
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2001 No. 561

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

PART II

REGISTRATION PLATES

Fixing of rear registration plates: vehicles registered on or after the relevant date

5.—(1) This regulation applies to vehicles, other than works trucks, road rollers and agricultural machines, first registered on or after the relevant date.

(2) A registration plate must be fixed on the rear of—

- (a) the vehicle, or
- (b) where the vehicle is towing a trailer, the trailer, or
- (c) where the vehicle is towing more than one trailer, the rearmost trailer.

(3) Where a vehicle (or, in a case where the plate is required to be fixed on a trailer, that trailer) has been constructed so as to satisfy the requirements of [^{F1}EU law [^{F2}, or retained EU law,] in force at the time of construction as regards the space to be provided for the fixing of the rear registration plate, whether or not it was] required by law to satisfy them, the plate may be fixed in the space provided in accordance with those requirements but if it is not so fixed it must be fixed in the manner required by paragraph (5).

(4) Except as provided in paragraph (3) the plate must be fixed in the manner required by paragraph (5).

(5) This paragraph requires the plate to be fixed—

- (a) vertically or, where that is not reasonably practicable, in a position as close to the vertical as is reasonably practicable, and
- (b) in such a position that in normal daylight the characters of the registration mark are easily distinguishable from every part of a relevant area having the diagonal length specified in paragraph (6).

(6) The diagonal length of the relevant area is—

- (a) in the case of a mark having characters the width of which is at least 57 millimetres, 22 metres,
- (b) in the case of a mark having characters the width of which is 50 millimetres, 21.5 metres,
- (c) in the case of a mark having characters the width of which is 44 millimetres, 18 metres.

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in [reg. 5\(3\)](#) substituted (28.12.2018) by [The Road Vehicles \(Registration, Registration Plates and Excise Exemption\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2018 \(S.I. 2018/1295\)](#), regs. 1(3), **3(4)**

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Road Vehicles
(Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001, Section 5. (See end of Document for details)

F2 Words in reg. 5(3) inserted (31.12.2020) by The Road Vehicles (Registration, Registration Plates and Excise Exemption) (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/1295), regs. 1(2), **3(5)**; 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001, Section 5.