



THE ROAD TRANSPORT ACT 2001

**THE ROAD TRANSPORT (OPERATOR'S DISCS  
AND PLYING FOR HIRE PLATES) REGULATIONS 2002**

*Approved by Tynwald*

*20<sup>th</sup> March 2002*

*Coming into operation*

*1<sup>st</sup> April 2002*

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Department of Transport by sections 23, 36(2) and 62(1) of the Road Transport Act 2001<sup>1</sup>, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Road Transport Licensing Committee and such representative bodies as the Department thinks fit, the following Regulations are hereby made: —

**1. Citation, commencement and interpretation**

(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Road Transport (Operator's Discs and Plying for Hire Plates) Regulations 2002 and, subject to section 62(6) of the Act, shall come into operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2002.

(2) In these Regulations —

“the Act” means the Road Transport Act 2001;

“the Committee” means the Road Transport Licensing Committee;

“the Department” means the Department of Transport;

“operator's disc” means an operator's disc issued under section 23(2) of the Act;

“plying for hire plate” means a plate issued under section 36(2) of the Act in respect of a service licence granted under section 29 of the Act for standing or plying for hire; and

“vehicle licence disc” means a disc issued under section 6(4) of the Licensing and Registration of Vehicles Act 1985<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 2001 c.27

<sup>2</sup> 1985 c.21

## **2. Display of operator's discs**

- (1) The operator of a vehicle being used in circumstances such that —
  - (a) registration as an operator, or an operator's licence, is required under sections 5 or 8 of the Act; or
  - (b) an exemption certificate is required under section 6 of the Act,

shall display on the vehicle an operator's disc in the form prescribed in regulation 4 and in the manner prescribed in paragraph (2).

(2) Subject to paragraph (3) the operator's disc shall be displayed on the left side of the windscreen of the vehicle adjacent to the vehicle licence disc.

(3) In the case of a vehicle displaying a plying for hire plate the operator's disc shall be displayed at the rear of the vehicle adjacent to that plate.

## **3. Display of plying for hire plates**

The operator of a public passenger vehicle which is being used for standing or plying for hire in a road or other public place under a section 29 service licence shall, in addition to an operator's disc displayed in accordance with regulation 2, display at the rear of the vehicle a plying for hire plate in the form specified in regulation 5(2).

## **4. Form of operator's discs**

An operator's disc shall be a disc of 75-mm diameter provided by the Committee, different forms of the disc being provided in respect of —

- (a) registration as a passenger vehicle operator;
- (b) a passenger vehicle operator's licence;
- (c) registration as a goods vehicle operator;
- (d) a goods vehicle licence; or
- (e) an exemption certificate,

in each case containing the particulars required by section 23(1) of the Act.

## **5. Form of plying for hire plate**

(1) A plying for hire plate shall take the form of a plate specified in the Schedule and shall indicate, so long as paragraph 3 of Schedule 2(3) to the Act remains in force, the district or districts for which plying for hire is specified in the section 29 licence.

(2) The operator shall be identified by operator number allocated by the Committee, and not by name.

**6. Expiry date and custody of operator's discs and plying for hire plates**

(1) An operator's disc shall be valid —

- (a) for 12 months from the date of issue;
- (b) to the date of expiry of the operator licence or exemption certificate; or
- (c) until the date on which (as the case may be) either —
  - (i) the operator licence or exemption certificate otherwise ceases to have effect, or
  - (ii) the registration as an operator ceases to have effect,

whichever is the earlier.

(2) A plying for hire plate shall be valid —

- (a) for 12 months from the date of issue;
- (b) to the date on which the service licence under section 29 to stand or ply for hire expires; or
- (c) until such date as that service licence otherwise ceases to have effect,

whichever is the earlier.

(3) Any operator's disc or plying for hire plate which is not being displayed on a vehicle shall be retained by the operator in a secure place.

(4) Any operator's disc or plying for hire plate shall be produced to the Committee or any officer or inspector of the Committee on demand, but shall not be required to be surrendered unless —

- (a) it has expired; or
- (b) any of the circumstances described in sections 17, 18 and 19 of the Act applies.

(5) Where an operator's disc or plying for hire plate is lost, destroyed or defaced, the operator shall —

- (a) report the circumstances to the Committee; and
- (b) if the Committee is satisfied that the operator's disc or plying for hire plate has been lost destroyed or significantly defaced, be entitled to the

issue of a replacement disc or plate (as the case may be) after payment of any fee that may be prescribed.

**7. Return of operator's discs and plying for hire plates**

(1) An operator's disc or plying for hire plate shall be returned to the Committee when —

- (a) it ceases to be valid or to otherwise have effect; or
- (b) the Committee requests it to be returned in the event of —
  - (i) a variation of an operator licence or registration which has the effect of reducing the number of vehicles, or the maximum number of vehicles of any class, which may be used under the licence or registration; or
  - (ii) a variation in the districts specified in a licence to ply for hire under section 29 of the Act.

(2) An operator may at any time return to the Committee any or all of the operator's discs or plying for hire plates held by him.

**8. Offences**

Any person who fails to comply with a requirement under regulations 2, 3, 6(3), (4) or (5)(a) or regulation 7(1) is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £500.

SCHEDULE

PLYING FOR HIRE PLATE FOR  
VEHICLES OPERATING UNDER A SECTION 29 SERVICE LICENCE



MADE 20<sup>th</sup> February 2002

Minister for Transport

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**  
*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations make detailed provision for the form and use of operator's discs on public passenger vehicles and goods vehicles, and for plying for hire plates on taxis.

Regulation 2 and 3 respectively prescribe the manner in which operator's discs and plying for hire plates are to be exhibited on vehicles, and regulations 4 and 5

(with the Schedule) respectively prescribe their form. Regulation 6 provides for the custody of operator's discs and plying for hire plates by the operator, their production to the Committee or its officers and makes provision for replacement discs and plates in the event of the original being lost, destroyed or defaced. Regulation 7 prescribes the circumstances in which an operator's disc or plying for hire plate must be returned to the Committee, although an operator may at any time return to the Committee any or all of the operator's discs and plying for hire plates held by him.

Regulation 8 makes contravention of regulations 2, 3, 6(3), (4) or 5(a) or 7(1) an offence punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding £500.