**L.N. 198 of 2009**

# MOTOR VEHICLES REGISTRATION AND LICENSING ACT (CAP. 368)

# MALTA TRANSPORT AUTHORITY ACT (CAP. 332)

## Registration and Licensing of Motor Vehicles Regulations, 2009

IN exercise of the powers conferred by article 20 of the Motor Vehicles Registration and Licensing Act and article 33 of the Malta Transport Authority Act, the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport and Communications, after consultation with the Malta Transport Authority, has made the following regulations:-

Citation and commencement.

**1.** (1) The title of these regulations is the Registration and Licensing of Motor Vehicles Regulations, 2009.

(2) These regulations shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1st January, 2009 save for sub-regulation (3) of regulation 6 which shall come into force on the 1st August, 2009.

## Part I

## PRELIMINARY

Interpretation.

**2.** In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

"the Act" means the Registration and Licensing of Motor Vehicles Act;

"amateur built motor vehicle" means a vehicle constructed for the personal use of an individual and –

(a) the construction or assembly or substantial part of which was carried out by the individual and, or persons acting on his behalf, and

(b) the individual and, or other persons acting on his behalf during the period of construction or assembly

did not have a business in which motor vehicles are normally constructed or assembled.

An amateur built vehicle is considered to be a new vehicle if, at least, the following parts of the vehicle are new: the chassis, the engine, the steering mechanism, the axles and the gearbox;

"authorised dealer" means a person who is authorised by the Authority to sell or buy motor vehicles for profit;

"authorised inspecting officer" means a Police officer, a local warden or an officer of the Authority;

"authorised treatment facility" means an undertaking or establishment in possession of a valid permit from the Malta Environment and Planning Authority in accordance with the Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations, 2004;

L.N. 99 of 2004.

"the Authority" means the Malta Transport Authority as established by the Malta Transport Authority Act;

Cap. 332.

"brought into Malta" means the entry into Malta of a motor vehicle coming from a Member State and which was put into free circulation in such Member State prior to entry into Malta;

"circulation licence fee" means the circulation licence fee paid in terms of the Act;

"certificate of conformity" means a certificate of conformity issued by a manufacturer of a motor vehicle under any provision of the law of a member State transposing Directive 70/156/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers as amended;

"certificate of destruction" means a certificate issued by an authorised treatment facility in accordance with sub-regulation 6(3) of the Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations, 2004;

Cap. 386.

"company" has the same meaning as is assigned to it in article 2 of the Companies Act;

Cap. 442.

"co-operative society" means a co-operative society registered or provisionally registered under the Co-operative Societies Act;

"CO2 emissions" means the level of carbon dioxide emissions for a vehicle measured in accordance with Directive 80/1268/EEC as amended and contained in the relevant EC type-approval certificate or EC certificate of conformity, and where the vehicle is not type-approved, for that particular vehicle the emissions level contained in any other document as provided for under these regulations showing a level of emissions comparable to that in Annex VIII of Directive 70/156/EEC, as amended;

"cycle" means, for the purpose of these regulations, a cycle fitted with an engine having a cylinder capacity of more than 50 $cm^3$ if of the internal combustion type and, or a maximum design speed of more than 45 km/h, and includes motor cycles, motor tricycles and quadricycles;

"Directive 1999/37/EC" means Council Directive 1999/37/EC of 29 April 1999 on the registration documents for vehicles;

"Directive 70/156/EEC" means Council Directive 70/156/EEC of 6 February 1970 on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to the type-approval of motor vehicles and their trailers;

"Directive 80/1268/EEC" means Council Directive 80/1268/EEC of 16 December 1980 relating to the carbon dioxide emissions and the fuel consumption of motor vehicles;

"Directive 2006/12/EC" means Directive 2006/12/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of the 5th April 2006 on waste;

"driver" means any person who drives a motor vehicle even for a short period;

"end-of-life vehicle" means a vehicle which is waste within the meaning of Article 1(a) of Directive 2006/12/EC;

Cap. 460.

"the European Union" has the same meaning as is given to it in the European Union Act and includes Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein;

"goods carrying motor vehicle" or "goods vehicle" means any N1, or N2 or N3 motor vehicle;

"gross vehicle weight (g.v.w.)" means the road weight specified by the manufacturer as being the maximum design weight capacity of the vehicle, such weight being the combined weight of the vehicle, the maximum specified load, the driver, and a tank full of fuel;

"hire or reward" means any payment or compensation made for the carrying of passengers or goods, whether such payment or compensation is made directly or indirectly;

"imported into Malta" means the entry into Malta of a motor vehicle from a third country;

"licence" means the circulation licence issued on a motor vehicle to be driven on the road and which is to be renewed annually;

Cap. 356.

"Malta Environment and Planning Authority" means the Malta Environment and Planning Authority as established under the Development Planning Act;

"M1 vehicle" means a motor vehicle used for the carriage of passengers and comprising no more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat;

"M2 vehicle" means a motor vehicle used for the carriage of passengers, comprising more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat, and having a maximum mass not exceeding 5 tonnes;

"M3 vehicle" means a motor vehicle used for the carriage of passengers, comprising more than eight seats in addition to the driver's seat, and having a maximum mass exceeding 5 tonnes;

"Member State" means a Member State of the European Union;

"the Minister" means the Minister responsible for land transport;

"motor cycle" means any two-wheeled vehicle, with or without a sidecar, fitted with an engine having a cylinder capacity of more than 50cm$^3$ if of the internal combustion type and/or having a maximum design speed of more than 45 km/h;

"motor hearse" means any motor vehicle used for the conveyance of corpses;

"motor tricycle" means a motor cycle with three symmetrically arranged wheels;

"motor vehicle" means any mechanically self-propelled vehicle intended for use on the road, other than a vehicle running on rails, the maximum designed speed of which exceeds 45 kilometers per hour;

"motor vehicle for leasing" means any motor vehicle with a registration mark showing the letters QZ as the last two letters, which is registered and licensed to be hired for the purpose of being driven by such hirer or a person authorised by such hirer for any period of time;

"motor vehicle on resale" means a motor vehicle which is transferred to an authorised motor vehicle dealer for resale;

"N1 vehicle" means a motor vehicle used for the carriage of goods and having a maximum mass not exceeding 3.5 tonnes;

"N2 vehicle" means a motor vehicle used for the carriage of goods and having a maximum mass exceeding 3.5 tonnes but not exceeding 12 tonnes;

"N3 vehicle" means a motor vehicle used for the carriage of goods and having a maximum mass exceeding 12 tonnes;

"new motor vehicle" means, for the purpose of these regulations, a motor vehicle which has never been registered in any country;

"normal residence" has the same meaning as is assigned to it in the Act;

"O1, O2, O3 and O4 motor vehicles" have the same meaning assigned to them by the Motor Vehicles (Weights, Dimensions and Equipment) Regulations, 2003;

L.N. 162 of 2003.

"off-road vehicle" means a motor vehicle designed and constructed primarily for use other than on roads;

"owner" means the person, whether as an individual or in representation of a company, partnership or cooperative society, in whose name a motor vehicle is registered and licensed;

"partnership" includes an association, not registered under the Companies Act, between two or more persons;

"public highway" means any national arterial, distributor, access and local access road;

"public hire vehicle" means a public hire vehicle driven by the service operator or by his employee;

"public transport vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is used or intended to be used for the purpose of carrying passengers for hire or reward;

"quadricycle" means a vehicle with four wheels whose unladen mass is not more than 400 kg (550 kg for vehicles intended for carrying goods), not including the mass of batteries in the case of electric vehicles, and whose maximum net engine power does not exceed 15 kW;

"rebuilt motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle which has been rebuilt using a replacement chassis or integrated chassis or body which is of the same design and construction as that of the original vehicle and which was supplied for the purpose without having been previously used, or previously formed part of a registered vehicle. For registration purposes it shall be considered as a used vehicle.

"register" means the record kept by the Authority of the motor vehicles registered by it;

"registration certificate" means the document which certifies that the vehicle is registered;

"registration mark" means the registration number assigned to a motor vehicle;

"registration plate" means a plate or other device displaying the registration mark of a motor vehicle;

"registration tax" means the registration tax paid under the Act;

"re-use" means an operation by which components of end-of life vehicles are used for the same purpose for which they were conceived;

"self-drive motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle which is registered and licensed to be hired from an operator of a public hire garage for the purpose of being driven by a hirer;

"Single Vehicle Approval" means the procedure whereby a Member State certifies that a particular vehicle, whether unique or not, satisfies the relevant administrative provisions and technical requirements and "Single Vehicle Approval certificate" means the certificate issued in respect of a single type approved vehicle;

"taxicar" means a motor vehicle fitted with a taximeter and is registered and licensed to stand or ply for hire as a taxicar;

"third country" means a country other than a Member State;

"trailer" means any vehicle without mechanical power of its own designed to be drawn by a motor vehicle and intended for the purpose of the carriage of goods;

"treatment" means any activity after the end-of-life vehicle has been handed over to an authorise treatment facility for de-pollution, dismantling, shearing, shredding, recovery or preparation for disposal of the shredder wastes, and any other operation carried out for the recovery and, or disposal of the end-of life vehicle and its components;

"used motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle which is not a new motor vehicle.

## Part II

## REGISTRATION OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Motor vehicles to be registered.

**3.** No person shall have in his possession or charge any motor vehicle which has not been registered with the Authority unless –

(a) that person is an authorized manufacturer, agent or dealer of motor vehicles and the vehicle in his possession or charge is not being used on the road, or

(b) the vehicle is the subject of an exemption under the Act.

Registration of new vehicles.

**4.** (1) For the purpose of the registration of a new vehicle, the owner or importer of a new motor vehicle shall be required to submit to the Authority the Registration Form for New Vehicles (Form VEH. 01), duly completed, together with the following documents:

(a) a Certificate of Conformity in the case of M1 vehicles and cycles,

(b) evidence of payment of duties to Customs if the vehicle is imported from a third country,

(c) technical specifications of the vehicle if the vehicle is a goods vehicle or any other motor vehicle which is not an M1 vehicle or cycle, including the country of origin,

(d) an invoice issued by the manufacturer or by an authorized agent of the manufacturer showing the cost of vehicle and, in the case of a goods vehicle or an off-road vehicle the engine capacity and gross vehicle weight, and other documents showing the CIF price,

(e) documentation confirming his name and address:

Provided that where a new motor vehicle is imported or brought in permanently by a person for his own use, the application for the registration of the

said motor vehicle together with the required documents shall be submitted to the Authority within fifteen days following the motor vehicle's arrival in Malta:

Provided further that where such a person, for unjustified reasons, fails to comply with the preceding proviso he shall be liable to an administrative fine of €30 for each day the vehicle remains not registered on the expiry of the said fifteen days.

(2) The registration of new vehicles shall only be made –

(a) in the case of a new motor vehicle brought in from a Member State, upon the presentation of the documents referred to in sub-regulation (1) hereof and upon payment of -

i. a €10 administration fee payable to the Authority,

ii. the prescribed registration tax in accordance with the Act, and

iii. the prescribed VAT in accordance with the Value Added Tax Act, Cap. 406.

(b) in the case of a new motor vehicle imported from a third country upon the presentation of the documents referred to in sub-regulation (1) hereof and upon the payment of -

i. a €10 administration fee payable to the Authority,

ii. the prescribed vehicle registration tax,

iii. the prescribed import duty in accordance with the Import Duties Act, and Cap. 337.

iv. the prescribed VAT;

(c) in the case of motor vehicles constructed in Malta not in low volume upon the presentation of a Certificate of Conformity in the case of an M1 motor vehicle or a cycle or a Single Vehicle Approval certificate in the case of motor vehicles manufactured in low volumes or in the case of an

amateur built motor vehicle, invoices showing the cost of production of the motor vehicle excluding VAT and upon the payment of -

i. a €10 administration fee payable to the Authority,

ii. the prescribed vehicle registration tax, and

iii. VAT:

Provided that where the owner of the vehicle is an exempt person from the payment of the said vehicle registration tax or from the payment of duty prescribed under the Import Duties Act, or from the payment of the prescribed VAT, the registration of the vehicle shall be made upon the payment of a €10 administration fee payable to the Authority, and the presentation of the documents referred to in sub-regulations (1) and (2) (c) hereof.

(3) Before registering a motor vehicle under this regulation, the Authority may require the owner or importer of the said motor vehicle to produce the vehicle for inspection or to produce other documentation as necessary. For an inspection there shall be charged an administrative fee of €35.

(4) A new motor vehicle which has been imported or brought into Malta may only be used on the road, prior to registration by the Authority, from the port of entry to the place where it is to be garaged until it is so registered and licensed, if that vehicle carries a 'Trial Run' plate in accordance with regulation 36 of these regulations.

(5) The provisions of this regulation shall not apply to any motor vehicle which is the property of any visiting military force.

Imported chassis to be declared.

**5.** Where a vehicle chassis, whether new or used, which has been imported or brought into Malta, is used to replace the chassis of a motor vehicle which is already registered with the Authority, the owner of that motor vehicle shall, within seven days, notify the Authority on the prescribed form of such replacement.

Registration of used motor vehicles.

**6.** (1) Every used motor vehicle imported or brought into Malta by a person who is a resident of Malta or has his normal residence in Malta or has his principal place of business in Malta, and every rebuilt and amateur built motor vehicle which is classified as a used vehicle shall be registered with the Authority.

(2) A person who imports or brings into Malta a used motor vehicle as provided for under this regulation shall file an application and provide all the relevant documents as provided for in sub-regulation (4) thereof, for the registration of the said vehicle with the Authority within fifteen days from the motor vehicle's arrival in Malta.

(3) Where a person, who is not an authorised dealer, fails, for unjustified reasons, to comply with the preceding sub-regulation he may be liable to an administrative fine of €30 for each day that vehicle remains not registered on the expiry of the fifteen-day period referred to in sub-regulation (2) thereof.

(4) For the purpose of registering an imported used motor vehicle or a used motor vehicle which had been brought into Malta or a rebuilt motor vehicle or an amateur built vehicle, the owner or importer or authorized dealer of that vehicle shall be required to submit to the Authority the Registration Form for Used Vehicles (VEH 01), duly completed, together with the following documents:

(a) a vehicle registration certificate and where appropriate an English or Maltese translation of it, issued by the competent authority of the country from where the vehicle has been imported or brought into Malta,

(b) in the case of M2, M3, N1, N2, N3, O1, O2, O3 and O4 vehicles an invoice showing the price, chassis number, engine capacity and gross vehicle weight, a declaration of origin and technical data or specifications,

(c) certificate of roadworthiness issued in terms of the Motor Vehicle Roadworthiness Test Regulations, L.N. 126 of 1998.

(d) motor insurance policy,

(e) inspection form issued by the Authority upon the valuation of the vehicle, where applicable,

(f) Single Vehicle Type approval certificate in the case of an M1 vehicle or a cycle imported from a third country,

(g) Single Vehicle Type approval certificate based on standards established by the Authority in the case of used 4-wheel-drive N1 vehicles with a g.v.w. of up to 3,000 Kgs imported from a third country, and in the case of rebuilt or amateur built motor vehicles,

(h) in the case of M1 and N1 vehicles imported from a third country, Certificate of Authenticity issued by a body accredited by the Authority and which shows that the vehicle has an authentic odometer reading, and

(i) documentation confirming his name and address,

(5) The registration of an imported used motor vehicle or a used motor vehicle which had been brought into Malta, or a rebuilt or amateur built motor vehicle shall be made by the Authority upon the issuing by the Authority of an inspection form and the payment of an inspection fee of €35 and upon the payment by the owner, importer or authorized dealer of an administrative fee of €10 payable to the Authority, and upon -

(a) the presentation of the documents mentioned in sub-regulation (4) hereof and upon payment of the prescribed vehicle registration tax, if the vehicle is acquired from a Member State, or it is a rebuilt or amateur built motor vehicle, and

(b) the presentation of the documents mentioned in sub-regulation (4) hereof and upon payment of the prescribed import duty under the Imports Duty Act, and the prescribed vehicle registration tax, if the vehicle is acquired from a third country.

(6) The owner or importer of an imported used motor vehicle or a used motor vehicle which had been brought into Malta and which is not an M1 vehicle or a motor cycle shall make the said vehicle available for inspection and valuation by the Authority prior to registering it with the said Authority.

(7) An imported used motor vehicle or a used motor vehicle which had been brought into Malta may be used on the road, prior to registration by the Authority, from the port of entry

to the place where it is to be garaged until it is so registered and licensed, and to and from a garage for repairs thereon if the vehicle, on inspection, fails the roadworthiness test if that vehicle has a valid registration, carries the registration plate issued in the country where it had previously been registered and is covered by an insurance policy. That vehicle may also be driven if it carries a 'Trial Run' plate in accordance with regulation 36 of these regulations.

(8) Where the owner or importer or authorized dealer of an imported used motor vehicle or a used motor vehicle which had been brought into Malta or the used motor vehicle itself does not satisfy the provisions of this regulation, the said motor vehicle shall be re-exported or disposed of within such time and under such conditions as the Authority may determine.

(9) Where the motor vehicle is not re-exported or disposed of as provided for in sub-regulation (8) hereof or where the motor vehicle has not been submitted for examination in accordance with the provisions of sub-regulation (6) hereof, the Authority may take possession of the vehicle and may remove it from the place where it is kept to a place designated by it, and the owner shall be liable to pay the Authority a removal fee and a storage fee as established in the Clamping and Removal of Motor Vehicles and Encumbering Objects Regulations, 1997, and an administrative fine of €35. L.N. 94 of 1997.

(10) Where the Authority, by virtue of this regulation, refuses to register a vehicle, it shall give notice of its decision to the person who appears to it to be the owner, importer or authorized dealer of the vehicle.

(11) Where the Authority refuses to register a motor vehicle, the person who appears to be the owner, importer or authorized dealer may appeal to the Administrative Review Tribunal, in accordance with the procedure laid down under the Administrative Justice Act. Cap. 490.

(12) (a) Without prejudice to sub-regulation (9) hereof, where the Authority has reasonable suspicion that a motor vehicle is on the road in breach of the provisions of regulation 3 of these regulations, the Authority may take possession of, remove and store the said vehicle in accordance with the Clamping and Removal of Motor Vehicles and Encumbering Objects Regulations, 1997, and shall request the Commissioner of Police to institute

criminal proceedings against the registered owner or possessor of the same.

(b) Such vehicle shall not be returned to its registered owner or possessor, unless and until, he has been acquitted by the Court of the alleged offence, or has remedied his position at law and settled any registration tax and other fees which may be payable, including the removal and storage fees stipulated by the said Clamping and Removal of Motor Vehicles and Encumbering Objects Regulations, 1997, and an administrative fee of €35.

(c) Acquittal from the charges pressed against the owner or possessor of the vehicle shall not give rise to a right to claim damages against the Authority or the Commissioner of Police, or both, unless it can be proven that the Authority acted in bad faith when it requested the removal of the vehicle:

Provided that prosecution for the offence in question is initiated not later than fourteen days after the date of removal, and where the registered owner or possessor of the vehicle is not known, the fourteen day period shall commence to run from the day when the owner or possessor is identified.

Issue of registration certificate.

**7.** (1) On registering a motor vehicle, the Authority shall issue to the owner a registration certificate containing such particulars relating to the vehicle in conformity with Directive 1999/37/EC as amended on the registration documents for vehicles.

(2) When the owner of a motor vehicle has been given the registration certificate, he or she shall cause such document to be kept at all times within the said vehicle while it is being used on the road once such motor vehicle is licensed in accordance with these regulations.

Production of vehicle registration certificate on demand.

**8.** No motor vehicle shall be driven on the road unless its driver carries with him the relative registration certificate of that vehicle, which certificate that person shall produce to any authorised inspecting officer, on demand.

Alterations to vehicle.

**9.** Where any alteration is made to a motor vehicle that affects the particulars in the registration certificate in respect of that vehicle, including a change in colour of the vehicle, the owner of the vehicle shall inform the Authority of such alteration on the

applicable form and at the same time deliver to the Authority the registration certificate for amendment as may be necessary. There shall be charged an administration fee of €6 for the issue of duplicate registration certificate.

Destruction or permanent export.

**10.** Where a motor vehicle, registered under these regulations, is garaged, scrapped, destroyed, dismantled, irreparably damaged, lost or permanently removed from Malta, the owner shall forthwith notify the Authority and surrender to the said Authority the vehicle's registration certificate.

Change of name or address of owner.

**11.** On a change of name and surname or residential address the owner of a motor vehicle shall forthwith inform the Authority and deliver to the Authority the vehicle registration certificate for the necessary amendment. There shall be charged an administration fee of €6 for the issue of duplicate registration certificate.

Disclosure of information.

**12.** The Authority may disclose any particulars contained in the register available to the Police or local wardens or judicial authority or any other authority responsible for vehicle registration or for the enforcement of motor vehicles regulations in another Member State for any purpose connected with offences or contraventions of traffic and motor vehicle regulations, or to any person who can show to the satisfaction of the said Authority that he or she has reasonable cause for wanting the particulars to be made available to him or her.

## Part III

## LICENSING OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Circulation licence required.

**13.** (1) No motor vehicle may be on the public highway, whether parked or in use, without a circulation licence issued by the Authority and renewed annually unless a motor vehicle is an exempt vehicle under the provisions of the Act.

(2) A motor vehicle shall only be licensed by the Authority to be used on the road if that vehicle is covered by a certificate of registration and an insurance policy in respect of third-party risks in compliance with the requirements of the Motor Vehicle Insurance (Third-Party Risks) Ordinance. Cap. 104.

(3) The owner of a motor vehicle who desires to obtain a circulation licence for that vehicle shall make an application on the prescribed form issued by the Authority. The said application

may be signed by the owner or by a duly authorised agent acting on his behalf.

Issue of licence.

**14.** (1) Upon the receipt by the Authority of an application for a licence as provided for in regulation 13 hereof and after the Authority ensures that the applicant satisfies all other requirements and upon payment by the owner of the relevant circulation licence fee as provided for in the Fourth Schedule to the Act, the Authority may issue to the owner of any motor vehicle a licence disc in respect of such vehicle.

(2) The licence disc referred to in the preceding sub-regulation shall bear the identification mark of the vehicle and the expiry date of the licence.

(3) The owner of any motor vehicle which has been once licensed shall see that, subject to the other provisions of these regulations regarding the suspension, withdrawal or cancellation of licences, such vehicle is always and at all times covered by a licence issued by the Authority:

Provided that if the owner of a motor vehicle, prior to the lapse of the validity of the relative licence, informs in writing the said Authority that the vehicle is not going to be used on the road for a period of time beginning on the date of the said lapse and is going to be garaged in a specified place during the said period of non-use, and provided also that the said owner will hand over to the said Authority the relative certificate of motor vehicle and the number plates of the relative motor vehicle, the said owner shall not be bound to renew the relative licence in respect of the said period of time.

(4) Where the owner of a motor vehicle, licensed by the Authority, fails to renew the applicable licence for that vehicle within three months from the expiry of the said licence, he shall be liable to an administrative fine, payable to the Authority, of €2 for each day the applicable licence fee remains unpaid, notwithstanding any other action which may be taken in terms of the Clamping and Removal of Motor Vehicles and Encumbering Objects Regulations, 1997.

(5) Where a motor vehicle is on the road without having a licence disc, the Commissioner of Police or a Local Council may remove such vehicle from the road as provided for in

the Clamping and Removal of Motor Vehicles and Encumbering Objects Regulations, 1997.

Licence for motor vehicles for the conveyance of corpses.

**15.** No motor vehicle shall be registered and licensed to be used for the conveyance of corpses unless the motor vehicle is constructed in such form and is provided with such furniture, fittings and lamps as may be directed by the Director General Health Division.

Circulation licence fees.

**16.** The circulation licence fees for the various classes of motor vehicles are those fixed in the Fourth Schedule to the Act.

Position of vehicle licence disc.

**17.** (1) The licence disc issued in respect of a vehicle shall be carried on the vehicle at all times when the vehicle is used, parked or otherwise kept at any time in a public place.

(2) (a) In every motor vehicle fitted with a glass windscreen the licence disc shall be fixed in a frame on the left hand side of the windscreen in such a position as to be visible from the front; and

(b) in the case of a motor cycle, motor tricycle, quad bike or invalid carriage the licence disc shall be fixed on the left side of the vehicle.

(3) The provisions of sub-regulation (2) of this regulation shall not apply to any motor vehicle assigned to a Government Minister and bearing, instead of its identification number, the letters G.M.

Licence contents to be easily legible.

**18.** The owner, driver and, or person in charge of a motor vehicle shall be responsible to ensure that the said licence disc is constantly kept in such a state as to make its contents easily legible.

Renewal or transfer of licence.

**19.** Where any person applies for the renewal of, or for the transfer of any licence in respect of a motor vehicle, he shall give, if so requested by the Authority, such details as to the motor vehicle as shall be contained in a form supplied to him for the purpose by the said Authority.

Particular licence for each vehicle.

**20.** Saving the provisions of regulation 25 hereof, the licence issued in respect of a particular motor vehicle shall not be used for any other motor vehicle and shall be subject to any regulations in force when the licence is issued. These licences shall only be issued in the name of one person.

Validity of licences.

**21.** (1) Licences granted under these regulations are to be renewed annually upon the payment of the relevant fee as provided for in the Fourth Schedule to the Act and the presentation of a copy of the vehicle insurance policy.

(2) Where the registered owner of the motor vehicle, prior to the lapse of the validity of the vehicle licence, informs the Authority that the vehicle is not going to be used on the road and is going to be garaged during the said period of non-use, and provided that the said owner hands over to the Authority the certificate of registration and plates of the relative motor vehicle, the licence of that the vehicle vehicle may not be renewed after its expiry date until that time that it remains kept in a garage. The Authority shall return to the owner the registration certificate and plates of the vehicle upon the renewal of the licence of the said vehicle.

(3) (a) A refund in respect of the licence fee shall be allowed by the Authority if it is proved to its satisfaction that that vehicle as been scrapped or garaged or has been stolen and not recovered during the currency of the relative licence or has been exported and has not been re-imported or brought into Malta during the currency of the relative licence.

(b) Any refund as is referred to in paragraph (a) hereof shall be one or more quarters of the fee paid for the licence which shall correspond to the complete quarter or quarters of the year or period for which the licence had been issued during which year or period the vehicle had been scrapped, stolen or exported.

(4) (a) Where the licence of a motor vehicle on resale expires while the vehicle is still in the possession of an authorised dealer, the licence may not be renewed until the vehicle remains in the possession of the said dealer:

Provided that, the said vehicle shall not be used on the public highway until that time that its licence is renewed.

(b) The licence of a motor vehicle on resale shall be renewed upon the transfer of the vehicle from the authorized dealer to the purchaser and there shall be paid the licence fee applicable to that vehicle from the date of transfer.

Withdrawal of licence of vehicle.

**22.** (1) A motor vehicle licence may be withdrawn if the vehicle is declared to be unfit for use on the road. The said licence shall be returned or, if lapsed, renewed when the motor vehicle is put in order to the satisfaction of the Authority.

(2) The motor vehicle licence may also be withdrawn by an order made by the competent Court or Tribunal.

(3) Licences granted under these regulations shall be liable to be cancelled or suspended by the Authority for a period not exceeding one month where this cancellation or suspension is required in the interest of public safety or public order.

(4) If a licensee of a motor vehicle makes use of the said motor vehicle or allows or permits any other person to make use of the said motor vehicle during the time the motor vehicle licence has been suspended, the licence may be liable to cancellation.

(5) Where the Authority suspends or withdraws a licence of a motor vehicle, the person who appears to be the owner may appeal to the Administrative Review Tribunal, in accordance with the procedure laid down under the Administrative Justice Act.

Suspension of passenger transport vehicle licence.

**23.** Any motor vehicle licensed for the transport of passengers against hire or reward may be suspended if any alteration whatsoever, made in any form, is carried out on any vehicle engaged in passenger transport for hire or reward without the approval of the Authority:

Provided that in special cases and in special circumstances the Authority may, with the approval of the Minister responsible for transport, depart from this provision.

Vehicle to be used according to specific licence.

**24.** The owner and, or person in charge of a motor vehicle shall not allow or permit the said motor vehicle to be used for purposes other than those for which the said vehicle is specifically licensed.

## Part IV

## GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF MOTOR VEHICLES

Duplicate licence and certificate.

**25.** (1) Where a licence disc or registration certificate of a motor vehicle has been, or may have been, lost, destroyed, stolen or defaced, or contains any particulars which have become illegible, the owner of the vehicle shall apply to the Authority for the issuance of a duplicate licence or duplicate registration certificate, as the case may be.

(2) The application for the issuance of a duplicate licence or duplicate registration certificate shall be accompanied by a fee of €6, together with the licence disc or registration certificate to be replaced if the reason for replacement is that it has been defaced or contains any particulars which have become illegible.

(3) The Authority shall issue a duplicate licence disc or a duplicate registration certificate of a motor vehicle if it is satisfied that the licence disc or registration certificate, as the case may be, has been lost, destroyed, stolen or defaced:

Provided that the said Authority may, before issuing any such duplicate, require the production of a sworn affidavit to prove such loss, destruction, theft or defacement. Where such affidavit is sworn before an official of the Authority there shall be charged an administrative fine of €7.

(4) If the duplicate licence disc or duplicate registration certificate has been issued on the grounds that the original licence disc or the registration certificate has been, or may have been, lost or stolen, and the original licence or original registration certificate is subsequently found or recovered, the owner or person who found the said document shall forthwith return the original licence disc or original registration certificate to the Authority.

Provisional registration and licensing of motor vehicles.

**26.** The Authority shall issue to the owner of a new motor vehicle purchased in Malta for export purposes a provisional registration certificate, registration plate and licence disc if the owner of that motor vehicle is to drive that vehicle out of Malta and to its destination outside Malta:

Provided that the amount of licence fee payable in respect of that vehicle shall be at the rate of 12 per cent of the annual licence fee applicable to that vehicle for every month of the licensing period. Such licensing period shall not be less than a month.

Transfer of vehicles and licences.

**27.** (1) Any person who agrees to sell, or sells, or otherwise disposes of his or her motor vehicle shall, within seven days, give notice of the disposal of the vehicle to the Authority, including the name and address of the person who buys, or agrees to buy, the said motor vehicle and shall also deliver to the Authority the relative registration certificate.

(2) (a) Any person who sells or otherwise transfers to another person any motor vehicle, shall complete and deliver to the Authority the Transfer of Vehicle Form of the registration certificate. The Authority shall then license the vehicle in the name of the new owner and it shall issue a new registration certificate to the new owner.

(b) The new registration certificate shall be issued to the new owner upon the payment of an administrative fee of €6.

(3) The Authority may, for reasons of public interest, withhold the transfer of a public transport vehicle:

Provided that where the Authority withholds such transfer, the person who appears to be the registered owner or the prospective owner may appeal to the Administrative Review Tribunal, in accordance with the procedure laid down under Administrative Justice Act.

(4) The sale or transfer of a motor vehicle shall imply the transfer of the motor vehicle but the original licensee shall for all intents and purposes of law remain responsible until such licensee has complied with sub-regulation (1) hereof and the notice by such licensee so given shall have been found by the Authority to be true and correct.

(5) An M3 vehicle registered and licensed to be used for the carriage of passengers for hire or reward may not be sold or transferred separately from its licence to another person, nor may a licence in respect of such a vehicle be transferred separately from the vehicle to which it refers:

Provided that the Authority shall not allow the transfer of any M3 vehicle registered and licensed to be used for the carriage of passengers for hire or reward or of the relative licence if the price or other compensation payable by the transferee in respect of such transfer is not deemed to be fair and reasonable.

(6) The sale or transfer of a public transport vehicle shall not be construed to imply the transfer of an Operator's Licence issued under the Passenger Transport Services Regulations, 2009. L.N. 149 of 2009.

Change of use of vehicle.

**28.** (1) Where it is intended to use a vehicle in respect of which a licence is in force in a condition or manner or for a purpose which would, if it was used solely in that condition or manner or for that purpose, render it chargeable with a registration tax at a rate higher than that at which tax has been paid, the owner shall return to the Authority the licence disc and registration certificate issued in respect of the vehicle and shall make an application on the prescribed form to the Authority for a new licence disc appropriate to the new condition, manner or purpose.

(2) The Authority shall issue a new licence disc and registration certificate upon the payment by the owner of the vehicle to the Authority of the balance in the amount of registration tax which would have been paid on the basis of the new condition, manner or purpose.

(3) A motor vehicle which has been registered as an M1 vehicle shall not be converted into an N1 vehicle.

## Part V

## REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLES

Application for registration and licensing.

**29.** Applications for the registration and licensing under these regulations of vehicles to be kept and used by Government Ministries or Government Departments or the Armed Forces of Malta shall be made to the Authority as follows:

(a) in the case of Government Ministries, by the Director of Corporate Services;

(b) in the case of Government Departments by the Directors or Heads of the said Departments, as the case may be;

(c) in the case of the Armed Forces of Malta by the Commander of the Armed Forces or his representative.

## Part VI

## MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION MARKS

Registration mark for each vehicle.

**30.** (1) On being registered, a motor vehicle shall be allotted by the Authority a registration mark and a licence disc,

provided that if the licence of that vehicle is not renewed by the date fixed for the yearly renewal, the Authority may order the cancellation of such registration mark and its allocation to any other motor vehicle.

(2) The registration mark may take any of the special numeric, special alphabetical or special alphanumeric formats specified in the First Schedule to these regulations and can be composed of up to a maximum of nine characters.

(3) Registration marks in the Alphanumeric Format, the Special Numeric Format and the Special Alphabetical Format shall be made available to the public in such manner as the Authority may from time to time establish by means of a notice in the Gazette.

(4) (a) Random Standard Alphanumeric Format registration marks shall not be transferred independently from the vehicle to which they are allocated.

(b) Personalised Standard Alphanumeric Format registration marks shall be transferable independently from the vehicle to which they are allocated.

(c) A transfer of registration marks other than those mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) hereof, may be effected independently of the transfer of the relative vehicle upon the fulfilment of the necessary procedure as may be prescribed by the Authority and the payment of a transfer fee of €466 payable to the said Authority:

Provided that any transfer causa mortis shall be exempt from the payment of the €466 referred to in this paragraph.

(5) A motor vehicle without a registration mark assigned to it under these regulations shall be deemed an unregistered vehicle:

Provided that the Authority may, in its discretion, permit the use of the motor vehicle with an identification mark either in addition to or in lieu of a registration mark. Such identification mark shall not be used on any other motor vehicle other than the one in respect of which its use has been so permitted.

Particular Registration Marks.

**31.** (1) Registration marks allotted to public transport vehicles, vehicles used for the carriage of goods and motor hearses shall include the following Roman Alphabet letters followed by three numbers:

(i) a letter followed by the letters BY in the case of route buses;

(ii) a letter followed by the letters CY in the case of coaches;

(iii) a letter followed by the letters MY in the case of minibuses and midibuses;

(iv) a letter followed by the letters SY in the case of special minibuses;

(v) a letter followed by the letters VY in the case of vans;

(vi) a letter followed by the letters GY in the case of public hire vehicles driven by the service operator or by his employee;

(vii) a letter followed by the letters TY in the case of taxicars in Malta;

(viii) a letter followed by the letters WY in the case of taxicars in Gozo;

(ix) two letters followed by the letter K in the case of self-drive motor vehicles including motor cycles;

(x) a letter followed by the letters QZ in the case of motor vehicles used for long term hire or leasing;

(xi) a letter followed by the letters HQ in the case of vehicles used for the carriage of goods by hauliers operating nationally;

(xii) the letters HRS in the case of motor hearses;

(xiii) a letter followed by the letters OY in respect of open-top buses;

(xiv) a letter followed by the letters RY in respect of trackless trains.

(2) Motor vehicles registered and licensed in the name of a Government Department, shall be allotted registration marks with the three Roman Alphabet letters GVH followed by three numbers in the case of heavy vehicles and the letters GVN followed by three numbers in the case of other vehicles.

(3) Motor vehicles registered and licensed in the name of the Police Department shall be allotted registration marks with the three Roman Alphabet letters GVP followed by three numbers.

(4) Motor vehicles registered and licensed in the name of the Armed Forces of Malta shall be allotted registration marks with the three Roman Alphabet letters GVA followed by three numbers.

(5) Motor vehicles registered and licensed in the name of diplomatic representations in Malta shall be allotted registration marks with the letters CD followed by another letter and three numbers.

(6) Motor vehicles registered and licensed in the name of members of the staff of diplomatic missions shall be allotted registration marks with the letters DMS followed by three numbers.

Plates bearing registration mark and international distinguishing sign.

**32.** (1) The Authority shall give to the licensee of any motor vehicle two registration plates bearing the registration mark in respect of his or her vehicle against payment of the cost of such plates as provided for in the First Schedule.

(2) Besides the registration mark, the plate shall also bear the international distinguishing sign of Malta in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 2411/98 on the recognition in intra-Community traffic of the distinguishing signs of the Member States in which motor vehicles and their trailers are registered.

(3) No other letter, number, mark or sign, except those authorised by the Authority shall be permitted on the registration plate.

(4) When such new plates are given to a licensee, such licensee shall cause them to be immediately securely affixed to the

satisfaction of the Authority on the vehicle to which they refer, one fixed vertically on the front and one on the rear of the vehicle in such a position that every letter and figure on the plate is upright, easily visible and distinguishable;

Provided that where the vehicle is towing a trailer or more trailers, the plate behind the vehicle shall be fixed on the rear of the trailer or the rearmost trailer as the case may be;

Provided further that in the case of a motor cycle or motor tricycle the registration plate shall only be fixed at the rear of the vehicle.

(5) No plates may be affixed to any motor vehicle unless such plates have been issued by the Authority and they refer to and belong to that particular vehicle.

(6) Any such registration plates obtained from the Authority on payment of the appropriate fee shall belong to the said Authority and shall be returned to the said Authority if and when the vehicle has been garaged for a period of time, scrapped or has been permanently exported. New plates shall only be re-issued for vehicles which had been so garaged upon the payment of the stipulated fee.

(7) Any motor vehicle standing or plying not having the plates referred to in sub-regulation (1) hereof or plates issued by any other competent authority in the case of vehicles brought temporarily into Malta shall be deemed to be an unlicensed vehicle.

Plates to be decipherable.

**33.** The registration mark and plate of a motor vehicle shall not be obstructed from clear view by bumpers or other attachments, and shall be kept clear of mud or dust and easily decipherable.

Specifications of registration plates.

**34.** The registration plate referred to in regulation 32 of these regulations shall conform with the provisions set out in the Second Schedule to these regulations.

Lighting of rear registration plate.

**35.** Where the motor vehicle is being used on a public highway between sunset and sunrise the registration plate fixed on the rear of the vehicle, or on the rear of a trailer or the rearmost trailer, as the case may be, must be lit by a lamp so that it is easily distinguishable.

Licence to use "Trial Run" plates.

**36.** (1) The Authority may issue 'Trial Run' plates for motor vehicles which have not yet been registered and licensed, for a period of one year , upon the payment to the Authority of a fee of €50.

(2) 'Trial Run' plates, having black numbers on a white background, shall be used by licensed motor vehicle traders and dealers.

(3) Two 'Trial Run' plates shall be used, one in the front and another in the rear of the vehicle:

Provided that, when two or more vehicles are being driven in convoy, one such plate shall be displayed at the front of the foremost vehicle and another at the rear of the rearmost vehicle.

(4) no 'Trial Run' plates other than those issued and stamped by the Authority may be used.

(5) where 'Trial Run' plates are issued to a licensed vehicle trader or dealer, a representative of the person to whom such plates have been issued shall be present in the vehicle on which the 'Trial Run' plates are used, and when two or more vehicles are being driven in convoy, such representative shall be present in any one of those vehicles.

(6) 'Trial Run' plates may only be used:

(a) on imported motor vehicles or vehicles brought into Malta for sale or for exhibition purposes;

(b) on locally produced motor vehicles while those vehicles are being test driven or driven from the garage, factory or any other place where they had been produced to the place where they are to be kept until such vehicles are licensed under regulation 14 hereof;

(c) on motor vehicles in the custody of a motor vehicle trader or dealer, for purpose of sale, or on motor vehicles purchased by a motor vehicle trader or dealer, the licences of which vehicles have expired;

(d) on motor vehicles which are being driven from a garage, a factory or other place where the vehicle is kept,

to the docks for shipment of such vehicle intended to be exported.

(7) 'Trial Run' plates shall not be used for any purpose other than for trial trips or for testing purposes.

(8) 'Trial Run' plates shall not be used on Sundays or public holidays unless specially authorised by the Authority.

(9) A deposit of €50 for each set of 'Trial Run' plates shall be made on the withdrawal of such plates from the Authority.

(10) In case of loss of, or damage to, any of the said plates, the licensee shall forfeit the deposit for each plate lost or returned in such a damaged condition as to be unfit for use.

## Part VII

## GENERAL

International travelling requirements.

**37.** The owner of a motor vehicle licensed in Malta, who desires to take such vehicle abroad to a third country shall apply to the Authority for the issue of a motor vehicle export certificate.

Permanent exportation.

**38.** When a motor vehicle, which is registered in Malta, is taken out of Malta for more than 12 months, that vehicle shall be deemed to have been permanently exported and the owner shall surrender to the Authority the registration certificate issued by the said Authority.

## Part VIII

## DE-REGISTRATION OF END-OF-LIFE VEHICLES

Manner of destruction of end-of-life vehicles.

**39.** (1) All end-of-life M1 and N1 motor vehicles and three-wheel motor vehicles registered in the register of the Authority shall be transferred to an authorised treatment facility in accordance with sub-regulation 6(3) of the Waste Management (End-of Life Vehicles) Regulations, 2004.

(2) When an authorised treatment facility accepts delivery of an end-of-life vehicle transferred to it for treatment, it shall issue a certificate of destruction to the last holder or owner of the vehicle.

Certificates of destruction.

**40.** Certificates of destruction validly issued by an authorised treatment facility in another Member State in accordance with the relative national legislation analogous to the provisions of regulation 39 hereof, shall be mutually recognised and accepted.

Surrender of vehicle registration certificate.

**41.** Where a vehicle to which regulation 39 hereof applies is transferred to an authorised treatment facility –

(a) if that facility is in Malta, the owner or operator thereof shall notify the Authority of the issue of the certificate of destruction and at the same time shall surrender to the Authority the vehicle's registration certificate, except where the registration certificate has been lost, stolen or destroyed; and

(b) if that facility is in a Member State other than Malta, the registered owner of the vehicle shall notify the Authority of the issue in that other Member State of the certificate of destruction and at the same time the registered owner shall surrender to the Authority the vehicle's registration certificate except where the registration certificate has been lost, stolen or destroyed.

Re-use and recovery of components.

**42.** Notwithstanding the provisions on the re-use of components which are suitable for re-use and on the recovery of components which cannot be re-used contained in the Waste Management (End-of-Life Vehicles) Regulations, 2004, it shall not be lawful to continue to use or otherwise re-use in any manner whatsoever the chassis number of an end-of life vehicle which has been transferred or delivered to an authorised treatment facility.

De-registration of end-of-life vehicles.

**43.** An end-of-life vehicle shall be de-registered upon presentation to the Authority, by the owner or operator of the authorised treatment facility, or by the vehicle's last registered owner, of the certificate of destruction as provided for in regulation 39 hereof.

## Part IX

## FINES

Offences and penalties.

**44.** (1) No person shall deface or mutilate any vehicle registration certificate or any motor vehicle licence or alter or obliterate any entry made therein.

(2) A person who, with intent to deceive forges, alters, uses, produces, provides or sends a document to which regulations 4 to 6 hereof applies, or makes a statement which he knows to be false or deface or mutilate a registration certificate shall be guilty of an offence.

(3) A person who, either by writing, drawing or in any other manner, alter, deface, mutilate or add anything to any licence for any motor vehicle, or exhibit upon any vehicle any licence disc which has been altered, defaced, mutilated or added to as aforesaid shall be guilty of an offence.

(4) A person who alters, rearranges or defaces a vehicle registration mark on a motor vehicle or otherwise tamper with the registration plates of a motor vehicle commits an offence.

(5) Any person who makes use of a motor vehicle registration mark other than that allotted by the Authority in relation to a particular vehicle shall be guilty of an offence.

(6) A person who is found guilty of an offence under sub-regulations (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) hereof shall be liable, on conviction, to a fine not exceeding one thousand and two hundred euro (€1,200), or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both such fine and imprisonment, unless a higher punishment is applicable under any other law, in which case the Court shall apply that other punishment or this punishment increased by one or two degrees, whichever is the higher.

(7) Fines for other offences under these regulations shall be the following:

| | |
|---|---|
| (a) driving a motor vehicle without being covered by a vehicle licence … | Not exceeding €235 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months |
| (b) driving a motor vehicle with a vehicle licence altered, defaced, mutilated or added to or with a licence belonging to another vehicle …… | €70 |

| | |
|---|---|
| (c) driving, or causing to stand, a motor vehicle without the vehicle licence disc being affixed to the vehicle windscreen or motor cycle handlebar …… | €25 |
| (d) driving a motor vehicle not bearing registration plates……..… | €25 to €60 |
| (e) driving a motor vehicle bearing registration plates altered, defaced, mutilated or added to ……..... | €25 to €60 |
| (f) using a motor vehicle not in accordance to specific licence …… | €35 |
| (g) driving a motor vehicle bearing registration plates obstructed from clear view by bumpers or other attachments, or which are not easily decipherable …… | €25 to €60 |
| (h) driving a motor vehicle without the driver being in possession of vehicle registration certificate and insurance document …… | €25 to €60 |
| (i) owner fails to give notice to the Authority within the stipulated time of any alteration made to a motor vehicle .... | €25 to €60 |
| (j) driving an unregistered motor vehicle without Trial Run plates …….. | €25 to €60 |

**45.** The Motor Vehicles (Registration and Licensing) Regulations, 2004, are hereby being revoked.

Revokes L.N. 476 of 2004.

## FIRST SCHEDULE

*(Regulation 30)*

**Motor Vehicles' Registration Marks and Fees payable for the issue of plates**

| TYPE | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|
| **Standard Alphanumeric Format (Random)** | Composed of two sets of three characters each, the first set composed of three Roman Alphabet characters and the second set composed of three Arabic numerals, e.g. XXX 111<br><br>**Fee payable to the Authority: €60** |
| **Standard Alphanumeric Format (Personalised)** | Composed of two sets of three characters each, the first set composed of three Roman Alphabet characters and the second set composed of three Arabic numerals, e.g. XXX 111, where the choice of the characters and numerals shall lie with the person requesting the Numbers.<br><br>**Fee payable to the Authority: €120** |
| **Special Numeric Format** | Composed solely of any Arabic numeral.<br><br>**Fee payable to the Authority: €1,165** |
| **Special Alphabetical Format** | Composed of any character of the Roman Alphabet.<br><br>**Fee payable to the Authority: €1,165** |
| **Special Numeric and Alphabetical Format** | Composed of a mixture of numeric and alphabetical.<br><br>**Fee payable to the Authority: €1,165** |

Where the registration mark is of the Standard Alphanumeric Format (Random) type, the first letter shall stand for the month in which the licence of the vehicle shall be renewed.

## SECOND SCHEDULE

*(Regulation 34)*

### Specifications of Vehicle Registration Plates

The registration mark of a motor vehicle registered and licensed in Malta shall be displayed on a rectangular plate which shall correspond with either diagram No 1 or diagram No 2 shown below.




**Diagram 1**




**Diagram 2**

The plate on which a registration mark is exhibited shall not contain any words, letters, numbers, emblems or other marks of any kind other then those required under these regulations.

The plate on which a registration mark is exhibited shall exhibit the flag of the European Union and the Letter M.

The specifications for the distinguishing sign on the registration plate shall be:

Colours:

1. Retro-reflecting blue background (Munsell reference 5,9 pb 3,4/15,1)
2. 12 retro-reflecting yellow stars
3. Retro-reflecting distinguishing sign of Malta, of a white colour

Composition and dimensions:

1. The blue background shall be not less than 98mm in height, with a width of not less than 40 mm and not more than 50 mm
2. The centrepoints of the 12 stars shall form a circle with a 15 mm radius and the straight forming the apexes of the stars shall be 4 mm to 5 mm in length
3. The distinguishing sign of Malta shall have a height of 20 mm and a stroke width of between 4 mm and 5 mm, and shall appear underneath the circle of stars.

Where the dimensions of the blue background have been reduced for registration plates taking up two lines (as in diagram 2) and, or for registration plates intended for two or three-wheel motor cycles, the dimensions of the stars and of the distinguishing sign may be proportionately reduced.

The periphery of the plate shall be marked all around by a black border having a stroke width of 5 millimetres.

The plate shall be made from metal material.

The registration mark shall be be formed of black characters and shall be exhibited on white reflective material in such a way that the black characters will at all times appear on a white background. There shall be a watermark in the space between the letters and the numbers.