
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2001 No. 25

The Motor Vehicles (Approval) Regulations 2001

PART I
GENERAL

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Approval) Regulations 2001 and shall come into force on 1st February 2001.

Revocation

2. The instruments specified in Schedule 1 are hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3.—(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“the 1970 Directive” means Council Directive [70/156/EEC](#) of 6th February 1970 on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers⁽¹⁾ as last amended by Directive [98/14/EC](#) of 25th March 1998⁽²⁾;

“the 1982 Regulations” means the Motor Vehicles (Type Approval for Goods Vehicles) (Great Britain) Regulations 1982⁽³⁾;

“the 1984 Regulations” means the Motor Vehicles (Type Approval) (Great Britain) Regulations 1984⁽⁴⁾;

“the 1988 Act” means the Road Traffic Act 1988;

“ambulance”, “armoured vehicle”, “hearse” and “motor caravan” have the meanings given by paragraph 1 of Schedule 2;

“approval requirements”, in relation to a vehicle, means the requirements prescribed by section 54 of the 1988 Act as they apply to that vehicle and which are set out in regulation 5(1);

“axle weight”, “gross weight”, “kerbside weight”, “maximum gross weight” and “maximum permitted axle weight” have the meanings given in regulation 3(2) of the Construction and Use Regulations;

“the Construction and Use Regulations” means the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986⁽⁵⁾;

(1) O.J.L42.23.02.70,p.1.

(2) O.J.L91.25.03.98,p.1.

(3) S.I.1982/1271; relevant amending instruments are S.I.1987/1508,1988/1523, 1989/1579, 1991/1021, 1992/25, 1342 and 3084, 1993/2200 and 1995/1323.

(4) S.I. 1984/981; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1984/1761, 1987/1509, 1988/1522, 1989/1580, 1991/1022, 1992/1341, 2161 and 2908, 1993/2201 and 1995/1322.

(5) S.I. 1986/1078; relevant amending instruments are S.I. 1987/676 and 1333, 1988/1178, 1989/1478, 1990/2212, 1992/2016, 3088 and 3285 and 1994/3270.

“design gross weight” means the weight which the vehicle is designed or adapted not to exceed when in normal use and travelling on a road laden;

“EEA State” means a State which is a contracting party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area signed at Oporto on 2nd May 1992 as adjusted by the Protocol signed at Brussels on 17th March 1993⁽⁶⁾;

“family of types” has the same meaning as in Annex XII of the 1970 Directive;

“goods vehicle” means a vehicle of a kind specified in regulation 4(1)(b);

“kg” means kilograms;

“kph” means kilometres per hour;

“the Lighting Regulations” means the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989⁽⁷⁾;

“mm” means millimetres;

“mph” means miles per hour;

“registered” means registered under the Vehicle Excise and Regulation Act 1994⁽⁸⁾;

“relevant vehicle” has the meaning given in regulation 4(3);

“Schedule 2 vehicle” has the meaning given in Schedule 2;

“subject matter” means a subject matter in relation to which approval requirements are specified in Schedule 3 or 4 and “applicable subject matter” in relation to a vehicle means a subject matter as respects which approval requirements are applicable to the vehicle in accordance with these Regulations;

“wheel” has the meaning given in regulation 3(2) of the Construction and Use Regulations.

(2) References to vehicles of categories M1, M2, M3, N1, N2 and N3 are to vehicles of those categories as defined in Annex II.A of the 1970 Directive.

(3) A reference in any provision of these Regulations to a prescribed fee is a reference to the fee (if any) for the time being prescribed for the purposes of that provision in regulations made under section 61 of the 1988 Act.

(4) Paragraphs (7) and (8) of regulation 3 of the Construction and Use Regulations (determination of the numbers of wheels and axles of a vehicle) shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations other than item 16 of Schedule 3 as they apply for the purposes of the Construction and Use Regulations other than regulations 26 and 27.

(5) For the purposes of these Regulations, a vehicle is to be regarded as being manufactured on or after a particular date if it is first assembled on or after that date, even if it includes one or more parts which were manufactured before that date.

(6) Schedule 6 of these Regulations—

- (a) defines expressions relating to Community instruments and ECE Regulations (including references to complying with provisions of such instruments); and
- (b) sets out details of Community instruments and ECE Regulations referred to in these Regulations.

⁽⁶⁾ Cmnd. 2972 and 2183.

⁽⁷⁾ S.I. 1989/1796; the relevant amending instrument is S.I. 1994/2280.

⁽⁸⁾ 1994 c. 22.

PART II

APPROVAL REQUIREMENTS FOR RELEVANT VEHICLES

Application of Regulations

- 4.—(1) These Regulations apply to every motor vehicle—
- (a) to which the 1984 Regulations apply; or
 - (b) to which the 1982 Regulations apply and which either has a design gross weight not exceeding 3,500 kg or complies with the requirements specified in paragraph (2).
- (2) The requirements referred to in paragraph (1)(b) are that the vehicle in question—
- (a) has a design gross weight exceeding 3,500 kg but not exceeding 5,500 kg;
 - (b) has a kerbside weight not exceeding 3,425 kg; and
 - (c) belongs to the same family of types as at least one vehicle to which these Regulations apply by virtue of paragraph (1) and which has been granted a Minister's approval certificate on the basis that it complies with the approval requirements by virtue of these Regulations or the Motor Vehicles (Approval) Regulations 1996⁽⁹⁾.
- (3) In these Regulations, "relevant vehicle" means a vehicle to which these Regulations apply.

Approval requirements for relevant vehicles

- 5.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this regulation, the following are prescribed under section 54 of the 1988 Act as requirements as to the design, construction, equipment and marking of relevant vehicles—
- (a) in the case of any relevant vehicle, compliance with the requirements set out in column 3 of the Table in Schedule 3; and
 - (b) in the case of any relevant vehicle which is not a Schedule 2 vehicle, and in relation to each item in the Table in Schedule 4 for which is specified in column 3(a) of that Table a date which is, or falls before, the date of manufacture of the vehicle, compliance with the requirements of the Community instruments set out in column 3(b) of that Table in relation to that item, or with any equivalent requirement of the ECE Regulations set out in column 3(c) of that Table.
- (2) Subject to paragraph (3), the requirements of paragraph (1)(b) shall not apply to a relevant vehicle until 1st August 2001.
- (3) Where, in the case of any relevant vehicle which is of category M1 and to which the requirements of paragraph (1)(b) would not otherwise apply, a person making an application in accordance with regulation 6 requests the Secretary of State in writing at the time of making the application that the provisions of paragraph (1)(b) be applied for the purposes of the application, those provisions shall so apply.
- (4) The items in Schedule 3 numbered 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16 and 19 and the items in Schedule 4 numbered 3, 8, 10, 11, 26, 27 and 28 shall not apply to goods vehicles.
- (5) The requirements set out or referred to in column 3 of the Tables in Schedules 3 and 4 have effect subject to the exceptions and modifications set out in column 5 of those Tables.
- (6) An entry in column 4 of an item in the Table in Schedules 3 and 4 shall have effect for the purposes of interpreting or otherwise supplementing the entries in that item and, for convenience, expressions that are defined in that column are printed in bold type.

(9) [S.I. 1996/3013](#); relevant amending instruments are set out in Schedule 1.

(7) Where a provision of any Community instrument or ECE Regulation is applied by Schedule 4, that provision as so applied shall (except in so far as the contrary intention appears) have effect in relation to—

- (a) a vehicle to which the 1984 Regulations apply as it has effect in relation to a vehicle of category M1; and
- (b) a vehicle to which the 1982 Regulations apply as it has effect in relation to a vehicle of category N1.

(8) A relevant vehicle shall be regarded as complying with all the requirements prescribed under section 54 of the 1988 Act if at least one of the following three conditions are satisfied in relation to each applicable subject matter mentioned in Schedule 3 or 4—

- (a) that the vehicle complies with the requirements set out in paragraph (1);
- (b) that requirements applicable to the vehicle are prescribed by regulation 4 of the 1984 Regulations or by regulation 4 of the 1982 Regulations in relation to the subject matter and the vehicle complies with those requirements;
- (c) that there is produced to the Secretary of State evidence that satisfies him that the vehicle has been found by a competent authority in another EEA State to comply with requirements applicable to the vehicle equivalent to those prescribed in relation to the subject matter.

(9) For the purposes of paragraph (8)(b), the requirements prescribed by regulation 4 of the 1984 Regulations in relation to the subject matter mentioned in item 6 of column 2 of the Table in Schedule 3 to these Regulations (lamps, reflectors and devices) shall be regarded as the requirements prescribed in relation to—

- (a) installation of lighting and signalling equipment;
- (b) direction indicators;
- (c) headlamps and filament lamps;
- (d) side, rear and stop lamps;
- (e) rear reflectors; and
- (f) rear fog lamps.

(10) For the purposes of paragraph (8), regulation 4(1A) of the 1984 Regulations shall have effect as if—

- (a) for sub-paragraph (a), there were substituted—
 - “(a) an entry in column (6) of Part I of Schedule 1 shall not apply to the vehicle if the vehicle was manufactured before the date specified or having effect as if specified in that entry;”; and
- (b) the words after sub-paragraph (b) were omitted.

(11) For the purposes of paragraph (8), regulation 4(2A) of the 1982 Regulations shall have effect as if—

- (a) for sub-paragraph (a), there were substituted—
 - “(a) an entry in column (6) of Part I of Schedule 1 shall not apply to the vehicle if the vehicle was manufactured before the date specified or having effect as if specified in that entry;”; and
- (b) the words after sub-paragraph (b) were omitted.

(12) If a relevant vehicle complies with all the requirements prescribed by—

- (a) regulation 4 of the 1984 Regulations (disregarding paragraph (9)); or
- (b) regulation 4 of the 1982 Regulations (disregarding paragraph (10)),

that are applicable to it, the requirements prescribed by this regulation shall not apply to it.

PART III MISCELLANEOUS

Application for Minister's approval certificate

6.—(1) An application for the issue for a Minister's approval certificate on the basis that the vehicle complies with the approval requirements by virtue of these Regulations shall be made to the Secretary of State.

(2) The application shall be in a form which—

- (a) has been approved by the Secretary of State; and
- (b) has been duly completed so as to furnish all the information required by that form.

(3) The application shall be accompanied by—

- (a) the documents mentioned in the form as being required in connection with the application; and
- (b) the prescribed fee.

(4) As soon as reasonably practicable after he receives the application, the Secretary of State shall send to the applicant a notice stating the time when and the place where an examination for the purposes of the application is to be carried out.

(5) The Secretary of State may by notice to the applicant alter the time when or the place where the examination is to be carried out, but he shall not alter the time to an earlier time without the consent of the applicant.

(6) Where an application ("the original application") made in accordance with the paragraphs (1) to (3) is refused other than by virtue of regulation 10 or on the grounds that the vehicle is not a relevant vehicle, a further application by the same applicant in respect of the vehicle shall be regarded as having been made in accordance with and pursuant to those paragraphs if—

- (a) it is made (orally or in writing) to the Secretary of State during the period of six months beginning with the date on which the original application was refused; and
- (b) at the time that he makes the further application, the applicant requests an examination to be carried out for the purpose of the further application—
 - (i) during that period of six months; and
 - (ii) except in the case of a Schedule 2 vehicle other than a left hand drive vehicle or a personally imported vehicle, at the place where the examination took place for the purposes of the original application.

(7) Paragraphs (4) and (5) shall not apply to an application made in accordance with paragraph (6); and in the case of such an application—

- (a) the Secretary of State shall inform the applicant in such manner as he thinks fit of the time when and the place where the examination is to be carried out;
- (b) the Secretary of State may alter the time when or the place where the examination is to be carried out, but he shall not alter the time to an earlier time without the consent of the applicant;
- (c) if the Secretary of State so alters the time or place, he shall inform the applicant in such manner as he thinks fit of the time when and the place where the examination is to be carried out; and

(d) the applicant shall pay the prescribed fee to the Secretary of State before the examination is carried out.

(8) Paragraphs (4) to (7) shall not apply to an application for the issue of a Minister's approval certificate under section 58(4) of the 1988 Act.

Assignment of vehicle identification numbers

7.—(1) Where it appears to the Secretary of State when an application is made for a Minister's approval certificate in accordance with paragraphs (1) to (3) of regulation 6 that the vehicle to which the application relates does not have a vehicle identification number which—

- (a) complies with paragraph 3.1.1 of the Annex to Directive [76/114/EEC\(10\)](#) or that Directive as last amended by Directive [78/507/EEC\(11\)](#);
- (b) has been previously assigned to the vehicle under this regulation; or
- (c) does not fall within sub-paragraph (a) or (b), but is adequate for the purpose of enabling the vehicle to be identified,

he shall assign a vehicle identification number to the vehicle.

(2) Where an application is made under regulation 6 for the issue of a Minister's approval certificate under section 58(4) of the 1988 Act, paragraph (1) shall have effect as if the words "in accordance with paragraphs (1) to (3) of regulation 6" were omitted.

Criteria for determining design weights

8. For the purposes of section 54(2) of the 1988 Act, where an application is made pursuant to regulation 6, the criteria for determining, as design weights, the axle weights and gross weights which in the opinion of the Secretary of State should not be exceeded in the case of a vehicle to which these Regulations apply are as follows—

- (a) the design of the vehicle, its construction and equipment and the stresses to which it is likely to be subject when used on a road;
- (b) any information which is available about the weight which a vehicle of that type was designed by the manufacturer to carry when used on a road; and
- (c) any information obtained from an examination of a vehicle of that type or a similar type with a view to ascertaining whether at the time of the examination, it complied with any requirement prescribed under section 54 of the 1988 Act and applicable to it.

Appeals

9.—(1) An appeal under section 60 of the 1988 Act by a person aggrieved by a determination made by the Secretary of State pursuant to an application under regulation 6 shall be made by including with the documents submitted a form which—

- (a) has been provided by the Secretary of State; and
- (b) has been completed so as to include a description of the grounds upon which the appeal is made and such other information as may be reasonably required by that form.

(2) The appeal shall be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(3) The prescribed time within which an appeal against such a determination may be made is 14 days beginning with the date of the determination.

(10) O.J.L24, 18.12.75, p.1.

(11) O.J. L155 19.05.78, p.31.

(4) As soon as reasonably practicable after the date of the receipt of the appeal the Secretary of State shall send to the appellant a notice stating the time when and the place where the re-examination for the purpose of determining the issues raised on the appeal is to be carried out.

(5) The Secretary of State may by notice to the applicant alter the time when or the place where the re-examination is to be carried out, but he shall not alter the time to an earlier time without the consent of the applicant.

Refusal of application or appeal without an examination or a complete examination

10.—(1) In this regulation—

“appeal” means an appeal under section 60 of the 1988 Act in respect of the determination of an application;

“application” means an application under regulation 6 for the issue of a Minister’s approval certificate under section 58(1) of the 1988 Act;

“examination” means an examination for the purposes of an application or appeal; and

“examiner”, in relation to an examination, means the person appointed by the Secretary of State to conduct the examination.

(2) The Secretary of State may refuse an application or appeal even though an examination has not been carried out if—

- (a) the vehicle is not submitted for examination at the time and place fixed under these Regulations for the examination;
- (b) the fee in respect of the examination is not paid at or before the time fixed under these Regulations for the examination;
- (c) the examiner is not able, with the facilities and apparatus available to him at the place at which the examination would otherwise be carried out, to complete the examination without the vehicle being driven or the engine run and the vehicle is not when submitted for examination, either for want of fuel or oil or for any other reason, fit to be driven or for the engine to be run to such extent as may be necessary for the purposes of carrying out the examination;
- (d) when the vehicle is submitted for the examination, the vehicle or any item which forms part of the vehicle or its equipment is so dirty or dangerous as to make it unreasonable for the examination to be carried out;
- (e) any things which are on the vehicle when it is submitted for the examination, and are not part of its equipment or accessories, are required by the examiner to be removed from the vehicle or to be secured in such a manner as he may think necessary and those things are not removed or secured accordingly;
- (f) when the vehicle is submitted for the examination, a proper examination cannot be carried out as a consequence of any door, tailgate, boot lid, engine cover, fuel cap or other device designed to be capable of being readily opened, being locked or otherwise fixed so that it cannot readily be opened;
- (g) when the vehicle is submitted for the examination, its condition is such that, in the opinion of the examiner, a proper examination of the vehicle would involve a danger of—
 - (i) injury to any person, or
 - (ii) damage to the vehicle or any other property;
- (h) when the vehicle is submitted for the examination, there is not permanently fixed to the chassis or main structure of the vehicle in a conspicuous and easily accessible position so as to readily be legible, a vehicle identification number which—

- (i) complies with paragraph 3.1.1 of Annex to Directive 76/114/EEC or that Directive as last amended by Directive 78/507/EEC;
 - (ii) has been assigned to the vehicle under regulation 7(1); or
 - (iii) does not fall within sub-paragraph (i) or (ii), but appears to the Secretary of State to be adequate for the purpose of enabling the vehicle to be identified; or
- (i) the person who is the driver of the vehicle at the time it is submitted for the examination is requested to remain in it or its vicinity throughout the examination, to drive it, to operate its controls or to remove or refit its panels and he declines to do so.
- (3) Nothing in this regulation shall affect any power of the Secretary of State to refuse an application or to reject an appeal otherwise than under this regulation.

Form of certificate

11.—(1) Subject to the following paragraphs, where a Minister's approval certificate is issued under section 58(1) of the 1988 Act on the basis that the vehicle complies with the approval requirements by virtue of these Regulations, the certificate shall be in the form set out in Schedule 5 to these Regulations or in a form to the like effect.

(2) Where the certificate is issued on the basis that it relates to a vehicle falling within a class specified in column (2) of an item in the Table below there shall be inserted in the box under the words "Class Code" the letter specified in column (3) of that item.

TABLE

<i>(1)</i> <i>Item</i>	<i>(2)</i> <i>Class of vehicle</i>	<i>(3)</i> <i>Letter</i>
1.	Left hand drive vehicle	N
2.	Personally imported vehicle	P
3.	Amateur built vehicle	A
4.	Vehicle manufactured in very low volume	L
5.	Vehicle manufactured using parts from a registered vehicle	C
6.	Disabled persons vehicle	D
7.	Rebuilt vehicle	S
8.	Motor caravan, ambulance or hearse	M
9.	Armoured vehicle	T
10.	Vehicle not falling within any of the preceding classes specified in this Table	R
11.	Vehicle which meets the condition set out in regulation 5(8)(c)	E

(3) Any letter or letters inserted pursuant to paragraph (2) may be followed by a zero and then by any letters or numbers that the Secretary of State thinks fit to insert.

(4) Expressions used in this regulation which are the subject of definitions in Schedule 2 shall have the meanings given by those definitions.

(5) This regulation shall apply to a Minister's approval certificate issued under section 58(4) of the 1988 Act as it applies to such a certificate issued under section 58(1) of that Act as if for the words "section 58(1)" in the form set out in Schedule 5 to these Regulations there were substituted the words "section 58(4)".

Replacement certificates

12.—(1) If a Minister's approval certificate has been lost or defaced, an application for issue of a replacement for the original certificate may be made, either orally or in writing, to the Secretary of State at the place from which the original certificate was issued.

(2) The application shall—

- (a) specify the identification number of the vehicle in respect of which the original certificate was issued; and
- (b) be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

(3) As soon as reasonably practicable after he receives the application and fee, the Secretary of State shall issue to the applicant a replacement for the certificate to which the application relates and any such replacement shall have the same effect as the certificate which it replaces and shall be marked "replacement".

Notices

13. Except as otherwise provided by these Regulations, every notice under them shall be in writing and may be given by post.

Obligatory certificates

14.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) below, this regulation applies to all relevant vehicles.

(2) This regulation does not apply—

- (a) to any ambulance or a motor caravan;
- (b) to any registered vehicle;
- (c) to a vehicle more than 10 years after the time when it was manufactured; or
- (d) to a vehicle that meets the requirements specified in paragraph (3).

(3) The requirements referred to in paragraph (2)(d) are that—

- (a) the person by whom the vehicle is kept ("the keeper") is a member of a visiting force or of a member of the civilian component of a visiting force;
- (b) the vehicle has been imported into the United Kingdom for the personal use of the keeper or of his dependants;
- (c) there is not in force with respect to the vehicle—
 - (i) a Minister's approval certificate issued in pursuance of these Regulations;
 - (ii) a certificate of conformity;
 - (iii) a Minister's approval certificate in a form prescribed by regulation 14 of the 1982 Regulations or regulation 9 of the 1984 Regulations; or
 - (iv) an EC certificate of conformity; and

- (d) not more than one other vehicle which meets the requirements of sub-paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) is kept in the United Kingdom by the keeper.
- (4) In paragraph (3) the expressions “member of a visiting force” and “member of a civilian component of a visiting force” shall bear the same meanings as in Part I of the Visiting Forces Act 1952⁽¹²⁾.
- (5) The day appointed for the purposes of section 63(1) of the 1988 Act in relation to every vehicle—
- (a) to which this regulation applies; but
 - (b) which is not of a class for which a day had previously been appointed for those purposes,
- is 1st February 2001.
- (6) Without prejudice to any other Regulations having effect by virtue of section 63(1) of the 1988 Act, all vehicles to which this regulation applies are vehicles of a prescribed class for the purposes of that section.
- (7) The type approval requirements prescribed for the purposes of section 63(1) of the 1988 Act, in relation to every vehicle to which this regulation applies, are the approval requirements.
- (8) Section 63(1) of the 1988 Act shall not apply to the use of a relevant vehicle—
- (a) for the purpose of submitting it (by previous arrangement for a specified time on a specified date) before it is registered for an examination pursuant to an application under these Regulations;
 - (b) for the purpose of bringing it away, before it is registered, from such an examination;
 - (c) by an authorised person for the purpose of—
 - (i) taking it to, or bringing it away from, a place where a part of such an examination is to be, or has been, carried out, or
 - (ii) carrying out a part of such an examination, or
 - (iii) warming up its engine in preparation for such an examination, before it is registered;
 - (d) where an application under regulation 6 is refused following such an examination, for the purpose of—
 - (i) delivering it (by previous arrangement for a specified time on a specified date) at a place where relevant work is to be done on it, or
 - (ii) bringing it away from a place where relevant work has been done on it, before it is registered.
- (9) In this regulation—
- “authorised person” means an examiner appointed under section 66A of the 1988 Act or a person carrying out such an examination under the direction of such an examiner;
- “relevant work” means work done or to be done to remedy the defects on the grounds of which the application was refused (including work to alter the vehicle in some aspect of design, construction, equipment or marking on account of which the certificate was refused).

Licences not to be issued for vehicles unless appropriate certificates are in force

15. Where application is made for a licence under the Vehicle Excise and Registration Act 1994⁽¹³⁾ for a vehicle to which regulation 14 applies, the licence shall not be granted unless on the first application after the day appointed by Regulations made by virtue of the 1988 Act for a licence for that vehicle, there is produced evidence that there are one or more certificates in force for the

⁽¹²⁾ 1952 c. 67. See sections 10 and 12.

⁽¹³⁾ 1994 c. 22.

vehicle under sections 54 to 58 of the 1988 Act from which it appears that the vehicle complies with the approval requirements.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

9th January 2001

Gus Macdonald
Minister of State,
Department of the Environment, Transport and
the Regions