

1985 No. 610

ROAD TRAFFIC

**The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation)
Regulations 1985**

<i>Made</i> - - - - -	15th April 1985
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	25th April 1985
<i>Coming into Operation</i>	16th May 1985

The Secretary of State for Transport in exercise of his powers conferred by paragraphs (d), (e) and (f) of section 23(1) of the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971(a), as modified by section 39(1) of, and paragraph 20 of Part I of Schedule 7 to, that Act, section 37(1), (2) and (4) of that Act, and Article 5(4), (5), (6) and (7) of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order 1975(b), and now vested in him(c), and of all other enabling powers, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Commencement and citation

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations 1985 and shall come into operation on 16th May 1985.

Revocation and transitional provision

2.—(1) The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Regulations 1971(d) are hereby revoked.

(2) This Regulation shall not affect the validity of any document issued or other thing done under the Regulations hereby revoked and so far as it could have been issued or done under these Regulations such document or thing shall have effect as if issued or done under the corresponding provision of these Regulations.

(3) In these Regulations references to, or to provisions of, the Convention of 1968 shall take effect on such date as that Convention comes into force for the United Kingdom which date shall be notified in the London and Edinburgh Gazettes.

(a) 1971 c. 10.

(b) S.I. 1975/1208; the relevant amending instrument is S.I. 1985/459.

(c) S.I. 1976/1775, 1979/571, 1981/238.

(d) S.I. 1971/937.

Interpretation

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

“certificate of insurance” and “certificate of security” have the same meanings as in Part VI of the Road Traffic Act 1972(a);

“the Convention of 1926” means the International Convention relative to Motor Traffic concluded at Paris in the year 1926(b);

“the Convention of 1949” means the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Geneva in the year 1949(c);

“the Convention of 1968” means the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Vienna in the year 1968(d);

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

“the Excise Act” means the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971;

“exempted vehicle” means a vehicle exempt from excise duty by virtue of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order 1975;

“insurance card” has the same meaning as in the Motor Vehicles (International Motor Insurance Card) Regulations 1971(e);

“local authority” has the same meaning as in Regulation 15(2) of the Regulations of 1971;

“nationality sign” means a sign complying with the provisions of Annex 3 to the Convention of 1968, of annex 4 to the Convention of 1949 or of annex C to the Convention of 1926 and bearing the distinctive letters specified in or under the Convention for the country under the law of which the vehicle is registered;

“registration card” means a card issued under Regulation 6 of these Regulations or issued in Northern Ireland under provisions corresponding to Regulation 6;

“the Regulations of 1971” means the Road Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations 1971(f);

“the Secretary of State” means the Secretary of State for Transport;

“vehicle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle intended or adapted for use on roads;

“visiting vehicle” means a vehicle brought temporarily into Great Britain by a person resident outside the United Kingdom;

“visitor’s registration document” means—

- (a) in the case of a vehicle registered in a country outside the United Kingdom, a registration certificate issued under the law of any country in respect of which a nationality sign has been assigned in, or notified to the Secretary-General of the United Nations under, the Convention of 1926, the Convention of 1949 or the Convention of 1968 whether or not that country is a party to any of the said Conventions and containing a registration mark, the name or the trade mark of the

(a) 1972 c. 20.

(d) Cmnd. 4032.

(b) Cmd. 3510.

(e) S.I. 1971/792.

(c) Cmd. 7997.

(f) S.I. 1971/450.

maker of the vehicle, the maker's identification or serial number, the date of its registration and the full name and permanent place of residence of the applicant for the said certificate; or

- (b) a certificate in form D in Schedule 1 to the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order 1975, issued under the law of a country outside the United Kingdom which is a party to the Convention of 1926; or
- (c) in the case of a vehicle registered in accordance with the registration system of the British Authorities in Germany or the registration system of the United States Authorities in Germany, a registration certificate specifying the registered letter and number allotted to the vehicle under the system.

Production of Documents

4.—(1) A person resident outside the United Kingdom who brings into Great Britain a visiting vehicle shall, if he is at any reasonable time required to do so, produce to a registration authority such of the documents as have been issued in respect of that vehicle and are specified in the next following paragraph.

- (2) The documents referred to in paragraph (1) of this Regulation are:
 - (a) a certificate of insurance, or a certificate of security or an insurance card;
 - (b) a visitor's registration document;
 - (c) a registration card.

(3) A person resident outside the United Kingdom who brings into Great Britain a visiting vehicle in respect of which a visitor's registration document has been issued shall produce it for inspection if he is at any reasonable time required to do so by a police officer or by a person acting on behalf of the Secretary of State.

Registration marks for visiting vehicles which are exempted vehicles

5. The registration mark hereby assigned to a visiting vehicle, being an exempted vehicle, is, subject to the provisions of Regulation 8(5) of these Regulations—

- (a) in the case of a vehicle in respect of which there has been issued and there is held by the driver thereof a visitor's registration document recording a registration mark which consists of no letters or numerals other than Roman letters or ordinary European numerals or both, that mark;
- (b) in any other case either—
 - (i) the registration mark assigned to the vehicle under provisions applying in Northern Ireland and corresponding to the provisions of the next succeeding sub-paragraph of this Regulation; or
 - (ii) if no such mark has been assigned under those provisions, a registration mark consisting of the letters QA, QB, QC, QD, QE, QF, QG, QH, QJ, QK, QL, QM, QN, QP, QQ, QR, QS, QT, QU, QV, QW, QX, and QY and of a registered number which has been assigned to that vehicle by a registration authority.

Registration cards

6.—(1) Where a registration authority assigns a registration mark to a visiting vehicle under Regulation 5(b)(ii) of these Regulations, the authority shall issue to the person who brought that vehicle into Great Britain a registration card in respect of that vehicle containing such particulars as the Secretary of State may direct.

(2) The following provisions of the Regulations of 1971, that is to say—

- (a) Regulation 6 (which relates to duplicate registration books); and
- (b) paragraphs (2) and (4) of Regulation 8 (which relate to the production of registration books and to their defacement or mutilation),

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

(3) Whenever a visiting vehicle in respect of which a registration card has been issued under paragraph (1) of this Regulation or under provisions applying in Northern Ireland and corresponding to the provisions of the said paragraph (1)—

- (a) is sold or transferred, or
- (b) is removed to a country outside the United Kingdom, or
- (c) is destroyed

then the holder of the registration card shall surrender it to a registration authority informing the authority of the reason for the transfer and, in a case where that vehicle has been sold or transferred, of the name of the new owner and of his address, if any, in the United Kingdom.

(4) The registration authority (where other than the Secretary of State) to whom a registration card is so surrendered shall forward it to the Secretary of State and inform him of the date of surrender and of the reason therefor.

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

Excise Licences

7. A person who has brought a visiting vehicle which is not an exempted vehicle into Great Britain shall apply for an excise licence under the Excise Act for that vehicle.

Provision as to registration marks assigned under Regulation 5

8.—(1) Regulation 17 of, and Schedule 2 to, the Regulations of 1971 shall apply to an exempted vehicle as if the reference therein to any registration mark which is required to be fixed on a vehicle by virtue of the Excise Act included a reference to the registration mark assigned under Regulation 5 of these Regulations and Regulation 20 of, and Schedule 3 to, the Regulations of 1971 shall apply to an exempted vehicle as if it were a vehicle registered before 1st October 1938:

Provided that—

- (a) Regulation 17 of, and Schedule 2 to, the Regulations of 1971 (which impose requirements as to the form of registration marks) shall not apply as respects a registration mark mentioned in Regulation 5(a) of these Regulations if the corresponding requirements of the law under which, or the authority by whom, the registration mark was issued are complied with, and
- (b) a registration mark mentioned in the said Regulation 5(a) need not be exhibited at the front of the vehicle if that is not required by the law under which, or the authority by whom, the registration mark was issued.

(2) At the back of an exempted vehicle on which is exhibited a registration mark mentioned in Regulation 5(a) there shall be exhibited so as to be clearly distinguishable a nationality sign indicating the country under the law of which the registration mark was issued:

Provided that no nationality sign need be shown on an exempted vehicle in a case where the visitor's registration document falls within paragraph (c) of the definition of that expression in these Regulations.

(3) Regulation 22 of the Regulations of 1971 shall apply to any trailer drawn by an exempted vehicle as if reference therein to the registration mark were references to the registration mark displayed by an exempted vehicle by virtue of Regulation 5 of these Regulations:

Provided that in a case where—

- (a) the registration mark to be displayed by the exempted vehicle is that under Regulation 5(a) of these Regulations; and
- (b) the trailer has been brought temporarily into Great Britain by a person resident outside the United Kingdom,

a registration mark issued to the trailer under the law of a country outside the United Kingdom which is a party to the Convention of 1949 or the Convention of 1968 may be displayed at the back of the trailer instead of the registration mark to be displayed by the exempted vehicle.

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

Provided that a trailer carrying a registration mark in pursuance of the proviso to the last foregoing paragraph shall carry a nationality sign indicating the country under the law of which that registration mark was issued to the trailer instead of any other nationality sign indicating the country under the law of which a registration mark was issued to the exempted vehicle.

(5) A registration mark assigned under Regulation 5 of these Regulations shall become void when relief from customs duty ceases to be afforded in respect of that vehicle under the provisions referred to in Article 5(2) of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order 1975.

Records to be kept by registration authorities

9.—(1) Each registration authority shall, in relation to every exempted vehicle to which a registration mark mentioned in Regulation 5(b)(ii) of these Regulations is assigned, keep a record of the following particulars:

- (a) the name of the person applying in respect of the vehicle for that mark, his address in the United Kingdom and (if available) his home address;
- (b) make of vehicle and chassis number or engine number;
- (c) the registration mark assigned to the vehicle, and the date and place at which it was assigned; and
- (d) (if available), the date and place of entry of the vehicle into the United Kingdom.

(2) Each registration authority other than the Secretary of State shall forward to the Secretary of State a copy of the particulars so recorded.

(3) The Secretary of State shall preserve for not less than two years the copies forwarded to him under the last foregoing paragraph and any records made by himself under paragraph (1) of this Regulation.

(4) The Secretary of State shall also preserve for not less than two years a record of any particulars forwarded to him for recording under provisions made in Northern Ireland corresponding to paragraph (2) of this Regulation as respects a vehicle to which a registration mark has been assigned in Northern Ireland under provisions corresponding to Regulation 5(b)(ii) of these Regulations.

(5) The Secretary of State shall, on application therefor, furnish free of charge any particulars recorded in any documents preserved by him under this Regulation to the Commissioners of Customs and Excise, the Department of Environment for Northern Ireland, any registration authority, any local authority, or any chief officer of police in the United Kingdom, and shall upon payment of £2 furnish to any other person who can show to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State that he has reasonable cause therefor, the name and address shown in respect of any registration mark contained in any records preserved under this Regulation.

Signed by authority of
the Secretary of State.

Lynda Chalker,
Minister of State for Transport.

15th April 1985.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations revoke and replace the Motor Vehicle (International Circulation) Regulations 1971 (the “revoked Regulations”). The principal changes are as follows:—

- (1) The definitions of “nationality sign” and “visitor’s registration document” are amended to include a reference to a sign complying with Annex 3 to the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Vienna in the year 1968 (Regulation 3).
- (2) Regulation 4(3) is reformulated so that a visitor’s registration document has to be produced if required by a police officer or by a person acting on behalf of the Secretary of State.
- (3) Vehicles brought temporarily into Great Britain by a person resident outside the United Kingdom (visiting vehicles as defined in Regulation 3 of the revoked Regulations) which are not exempted vehicles (as defined in Regulation 3 of these Regulations) are to be licensed and registered under the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971 instead of being licensed under that Act but registered in accordance with Regulation 5 as if they were exempted vehicles (Regulations 7, 8 and 9).
- (4) Paragraph (5) of Regulation 8 now refers to the termination of relief from customs duty under the provisions referred to in Article 5(2) of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order 1975 as amended by Article 5(1)(a) of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Amendment) Order 1985 (the “Order of 1985”).
- (5) References to the Secretary of State for Transport are substituted for references to the Greater London Council as a registration authority (as defined in Article 5(1)(c) of the Order of 1985).
- (6) The fee of 25p prescribed by Regulation 9(5) of the revoked Regulations for the furnishing of the name and address shown in respect of any registration mark contained in records preserved under that Regulation is increased to £2 (Regulation 9(5)).

SI 1985/610
ISBN 0-11-056610-6



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