1980 No. 262

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order (Northern Ireland) 1980

Made . . . . . *1st August 1980*

Coming into operation . . . *on a date to be notified in the Belfast Gazette*

To be laid before Parliament under paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Act 1952(**a**) and now vested in me(**b**) I hereby make the following Order:

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) Order (Northern Ireland) 1980 and shall come into operation on the date on which the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Vienna in 1968(**c**) is first in force for the United Kingdom, which date shall be notified in the Belfast Gazette.

Revocation

2. The Motor Vehicles (International Circulation) (Road Traffic) Order (Northern Ireland) 1970(**d**) is hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3.—(1) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**e**) shall apply to Articles 1 and 2 and the following provisions of this Order as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

(2) In this Order—

"the Act" means the Road Traffic Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(**f**);

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

(3) References in this Order to a class of vehicles shall be construed as references to a class defined or described by reference to any characteristics of the vehicles or to any other circumstances whatsoever.

Visitors' driving permits

4.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Article, it shall be lawful for a person resident outside the United Kingdom who is temporarily in Northern Ireland and holds—

(*a*) a Convention driving permit,

(*b*) a domestic driving permit issued in a country outside the United Kingdom, or

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(a) 1952 c. 39
(b) 1973 c. 36, section 40 and paragraph 4 of Schedule 5
(c) Cmnd. 4032
(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1970 No. 196 (p. 1083)
(e) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)
(f) 1970 c. 2 (N.I.) as amended by S.I. 1973/1229 (N.I. 17); S.I. 1976/581 (N.I. 11); and S.I. 1978/1051 (N.I. 21)

(*c*) a British Forces (BFG) driving licence,

during a period of twelve months from the date of his last entry into the United Kingdom to drive, and, except in the case of a holder of a British Forces (BFG) driving licence, be employed in driving, in Northern Ireland a motor vehicle of any class which he is authorised by that permit or that licence to drive, notwithstanding that he is not the holder of a driving licence under Part I of the Act.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Article, it shall be lawful for a person resident outside the United Kingdom who is temporarily in Northern Ireland and holds—

(*a*) a Convention driving permit, or

(*b*) a domestic driving permit issued in a country outside the United Kingdom,

during a period of twelve months from the date of his last entry into the United Kingdom to drive, and be employed in driving, in Northern Ireland a public service vehicle (other than a public service vehicle seating not more than six persons in addition to the driver) or heavy goods vehicle [brought temporarily into Northern Ireland] which he is authorised by that permit to drive, notwithstanding that he is not the holder of such a licence as is required by Part IV of the Act.

(3) Nothing in the preceding provisions of this Article shall authorise any person to drive, or to be employed in driving, a vehicle of any class at a time when he is disqualified by virtue of section 2 of the Act (persons under age), as substituted by Article 3 of the Road Traffic (Drivers' Ages and Hours of Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1976(**g**), for holding or obtaining a driving licence authorising him to drive vehicles of that class, but in the case of any such person as is mentioned in paragraphs (1) or (2) of this Article, who is driving a vehicle which—

[(*a*) is brought temporarily into Northern Ireland,]

(*b*) is within the class specified in the first column at item 6 of the Table in subsection (1) of that section, and

(*c*) is either a vehicle registered in a Convention country or a goods vehicle in respect of which that person holds a certificate of competence which satisfies the international requirements,

the second column at item 6 of that Table, in its application for the purposes of this paragraph, shall have effect as if for '21' there were substituted '18'.

In this paragraph the following expressions have the meanings respectively assigned to them:—

"the international requirements" means—

(i) in relation to a person who is driving a goods vehicle on a journey to which Council Regulation (EEC) No. 543/69 of 25th March 1969 on the harmonisation of certain social legislation relating to road transport(**h**) applies, the requirements of Article 5(1)(*b*) (minimum ages for goods vehicle drivers) of that Regulation;

(ii) in relation to a person who is driving a goods vehicle on a journey to which the European Agreement concerning the work of crews engaged in International Road Transport (AETR) signed at Geneva 25th March 1971(**i**) applies, the requirements of Article 5(1)(*b*) (conditions to be fulfilled by drivers) of that Agreement;

"Convention country" means a country which is not a Member State of the European Economic Community nor a party to the aforementioned European Agreement nor to the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Vienna in the year 1968 but is a party to the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at

(**g**) S.I. 1976/581 (N.I. 11)
(**h**) O.J. No. L. 77, 29.3.1969, p. 49
(**i**) Cmnd. 4858

Geneva in the year 1949(j) or the International Convention relative to Motor Traffic concluded at Paris in the year 1926(k).

(4) This Article shall not authorise a person to drive a motor vehicle of any class if, in consequence of a conviction or of the order of a court, he is disqualified for holding or obtaining a driving licence under Part I of the Act to drive a vehicle of that class.

(5) The Department may by order withdraw the right conferred by paragraph (1)(*b*), (1)(*c*) or (2)(*b*), or any two or more of those rights, either in the case of all domestic driving permits or British Forces (BFG) driving licences, or in the case of domestic driving permits or British Forces (BFG) driving licences of a description specified in the order or held by persons of a description so specified.

(6) In this Article—

"Convention driving permit" means either—

(i) a driving permit in the form A in Schedule 1 issued under the authority of a country outside the United Kingdom, whether or not that country is a party to the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Geneva in the year 1949 but not so issued as aforesaid after the expiry of a period of five years from the date of the entry into force of the Convention on Road Traffic concluded at Vienna in the year 1968 in accordance with Article 47(1) thereof, if that country is a party to that Convention,

(ii) a driving permit in the form B in Schedule 1 issued under the authority of a country outside the United Kingdom which is a party to the International Convention relative to Motor Traffic concluded at Paris in the year 1926, but not to the Convention of 1949 nor to the Convention of 1968, or

(iii) a driving permit in the form C in Schedule 1 issued under the authority of a country outside the United Kingdom which is a party to the Convention of 1968;

"domestic driving permit", in relation to a country outside the United Kingdom, means a document issued under the law of that country and authorising the holder to drive motor vehicles, or a specified class of motor vehicles, in that country, and includes a driving permit issued by the armed forces of any country outside the United Kingdom for use in some other country outside the United Kingdom;

"British Forces (BFG) driving licence" means a driving licence issued in Germany to members of the British Forces or of the civilian component thereof or to the dependants of such members by the British authorities in that country in such a form and in accordance with such licensing system as may from time to time be approved by those authorities; and

"dependants", in relation to such a member of the British Forces or of the civilian component thereof, means any of the following persons, namely:—

(*a*) the wife or husband of that member, and

(*b*) any other person wholly or mainly maintained by him or in his custody, charge or care.

(7) The provisions of this Article which authorise the holder of a permit or a licence to drive a vehicle during a specified period shall not be construed as authorising the driving of a vehicle at a time when the permit or the licence has ceased to be valid and, without prejudice to the provisions of paragraph (3), a Convention driving permit in the form C in Schedule 1 shall, if the validity of the permit is by special endorsement thereon made conditional upon the holder wearing certain devices or upon the vehicle being equipped in a certain manner to take account of his disability, not be valid at a time when any such condition is not satisfied.

(j) Cmd. 7997
(k) Cmd. 3510

5.—(1) It shall be lawful—

(*a*) for a member of a visiting force of a country to which Part I of the Visiting Forces Act 1952(**l**) for the time being applies who holds a driving permit issued under the law of any part of the sending country or issued by the service authorities of the visiting force, or

(*b*) for a member of a civilian component of such a visiting force who holds such a driving permit,

to drive, and be employed in driving, in Northern Ireland a motor vehicle of any class which he is authorised by that permit to drive, notwithstanding that he is not the holder of a driving licence under Part I of the Act.

(2) This Article shall not authorise a person to drive a motor vehicle of any class if, in consequence of a conviction or of the order of a court, he is disqualified for holding or obtaining a driving licence under Part I of the Act to drive a vehicle of that class.

(3) Nothing in this Article shall authorise any person to drive, or to be employed in driving, a vehicle of any class at a time when he is disqualified by virtue of section 2 of the Act (persons under age), as substituted by Article 3 of the Road Traffic (Drivers' Ages and Hours of Work) (Northern Ireland) Order 1976, for holding or obtaining a driving licence authorising him to drive vehicles of that class.

(4) The interpretative provisions of the Visiting Forces Act 1952 shall apply for the interpretation of this Article.

6. Schedule 2 shall have effect as respects the driving permits referred to in Articles 4 and 5.

Lighting of vehicles brought temporarily into Northern Ireland

7. Regulations under sections 31 to 42 of the Act may either wholly or partially, and subject to any conditions, vary, or grant exemptions from, the requirements of those sections in the case of motor vehicles or trailers brought temporarily into Northern Ireland by persons resident outside the United Kingdom or in the case of any class of such vehicles.

Humphrey Atkins

Northern Ireland Office
1st August 1980

One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State

(**l**) 1952 c. 67

SCHEDULE 1 Article 4(6)

A

FORM OF INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT UNDER CONVENTION OF 1949

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**In a permit issued by some other country the name of that country will appear instead and pages 1 and 2 will be drawn up in the language of that country.*

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*
International Motor Traffic

INTERNATIONAL DRIVING PERMIT
Convention on International Road Traffic of 1949.

Issued at .....

Date .....

Signature or seal of issuing authority.

Seal or stamp of authority

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This permit is valid in the territory of all the Contracting States, with the exception of the territory of the Contracting State where issued, for the period of one year from the date of issue, for the driving of vehicles included in the category or categories mentioned on the last page of this permit.

List of Contracting States (optional)

It is understood that this permit shall in no way affect the obligation of the holder to conform strictly to the laws and regulations relating to residence or to the exercise of a profession which are in force in each country through which he travels.