

1968. No. 43

[C]

**MOTOR VEHICLES****Driving Licences**

REGULATIONS, DATED 7TH MARCH 1968, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER SECTIONS 21, 66 AND 72 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1955 AND SECTION 32 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1964.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in exercise of the powers vested in it by sections 21, 66 and 72 of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1955(a), section 32 of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1964(b) and all other powers in that behalf enabling it, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

*Citation and Commencement*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968 and shall come into operation on the 1st day of April 1968.

*Interpretation*

2. In these Regulations "Principal Regulations" means the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1965(c).

3. The Principal Regulations shall have effect as if—

(1) in Regulation 4(3), the words "(not being a provisional licence)" were deleted;

(2) in Regulation 5 for paragraph (f) there were substituted the following paragraph:—

"(f) inability to read in good daylight (with the aid of glasses if worn) a series of letters and figures which comply as respects size, shape and arrangement with the relevant requirements relating to registration marks of motor vehicles, at a distance of 75 feet in the case of letters and figures  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches high and at a distance of 67 feet in the case of letters and figures  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inches high:

Provided that in the case of an applicant for or a proposal to revoke a licence authorising the driving of vehicles of a class or description comprised in group 3 only of the groups of vehicles set out in the first column of the Second Schedule the reading distance shall be 45 feet in the case of letters and figures  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches high and 40 feet in the case of letters and figures  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inches high";

(3) for Regulation 13 there were substituted the following Regulation:—

*"Conditions attached to provisional licences*

13.—(1) (a) Subject to the provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) the holder of a provisional licence shall until he has passed the appropriate test comply with the following conditions in relation to motor vehicles of a class or description which he is authorised to drive by virtue of the

(a) 1955. c. 27.

(b) 1964. c. 20 (N.I.).

(c) S.R. &amp; O. (N.I.) 1965, No. 42.

provisional licence, that is to say he shall not drive or ride such a motor vehicle—

- (i) otherwise than under the supervision of a qualified driver who is present with him in or on the vehicle;
- (ii) unless there is clearly displayed in a conspicuous manner on the front and on the back of the vehicle a distinguishing mark in the form set out in the Seventh Schedule;
- (iii) while it is being used to draw a trailer;
- (iv) in the case of a motor bicycle not having attached thereto a side-car, while carrying on it a person who is not a qualified driver:

Provided that where the holder of a provisional licence has passed a test which authorises him to be granted a licence comprising a particular class or description of vehicles the above-mentioned conditions shall cease to apply in relation to the driving or riding (as the case may be) by him of motor vehicles of that class or description.

(b) The condition specified in paragraph (1)(a)(i) shall not apply when the holder of the provisional licence—

- (i) is undergoing a test; or
- (ii) is driving a vehicle (not being a motor car) constructed to carry only one person and not adapted to carry more than one person; or
- (iii) is driving a vehicle the unladen weight of which does not exceed 16 hundredweight, being a vehicle propelled by electrical power, constructed or adapted to carry only one person and constructed or adapted for the carriage of goods or burden of any description; or
- (iv) is driving a road roller the unladen weight of which does not exceed 3 tons, being a vehicle constructed or adapted for the carriage of goods or burden of any description; or
- (v) is riding a motor bicycle, whether or not having attached thereto a side-car.

(c) The condition specified in paragraph (1)(a)(iii) of this Regulation shall not apply when the holder of the provisional licence is driving an agricultural tractor, nor shall it prevent the holder of a provisional licence driving an articulated vehicle.

(d) In this Regulation “qualified driver” means a person who holds a licence, not being a provisional licence, authorising him to drive a motor vehicle of the same class or description as the vehicle being driven by the holder of the provisional licence.

(2) The holder of a provisional licence shall not, after he has passed the appropriate test and until he takes out a temporarily-restricted licence, drive or ride a motor vehicle of a class or description which he is authorised to drive by virtue of his passing the said test unless there is clearly displayed in a conspicuous manner on the front and on the back of the vehicle either a distinguishing mark in the form set out in the Seventh Schedule or a distinguishing mark in the form set out in the Schedule to the Motor Vehicles (Restrictions on Drivers) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968(d).

This paragraph shall not apply:—

- (i) to members of the Naval, Military or Air Forces of Her Majesty while they are in uniform and where the motor vehicle is the property of the Crown;

- (ii) to any person passing the test before the coming into operation of these Regulations;
  - (iii) to any holder of a certificate of competence to drive issued by a competent authority in Great Britain;
  - (iv) to any member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary while driving a vehicle on an occasion when it is being used for police purposes;
  - (v) to any person while driving a motor vehicle the maximum speed of which is restricted by Regulations made under section 4(1) of the Act to 45 miles an hour or less.”;
- (4) in Regulation 20 after the words “. . . driving certain classes of motor vehicles” there were inserted the words “and section 30 of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1964 (which prohibits provisional licence holders from driving heavy motor-cycles)”;
- (5) for the additional requirement (A) of the Third Schedule there was substituted the following additional requirement:—
- “(A) Read in good daylight (with the aid of glasses if worn) the registration mark fixed to a motor vehicle at a distance of 75 feet in the case of a registration mark containing letters and figures  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches high and at a distance of 67 feet in the case of a registration mark containing letters and figures  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches high:
- Provided that in the case of a driving test carried out on a vehicle of a class or description comprised in group 3 only of the groups of vehicles set out in the first column of the Second Schedule the reading distance shall be 45 feet in the case of letters and figures  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches high and 40 feet in the case of letters and figures  $3\frac{1}{8}$  inches high.”;
- (6) for the additional requirement (I) of the Third Schedule there was substituted the following additional requirement:—
- “(I) Give, by hand and by mechanical means, if fitted to the vehicle, or, in the case of a driver of a vehicle with a left-hand drive or a disabled driver for whom it is impracticable or undesirable to give signals by hand, by mechanical means, in a clear and unmistakable manner appropriate signals at appropriate times to indicate his intended actions.”

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this 7th day of March 1968, in the presence of

(L.S.)

*W. G. Robinson,*  
Assistant Secretary.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations amend the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1965, the following being the principal changes:—

- (a) The eyesight standard required of an applicant for a licence to drive a motor vehicle, or a candidate for a driving test, is more clearly defined. In addition the eyesight standard has been modified for drivers of mowing machines. (Reg. 3(2) and (5))
- (b) The conditions attached to provisional licences are restated with a view to setting them out more clearly and those conditions are amended to provide that a provisional licence holder shall not except where specified drive a vehicle while it is drawing a trailer. (Reg. 3(3))
- (c) A person who, after passing the test, continues to drive on a provisional licence until he takes out a temporarily-restricted licence is required to display an L or R plate in order to attract the speed limit of 45 m.p.h. specified in section 3 of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1967. (Reg. 3(3))
- (d) Drivers of left-hand drive vehicles fitted with mechanical signalling devices are exempted from the need to give hand signals when taking a test. (Reg. 3(6))