

1970. No. 35

[C]

MOTOR VEHICLES**Driving Licences**

REGULATIONS, DATED 26TH FEBRUARY 1970, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER PART I AND SECTION 189 OF THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1970.

The Ministry of Home Affairs, in exercise of the powers vested in it by Part I and Section 189 of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(a), and of all other powers in that behalf enabling it, with the approval of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland in regard to the provisions contained in Regulation 3(2)(c), hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation and Commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970 and shall come into operation on 1st April 1970.

Revocation

2. The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations, (Northern Ireland) 1968(b) are hereby revoked.

Regulations amended

3. The Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1965(c) shall have effect as though:—

(1) In Regulation 2(1) the following definitions were added—

“(j) “agricultural tractor” means a motor tractor used primarily for work on land in connection with agriculture;

(k) “vehicle with automatic transmission” means a vehicle in which the driver is not provided with any means whereby he may, independently of the use of the accelerator or the brakes, vary gradually the proportion of the power being produced by the engine which is transmitted to the road wheels of the vehicle.”

(2) In regulation 3—

(a) in paragraph (5) the words “or a licence issued to a person as resident outside the United Kingdom” were deleted and the words “Part I” were substituted for the words “Part II”;

(b) paragraph (6) were deleted;

(c) for paragraph (9) there were substituted the following paragraph:—

“(9) The fee to be paid to a licensing authority for the grant or renewal of a licence, other than a provisional licence, shall be £1”;

(d) paragraph (10) were deleted; and

(e) in paragraph (11) the words “or a licence issued to a person as resident outside the United Kingdom” were deleted.

(a) 1970. c. 2 (N.I.).

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1968, No. 169.

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

(3) For Regulations 6 and 7 there were substituted the following Regulations—

“Testing Authorities

6. The following shall be testing authorities for the purpose of these Regulations:—

- (a) The Ministry.
- (b) The Minister of Defence and the Inspector General of the Royal Ulster Constabulary in so far as concerns persons employed or to be employed by one or other of them to drive motor vehicles.
- (c) Any person or body appointed by the Ministry in respect of such categories of persons as the Ministry may specify.

Driving Examiners

7.—(1) Any person or body authorised by paragraphs (b) or (c) of the preceding Regulation to conduct tests may, subject to the approval of the Ministry, authorise suitable persons to act as examiners of those who submit themselves for test.

(2) The Ministry may at any time revoke an appointment made by it under paragraph (c) of the preceding Regulation and the authority to conduct tests shall thereupon cease.”

(4) For Regulation 9 there were substituted the following Regulation—

“Production of vehicle for test, etc.

9.—(1) A person submitting himself for test shall—

- (a) provide for the purposes of the test a motor vehicle, which—
 - (i) is suitable for the purposes of the test,
 - (ii) is not fitted with a device designed to permit a person other than the driver to operate the accelerator, unless any pedal or lever by which the device is operated and any other parts which it may be necessary to remove to make the device inoperable by such a person during the test have been removed;
- (b) produce to the examiner who is to conduct his test, his licence or other driving permit by virtue of which he is entitled to drive in Northern Ireland.

(2) Where a person submitting himself for a test fails to produce a vehicle or a vehicle which complies with the foregoing paragraph or fails to produce his licence as aforesaid the examiner may refuse to conduct the test.”

(5) For paragraph (3) of Regulation 10 there were substituted the following paragraph—

“(3) The fee to be paid upon application for an appointment for a test conducted by the Ministry shall be 2/6 if the test relates only to vehicles in Group J of the Second Schedule and £1 15s. 0d. in any other case and shall be paid to the Ministry or to such other person as the Ministry may require. No fee shall be payable in respect of a test conducted by persons or bodies authorised in paragraphs (b) or (c) of Regulation 6.”

(6) Regulation 11 were deleted.

(7) In Regulation 14(1) for the words “two shillings and sixpence” there were substituted the words “five shillings”.

(8) Regulation 17 were deleted.

- (9) Part II of the First Schedule were deleted.
- (10) For the Second Schedule there were substituted Schedule 1 to these Regulations.
- (11) For the Third Schedule there were substituted Schedule 2 to these Regulations.

4.—(1) Nothing in these Regulations shall be taken as altering the classes or descriptions of vehicles in respect of which a person who has held a licence before the coming into operation of these Regulations is entitled to be granted a licence.

(2) An applicant for a driving licence who has passed a test of competence to drive before the date of the coming into operation of these Regulations shall for the purposes of the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 and of the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1965 be deemed to be competent to drive a vehicle of any class or description which he was deemed to be competent to drive before that date by virtue of the Regulations in operation before that date.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this 26th day of February 1970.

(L.S.)

W. G. Robinson,
Assistant Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance hereby approves of paragraph (2)(c) of Regulation 3.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 2nd day of March 1970.

(L.S.)

C. F. Darling,
Assistant Secretary

SCHEDULE 1
Groups of Motor Vehicles for Driving Test Purposes

Group	Class or description of vehicle comprised in the group	Additional requirements	Additional groups covered
A	Heavy locomotive, light locomotive, motor tractor, heavy motor car and motor car, but excluding any vehicle comprised in group B, F, G, H, J, K or L.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10	B, C, E, F, K and L
B	A vehicle with automatic transmission which is a heavy locomotive, light locomotive, motor tractor, heavy motor car or motor car, but excluding any vehicle comprised in group F, G, H, J, K or L.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10	E, F, K and L
C	Motor tricycle weighing not more than 8 cwt. unladen, but excluding any vehicle comprised in group E, J, K or L.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 and if fitted with a means for reversing 7 and 8	E, K and L
D	Motor bicycle (with or without side-car), but excluding any vehicle comprised in group E, K or L.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10	C, E and motor cycles in group L
E	Moped.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10	—
F	Agricultural tractor, but excluding any vehicle comprised in group H.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10	K
G	Road roller.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 and 10	—
H	Track-laying vehicle steered by its tracks.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 12	—
J	Invalid carriage.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10	—
K	Mowing machine or vehicle controlled by a pedestrian.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	—
L	Vehicle propelled by electrical power, but excluding any vehicle comprised in group J or K.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 and 10 and if fitted with a means for reversing 7 and 8	K
M	Trolley vehicle.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 11	—
N	Vehicle exempted from duty under section 7(5) of the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(d).	1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6	—

SCHEDULE 2

Additional Requirements for Driving Tests

The additional requirements as to certain of which a candidate for a test must satisfy the person conducting the test shall be that he is able to:—

1. 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 K 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.
2. Start the engine of the vehicle.
3. Move away straight ahead or at an angle.
4. Overtake, meet or cross the path of other vehicles and take an appropriate course.
5. Turn right-hand and left-hand corners correctly.
6. Stop the vehicle in an emergency and normally, and in the latter case bring it to rest at an appropriate part of the road.
7. Drive the vehicle backwards and whilst so doing enter a limited opening either to the right or to the left.
8. Cause the vehicle to face in the opposite direction by the use of forward and reverse gears.
9. Give by mechanical means, if fitted to the vehicle, and by hand, except in the case of a vehicle with a left-hand drive or a disabled driver for whom it is impracticable or undesirable to give signals by hand, appropriate signals in a clear and unmistakable manner at appropriate times to indicate his intended actions.
10. Act correctly and promptly on all signals given by traffic signs and traffic controllers and take appropriate action on signs given by other road users.
11. Turn right-hand and left-hand corners without de-wiring.
12. Drive the vehicle backwards and cause it to face in the opposite direction by means of its tracks.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations further amend the Motor Vehicles (Driving Licences) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1965. The principal changes are:—

1. Visitors' licences are abolished (Regulation 3, paragraphs (2)(a), (b), (d) and (e), (3), (5), (6) and (8)).

2. The fee for a driving licence is increased from 15/- to £1 and the fee for a duplicate licence from 2/6 to 5/- (Regulation 3, paragraphs (2)(c) and (7)).

3. A person submitting himself for test is required to produce for the purposes of the test a suitable motor vehicle and one which is not fitted with a dual accelerator control unless the control has been rendered inoperable and also to produce to the examiner his licence. The examiner may refuse to conduct the test where these requirements are not complied with (Regulation 3(4)).

4. The groups of the classes and descriptions of motor vehicles are revised to provide that a person who passes a test on a vehicle with automatic transmission will be entitled to a full licence only for vehicles previously in Group 1 with automatic transmission. This provision will not affect any entitlement obtained before the coming into force of the Regulations (Regulations 3(10) and 4).

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As this Order has been classified as local it is not printed at length in this volume. A summary is given in the List of Statutory Rules and Orders of a Local Character under the heading GAS.