

1970 No. 1700

## ROAD TRAFFIC

## The Motor Vehicles (Rear Markings) Regulations 1970

<i>Made</i>	- - -	10th November 1970
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		24th November 1970
<i>Coming into Operation</i>		1st December 1970

The Minister of Transport, in exercise of his powers under section 64(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1960(a), as amended by section 51 of and Schedule 4 to the Road Traffic Act 1962(b), under section 5(2)(b) of the Road Transport Lighting Act 1957(c) as extended by section 2 of the Road Transport Lighting Act 1967(d), and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with representative organisations in accordance with the provisions of section 260(2) of the said Act of 1960, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

*Commencement and citation*

1. These Regulations shall come into operation on the 1st December 1970, and may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Rear Markings) Regulations 1970.

*Interpretation*

2.—(1) In these Regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them:—

“excepted vehicle” means—

- (a) a passenger vehicle;
- (b) a trailer, being a living van the unladen weight of which does not exceed 2 tons;
- (c) a land tractor, land locomotive, land implement, land implement conveyer, an agricultural trailer or an industrial tractor;
- (d) a works truck or works trailer;
- (e) a vehicle in an unfinished condition proceeding to a works for completion or to a place where it is to be stored or displayed for sale;
- (f) a motor vehicle constructed or adapted for the purpose of forming part of an articulated vehicle;
- (g) a broken down vehicle while being drawn in consequence of the breakdown;

(a) 1960 c. 16.  
(c) 1957 c. 51.

(b) 1962 c. 59.  
(d) 1967 c. 55.

- (h) engineering plant ;
- (i) a trailer drawn by a public service vehicle ;
- (j) a vehicle designed for fire fighting or fire salvage purposes ;
- (k) a vehicle designed and used for the purpose of servicing or controlling aircraft ;
- (l) a vehicle designed and used for the transportation of two or more wheeled motor vehicles carried thereon ;
- (m) a vehicle proceeding to a place for export ;
- (n) a vehicle brought temporarily into Great Britain by a person resident abroad ;
- (o) a vehicle in the service of a visiting force or of a headquarters ;
- (p) a motor vehicle first used before 1st January 1940 ;

“the Construction and Use Regulations” means the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1969(a), as amended (b) ;

(2) In these Regulations, any expression defined in Regulation 3(1) of the Construction and Use Regulations for the purposes of those Regulations shall have the same meaning as in that Regulation, and any determination as to when a motor vehicle is first used shall be made as provided in Regulation 3(2) of those Regulations.

(3) For the purposes of these Regulations—

- (a) the expression “rear marking” means, except where the context otherwise requires, a rear marking of the type shown in any of the diagrams numbered 1 to 5 set out in Part I of the Schedule to these Regulations ;
- (b) any reference to a rear marking by a number means a reference to the rear marking shown in the diagram in Part I of the said Schedule bearing that number ;
- (c) any reference to a combination of vehicles is a reference to a motor vehicle and any trailer or trailers drawn thereby.

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

#### *Application*

3. These Regulations apply to—

- (a) every motor vehicle the unladen weight of which exceeds 3 tons ; and
- (b) every trailer the unladen weight of which exceeds 1 ton.

#### *Fitting of rear markings*

4.—(1) On and after 1st November 1971—

- (a) every motor vehicle to which these Regulations apply, being a motor vehicle the overall length of which does not exceed 13 metres and not being an excepted vehicle ; and
- (b) every trailer to which these Regulations apply, if it forms part of a combination of vehicles the overall length of which does not exceed 11 metres and it is not an excepted vehicle.

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(a) S.I. 1969/321 (1969 I, p. 829).

(b) The relevant amending instrument is S.I. 1970/49 (1970 I, p. 326).

(c) 1889 c. 63.

shall be fitted with a rear marking numbered 1 or 2, except that where any such motor vehicle or trailer is so constructed at the rear that it is impracticable without undue expense or risk of damage to such a rear marking for that marking to be fitted in accordance with the provisions of Part III of the Schedule to these Regulations, a rear marking numbered 3 may instead be fitted.

(2) On and after 1st November 1971, every trailer to which these Regulations apply, not being an excepted vehicle, and forming part of a combination of vehicles having an overall length of more than 11 metres and not more than 13 metres, shall be fitted with a rear marking numbered 1, 2, 4 or 5, except that where any such trailer is so constructed at the rear that it is impracticable without undue expense or risk of damage to a rear marking numbered 1 or 2 for such a marking to be fitted in accordance with the provisions of the said Part III, a rear marking numbered 3 may instead be fitted.

(3) On and after 1st November 1971—

(a) every motor vehicle to which these Regulations apply, being a motor vehicle the overall length of which exceeds 13 metres and not being an excepted vehicle; and

(b) every trailer to which these Regulations apply, if it forms part of a combination of vehicles the overall length of which exceeds 13 metres and it is not an excepted vehicle,

shall be fitted with a rear marking numbered 4 or 5.

(4) Until 1st November 1971—

(a) a vehicle mentioned in paragraph (1) of this Regulation, and either before or on or after that date a vehicle to which these Regulations apply and which would fall within that paragraph but for it being an excepted vehicle, may be fitted with a rear marking in accordance with the provisions of that paragraph ;

(b) a trailer mentioned in paragraph (2) of this Regulation, and either before or on or after that date a trailer to which these Regulations apply and which would fall within that paragraph but for it being an excepted vehicle, may be fitted with a rear marking in accordance with the provisions of that paragraph ;

(c) a vehicle mentioned in paragraph (3) of this Regulation, and either before or on or after that date a vehicle to which these Regulations apply and which would fall within that paragraph but for it being an excepted vehicle, may be fitted with a rear marking in accordance with the provisions of that paragraph.

(5) A rear marking fitted to a vehicle in pursuance of this Regulation shall—

(a) be of the size and colour shown in the diagram relating to the marking set out in Part I of the Schedule to these Regulations subject, however, to the provisions of Part II of that Schedule ; and

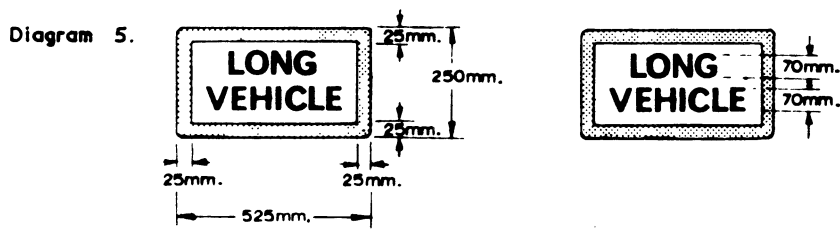
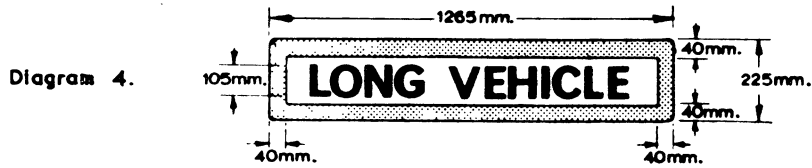
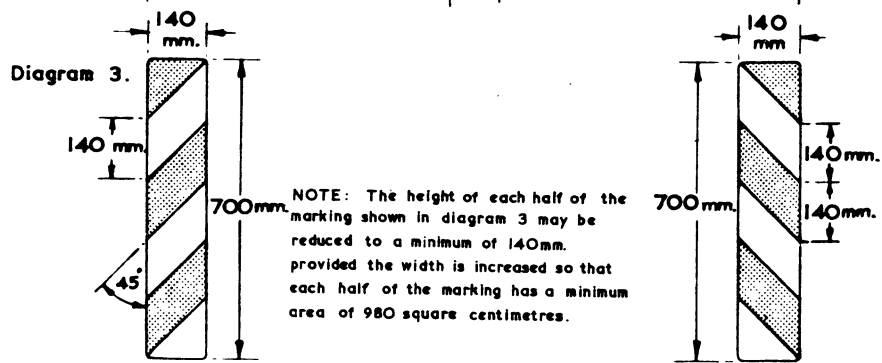
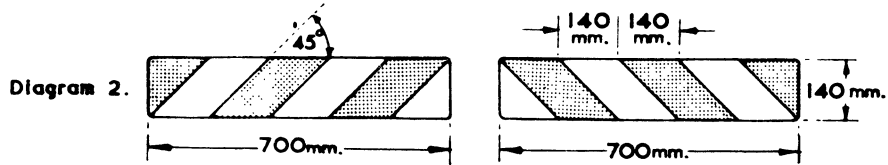
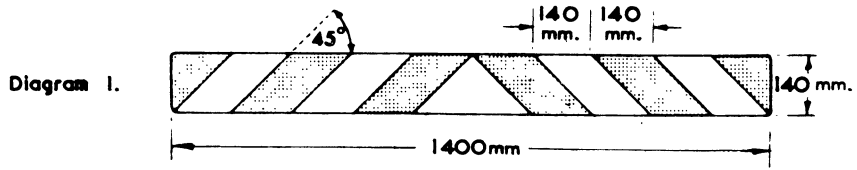
(b) be so fitted as to comply with such of the provisions set out in Part III of that Schedule as relate thereto.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Transport the 10th November 1970.

(L.S.)

*Peter Walker,*  
Minister of Transport.

**SCHEDULE  
PART I**  
**Size, colour and type of rear markings.**



## PART II

## ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO FORM OF REAR MARKINGS

1. Any variation in a dimension (other than as to the height of a letter) specified in any of the diagrams in Part I of this Schedule shall be treated as permitted for the purposes of these Regulations if the variation—
  - (a) in the case of a dimension so specified as 250 mm. or as over 250 mm. does not exceed 2½% of that dimension;
  - (b) in the case of a dimension so specified as 40 mm. or as over 40 mm. but as under 250 mm., does not exceed 5% of that dimension; or
  - (c) in the case of a dimension so specified as under 40 mm., does not exceed 10% of that dimension.
2. Any variation in a dimension as to the height of a letter specified in any of the said diagrams shall be treated as permitted for the purposes of these Regulations if the variation—
  - (a) in the case of a dimension so specified as 105 mm., does not exceed 2½% of that dimension; or
  - (b) in the case of a dimension so specified as 70 mm., does not exceed 5% of that dimension.
3. Any variation in a dimension as to the angle of hatching specified in any of the said diagrams shall be treated as permitted for the purposes of these Regulations if the variation does not exceed 5 degrees.
4. Every rear marking shall be illuminated by the use of red fluorescent material in the stippled areas shown in any of the said diagrams and by the use of yellow reflex reflecting material in any of the areas so shown, being areas not stippled and not constituting a letter.
5. Every rear marking numbered 1 or 4 shall be constructed in the form of a single plate, and every rear marking numbered 2, 3 or 5 shall be constructed in the form of two plates of equal size and shape, and every such plate shall be legibly and permanently marked with the specification number B.S. AU 152 to indicate that the rear marking complies with the requirements laid down by the British Standard Institution's specification for Rear Marking Plates for Vehicles published on 1st April 1970 under the number B.S. AU 152:1970, but this requirement shall not be taken to authorise any person to apply the said specification number to a plate in contravention of the Trade Descriptions Act 1968(a).
6. All letters incorporated in any rear marking shall have the proportions and form of letters as shown in Part V of Schedule 5 to the Traffic Signs Regulations 1964(b) and shall be coloured black.

## PART III

PROVISIONS AS TO POSITION ON VEHICLE, MAINTENANCE, ETC.  
OF REAR MARKINGS

1. A rear marking shall be fitted at the rear of the vehicle.
2. A rear marking shall be securely attached to the vehicle so that no part of the marking projects beyond the outermost part of the vehicle on either side.
3. The lower edge of every rear marking shall be horizontal and at a height of not more than 1700 mm. nor less than 400 mm. above the ground, whether the vehicle is laden or unladen, and in the case of the rear marking numbered 2, 3 or 5 the lower edge of each half of the marking shall be at the same height above the ground.
4. Every part of a rear marking shall lie within 20 degrees of a transverse vertical plane at right angles to the vertical plane through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle so that—

(a) 1968 c. 29.

(b) S.I. 1964/1857 (1964 III, p. 4053).

- (a) in the case of the rear marking numbered 1 or 4, the vertical centre line of the marking lies on that vertical plane through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle, and
- (b) in the case of the rear marking numbered 2, 3 or 5, each half of the marking lies in the same vertical plane and the innermost vertical edges of each half of the marking are equidistant from the vertical plane through the longitudinal axis of the vehicle.
5. A rear marking numbered 2, 3 or 5 shall lie so that each half of the marking is as near as is practicable to the outermost edge of the vehicle on the side thereof on which it is fitted.
6. Every rear marking shall be so fitted that every part thereof is clearly visible to other persons using the road within a reasonable distance to the rear of the vehicle at all times, except while the vehicle is being loaded or unloaded if the vehicle is so constructed at the rear that it is impracticable for the marking to be so fitted, without undue expense or risk of damage to the marking.
7. Every rear marking shall be maintained in a clean and efficient condition while the vehicle is on a road.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations apply only to motor vehicles exceeding 3 tons unladen weight and trailers exceeding 1 ton unladen weight and make provision for them to be fitted with the rear markings numbered 1 to 5 shown in Part I of the Schedule.

Regulation 4 requires as from 1st November 1971, unless they are excepted vehicles as defined in Regulation 2(1)—

- (a) motor vehicles not more than 13 metres long and trailers forming part of a combination of vehicles not more than 11 metres long to fit a rear marking numbered 1 or 2 except that, where the construction of the vehicle makes this impracticable, a rear marking numbered 3 may instead be fitted ;
- (b) motor vehicles more than 13 metres long and trailers forming part of a combination of vehicles more than 13 metres long to fit a rear marking numbered 4 or 5 ; and
- (c) trailers forming part of a combination of vehicles more than 11 metres and not more than 13 metres long to fit a rear marking numbered 1, 2, 4 or 5 except that, where the construction of the trailer makes the fitting of a marking numbered 1 or 2 impracticable, a rear marking numbered 3 may instead be fitted.

Regulation 4(4) permits vehicles mentioned in (a), (b) or (c) above to fit the appropriate rear marking before 1st November 1971, and also permits excepted vehicles to fit the appropriate rear marking either before or on or after that date.

Part II of the Schedule provides inter alia for a rear marking to be marked with the specification number of the British Standard for rear marking plates for vehicles and Part III of the Schedule lays down requirements as to the position and maintenance of the rear markings.



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