, where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 3, diagram No. 6, diagram No. 9 or diagram No. 12, the space between the upper and middle lines, and between the middle and lower lines, shall in each case be ¼ inch, and where it is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2, diagram No. 5, diagram No. 8 or diagram No. 11, the space between the letters and the figures shall be 1 inch.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations amend the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1955 to make, inter alia, further provision as to the registration marks to be assigned to mechanically propelled vehicles. Regulation 4

provides that registration marks, in addition to their consisting of an index mark of the registering council and a registered number as provided by the 1955 Regulations, may also consist of a letter of the alphabet preceded or followed by such an index mark and registered number.

The detailed requirements relating to registration marks both of the new and of the existing kind are contained in the new Schedule to these Regulations which, by Regulation 8, is to be substituted for the Third Schedule to the 1955 Regulations. The requirements relating to the new marks are contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of that Schedule (which provide for the method by which the index mark and registered number and letter comprised in the new registration marks may be arranged) and in paragraphs 8, 9 and 10 of the said Schedule (which provide, inter alia, that all registration marks shall comply with the provisions as to size, shape and character either as specified in paragraphs 11 to 14 of the Schedule—which re-enact the existing provisions—or as specified in paragraphs 15 to 19 of the Schedule—which make new provision in that behalf). The principal amendments made by the remaining provisions of these Regulations are to other provisions of the 1955 Regulations, being amendments consequential on the new provisions contained in the said Schedule.