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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2001 No. 561**

**ROAD TRAFFIC**

**The Road Vehicles (Display of  
Registration Marks) Regulations 2001**

*Made - - - - 26th February 2001*

*Laid before Parliament 28th February 2001*

*Coming into force*

*for the purposes of  
regulations 1(1)(a) and  
17 21st March 2001*

*for all other purposes 1st September 2001*

**THE ROAD VEHICLES (DISPLAY OF  
REGISTRATION MARKS) REGULATIONS 2001**

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1. Citation, commencement and revocation
2. Interpretation: general
3. Exempt vehicles

PART II

REGISTRATION PLATES

4. Interpretation of Part II
5. Fixing of rear registration plates: vehicles registered on or after the relevant date
6. Fixing of front registration plates: vehicles registered on or after the relevant date
7. Fixing of registration plates: vehicles registered before the relevant date
8. Fixing of registration plates: works trucks, road rollers and agricultural machines
9. Lighting of rear registration plates
10. Specifications for registration plates

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/01/2021.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001. (See end of Document for details)*

11. Further requirements for registration plates

### PART III

#### REGISTRATION MARKS

12. Interpretation of Part III
13. Layout of marks
14. Size and spacing of characters
- 14A. Size and spacing of characters: special cases
15. Style of characters

### PART IV

#### MISCELLANEOUS

16. International distinguishing signs and other material
17. Optional early use of new-specification plates and prescribed font
- 17A. Optional early compliance with Schedule 2, Part A1
18. Saving for vehicles constructed before 1st January 1973
19. Offences under section 59 of the Act  
Signature

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#### SCHEDULE 1 — REGULATIONS REVOKED

#### SCHEDULE 2 — REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION PLATES

##### PART A1 — VEHICLES REGISTERED AND NEW REGISTRATION PLATES FITTED ON OR AFTER 1ST SEPTEMBER 2021 (MANDATORY SPECIFICATION)

1. The plate must be made of retroreflecting material which, as...
2. Where the registration mark is displayed on the front of...
3. Where the registration mark is displayed on the back of...
4. Subject to the paragraphs below, other than the registration mark,...
5. Each plate must display below the registration mark additional markings...
6. The markings required under paragraph 5 must be—
7. The space between the bottom of the registration mark and...
8. A border may be displayed on a registration plate where...

##### PART 1 — VEHICLES REGISTERED AND NEW REGISTRATION PLATES FITTED ON OR AFTER 1ST SEPTEMBER 2001 AND BEFORE 1ST SEPTEMBER 2021 (MANDATORY SPECIFICATION)

1. The plate must be made of retroreflecting material which, as...
2. Where the registration mark is displayed on the front of...
3. Where the registration mark is displayed on the back of...

##### PART 2 — VEHICLES REGISTERED ON OR AFTER 1ST JANUARY 1973 AND BEFORE 1ST SEPTEMBER 2001 (OPTIONAL SPECIFICATION)

1. The plate must be made of reflex-reflecting material which, as...
2. Where the registration mark is displayed on the front of...
3. Where the registration mark is displayed on the back of...

##### PART 3 — VEHICLES REGISTERED BEFORE 1ST JANUARY 1973 (OPTIONAL SPECIFICATIONS)

- A Requirements where the vehicle carries a registration plate which is...
  1. The registration mark must be formed of white translucent characters...

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/01/2021.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001. (See end of Document for details)

2. When the registration mark is illuminated during the hours of...
  - B Requirements where the vehicle carries a registration plate which is...  
Either of the following is permitted—
    1. A plate made of reflex-reflecting material complying with the requirements...
    2. A plate displaying white, silver or light grey letters and...

SCHEDULE 3 — LAYOUT OF REGISTRATION MARKS

PART 1 — TABLE A PERMITTED LAYOUTS FOR REGISTRATION MARKS

PART 2 — DIAGRAMS SHOWING PERMITTED LAYOUTS

Diagram 1a  
Diagram 1b  
Diagram 2a  
Diagram 2b  
Diagram 2c  
Diagram 3a  
Diagram 3b  
Diagram 3c  
Diagram 4a  
Diagram 4b  
Diagram 5a  
Diagram 5b  
Diagram 6a  
Diagram 6b  
Diagram 7a  
Diagram 7b  
Diagram 8a  
Diagram 8b  
Diagram 9a  
Diagram 9b

PART 3 — TABLE B STROKE AND CHARACTER WIDTH, SPACING AND MARGINS

SCHEDULE 4 — PRESCRIBED FONT

PART 1 — FONT DESCRIBED FOR CHARACTERS 79 MILLIMETRES IN HEIGHT

PART 2 — FONT PRESCRIBED FOR CHARACTERS 64 MILLIMETRES IN HEIGHT

Explanatory Note

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/01/2021.

**Changes to legislation:**

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