

2026 No.

ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

**The Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026**

<i>Made</i>	- - - -	2026
<i>Coming into operation</i>		2026

The Department for Infrastructure^(a) makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 55(1), (2)(b) and (6) and 110(2) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1995^(b) and now vested in it^(c).

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 and shall come into operation on [date] 2026.

Amendment of the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations

2. In Part II of Schedule 10 to the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999^(d) (emissions from certain motor vehicles), for paragraph 8 substitute—

“8.—(1) This part of the Schedule applies to a vehicle if—

- (a) when subjected to the “relevant test”, the coefficient of absorption of the exhaust emission from the engine of the vehicle immediately after leaving the exhaust system exceeds—
 - (i) if the vehicle is first used before 1st July 2008 and the engine of that vehicle is turbo-charged, 3.0 per meter, or the manufacturer’s plate value if lower;
 - (ii) if the vehicle is first used before 1st July 2008 and the engine of that vehicle is not turbo-charged, 2.5 per meter, or the manufacturer’s plate value if lower;
 - (iii) if the vehicle is first used on or after 1st July 2008 but before 1st January 2014, the manufacturer’s plate value if available, otherwise 1.5 per meter; or

(a) Formerly the Department for Regional Development; *see* section 1(6) and (11) of, and Schedule 1 to, the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (2106 c. 5 (N.I.)). Pursuant to section 1(9) of that Act, the Department of the Environment is dissolved

(b) S.I. 1995/2994 (N.I. 18); Article 55 was amended by Article 42(1) of the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 2007 (S.I. 2007/916 (N.I. 10))

(c) *See* Article 8(1)(b) of, and Part 2 of Schedule 5 to, the Department (Transfer of Functions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 (S.R. 2016 No.76)

(d) S.R.1999 No. 454; paragraph 8 was substituted by S.R. 2018 No. 87, regulation 2(4)

- (iv) if the vehicle is first used on or after 1st January 2014, the manufacturer's plate value if available, otherwise 0.7 meter; or
- (b) when subjected to a "particle number concentration test" as an alternative to the 'relevant test', a vehicle specified in sub-paragraph (i) or (ii) exceeds a particle number concentration of 1,000,000 particles per cubic centimetre in the exhaust emissions from the engine of the vehicle—
 - (i) a motor vehicle being either an approved M1 vehicle, an approved N1 vehicle, a motor car or a vehicle with a maximum gross weight not exceeding 3,500 kilograms, first used on or after 1st January 2013 and manufactured with a diesel particulate filter; or
 - (ii) a motor vehicle being either an approved N2 vehicle, an approved N3 vehicle, an approved M2 vehicle, an approved M3 vehicle, a heavy motor car or a vehicle with a maximum gross weight exceeding 3,500 kilograms, first used on or after 1st January 2014 and manufactured with a diesel particulate filter.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)—
 - (a) "a relevant test" means a test conducted in accordance with—
 - (i) point 8.2.2 of Annexe I of Directive 2014/45/EU; or
 - (ii) point 8.2.2 of Annexe II of Directive 2014/47/EU;
 - (b) "a particle number concentration test" means a test which determines the number of particles per cubic centimetre in the exhaust emissions from the engine of the vehicle by volume, when the vehicle is stationary and the engine is running without load at normal idling speed, as specified by the vehicle manufacturer; and
 - (c) M1 to M3 category vehicles and N1 to N3 category vehicles are as described in Article 4 of Regulation (EU) 2018/858 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30th May 2018 on the approval and market surveillance of motor vehicles and trailers and of systems, components and separate technical units intended for such vehicles."

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Infrastructure



A senior officer of the Department for Infrastructure

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 (“the 1999 Regulations”) to allow for the introduction of a Particle Number exhaust emissions test (“PN test”), as an alternative to the current exhaust gas opacity test.

The 1999 Regulations regulate various aspects of vehicle construction and use that are used to determine a vehicle’s roadworthiness at any time. Regulation 74 of, and Schedule 10 to, those Regulations set the emissions requirements for road vehicles.

Part II of Schedule 10 to the 1999 Regulations (emissions from certain motor vehicles) is amended to allow the use of the PN test for light diesel vehicles first registered on or after 1 January 2013, and for heavy diesel vehicles first registered on or after 1 January 2014.

A Regulatory Impact Assessment and an Explanatory Memorandum have been produced and are available from Vehicle Policy Branch, Driving, Vehicle and Road Safety Policy Division, James House, 2-4 Cromac Avenue, Belfast BT7 2JA or online alongside this Statutory Rule at <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr>