NEW REGISTRATION PLATES OF MOTOR VEHICLES

The Authority wishes to inform the public that by virtue of regulation 57 of the Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) Regulations 2010, the specifications for new registration plates to be fitted to motor vehicles as from 01 February 2011 were prescribed. Motor vehicles to be registered for the first time were required to be fitted with the new registration plates. With a view to enabling existing owners of motor vehicles to have their vehicles fitted with the new registration plates, Government decided to extend the date of application and enforcement of the regulation 57 to 01 July 2011. Regulations 56 to 60 have now been amended (GN 127/11) to provide for vehicles registered, for the first time, on or after 1 July 2011, as well as on or after 01 February 2011, to bear registration plates –

(a) made of retro-reflective material which, as regards its construction, colour and other qualities, complies with the requirements of –

(i) the British Standard for retro-reflective number plates published on 15 January 1998 under number BS AU 145d[13]; or

(ii) any other relevant standard or specifications recognised for use in an European Union State and which, when in use, offers a performance equivalent to that offered by a plate complying with the British Standard, and which, in either case, is marked with the number or such other information as is necessary to permit identification of that standard or specification;

(b) having on the front of a vehicle, black characters on a white background;

(c) having on the back of a vehicle, black characters on a yellow background;

(d) that are not covered with any reflex-reflecting material or treated in such a way that the characters of the registration mark become, or are caused to act as, retro reflective characters; and

(e) that are not treated in any other way which renders the characters of the registration mark less easily distinguishable to the eye or which would prevent or impair the making of a true photographic image of the plate through the medium of a camera and film or any other device.

2. The British Standard sets out the physical characteristics of the registration plate. This includes visibility, strength and reflectivity. It also requires each registration plate to be permanently and legibly marked with the following information:

- The British Standard number (BS AU 145d).
- The name, trademark or other means of identification of the manufacturer or component supplier (the one that made the plate).
- There shall be no other markings or material contained on the registration plate.

3. Owners or users of vehicles registered prior to the above period are invited to have their existing registration plates replaced by registration plates that comply with the new specifications, although they may, until further notice, continue to have registration plates that comply with the pre-February 2011 specifications.