1955 No. 1664

The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955

Made - - - - 1*st November*, 1955
Laid before Parliament 8*th November*, 1955
Coming into Operation 17*th November*, 1955

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The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation in exercise of his powers under sections 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 18, 20 and 26 of the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949(a), and section 25 of that Act, as extended by section 12 of the Transport Act, 1953(b), and of all other powers him enabling in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Commencement, Citation, Revocations, and Interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations shall come into operation on the seventeenth day of November, 1955, and may be cited as "The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1955".

(2) The Regulations specified in the First Schedule to these Regulations are hereby revoked, without prejudice, however, to the validity of anything done thereunder or to any liability incurred in respect of any act or omission before the date of the coming into operation of these Regulations, and any application or declaration made, licence granted or certificate or other document issued before the said date shall, if in force immediately before that date, continue in force and have effect as if made, granted or issued under the corresponding provision of these Regulations.

(3) In these Regulations, except where the context otherwise requires, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say:—

"the Act" means the Vehicles (Excise) Act, 1949;

"approved" means approved by the Minister;

"bicycle" means a mechanically propelled bicycle (including a motor scooter, a bicycle with an attachment for propelling it by mechanical power and a bicycle used for drawing a trailer or sidecar) not exceeding 8 hundredweight in weight unladen;

(a) 12, 13 & 14 Geo. 6. c. 89. (b) 1 & 2 Eliz. 2. c. 13.

"county" has the same meaning as in the Act and "Council" means the Council of a county;

"General Trade Licence" and "Limited Trade Licence" have the meanings respectively assigned to them by section 10 of the Act;

"invalid carriage" means a mechanically propelled vehicle (including a cycle with an attachment for propelling it by mechanical power) which does not exceed 5 hundredweight in weight unladen and is adapted and used for an invalid or invalids;

"Local Taxation Officer" means any officer of a Council to whom, in accordance with the provisions of Article 2 of the Road Vehicles (Excise Duties and Licences) Order, 1953(a), any of the powers and duties of the Council in relation to the levying of duties on licences for mechanically propelled vehicles have been delegated;

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

"owner" in relation to a vehicle means the person by whom the vehicle is kept and used and the expression "ownership" shall be construed accordingly;

"pedestrian controlled vehicle" means a mechanically propelled vehicle with three or more wheels which does not exceed 8 hundredweight in weight unladen and which is neither constructed nor adapted for use nor used for the carriage of a driver or passenger;

"prescribed" means prescribed by the Road Vehicles (Excise) (Prescribed Particulars) Regulations, 1955(b);

"tricycle" means a mechanically propelled tricycle (including a motor scooter and a tricycle with an attachment for propelling it by mechanical power) not exceeding 8 hundredweight in weight unladen and not being a pedestrian controlled vehicle;

"works truck" means a mechanically propelled vehicle designed for use in private premises and used on a road only in passing from one part of any such premises to another or to other private premises in the immediate neighbourhood.

(4) In relation to every vehicle in respect of which the transport levy is for the time being chargeable in accordance with the provisions of section 12 of the Transport Act, 1953, any reference in these Regulations to any duty payable under the Act shall include a reference to the transport levy payable in respect of the vehicle.

(5) Any reference in these Regulations to any enactment shall be construed as a reference to that enactment as amended by any subsequent enactment.

(6) The Interpretation Act, 1889(c), shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

PART I.—LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF MECHANICALLY PROPELLED VEHICLES

Applications for licences

2. The owner of a mechanically propelled vehicle who desires to obtain a licence for that vehicle shall apply for the licence either to the Council in whose area the vehicle will be ordinarily kept or, where the owner has not previously obtained or had transferred to him in accordance with paragraph (2) of Regulation 9 of these Regulations a licence in respect of the vehicle, to the Council in whose area the vehicle is at the time of the application, and make the prescribed declaration and furnish the prescribed particulars:

(a) S.I. 1953/1560 (1953 I, p. 983). (b) S.I. 1955/1665 (p. 2330 above).
(c) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

Provided that if the vehicle is thereafter to be ordinarily kept in the area of another Council, the Council issuing the licence shall transfer the Registration Book to be issued in respect of the vehicle under these Regulations direct together with the prescribed declaration and the prescribed particulars and other registration papers (if any) to the other Council, and the vehicle shall, thereafter, be registered in the Register of that Council and the Registration Book shall be forwarded by that Council to the holder of the licence.

3. A vehicle shall be deemed to be ordinarily kept in the area of the Council in whose area is situated the garage or other place in which the vehicle is ordinarily kept:

Provided that where the owner satisfies the Council of the area in which he declares his principal place of business or usual place of abode to be situated that a vehicle is not ordinarily kept in any one area, application for a licence may be made to that Council and a licence issued by them.

Exhibition of licence on vehicle

4.—(1) For the purpose of this Regulation the term "licence" includes a licence for the next ensuing licensing period issued in advance by any Council or Post Office.

(2) In the case of all mechanically propelled vehicles (except tramcars) the licence shall be attached to and carried on the vehicle at all times when the vehicle is in use on a public road and, subject as herein provided, in a holder in compliance with the specification set out in the Second Schedule to these Regulations.

(3) The licence shall be carried on the vehicle:—

(a) *In the case of bicycles (other than bicycles used for drawing sidecars), tricycles and invalid carriages:—*

In a conspicuous position on the near side of the vehicle in front of the driving seat;

(b) *In the case of bicycles used for drawing sidecars:—*

On the near side of the handle-bar of the bicycle or the near side of the combination in front of the driving seat;

(c) *In the case of pedestrian controlled vehicles:—*

In a conspicuous position on the near side of the vehicle; and

(d) *In the case of all other vehicles (except when placed on or adjacent to the wind screen as hereinafter provided):—*

On the near side of the vehicle facing toward the near side of the road and not less than 2 feet 6 inches nor more than 6 feet 6 inches from the ground level between two parallel lines, the first drawn vertically through the rearmost part of the driving seat or cab (or where no such fitting exists the foot plate), and the second drawn vertically 6 inches in front of the base of the front glass wind screen where fitted, or where no such wind screen is fitted, through a point 4 feet forward of the first line:

Provided that in the case of a vehicle fitted with a front glass wind screen extending across the vehicle to the near side, the licence may be carried facing forwards on the near (left) lower corner of the glass of such wind screen, or within 2 inches of the glass either in front or behind it and so as to be clearly visible from in front at all times by daylight. In the event of the licence being carried actually upon a glass portion of the vehicle, and otherwise complying with this Regulation,

the obligation that it shall be carried in a metal holder with a transparent glass cover shall not be enforced if it is carried in a weatherproof licence container.

(4) The licence shall be placed and carried (except when placed on or adjacent to the wind screen as hereinbefore provided) so as to be clearly visible at all times by daylight to a person standing at the near side of the vehicle.

Alteration of licence and similar offences

5. No person shall (either by writing, drawing or in any other manner) alter, deface, mutilate or add anything to any licence for any mechanically propelled vehicle or exhibit upon any mechanically propelled vehicle any licence which has been altered, defaced, mutilated or added to as aforesaid or upon which the figures or particulars have become illegible or the colour has become altered by fading or otherwise and no person shall exhibit any colourable imitation of any licence.

Issue, form and production of Registration Book

6.—(1) A Registration Book containing such particulars relative to the vehicle in respect of which it is issued as the Minister may from time to time direct shall be issued to every owner of a mechanically propelled vehicle (other than a tramcar) in respect of which a licence is issued except in those cases where there has been made the prescribed declaration and there have been furnished the prescribed particulars appropriate to over six vehicles of uniform type and make in the same ownership. In such last mentioned cases the owner shall, before selling or otherwise disposing of a vehicle in respect of which such a declaration has been made, apply to the Council by whom the vehicle is registered for a Registration Book in respect of such vehicle and upon receipt of such application the Council shall issue such Registration Book.

(2) The Registration Book shall be produced by the owner at any reasonable time for inspection by a Police Constable or Local Taxation Officer.

(3) No person shall deface or mutilate any Registration Book or alter or obliterate any entry made therein or (except as provided by these Regulations) make any entry in or addition to such Registration Book.

Notification of alteration to vehicle

7. If any alteration (other than an alteration of the nature referred to in Regulation 8 of these Regulations) shall be made in a vehicle after it has been licensed and registered which affects the registration particulars in respect of which the last prescribed declaration has been made, the owner shall forthwith, in writing, notify such alteration to the Council with whom such vehicle is registered and at the same time deliver up to that Council his Registration Book for amendment:

Provided that where such alteration renders inaccurate any of the particulars shown upon the licence for the vehicle, he shall also at the same time deliver up the licence for the vehicle to the Council, who shall forthwith issue without charge an amended licence showing the particulars so notified.

Notification of change of character or use of vehicle increasing duty payable

8. If the character or the use of a vehicle shall be altered so as to render payable under section 13 of the Act duty at a higher rate than that at which duty has been paid, the owner shall make the prescribed declaration

and furnish the prescribed particulars appropriate to the altered conditions, shall forward the same to the Council together with the licence and the Registration Book and shall pay the difference between—

(*a*) the amount of the duty which would, at the rate of duty appropriate to the vehicle before the alteration in character or use, be payable on a new licence for the period commencing at the date when the higher rate of duty became applicable and expiring at the end of the period for which the licence was originally issued, and

(*b*) the amount of the duty which would be payable on a new licence for the like period at the rate of duty appropriate to the vehicle as altered in character or use,

and the Council shall, subject to the proviso to Regulation 13 of these Regulations, issue to him a new licence and return the Registration Book.

Transfer of vehicle

9.—(1) On the sale or other change of ownership of a vehicle the then owner of the vehicle shall deliver the Registration Book to the transferee or other new owner and forthwith notify in writing the change of ownership to the Council whose name appears in the Registration Book as the last registration authority stating the registration mark, the make and class of vehicle and the name and address of the person to whom the vehicle has been transferred.

(2) The transferee or other new owner of the vehicle shall if he does not intend to use the vehicle (otherwise than under a General Trade Licence or a Limited Trade Licence) forthwith notify in writing such change of ownership to the Council referred to in paragraph (1) of this Regulation stating the registration mark, the make and class of vehicle and the name and address of the person from whom such vehicle has been transferred, but if he intends to use the vehicle (otherwise than under a General Trade Licence or a Limited Trade Licence) upon any roads repairable at the public expense he shall before so using the vehicle insert his name and address in the appropriate part of the Registration Book and deliver it to such Council and unless the current licence has been delivered to him by the then owner, which delivery if the provisions of this Regulation are otherwise complied with shall operate as a transfer of the said licence, shall obtain a licence in respect of the vehicle in accordance with these Regulations. The Council shall in due course return the Registration Book to the transferee or other new owner unless the vehicle is ordinarily to be kept in the area of another Council in which case the Council receiving the Registration Book as aforesaid shall transfer the Registration Book and other registration papers (if any) to the other Council and the vehicle shall, thereafter, be registered in the Register of that Council and the Registration Book shall be forwarded by that Council to the transferee or other new owner. Upon expiry of the current licence (if so transferred) the transferee or other new owner shall, if he intends to renew the licence, make application therefor under the provisions of Regulation 2 of these Regulations.

Notification of change of address of owner

10. On a change of address the owner shall enter particulars of his new address in the space provided in the Registration Book, and shall forthwith deliver up the book with such particulars entered in it to the Council by whom the vehicle is registered, who shall note the change of address and cause the book to be returned to the owner forthwith:

Provided that where the vehicle is ordinarily to be kept in the area of another Council the Council receiving the book as aforesaid shall instead of noting the change of address transfer the book and other registration papers (if any) to the other Council who shall note the change of address and cause the book to be returned to the owner forthwith.

Notification of destruction or permanent export of vehicle

11. When any vehicle is broken up, destroyed or sent permanently out of Great Britain, the owner shall notify the Council with whom such vehicle is registered, and shall at the same time deliver the Registration Book to such Council.

Application for duplicate licence or Registration Book

12.—(1) If a licence granted or a Registration Book issued by a Council under these Regulations has been lost, destroyed, mutilated or accidentally defaced or the figures and particulars thereon have become illegible or the colour thereof has become altered by fading or otherwise the owner of the vehicle shall apply to the Council with whom the vehicle is registered for the grant or issue to him of a duplicate licence or Registration Book, as the case may be, and the Council upon being satisfied as to such loss, destruction, mutilation, defacement, illegibility or alteration as aforesaid and where the licence or Registration Book has been mutilated or accidentally defaced or the figures and particulars thereon have become illegible or the colour thereof has become altered by fading or otherwise upon the receipt of the licence or Registration Book shall issue a duplicate so marked on payment of a fee of five shillings, and the duplicate so issued shall have the same effect as the original licence or Registration Book:

Provided that where the Council is satisfied that the figures or particulars have become illegible or the colour of the licence has become altered by fading or otherwise without any act or neglect on the part of the holder of the licence they shall issue a duplicate so marked, free of charge.

(2) In the case of the loss of any licence or Registration Book, if at any time after the grant or issue of a duplicate licence or Registration Book the original licence or Registration Book shall be found then the owner of the vehicle shall take all reasonable steps to obtain possession of such original and shall return it to the Council who granted or issued the duplicate thereof.

Issue of licence and Registration Book

13. Upon the receipt by a Council of the prescribed declaration and the prescribed particulars and upon payment by the applicant of the amount of duty payable under the Act in respect of the vehicle the Council to whom application is made shall:—

(i) if they are satisfied that the vehicle in respect of which the application is made is ordinarily kept within their area or is one in respect of which they are otherwise authorised to issue a licence, issue to the applicant a licence in such form as may be appropriate to the type or class of vehicle in respect of which the application is made;

(ii) enter upon such licence before issue thereof:—

(*a*) the registration mark of the vehicle;

(*b*) the horse-power, cylinder capacity, maximum seating capacity or weight unladen (as the case may require) in respect of which duty has been paid in any case where the rate of duty depends upon one of those factors, provided that where duty has been paid with reference to cylinder capacity or weight unladen at the maximum rate the letters M A X shall be inserted;

(*c*) the class and make of the vehicle;

(*d*) the annual or quarterly rate of duty according to the form of licence issued; and

(*e*) a stamp or other sufficient mark indicating the name of the authority by whom the licence is issued, and the date of issue;

(iii) prepare and issue to such applicant or forward to another Council as these Regulations may require the Registration Book with the appropriate particulars entered thereon;

and shall either retain the said prescribed declaration and said prescribed particulars or forward them to another Council as these Regulations may require:

Provided that a Council shall not be required to issue any licence unless they are satisfied that the licence is the appropriate licence for the vehicle in respect of which the said declaration has been made and the said particulars have been furnished.

Assignment of registration marks

14.—(1) The index mark and registration number which is declared to have been the index mark and registration number of any vehicle at the 31st day of December, 1920, shall be the registration mark of the vehicle and shall thereafter attach to that vehicle until the same is broken up, destroyed or sent permanently out of Great Britain:

Provided that if a Council are not satisfied that such index mark and registration number were at the 31st day of December, 1920, registered in respect of that vehicle under Article III or Article IV of the Motor Car (Registration and Licensing) Order, 1903(**a**), or under Article III or Article IV of the Motor Car Registration and Licensing (Scotland) Order, 1903(**a**), or under Article III or Article IV of the Motor Car (Registration and Licensing) (Ireland) Order, 1903(**a**), as the case may be, they should assign to the vehicle a new registration mark consisting of an index mark allotted to the Council followed or preceded by a registered number and the licence and Registration Book, if any, already issued in respect of the vehicle shall be delivered up to the Council who shall issue an amended licence and Registration Book containing the new registration mark.

(2) The registration mark of a vehicle in respect of which an International Certificate for Motor Vehicles has been issued shall during the currency of such Certificate, if the owner does not intend to apply for an International Circulation Permit, be the registration or other mark allotted to the vehicle by the country which issued the Certificate. The Council which issues any licence in respect of any such vehicle shall notify to the London County Council the registration or other mark of the vehicle, particulars of the International Certificate for Motor Vehicles and the name and address of the person to whom the licence has been issued.

(3) In the case of any other vehicle the Council shall assign to the vehicle a registration mark consisting of an index mark allotted to the Council followed or preceded by a registered number and that registration mark shall thereafter attach to that vehicle until the same is broken up, destroyed or sent permanently out of Great Britain.

Evidence as to conformity of vehicle with prescribed particulars

15. The Council may before they issue the Registration Book to the owner of a vehicle licensed by them require to be satisfied by the inspection of the vehicle or the production of other sufficient evidence that the vehicle in respect

(**a**) *See* S.R. & O. Rev. 1903, VIII, Locomotive, pp. 23, 44 and 63 respectively.

of which such book is to be issued in fact accords with the prescribed particulars furnished with respect to the vehicle.

Proof of unladen weight of vehicle

16. The Council may at any time, either before or after the issue of a licence, require the owner of a vehicle in respect of which duty is or may be payable upon the basis of weight unladen to furnish the prescribed declaration of weight, and may if they think fit, by not less than seven days' notice in writing, require the owner to produce the vehicle at a specified time at a specified weighbridge together with any alternative or additional body and any alternative parts which are by virtue of section 26 of the Act required to be included in its unladen weight, and the owner shall cause the same to be weighed at that time and place in the presence of an officer of the Council.

Renewal of licences

17. Application for renewal of a licence may be made not more than 14 days before the expiry of the licence, either to the Council with whom the vehicle is registered or at any Post Office authorised for that purpose by the Postmaster General within the area of that Council, but renewal of the licence under this Regulation shall not be made at a Post Office—

(*a*) if there has been a change of ownership since the date on which the licence was issued ; or

(*b*) if any alteration has been made to the vehicle since that date or there is any change in the use thereof so as in either case to render payable under the Act duty at a rate different from the rate at which duty was last paid ; or

(*c*) after the expiration of 14 days from the date on which the licence expired ; or

(*d*) unless the old licence is delivered up to the Post Office with the application ; or

(*e*) to any person engaged in the business of letting mechanically propelled vehicles on hire if the vehicle in respect of which the application is made is intended to be used solely for the purpose of being let on hire and driven by the person by whom the vehicle is hired or by persons under his control ; or

(*f*) if the vehicle in respect of which the application is made is chargeable with duty under section 4 or section 5 of the Act.

Surrender of licences

18. Where from any cause a licence becomes void otherwise than by effluxion of time, it shall forthwith be delivered up to the Council with whom the vehicle was last registered.

Registration of vehicles by Councils

19. Every Council shall establish and keep in such form as the Minister may direct a record (in these Regulations referred to as "the Register") of the registration of mechanically propelled vehicles.

Allocation of index marks to Councils

20. The index marks allotted to Councils shall be the index marks allotted to them under the Road Vehicles (Index Marks) Regulations, 1951(**a**), as amended by the Road Vehicles (Index Marks) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955(**b**).

(**a**) S.I. 1951/1380 (1951 II, p. 562). (**b**) S.I. 1955/1666 (p. 2343 above).

Exhibition of registration marks

21. The registration mark of a vehicle shall be exhibited on a flat rectangular plate or on a flat unbroken rectangular surface forming part of the vehicle. In each case the registration mark shall conform as to lettering, numbering and otherwise, with the provisions set out in the Third Schedule to these Regulations.

Position and visibility of registration marks

22. Save as hereinafter provided in Regulation 26 of these Regulations:—

(1) The registration mark of any vehicle not being a works truck shall be exhibited on the front of, and on the back of, the vehicle in a vertical position, so that every letter or figure of the registration mark is vertical and easily distinguishable, in the case of the letters and figures placed on the front of the vehicle, from in front of the vehicle, and in the case of the letters and figures placed on the back of the vehicle, from behind the vehicle.

(2) The registration mark of a works truck shall be exhibited either on both sides or on the back of the vehicle, in a vertical position so that every letter or figure of the registration mark is vertical and easily distinguishable, in the case of the letters and figures placed on any side of the vehicle, from that side, and in the case of the letters and figures placed on the back of the vehicle, from behind the vehicle.

(3) In the case of a bicycle, an invalid carriage or a pedestrian controlled vehicle the front registration mark may be displayed either—

(*a*) on a flat plate having duplicate faces both conforming with the Third Schedule to these Regulations, and fixed on the vehicle in a vertical position, or

(*b*) on both sides of the vehicle in a vertical position on a flat unbroken surface forming part of the front mudguard

in such a manner that from whichever side the vehicle is viewed the letters and figures on one or other face of the plate or side of the mudguard, as the case may be, are easily distinguishable although they may not be distinguishable from the front of the vehicle.

(4) No other figures or letters, and no design or ornamentation shall be placed near to any registration mark in such a manner as to be liable to render it more difficult to read or distinguish such registration mark when the vehicle is in motion.

Exhibition of registration marks on trailers

23.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this Regulation, when one or more vehicles of any kind are drawn by a mechanically propelled vehicle, the registration mark required to be exhibited on the back of that mechanically propelled vehicle, or a duplicate of such registration mark, shall be exhibited on the back of the rearmost vehicle drawn in the same manner as the registration mark is required to be exhibited upon the back of the drawing vehicle.

(2) When one or more vehicles of any kind are drawn by a restricted vehicle, the registration mark required to be exhibited on the back of that restricted vehicle or a duplicate of such registration mark need not be exhibited on the back of the rearmost vehicle drawn, if instead there is exhibited on the back of such last mentioned vehicle the registration mark required to be exhibited on the back of any other restricted vehicle in the ownership of the person in whose ownership is the drawing vehicle in the same manner as the registration mark is required to be exhibited upon the back of that other restricted vehicle.

For the purposes of this paragraph the expression "restricted vehicle" means either such a vehicle as is mentioned in paragraph (*a*) of subsection (2) of section 4 of the Act or a vehicle which is exempt from duty by reason of the provisions of subsection (4) of section 7 of the Act.

Supply of registration plates by Councils

24. A Council with whom a vehicle is registered may, if they think fit, supply to the owner of the vehicle, if he so desires, plates bearing the registration mark assigned to the vehicle, and may make a charge for them.

Illumination of registration marks

25. Save as hereinafter provided in Regulation 26 of these Regulations, whenever during the hours of darkness as defined by subsection (4) of section 1 of the Road Transport Lighting Act, 1927(**a**), a vehicle not being a works truck is upon a public road, a lamp shall be kept burning on the vehicle, so contrived as to illuminate by means of reflection, transparency, or otherwise, and render easily distinguishable every letter and figure of the registration mark exhibited on the back of the vehicle or on the rearmost vehicle attached to the back of the vehicle, as the case may be.

Position, visibility and illumination of registration marks on vehicles first registered on or after 1st October, 1938

26.—(1) For the purpose of this Regulation 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 the expression "observer" means a person standing on the same plane as the vehicle at any point which is more than 10 feet away from the registration mark within a square described on the ground, behind the vehicle in the case of the rear registration mark and in front of the vehicle in the case of the front registration mark, so that one corner of the square is immediately below the registration mark and that the diagonal of the square, drawn from the said corner, is the prolongation of a line parallel to the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.

(2) Every mechanically propelled vehicle registered for the first time on or after the 1st day of October, 1938, not being a works truck shall comply with the following requirements in place of those of Regulations 22 and 25 of these Regulations:—

(i) The registration mark shall be exhibited on the front of, and on the back of, the vehicle.

(ii) Save as provided in sub-paragraph (iii) of this paragraph the registration mark of every motor vehicle shall be exhibited so that in normal daylight the letters and figures of the front and the rear registration mark shall be easily distinguishable by an observer in front of or behind the vehicle, as the case may be, the diagonal of the square aforesaid being 60 feet in the case of a bicycle, an invalid carriage or a pedestrian controlled vehicle, and 75 feet in every other case.

(iii) In the case of a bicycle, an invalid carriage or a pedestrian controlled vehicle the front registration mark may be displayed either—

(*a*) on a flat plate having duplicate faces both conforming with the Third Schedule to these Regulations, and fixed on the vehicle in a vertical position, or

(*b*) on both sides of the vehicle in a vertical position on a flat unbroken surface forming part of the front mudguard

in such a manner that from whichever side the vehicle is viewed the letters and figures on one or other face of the plate or side of the

(a) 17 & 18 Geo. 5. c. 37.

mudguard, as the case may be, are easily distinguishable although they may not be distinguishable from the front of the vehicle.

(iv) Whenever during the hours of darkness a mechanically propelled vehicle is upon a public road, a lamp shall be kept burning on the vehicle so contrived as to illuminate by means of reflection, transparency or otherwise, every letter and figure of the registration mark exhibited on the back of the vehicle or on the rearmost vehicle attached to the back of the vehicle as the case may be, and to render them easily distinguishable in the absence of fog by an observer behind the vehicle, the diagonal of the square aforesaid being 50 feet in the case of a bicycle, an invalid carriage or a pedestrian controlled vehicle, and 60 feet in every other case:

Provided that this sub-paragraph and the last preceding Regulation shall not apply to any mechanically propelled vehicle which by virtue of regulations made under the Road Transport Lighting Acts, 1927 to 1953, is exempted either wholly or partially 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 those Acts.

(3) No other figures or letters and no design or ornamentation shall be placed near to any registration mark in such a manner as to be liable to render it more difficult to read or distinguish such registration mark when the vehicle is in motion.

Applications to Councils for registration particulars

27. A Council shall, upon application, supply free of charge to any other Council or to any superior officer of police or constable authorised by such officer or to any Collector of Customs and Excise full particulars concerning any vehicle registered with them, and, upon payment of one shilling, to any person who may show to the satisfaction of the Council that he has reasonable cause therefor the registered name and address of the owner of any vehicle registered with them together with a copy of the particulars shown upon the last licence issued in respect of that vehicle.

Application for refund on surrender of licence

28.—(1) The holder of a licence who intends to surrender such licence and claim a refund of duty in accordance with the provisions of section 12 of the Act or in accordance with those provisions as applied by section 12 of the Transport Act, 1953, shall make an application in writing signed by him to the Council whose name appears in the Registration Book as the last registration authority, and at the same time shall deliver up his licence to the Council and where the licence is a General Trade Licence return any plates issued to him in connection with that licence.

(2) Where a Council is satisfied that a vehicle in respect of which a licence has been taken out has not been used upon any road repairable at the public expense at any time during the currency of the licence or that a General Trade Licence or Limited Trade Licence under Part II of these Regulations for which duty has been paid has not, in fact, been used at any time during its currency, the holder of the licence or General Trade Licence or Limited Trade Licence (as the case may be) shall upon surrender of such licence and the return of any licence, plates or book issued to him in connection with a General Trade Licence or Limited Trade Licence be entitled to a refund of the duty paid. Any such surrender may be made and duty refunded notwithstanding that the period for which the licence, General Trade Licence or Limited Trade Licence (as the case may be) was issued has not at the time of the surrender expired.

PART II.—TRADE LICENCES

General Trade Licences

29. The following set of Regulations shall apply to General Trade Licences, that is to say:—

Article A.—A person being a manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in mechanically propelled vehicles who desires pursuant to section 10 of the Act to obtain a General Trade Licence in respect of:—

(*a*) all vehicles used by him, or

(*b*) all vehicles used by him of the classes liable to duty under section 2 of the Act,

shall apply to the Council in whose area his business premises are situate and make the prescribed declaration and furnish the prescribed particulars.

Article B.—(1) The Council on being satisfied that the applicant is a manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in mechanically propelled vehicles may issue to him the appropriate licence in accordance with the application. Every such licence shall contain:—

1. Name and address of person to whom the licence is issued.
2. Number of trade plate allotted.
3. Date of expiry of licence.
4. Amount of duty paid.
5. Date stamp of office of issue.
6. Serial number of licence.

(2) The Council shall supply free of charge with each General Trade Licence, one plate (with a holder for the licence) for fixing in front and one plate for fixing at the back of a vehicle provided that where application is made and duty paid in respect of a licence for all vehicles the applicant upon application made to the Council and upon satisfying the Council that such plates are properly required by him shall also be entitled without further payment to plates appropriate for the classes of vehicles liable to duty under section 2 of the Act.

(3) The plates and licence holder to be supplied by the Council shall conform to such specifications as the Minister may from time to time direct and shall not be altered in any way after they have been so supplied. The plates and licence holder shall remain the property of the Council and, at any time after the licence in respect of which they have been issued has expired and has not been renewed, they shall be returned on demand to the Council by whom they were issued.

The fixing of an identity certificate issued to the holder of a carrier's licence issued under Part I of the Road and Rail Traffic Act, 1933(a), to the plates or licence holder shall not be deemed to be an alteration thereof for the purposes of this paragraph.

(4) The plates shall be fixed in front and at the back of the vehicle upon which they may be in use in the manner prescribed by these Regulations, with respect to the registration marks assigned to vehicles under these Regulations and shall be carried at all times when the vehicle is in use on a public road under a General Trade Licence.

The licence without any alteration thereof or addition thereto shall be carried, properly fixed in the holder attached to the front plate so as to be clearly visible at all times by daylight from in front of the vehicle, at all times when a vehicle is in use on a public road under that licence.

(a) 23 & 24 Geo. 5. c. 53.

(5) The holder of a General Trade Licence shall notify the Council by whom it was issued of any change of his address.

Article C.—A General Trade Licence shall not be used by any person other than the person to whom the same is issued and the person to whom the same is issued shall not allow or suffer the licence or the plates issued in connection therewith to be used by any other person but no offence under this Article shall be deemed to have been committed if the person to whom the licence is issued or a person *bonâ fide* in his employ and acting under his authority is present and in charge of the vehicle or if such vehicle is constructed for use by one person only and is being used by a prospective purchaser for the purpose of test or trial.

Article D.—(1) A General Trade Licence shall not be used upon any vehicle other than a mechanically propelled vehicle which is in the possession of the holder of such licence in the course of his business as a manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in mechanically propelled vehicles or is a mechanically propelled vehicle which is for the time being laid up by its owner.

(2) A General Trade Licence shall not at any time be used upon a vehicle which is being used for the conveyance of passengers for profit or reward.

(3) No vehicle shall be used upon a public road under a General Trade Licence for any purpose other than a purpose for which such vehicle is authorised by this Article to be used under such licence.

(4) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this Article a mechanically propelled vehicle may be used upon a public road under a General Trade Licence—

(*a*) if it is a vehicle which is for the time being laid up by its owner for the purpose of moving it from the place where it is stored to some other place of storage, or

(*b*) if it is not such a vehicle

(i) with or without a trailer for any purpose connected with the business as a manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in mechanically propelled vehicles of the holder of the licence, or

(ii) for the purpose of drawing a trailer in connection with any business as a manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in trailers carried on by the holder of the licence in conjunction with his business as a manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in mechanically propelled vehicles, or

(iii) with or without a trailer whilst the vehicle is *bonâ fide* being used for any of the said purposes for any other additional purpose of the holder of the licence.

Article E.—It shall not be necessary for a vehicle upon which the plates issued under these Regulations and a General Trade Licence are being properly carried, used and displayed to carry any other registration mark or licence in respect of the vehicle.

Limited Trade Licences

30. The following set of Regulations shall apply to Limited Trade Licences, that is to say:—

Article A.—The provisions of Articles A, B, C, D (except paragraphs (3) and (4) thereof) and E of the set of Regulations applicable to General Trade Licences shall apply to Limited Trade Licences as if they were

herein repeated with the substitution of the words " Limited Trade Licence " for the words " General Trade Licence " wherever they occur.

Article B.—(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of this Article the holder of a Limited Trade Licence may use under that licence on a public road any mechanically propelled vehicle for which such licence is appropriate with or without a trailer attached thereto if the mechanically propelled vehicle is being used for any of the following purposes:—

(i) For its test or trial in the ordinary course of construction or repair or immediately after completion in either such case.

(ii) For proceeding to or from a public weighbridge for ascertaining its unladen weight or to or from any place for its registration or inspection by a Council.

(iii) For its test or trial for the benefit of a prospective purchaser; for proceeding at the instance of a prospective purchaser to any place for the purpose of such test or trial; or for returning after such test or trial.

(iv) For delivering it to the place where the purchaser intends to keep it.

(v) For delivering it from his premises to the premises of another manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in mechanically propelled vehicles or removing it from the premises of another manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in mechanically propelled vehicles direct to his own premises.

(vi) For proceeding to or returning from a workshop in which a body is to be or has been fitted to it or it is to be or has been painted or repaired.

(vii) For towing or carrying another vehicle which, while being driven upon a public road, has become unable to proceed under its own power, from the place where it has broken down to a place for repair or storage, or for towing a trolley vehicle within the meaning of the Road Traffic Act, 1930(a).

(viii) For proceeding from the premises of a manufacturer or repairer of or dealer in mechanically propelled vehicles to a place from which it is to be transported by train, ship or aircraft or for proceeding to the premises of such a manufacturer, repairer or dealer from a place to which it has been so transported.

(ix) For proceeding to or returning from any garage, auction room or other place at which vehicles are usually stored or usually or periodically offered for sale and at which the vehicle is to be or has been stored or is to be or has been offered for sale as the case may be.

(x) For driving the mechanically propelled vehicle, if it is for the time being laid up by its owner, from the place where it is stored to some other place of storage.

(2) Nothing in the preceding provisions of this Article shall authorise the use of a mechanically propelled vehicle or any trailer drawn thereby under a Limited Trade Licence if the duplicate entries from the book

(a) 20 & 21 Geo. 5. c. 43.

referred to in Article C of this Regulation are not properly completed and carried along with the vehicle or for any of the following purposes:—

(*a*) to carry any person on the vehicle or any trailer drawn thereby other than:—

(i) the driver of the vehicle, or in the case of a steam vehicle where on grounds of public safety it is proper and expedient that there shall be two drivers simultaneously engaged in controlling the mechanism of the vehicle, those two drivers;

(ii) any person carried for the purpose of carrying out his statutory duties in connection with an inspection of the vehicle or trailer;

(iii) one person travelling in a broken-down vehicle which is being towed in accordance with the provisions of sub-paragraph (vii) of paragraph (1) of this Article; and

(iv) not more than two other persons each of whom is either—

I. the holder of the licence or an employee of his whose presence is, in either case, necessary for the purpose for which the vehicle is being used, or

II. a prospective purchaser for whom a test is being made or a person nominated by a prospective purchaser, who is, in either case, carried on the vehicle itself and not on any trailer drawn thereby;

(*b*) to carry any goods or load whatsoever other than such a vehicle as is referred to in sub-paragraph (vii) of paragraph (1) of this Article or a load which is necessary for the purpose of testing the vehicle or the trailer as the case may be. Any load carried shall consist solely of some ordinary form of ballast such as sand, gravel, scrap iron or the like and no purpose other than that of testing the vehicle or trailer shall be served by such carriage. In particular no such vehicle or trailer shall be used for the carriage of goods in the course of trade or for the delivery or removal of goods and any load carried (other than such vehicle as aforesaid) shall be brought back to its place of loading without, except in the case of accident, any part thereof having been removed from the vehicle or trailer and without the load having at any time since it was loaded on the vehicle or trailer been used or carried otherwise than as ballast for the purpose of testing the vehicle or trailer.

In this sub-paragraph a trailer attached by partial superimposition to a mechanically propelled vehicle (not being such a vehicle as is referred to in sub-paragraph (vii) of paragraph (1) of this Article) shall not be deemed to be a load carried by the mechanically propelled vehicle and the expression "goods" shall not be taken to include goods which are being carried otherwise than for hire or reward if the mechanically propelled vehicle and the trailer (if any) drawn thereby are new vehicles which are in course of delivery to a purchaser or to a railway station, port or airfield for export.

(3) No vehicle shall be used upon a public road under a Limited Trade Licence with or without a trailer for any purpose other than a purpose for which the vehicle is authorised by paragraph (1) of this Article to be used under such Licence.

(4) In this Article the expression "trailer" shall not be taken to include a mechanically propelled vehicle unless the vehicle is one which is authorised to be carried by the mechanically propelled vehicle by which it is drawn and no other trailer is drawn by that vehicle.

Article C.—(1) Upon the issue of a Limited Trade Licence the Council shall also supply to the person to whom such licence is issued a book in a form approved by the Minister in which the holder of such licence shall on each occasion and before such licence is used complete in duplicate the entries for which provision is therein made. One copy of such entries shall remain in the book and the other copy shall be carried with the vehicle during the whole of the journey to which such entries relate, and shall be produced at any time during such journey by the driver for inspection upon demand made by any Police Constable or Local Taxation Officer.

(2) Such books shall be produced at all reasonable times for inspection by any Police Constable or Local Taxation Officer and shall be kept available for not less than six months from the date on which the last entries were completed in accordance with the last preceding paragraph for inspection at the place specified on application for the Limited Trade Licence as the place at which the book will be kept.

(3) No person shall deface or mutilate any book issued under this Article or make any entry therein which is to his knowledge false or misleading or alter or obliterate any entry made therein or except as provided by these Regulations make any entry therein or addition thereto, or after its removal from such book make, alter or obliterate any entry in any copy to be carried on the vehicle under paragraph (1) of this Article.

Part III.—Mechanically Propelled Hackney Carriages

Additional mark to be displayed by Hackney Carriages

31. Any vehicle (other than a tramcar) licensed under the provisions of section 3 of the Act in respect of which the rate of duty paid is less than the rate of duty which would have been payable had the vehicle been licensed under section 6 of the Act, shall display in addition to the registration mark of the vehicle a mark of the dimensions and form set out in the Fourth Schedule to these Regulations in the position prescribed in that Schedule unless such vehicle is licensed to ply for hire and carries in a conspicuous position on the outside of the vehicle a mark in the form prescribed by the authority by whom it is licensed to ply for hire indicating clearly that the vehicle is a hackney carriage so licensed:

Provided that where such a vehicle is temporarily adapted for and used solely for the conveyance of goods in the course of trade it shall not be necessary for the mark prescribed by this Regulation to be so displayed at any time when such vehicle is so adapted and being so used.

Seating capacity of Hackney Carriages

32. For the purposes of section 3 of the Act (which prescribes the duty chargeable in respect of hackney carriages) the seating capacity of a vehicle shall be determined as follows:—

(*a*) Where separate seats for each person are provided one person shall be counted for each separate seat provided;

(*b*) Where the vehicle is fitted with continuous seats one person shall be counted for each complete length of 16 inches measured in a straight line lengthwise on the front of each such seat; and where any such continuous seat is fitted with arms for the purpose of separating the seating spaces and such arms are so constructed that they can be folded back or otherwise put out of use such seat shall be measured for the purposes of this Regulation as if it had not been fitted with such arms:

Provided that—

(i) In calculating the seating capacity of any vehicle the driver's seat shall be excluded, and for the purpose of this Regulation the expression "the driver's seat" means any separate seat occupied by the driver of the vehicle, or where no such separate seat is provided and the driver occupies a portion of a continuous seat, so much of that seat as extends from the right edge of the seat in the case of a vehicle steered from the right-hand side, or from the left edge of the seat in the case of a vehicle steered from the left-hand side, to a point 18 inches left or right, as the case may be, of the point on the seat directly in rear of the centre of the steering column; and

(ii) Where on any vehicle there are seats alongside the driver's seat whether separate from, or continuous with, the driver's seat, and the Council is satisfied that those seats will not during the currency of the licence to be granted be permitted to be used by members of the public travelling on the vehicle, those seats shall be excluded in calculating the seating capacity of the vehicle.

PART IV.—MECHANICALLY PROPELLED VEHICLES EXEMPT FROM LICENCE DUTY

Vehicles exempt from Licence Duty

33.—(1) The provisions of Part I of these Regulations as to registration and matters incidental thereto shall extend to the mechanically propelled vehicles referred to in the following paragraphs of this Regulation (being vehicles in respect of which duty is not chargeable under the Act) subject to the modifications there specified.

Vehicles belonging to the Crown

(2) (*a*) The prescribed declaration shall be made and the prescribed particulars shall be furnished in respect of any vehicle belonging to the Crown which has not previously been registered under the Act or under the Roads Act, 1920(**a**), as if a licence were to be taken out for the vehicle, by a duly authorised officer of the Government Department by whom the vehicle is kept and used. Such declaration and particulars shall be forwarded either to the Council in whose area the vehicle will be ordinarily kept or to the Council in whose area the principal office of the Department is situate.

Upon receipt of such declaration and particulars the Council shall register the vehicle, assign to it a registration mark in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 14 of these Regulations and retain the declaration and particulars but shall not issue a Registration Book in respect of the vehicle.

(*b*) No licences shall be issued in respect of vehicles belonging to the Crown but every such vehicle shall carry a Certificate of Crown Ownership signed by a duly authorised officer of the Government Department by whom the vehicle is kept and used and the provisions of Regulations 4 and 5 of these Regulations as to the exhibition and alteration of licences shall apply to such certificates as they apply to licences.

(*c*) The provisions of Regulations 7 and 8 of these Regulations as to notification of alterations to and changes of character or use of vehicles shall not apply in the case of vehicles belonging to the Crown.

(*d*) Upon the transfer of a vehicle which has been registered under the Act or under the Roads Act, 1920, to the Crown or from one Government Department to another such Department a duly authorised officer of the

(a) 10 & 11 Geo. 5. c. 72.

Department to whom the vehicle is transferred shall notify the transfer in writing to the Council in whose area the vehicle will be ordinarily kept or in whose area the principal office of the Department is situate and any such notification shall be accompanied by the Registration Book of the vehicle where that Book has been delivered to the Department in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (1) of Regulation 9 of these Regulations.

Upon receipt of any such notification the Council shall register the vehicle in the name of the Department from whom the notification was received unless that Department shall have certified that the vehicle is used or appropriated for use for naval, military or air force purposes, and shall retain the Registration Book (if any).

(*e*) Where a vehicle registered in the name of a Government Department is transferred to a person other than another Government Department or is broken up, destroyed or sent permanently out of Great Britain, a duly authorised officer of the Department shall forthwith notify the Council with whom the vehicle is registered.

Where a vehicle is so transferred to a person other than a Government Department, a Registration Book in respect thereof shall be issued to that person either by the Council to whom he applies for a licence in respect thereof in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations or to whom he forwards the prescribed declaration and the prescribed particulars in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (3) or paragraph (4) of this Regulation or, if he does not apply for a licence or forward a declaration and particulars as aforesaid, by the Council with whom the vehicle was registered prior to the transfer upon his making an application to that Council in that behalf.

(*f*) With the exception of sub-paragraph (*d*) of paragraph (2) of this Regulation these Regulations shall not apply to any vehicle belonging to the Crown which is used or appropriated for use for naval, military or air force purposes.

Vehicles which are used exclusively on roads not repairable at the public expense or which are exempt from duty under section 7 (4) of the Act

(3) The prescribed declaration shall be made and the prescribed particulars shall be furnished in respect of every vehicle which is to be used exclusively on roads not repairable at the public expense being highways or roads to which the public has access, and in respect of every vehicle which is exempt from duty by reason of the provisions of subsection (4) of section 7 of the Act, as if the owner were taking out a licence for such vehicle.

No licence shall be issued by the Council in respect of any such vehicle but the Council shall issue a Registration Book to the owner in accordance with these Regulations.

Other exempt vehicles

(4) (*a*) The owner of any vehicle in respect of which no duty is chargeable under the Act by virtue of subsection (1) or subsection (2) of section 7 thereof or of subsection (3) of section 7 of the Finance Act, 1952(**a**), shall, annually, make the prescribed declaration and furnish the prescribed particulars in respect thereof as if the owner were taking out a licence therefor. Such declaration and particulars shall be forwarded to the Council in whose area the vehicle will be ordinarily kept.

(**a**) 15 & 16 Geo. 6 & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 33.

(*b*) Upon receipt of such declaration and particulars as are referred to in the preceding sub-paragraph the Council shall, if the vehicle has not previously been registered under the Act or under the Roads Act, 1920, register the vehicle, assign to it a registration mark in accordance with Regulation 14 of these Regulations, and issue a Registration Book in accordance with these Regulations, and shall issue in respect of the vehicle a document in the form of a licence with the word " NIL " marked in the space provided for indicating the amount of the duty payable. If during the currency of any such document duty becomes chargeable under the Act in respect of the vehicle to which it relates, the document shall forthwith be returned to the Council by whom it was issued.

(*c*) The provisions of Regulations 4 and 5 of these Regulations as to the exhibition and alteration of licences shall apply to documents in the form of licences issued under the preceding provisions of this paragraph as they apply to licences.

PART V.—MISCELLANEOUS

Calculation of horse-power and cylinder capacity

34.—(1) For the purposes of the Act, the horse-power of any mechanically propelled vehicle deriving its motive power wholly from an internal combustion engine worked by a cylinder or cylinders shall be taken to be:—

(*a*) in the case of a single-cylinder engine, the horse-power attributable to the cylinder of the engine;

(*b*) in the case of an engine having two or more cylinders, the sum of the horse-powers attributable to the separate cylinders.

(2) The horse-power attributable to any cylinder of an internal combustion engine shall be deemed to be equal to the square of the internal diameter of such cylinder measured in inches divided by a numeral:—

(*a*) in the case of a cylinder having a single piston, the numeral used as divisor shall be 2·5;

(*b*) in the case of a cylinder having two pistons, the numeral used as divisor shall be 1·6.

(3) The horse-power of any mechanically propelled vehicle deriving its power wholly from a steam engine shall be taken to be proportional to the effective heating surface of the boiler supplying steam to such engine, at the rate of 1 horse-power for every 3 square feet in such effective heating surface, and the effective heating surface shall be taken to be:—

(*a*) in the case of a boiler having horizontal or approximately horizontal tubes, the whole of that surface of the tubes which is exposed to the flame or hot gases;

(*b*) in the case of a boiler having vertical or approximately vertical tubes, half of that surface of the tubes which is exposed to the flame or hot gases.

(4) In measuring cylinders and boilers for the purpose of calculating horse-power, and in calculating horse-power, fractions of inches and feet and fractions of a unit of horse-power are to be taken into account:

Provided that in the final calculation of horse-power a resultant fraction of less than 0·1 of a unit of horse-power shall be omitted.

(5) For the purposes of the Act, the cylinder capacity of any mechanically propelled vehicle deriving its motive power wholly from an internal combustion engine worked by a cylinder or cylinders shall be taken to be:—

(*a*) in the case of a single-cylinder engine, the cylinder capacity attributable to the cylinder of the engine;

(*b*) in the case of an engine having two or more cylinders, the sum of the cylinder capacities attributable to the separate cylinders.

(6) The cylinder capacity attributable to any cylinder of an internal combustion engine shall be deemed to be equal to:—

(*a*) in the case of a cylinder having a single piston, the product expressed in cubic centimetres of the square of the internal diameter of such cylinder measured in centimetres, and the distance through which the piston associated with that cylinder moves during one half of a revolution of the engine measured in centimetres multiplied by 0·7854; and

(*b*) in the case of a cylinder having more than one piston, the sum of the products expressed in cubic centimetres of the square of the internal diameter of each part of the cylinder in which a piston moves measured in centimetres, and the distance through which the piston associated with that diameter moves during one half of a revolution of the engine measured in centimetres multiplied by 0·7854.

(7) In measuring cylinders for the purpose of calculating cylinder capacity, and in calculating cylinder capacity, fractions of centimetres are to be taken into account.

Powers and duties of Council exercisable by duly authorised officers

35. The Clerk of the Council and any other officer authorised by the Council are respectively empowered to perform any duty or exercise any power of the Council for the purpose of carrying these Regulations into effect.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation this first day of November, 1955.

(L.S.) *John Boyd-Carpenter,*

The Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation.

FIRST SCHEDULE (See Regulation 1)

REGULATIONS REVOKED

The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1953(a).

The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations, 1953(b).

The Road Vehicles (Transport Levy) Regulations, 1953(c).

The Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) (Amendment) Regulations, 1954(d).

(a) S.I. 1953/231 (1953 II, p. 1887).
(b) S.I. 1953/1753 (1953 II, p. 1912).
(c) S.I. 1953/1754 (1953 II, p. 1914).
(d) S.I. 1954/1270 (1954 II, p. 1960).

SECOND SCHEDULE (See Regulation 4)

FORM OF HOLDER FOR THE LICENCE

The holder must be of metal, and weatherproof. It must be either circular, or rectangular with crossbars, and conform to the following dimensions:—

Type A.—Circular Pattern, without Crossbars

Licence Tray.—The licence, when cut along the outline of the outer of the two circles, should fit neatly into a sheet-metal tray of suitable thickness, having a turned-up edge of sufficient depth to hold the licence and a stout cover of transparent white glass.

Ring cover.—A circular ring of sheet metal shaped to fit down closely on to the tray, and adapted for fixing by screws, bolts, or otherwise, to the vehicle in the prescribed position. A rubber packing ring should be arranged to fit between the ring cover and the cover glass and tray so as to render the whole carrier weatherproof.

Dimensions.—The aperture within the ring cover should clearly exhibit the whole of the licence lying within the inner circle of the licence, and should have a diameter of $2\frac{1}{16}$ inches.

Type B.—Rectangular Pattern, with Crossbars

Licence Tray.—A sheet-metal tray of suitable thickness, having a turned-up edge all round and a stout cover of transparent white glass.

Cover Frame.—A cover frame, formed out of sheet metal, should be shaped to fit down closely on to the licence tray, and adapted for fixing by screws, bolts, or otherwise, to the vehicle in the position previously described.

A rubber packing ring should be arranged to fit between the cover frame and the cover glass and tray, so as to render the whole carrier weatherproof.

Dimensions.—The main aperture within the cover frame should be $3\frac{1}{16}$ inches long and $3\frac{1}{16}$ inches wide, and be bisected axially by two bars intersecting at right angles, so as to leave four rectangular openings, each $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches long and $1\frac{13}{32}$ inches wide, clearly exhibiting the licence.

THIRD SCHEDULE (See Regulation 21)

REQUIREMENTS AS TO REGISTRATION MARKS



Diagram No. 1

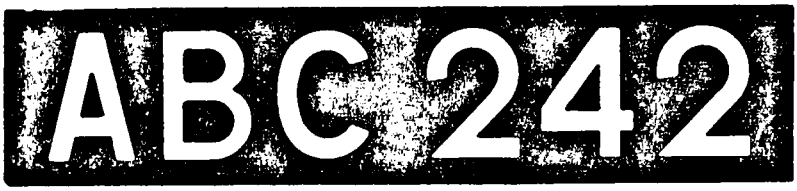


Diagram No. 2



Diagram No. 3

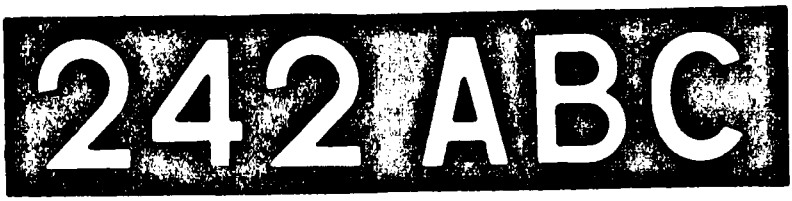


Diagram No. 4

The alternative diagrams above are specimen registration marks.

Provisions to be complied with

1. Where the registration mark of the vehicle 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, and where it consists of a registered number followed by an index mark it shall at the option of the owner be arranged in conformity with either diagram No. 3 or diagram No. 4.

2.—(i) Unless the 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 or so attached to such surface that it cannot readily be detached therefrom. 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.

(ii) If the registration mark is so constructed and used that it is illuminated by transparency or translucency, the letters and figures must all, when so illuminated during the hours of darkness, as defined by subsection (4) of section 1

of the Road Transport Lighting Act, 1927, appear, in the case of the front registration mark, white, and in the case of the rear registration mark either white or red; if they appear red no other lamp showing to the rear a red light as required by section 1 of the last-mentioned Act need be carried on any vehicle until such day as the provisions of section 2 of the Road Transport Lighting Act, 1953(a), come into operation in respect of that vehicles by virtue of the Road Transport Lighting Act, 1953 (Commencement No. 1) Order, 1954(b). At all other times the letters and figures shall appear white against a black background.

3. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 6 of this Schedule, all letters and figures must be 3½ inches high, every part of every letter and figure must be ⅜ inch broad; and the total width of the space taken by every letter or figure, except in the case of the figure "1", must be 2½ inches.

4. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 6 of this Schedule, there must be a margin between the nearest part of any letter or figure and the top or bottom of the black surface upon which the registration mark appears of at least ½ inch, and between the nearest part of any letter or figure and the sides of the black surface of at least 1 inch. The space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and between the nearest parts of adjoining figures must be ½ inch provided that where the registration mark 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, the space between the nearest parts of two adjoining figures "1" must be not less than ½ inch nor more than 2⅜ inches and the space between the nearest part of a figure "1" and the nearest part of any other adjoining figure must be not less than ½ inch nor more than 1 7/16 inches.

5. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 6 of this Schedule, where the registration mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1 or diagram No. 3, the space between the upper and lower line must be ¾ inch. Where the registration mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2 or diagram No. 4, the space between the letters and the figures must be 1½ inches, except that where the registration mark 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 the said space of 1½ inches may be exceeded by not more than 1 5/8 inch.

6. In the case of a bicycle, an invalid carriage and a pedestrian controlled vehicle—

(*a*) the dimensions prescribed in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of this Schedule may be halved as regards the plate or surface bearing the registration mark on the front of the vehicle, and that plate or surface need not be rectangular if the letters and figures thereon comply as nearly as possible with the arrangement shown in whichever diagram of this Schedule is appropriate; and

(*b*) where the registration mark exhibited on the back of the vehicle is exhibited on a plate, the corners of the plate may be rounded off, the letters forming the index mark (if the form shown in diagram No. 1 is used) or the figures forming the registered number (if the form shown in diagram No. 3 is used) may be placed to the left so, however, that no part of the first letter or the first figure, as the case may be, is nearer to the left-hand edge of the plate than ½ inch, and the following requirements may be complied with as regards that plate in substitution for those prescribed in the said paragraphs 3, 4 and 5:—

(i) All letters and figures must be 2½ inches high; every part of every letter and figure must be ⅜ inch broad; and the total width of the space taken by every letter or figure, except in the case of the figure "1", must be 1½ inches.

(a) 1 & 2 Eliz. 2. c. 21. (b) S.I. 1954/1104 (1954 II, p. 1963).

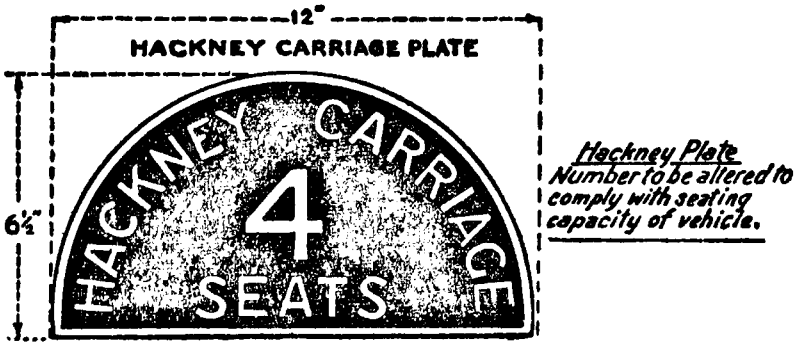
(ii) The space between the nearest parts of adjoining letters and adjoining figures must be ½ inch, and there must be a margin between the nearest part of any letter or figure and the top, bottom and sides of the black surface upon which the registration mark is inscribed of at least ½ inch.

(iii) Where the registration mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 1 or diagram No. 3, the space between the upper and lower line must be ½ inch. Where the registration mark is arranged in accordance with diagram No. 2 or diagram No. 4, the space between the letters and the figures must be 1 inch.

FOURTH SCHEDULE (See Regulation 31)

Requirements as to Mark for Hackney Carriages

Diagram of mark for hackney carriages showing details of shape and size



The diagram above is a specimen plate drawn approximately to the scale of one-fourth.

Provisions to be complied with

1. The hackney carriage mark is to be approximately semi-circular in shape and of the size shown upon the foregoing diagram and is to be exhibited upon a flat plate or upon a flat surface forming part of the vehicle.

2. The border, letters and figures of the mark must be indelibly inscribed in white, silver or light grey upon a black surface and no letter or figure shall be capable of being detached from such surface. If they are inscribed upon a plate the plate may be of cast or pressed aluminium having raised border, letters and figures.

3. The width of the surrounding border must be ¼ inch, the depth of all letters 1 inch, and the width of face of letters $\frac{3}{16}$ inch; the numerals must be 2¼ inches in height of proportional width and ⅜ inch width of face.

4. The hackney carriage mark is to be displayed upon the back of the vehicle in an upright position so as to be at all times clearly visible and unobstructed by car equipment or otherwise.

5. A number indicating the seating capacity of the vehicle is to be disposed in the central position occupied by the figure "4" in the diagram.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations consolidate with amendment the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 1953, and the amending Regulations set out in the First Schedule.

The principal changes are:—

(1) The declarations to be made and particulars to be furnished in connection with the licensing and registration of mechanically propelled vehicles are now prescribed by the Road Vehicles (Excise) (Prescribed Particulars) Regulations, 1955 (Regulation 1 (3)).

(2) In the case of certain agricultural vehicles and certain vehicles used on public roads only to a limited extent which are drawing other vehicles, the registration mark of the drawing vehicle required to be exhibited on the back of the rearmost vehicle drawn need not be so exhibited, if in its place there is exhibited the registration mark of any vehicle of the classes mentioned above and in the same ownership as the drawing vehicle (Regulation 23 (2)).

(3) The provision previously contained in the above mentioned Regulations of 1953 requiring Councils to supply to the Postmaster General particulars as to vehicles fitted with wireless sets has been omitted (Regulation 27).

INTERNATIONAL CIRCULATION

1955 No. 875 (C. 5)

The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Act, 1952 (Commencement) Order, 1955

Made - - - - 21*st June*, 1955

At the Court at Buckingham Palace, the twenty-first day of June, 1955

Present,

The Queen's Most Excellent Majesty in Council

Her Majesty, in pursuance of the powers vested in Her by section 7 of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Act, 1952(a), is pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to order, and it is hereby ordered, as follows :—

1. The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Act, 1952, shall come into operation on the twenty-first day of June, 1955.

2. This Order may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Act, 1952 (Commencement) Order, 1955.

W. G. Agnew.

(a) 15 & 16 Geo. 6 & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 39.