

**GUIDE FOR MOTOR TRADERS**

**TRADE LICENCE/PLATE SYSTEM**

**(Operative from 1 January 1993)**

**February 1993**

**Department of the Environment**

**Guide for Motor Traders**

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**Preface:**

- This guide does not purport to be a legal interpretation.
- It is vital that motor traders, in their own interest, Comply with the conditions attaching to trade licences issued by local licensing authorities (motor tax offices)- which will be strictly enforced by the Garda Siochana and the Revenue Commissioners. Persons convicted of trade licence offences are liable to heavy penalties and to loss of the right to hold a trade licence.

**Legal Framework**

- Section 21 of the Finance (No.2) Act, 1992 (No.28 of 1992).
- Articles 4 to 10 of the Road Vehicles (Registration and licensing) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 1992 (S.I. No. 409 of 1992)
- Article 9 of the Vehicle, Registration and Taxation (No2) Regulations, 1992, (S.I. No. 437 of 1992).

**Formats of Trade Licence/Plate**

- The formats of the trade licence plate for motor cycles and for other vehicles are illustrated in the attached **APPENDIX**.

**Display of Trade Licence/Plate**

- **Motor Cycle:** Single plate displayed to rear of motor cycle.
- **Other Motor Vehicle:** Two plates- one plate inside front window and the other plate inside rear window. Where a vehicle (e.g. van ) has no rear window or a vehicle is drawing a semi-trailer/trailer, second plate to be affixed to rear of vehicle or semi-trailer/trailer

### **Validity of Trade Licence Plate**

- Expires at the end of the year for which it is used.
- It is an offence to display an expired or a forged licence/plate

### **Limitations as to Use of a Trade Licence/Plate**

- May not be displayed on a vehicle being used for domestic, pleasure, or social purposes
- May only be used by the other motor trader to whom it issued – unless the licence holder or a person bona-fide in the licence holder’s employment and acting under the licence holder’s authority is present and in charge of the vehicle
- May not be used on “goods vehicles” (including car transporters or parts /components delivery vehicles) or “recovery vehicles” (including low loaders) which must be licensed and taxed separately.
- May only be used on a vehicle which is temporarily in the possession of the licence- holder. However, where the licence holder is a fleet-owner\* a licence may be used on a vehicle permanently in his possession, which is undergoing a road test and is not carrying passengers or goods
- May not be used on an unregistered vehicle on **Sundays or Public Holidays**, or before 06.00am. or after 10.00p.m. (on any other day) without the permission of the Revenue Commissioners

For further information on the use of  
Unregistered vehicles, please contact your  
Local **Vehicle Registration Office (Revenue  
Commissioners)**

### **Lawful uses of a Trade Licence/ Plate**

- The Testing or trail of a vehicle semi-trailer or trailer in the ordinary course of construction or repair, or immediately after completion of construction or repair.
- The demonstration of a vehicle, semi-trailer or trailer for the benefit of a prospective purchaser
- Delivery a vehicle, semi-trailer or trailer from the premises of the holder of the licence to the premises of another motor trader or removing it from the premises another motor trader to the licence holder’s own premises

- \*\* Proceeding to a point off the premises of the holder of the licence in order to render a service to a vehicle which has **broken down** or returning to a garage with a vehicle on tow
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❖ Fleet owner” means a person (other than a dealer within the meaning of Section 130 of the Finance Act, 1992 , or a person who holds an exclusive franchise to bring into the State for sale particular makes and models of vehicles) who is entered in the register or a register established under Section 6 (1) of the Roads Act, 1920 as the owner of not less than 10 vehicles and on whose premises maintenance of and repairs to the vehicle is or are carried out by employees of the person.

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- Proceeding to or returning from a workshop in which a body, machine, appliance, device or accessory is to be or has been fitted to the vehicle, semi-trailer or trailer or it is to be or has been painted or repaired.
- Proceeding from the premises of a motor trader to a place from which the vehicle, semi-trailer or trailer is to be exported or transported by train, ship or for proceeding to the premises of such motor trader from a place to which it has been so transported
- Proceeding to or returning from any garage, auction room or other place at which a vehicle, semi-trailer or trailer is usually stored or usually or periodically offered for sale and at which the vehicle, semi-trailer or trailer is to be or has been stored or is to be or has been offered for sale.
- Proceeding to or from a weighbridge for ascertaining the weight of a vehicle, semi-trailer or trailer for the purpose of licensing the vehicle or to or from any place of the licensing or inspection of the vehicle by a licensing authority.

#### **Trade Licence/Plate Offences – Penalties**

- A maximum fine of €1000 or maximum prison term of 6 months or both fine/imprisonment.
- On conviction of an offence, a person will be automatically disqualified from holding a trade licence/plate for:
  - a period of 1 year (first conviction)
  - a period of 3 years (second conviction)
  - life (third conviction)

APPENDIX

**SCHEDULE**

**PRESCRIBED FORM OF TRADE LICENCE**

**DIAGRAM NO. 1**

**BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH**

**1234 – D – 93**

**DIAGRAM NO. 2**

**BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH**

**1234**  
**D – 93**