STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

1996 No. 145

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996

Made - - - -	*2nd April 1996*
Coming into operation	*3rd June 1996*

The Department of the Environment, being a department designated(**1**) for the purpose of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(**2**) in relation to the regulation and supervision of working conditions of persons engaged in road transport and the regulation of the type, description, construction or equipment of vehicles, in exercise of the powers conferred by that section, and in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 56(1) and (5) of the Finance Act 1973(**3**) and by Articles 56(5), 58(1), 63, 83(1) and 218(1) of the Road Traffic Order (Northern Ireland) 1981(**4**), and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, and with the consent of the Department of Finance and Personnel(**5**) as regards regulation 9, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Passenger and Goods Vehicles (Recording Equipment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 and shall come into operation on 3rd June 1996.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

"the Order" means the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981;

"the Community Recording Equipment Regulation" means Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3821/85 of 20th December 1985 on recording equipment in road transport(**6**) as it has effect in accordance with Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 3314/90 of 16th November 1990(**7**)

(**1**) S.Is. 1972/1811 and 1975/1707
(**2**) 1972 c. 68
(**3**) 1973 c. 51
(**4**) S.I. 1981 No. 154 (N.I. 1); Article 58 was amended by S.I. 1995 No. 2994 (N.I. 18)Art. 112 and Sch. 3
(**5**) Formerly the Department of Finance. *See*S.I.1982/338 (N.I. 6) Art. 3
(**6**) O.J. No. L370, 31.12.85, p. 8
(**7**) O.J. No. L318, 17.11.90, p. 20

and Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 3688/92(**8**) of 21st December 1992, and as read with the Community Drivers' Hours and Recording Equipment (Exemptions and Supplementary Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987(**9**);

"Department" means the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland;

"recording equipment" means equipment for recording information as to the use of a vehicle;

"record sheet" includes a temporary sheet attached to a record sheet in accordance with Article 16(2) of the Community Recording Equipment Regulation.

(2) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**10**) shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Installation and use of recording equipment

3.—(1) A person shall not use, or cause or permit to be used, a vehicle to which this regulation applies—

(a) unless there is in the vehicle recording equipment which—

(i) has been installed in accordance with the Community Recording Equipment Regulation,

(ii) complies with Annexes I and II to that Regulation, and

(iii) is being used as provided by Articles 13 to 15 of that Regulation; or

(b) if there is in the vehicle recording equipment which has been repaired (whether before or after installation) otherwise than in accordance with the Community Recording Equipment Regulation,

and any person who contravenes this provision shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

(2) A person shall not be liable to be convicted under paragraph (1)(*a*) if he proves to the court that he neither knew nor ought to have known that the recording equipment had not been installed or repaired, as the case may be, in accordance with the Community Recording Equipment Regulation.

(3) A person shall not be liable to be convicted under paragraph (1)(*a*) if he proves to the court that the vehicle in question was proceeding to a place where recording equipment which would comply with the requirements of Annexes I and II to the Community Recording Equipment Regulation was to be installed in the vehicle in accordance with that Regulation.

(4) A person shall not be liable to be convicted under paragraph (1)(*a*) by reason of the recording equipment installed in the vehicle in question not being in working order if he proves to the court that—

(a) it had not become reasonably practicable for the equipment to be repaired by an approved fitter or workshop; and

(b) the requirements of Article 16(2) of the Community Recording Equipment Regulation were being complied with.

(5) A person shall not be liable to be convicted under paragraph (1)(*a*) by reason of any seal on the recording equipment installed in the vehicle in question not being intact if he proves to the court that—

(a) the breaking or removal of the seal could not have been avoided;

(b) it had not become reasonably practicable for the seal to be replaced by an approved fitter or workshop; and

(**8**) O.J. No. L374, 22.12.92, p. 12
(**9**) S.R. 1987 No. 218
(**10**) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

(c) in all other respects the equipment was being used as provided by Articles 13 to 15 of the Community Recording Equipment Regulation.

(6) For the purposes of this regulation recording equipment is used as provided by Articles 13 to 15 of the Community Recording Equipment Regulation if, and only if, the circumstances of its use are such that each requirement of those Articles is complied with.

(7) This regulation applies at any time to any vehicle to which Part V of the Order applies if, at that time, Article 3 of the Community Recording Equipment Regulation requires recording equipment to be installed and used in that vehicle; and in this regulation and regulations 5 and 6 any expression which is also used in that Regulation has the same meaning as in that Regulation.

Provisions supplementary to regulation 3

4.—(1) If an employed driver of a vehicle to which regulation 3 applies fails—

(a) without reasonable excuse to return any record sheet which relates to him to his employer within twenty-one days of completing it; or

(b) where he has two or more employers by whom he is employed as a driver of such a vehicle, to notify each of them of the name and address of the other or others of them,

he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

(2) If the employer of drivers of a vehicle to which regulation 3 applies fails without reasonable excuse to secure that they comply with paragraph (1)(*a*), he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

(3) Where a driver of a vehicle to which regulation 3 applies has two or more employers by whom he is employed as a driver of such a vehicle, paragraph (1)(*a*) and paragraph (2) shall apply as if any reference to his employer, or any reference which is to be construed as such a reference, were a reference to such of those employers as was the first to employ him in that capacity.

Forgery, etc. of seals on recording equipment

5.—(1) A person who, with intent to deceive, forges, alters or uses any seal on recording equipment installed in, or designed for installation in, a vehicle to which regulation 3 applies, shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under paragraph (1) shall be liable—

(a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum; or

(b) on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or a fine or both.

(3) In this regulation a person forges a seal if he makes a false seal in order that it may be used as genuine.

Records, etc. produced by equipment may be used in evidence

6.—(1) Where recording equipment is installed in a vehicle to which Part V of the Order applies, any record produced by means of the equipment shall, in any proceedings under Part V of the Order or these Regulations, be evidence of the matters appearing from the record.

(2) Any entry made on a record sheet by a driver for the purposes of Article 15(2) or (5) or 16(2) of the Community Recording Equipment Regulation shall, in any proceedings under Part V of the Order or these Regulations, be evidence of the matters appearing from that entry.

Inspection of recording equipment and record sheets

7.—(1) In relation to any vehicle to which regulation 3 applies a vehicle examiner(**11**) may, on production if so required of his authority—

(a) require any person to produce, and permit him to inspect and copy, any record sheet which is produced by the recording equipment, or on which entries are made, and which that person is required by Article 16(2) of the Community Recording Equipment Regulation to retain or by Article 15(7) of that Regulation to be able to produce;

(b) at any time, enter the vehicle and inspect the vehicle and the recording equipment, and inspect and copy any record sheet on the vehicle on which a record has been produced by means of that equipment or on which entries have been made; and

(c) at any time which is reasonable having regard to the circumstances of the case, enter any premises on which he has reason to believe that such a vehicle is kept or that any such record sheets are to be found, and inspect any such vehicle, and inspect and copy any such record sheets which he finds there.

(2) Where a vehicle examiner, in exercise of his powers under paragraph (1)(*a*), has required a person to produce to him any record sheet, the vehicle examiner may, by notice in writing served on that person, require the record sheet to be produced by him at the office of the Department specified in the notice within such time (not being less than 10 days from the service of the notice) as may be specified therein.

(3) For the purpose of exercising his powers under paragraph (1)(*b*), a vehicle examiner may detain the vehicle in question during such time as is required for the exercise of that power.

(4) Any person who—

(a) fails to comply with any requirement under paragraph (1)(*a*) or (2), or

(b) obstructs a vehicle examiner in the exercise of his powers under paragraph (1) or (3),

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

(5) Any person who makes, or causes to be made, any record or entry on a record sheet kept or carried for the purposes of the Community Recording Equipment Regulation or regulation 3 which he knows to be false or, with intent to deceive, alters or causes to be altered any such record or entry, shall be liable—

(a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum;

(b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or a fine or both.

(6) If a vehicle examiner has reason to believe that an offence under paragraph (5) has been committed in respect of any record sheet inspected by him under this regulation, he may seize that record sheet; and where a record sheet is seized as aforesaid and within 6 months of the date on which it was seized no person has been charged since that date with an offence in relation to that record sheet under that paragraph and the record sheet has not been returned to the person from whom it was taken, a magistrates' court shall, on application made for the purpose by that person, or by a vehicle examiner, make such order respecting the disposal of the record sheet and award such costs as the justice of the case may require.

(7) The powers conferred by this regulation on a vehicle examiner shall be exercisable also by a constable.

(**11**) *See* Article 74(3) and (4) of S.I. 1995 No. 2994 (N.I. 18)