



REGISTRATION PLATES

Construction and Design

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Relevant legislation

Ordonnance supplementaire a l'Ordonnance ayant rapport au Trafic Vehiculaire en cette Ile"
1932 (the principal ordinance)

The Vehicular Traffic (Motor Licences) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1967

The Vehicular Traffic (Motor Licences) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1968

The Vehicular Traffic (Motor Licences) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1976

In brief

- A number plate must be displayed on the front and rear of motor vehicles (with some exceptions such as motorcycles)
- Every letter or figure of the identification mark must be vertical and easily distinguishable. The plate must be at right angles to the length line of the vehicle. (1932 Ordinance)
- Numbering and spacing must be of a set uniform size, conforming to groups shown below.

Colour of identification mark and plate (1968 Ordinance)

- The identification mark shall be formed of white, silver, or light grey figures upon a black surface OR;
- If the plate is designed and constructed to be illuminated from behind by means of the translucency of the figures it shall be formed of white figures on a black surface and the figures shall be so illuminated during the hours of darkness as to appear white against a black background OR;
- An identification mark may be exhibited on a flat plate constructed of reflex reflecting material, in which case it must be black figures against a white background for the front of the vehicle and against a yellow background for that on the back of the vehicle. No reflecting material shall be applied to any part of a figure and every plate shall conform to the British Standard for reflex reflecting number plates, BS AU 145.

Size of figures and margins (1967 Ordinance)

- All figures must be either three and a half or three and one eighth inches high. All other dimensions are according to those shown in the table below. Conversion to millimetres has been rounded up or down to the nearest millimetre.

Characters	Type 1	Type 2
Height of figures	3½" (89mm)	3⅝" (79mm)
Breadth of every part of figure	⅝" (16mm)	9/16" (14mm)
Width of each figure except '1'	2½" (64mm)	2¼" (57mm)
Space between figures	½" (13mm)	7/16" (11mm)
Top and bottom margins	½" (13mm)	7/16" (11mm)
Side margins	1" (25mm)	7/16" (11mm)

Motorcycles / Motor tricycles and invalid carriages

- For the identification mark at the front of the vehicle the above provisions can be halved (1967 Ordinance). However, it is not obligatory for a motorcycle (or motorcycle combination/ autocycle, bicycle or tricycle) to exhibit the registration mark at the front of the vehicle (1976 Ordinance).
- For the identification mark at the rear of the vehicle (1967 Ordinance) –

Characters	
Height of figures	2½" (64mm)
Breadth of every part of figure	3/8" (10mm)
Width of each figure except '1'	1¾" (44mm)
Space between figures	3/8" (10mm)
Top and bottom margins	3/8" (10mm)
Side margins	3/8" (10mm)

- Where the identification mark is carried on a flat rectangular plate, the plate may have the corners rounded off.

NB: No other figures or letters, and no design or ornamentation, shall be placed near to the identification mark in such a manner as to be able to render it more difficult to read or distinguish the identification mark of the vehicle when in motion. (1932 Ordinance)