

Illustration

Improper Number Plates (also called 'Registration Mark')

The MV Act (Rule 50, 51 of MV Act, 1989) specifies that the

- a) Registration letters and numbers shall be in black on white background for 2 wheelers / LMV Cars and Black letter on Yellow background for commercial vehicles.
- b) The sizes of the Number Plate and also the letters shall be as given in the pamphlet for each category of vehicle.
- c) Display of Number Plate in the front and rear side of the vehicle shall be as shown in the pamphlet.
- d) Fancy lettering is not permitted.
- e) Other names, pictures, arts should not be displayed.

How to Display Registration Marks on Motor Vehicles? (Rule 50 & 51 of Central Motor Vehicles Rule 1989)

Where should registration numbers be displayed on motor vehicles?

1. The registration mark shall be displayed both at the front and rear of all motor vehicles clearly and legibly.
2. In the case of motorcycles registration numbers in the front shall be displayed parallel to handle bar on any part of the vehicle such as mudguard or on a plate in a line.
3. The registration mark on light motor vehicles may be in the center with illumination.
4. Registration number exhibited at the rear of the transport vehicles shall be on the right hand side at a height not exceeding one meter from ground level as may be reasonably possible.
5. The registration number also be painted on both left and right side on the body of the vehicle in case of transport vehicles.
6. In case of stage carriages and contract carriages registration mark also be painted on partition provided between driver and passengers or on the front left side interior near the roof facing the passengers seats and in the case of motor cab or taxi cab shall be painted on dash board.

How should registration mark be displayed on motor vehicles?

1. The letters of the registration mark shall be in English and figures in Arabic numerals.
2. In the case of transport vehicles such as Lorries, Buses, Autos, Maxi cabs. Taxi cabs registration mark shall be in Black colour on yellow back ground.
3. In case of other vehicles such as private cars, scooters and motor cycles registration mark shall be in Black colour on White back ground.
4. The registration number shall be exhibited in two lines ; the state code (AP) and registering authority code forming the first line and the remaining number in second line, below the first line.
5. The registration mark of all motor vehicles in the front and two wheelers having no sufficient provision at the rear may be exhibited in single line.

SIZE OF NUMBER PLATES :

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|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. For two and three wheelers | : | 200 x 100 mm |
| 2. For light motor vehicles / passenger car | : | 340x 200 mm or 500 x 120 mm |
| 3. For medium / heavy commercial vehicles | : | 340 x 200 mm |

Size of letters and numerals of the registration mark:

Sl.No.	Class of vehicle		Dimensions in M.M.		
			Height	Thickness	Space
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1.	Motor Cycles with engine capacity less than 70 cc	Front letters and numerals	15	2.5	2.5
2.	All motorcycles and three wheeled invalid carriages	Rear letters	35	7	5
		Rear numerals	40	7	5
		Front letters & numerals	30	5	5
3.	Three wheelers with engine capacity below 500 CC	Front and rear numerals & letters	35	7	5
4.	Three wheelers with engine capacity above 500 CC	Front and rear numerals & letters	40	7	5
5.	All other motor vehicles	Front and rear numerals & letters	65	10	10

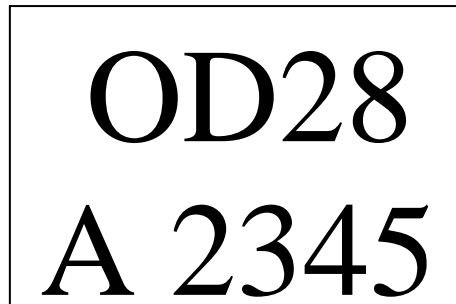
DISPLAY OF NUMBER PLATE – FOR MOTOR CYCLE / LMV CARS

Example

Front side



Rear



1. EXCEPT REGISTRATION MARKS OF THE VEHICLE ANY OTHER NAMES, PICTURES, ARTS SHALL NOT BE DISPLAYED ON NUMBER PLATES. FANCY LETTERING IS NOT PERMITTED.

¹[(4) The modular hydraulic trailers registered under these rules] shall ply in public place in laden condition subject to such other conditions as may be determined by the Central Government from time to time.]

³(5) All types of trailers and semitrailers covered under rule 125-D, shall be registered independently:

Provided that, if the owner or registering party, requests to register the trailer or semitrailer jointly with compatible towing vehicle as a single vehicle, the registering authority shall register them as a single vehicle.]

⁴((6) On and from the commencement of this sub-rule, every bus body builder shall upload the bus body details against the relevant drive away chassis on the portal <https://www.vahan.nic.in/makermodel>.)

48. Issue of certificate of registration.—On receipt of an application under rule 47 and after verification of the documents furnished therewith, the registering authority shall, subject to the provisions of section 44, issue to the owner of the motor vehicle a ⁵[certificate of registration in Form 23 or Form 23-A, as may be specified in the Notification issued by the concerned State Government or Union Territory Administration] ⁶[within the period of thirty days from the receipt of such an application]:

⁷[Provided that where the certificate of registration pertains to a transport vehicle it shall be handed over to the registered owner only after recording the certificate of fitness in Form 38 ⁶[within the period of thirty days from the date of receipt of such an application].]

49. Registration records to be kept by the registering authority.—⁸[(1)] Every registering authority shall keep in Form 24 a permanent register of motor vehicles registered by it under section 41 and of motor vehicles of other States for which new registration marks are assigned by it under sub-section (2) of section 47 and shall also enter in such record under the respective registration numbers, all changes made with reference to the provisions of sub-section (10) or sub-section (14) of section 41, sub-section (5) of section 49, sub-section (6) of section 50, sub-sections (1), (2), (3) and (5) of section 51, sub-section (4) of section 52, orders of suspension under section 53 and order of cancellation under sections 54 and 55.

⁸[(2) Every registering authority shall after registration of a vehicle, including agricultural tractor, power tiller and construction equipment vehicles, upload the registration details of the vehicle on the portal <https://www.vahan.nic.in/makermodel/>:

Provided that such data entry processing through the portal for registration of motor vehicles shall be effective from the 1st February, 2015:

Provided further that the State Governments may continue the practice of existing registration procedure till the 1st October, 2015.]

⁹[**50. Form and manner of display of registration marks on the motor vehicles.**—¹⁰[(1) On or after commencement of this rule, the registration mark

1. Inserted by G.S.R. 212(E), dated 20-3-2015 (w.e.f. 1-4-2015).

2. Substituted by G.S.R. 1482(E), dated 7-12-2017 (w.e.f. 7-12-2017).

3. Inserted by G.S.R. 1482(E), dated 7-12-2017 (w.e.f. 7-12-2017).

4. Inserted by G.S.R. 368(E), dated 13-4-2018 (w.e.f. 13-4-2018).

5. Substituted by G.S.R. 400(E), dated 31-5-2002 (w.e.f. 31-5-2002).

6. Added by G.S.R. 589(E), dated 16-9-2005 (w.e.f. 16-9-2005).

7. Added by G.S.R. 338(E), dated 26-3-1993 (w.e.f. 26-3-1993).

8. R. 49 renumbered as sub-R. (1) thereof and sub-R. (2) inserted by G.S.R. 810(E), dated 17-11-2014 (w.e.f. 17-11-2014).

9. Substituted by G.S.R. 338(E), dated 26-3-1993 (w.e.f. 26-3-1993).

10. Sub-R. (1) substituted by G.S.R. 221(E), dated 28-3-2001 as amended by S.O. 938(E), dated 24-9-2001, S.O. 499(E), dated 9-5-2002 and S.O. 59(E), dated 21-1-2003 (w.e.f. 1-1-2004).

referred to in sub-section (6) of section 41 shall be displayed both at the front and at the rear of all motor vehicles clearly and legibly in the form of security license plate of the following specifications, namely:—

(i) the plate shall be a solid unit made of 1.0 mm aluminium conforming to DIN 1745/DIN 1783 or ISO 7591. Border edges and corners of the plate shall be rounded to avoid injuries to the extent of approx. 10 mm and the plates must have an embossed border. The plate shall be suitable for hot stamping and reflective sheet has to be guaranteed for imperishable nature for minimum five years. The fast colouring of legend and border to be done by hot stamping;

(ii) the plate should bear the letters "IND" in blue colour on the extreme left centre of the plate. The letter should be one-fourth of the size of letters mentioned in rule 51 and should be buried into the foil or applied by hot stamping and should be integral part of the plate;

(iii) each plate shall be protected against counterfeiting by applying chromium-based hologram, applied by hot stamping. Stickers and adhesive labels are not permitted. The plate shall bear a permanent consecutive identification number of minimum seven digits, to be laser branded into the reflective sheeting and hot stamping film shall bear a verification inscription;

(iv) apart from the registration marks on the front and rear, the third registration mark in the form of self-destructive type, chromium based hologram sticker shall be affixed on the left-hand top side of the windshield of the vehicle. The registration details such as registration number, registering authority, etc., shall be printed on the sticker. The third registration mark shall be issued by the registering authorities/approved dealers of the license plates manufacturer alongwith the regular registration marks, and thereafter if such sticker is destroyed it shall be issued by the license plate manufacturer or his dealer;

(v) the plate shall be fastened with non-removable/non-reusable snap lock fitting system on rear of the vehicle at the premises of the registering authority;

The license plates with all the above specifications and the specified registrations for a vehicle shall be issued by the registering authority or approved the license plates manufacturers or their dealers. The Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi or any of the agency authorized by the Central Government shall approve the license plates manufacturers to the above specification;

(vi) the size of the plate for different categories of vehicles shall be as follows:—

¹ [For ² [two wheelers, three wheelers, quadricycles, E-rickshaws and E-carts]	200 x 100 mm
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For Light Motor Vehicles/Passenger cars	340 x 200 mm/500 x 120 mm
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1. Substituted by G.S.R. 99(E), dated 19-2-2014 (w.e.f. 1-10-2014).

2. Substituted by G.S.R. 709(E), dated 8-10-2014 (w.e.f. 8-10-2014).

For medium commercial vehicles, 340 x 200 mm:
heavy commercial vehicles and
Trailer/combination

Provided that this sub-rule shall apply to already registered vehicles two years from the date of commencement:]

¹[Provided further that the size of the registration plates for agricultural tractors shall be as follows:—

Front — 285x45 mm

Rear — 200x100 mm];

²[Provided also that the size of registration plate for combine harvester shall be 340 mm x 200 mm and exhibited at the front and at the rear of combine harvester and at the rear of trailer for header assembly used during transport:]

³[Provided also that the size of registration plate for power tiller shall be 285x45 mm and shall be exhibited at the front. Further, in case of trailer coupled to power tiller, the size of registration plate shall be 200x100 mm and shall be exhibited on its rear:]

⁴[Provided also that in case of a motor cycle, the size of 285x45 mm for front registration plate shall also be permitted.]

(2) In the case of motor cycles the registration mark in the front shall be displayed parallel to the handle bar or on any part of the vehicle including mudguard facing the front instead of, on a plate in line with the axis of the vehicle:]

Provided that—

(a) the registration mark exhibited at the rear of a transport vehicle shall be affixed to the vehicle on the right hand side at a distance not exceeding one metre from the ground as may be reasonably possible having regard to the type of the body of the vehicle;

(b) the registration mark shall also be painted on the right and left side on the body of the vehicle in the case of a transport vehicle;

(c) the registration mark shall also be painted and exhibited on the partition provided between the driver and the passengers, facing the passengers' seats or, where there is no such partition, on the front interior of the vehicle near the roof to the left side of the driver's seat facing the passengers' seats in the case of a stage carriage or a contract carriage and in the case of a motor cab or a taxi cab it shall be sufficient if the registration mark is painted on the dash-board;

⁵[(d) the letters of the registration mark shall be in English and the figures shall be in Arabic numerals and shall be shown:—

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1. Inserted by G.S.R. 720(E), dated 10-9-2003 (w.e.f. 10-10-2003).
 2. Inserted by G.S.R. 212(E), dated 20-3-2015 (w.e.f. 1-4-2015).
 3. Inserted by G.S.R. 589(E), dated 16-9-2005 (w.e.f. 16-9-2006).
 4. Inserted by G.S.R. 589(E), dated 16-9-2005 (w.e.f. 16-9-2005).
 5. Cl. (d) substituted by G.S.R. 901(E), dated 13-12-2001 (w.e.f. 13-12-2001).

(A) in the case of transport vehicles in black colour on yellow background; and

(B) in other cases, in black colour on white background, the registration mark on the trailer shall be exhibited on the left hand side in black colour on yellow background. In addition, the registration mark on the drawing vehicle shall be exhibited on the trailer also and this shall be done on the right hand side at the rear of the trailer or the last trailer as the case may be, in black colour on retro-reflective type yellow background:

Provided that where provisions of this clause have not been complied with in respect of motor vehicle, on or before the commencement of the Central Motor Vehicles (8th Amendment) Rules, 2001, then the provisions shall be complied with,—

(i) in respect of transport vehicle, on or before 1st February, 2002; and

(ii) in other cases, on or before 1st July, 2002.]

¹[(2-A) In case of Battery Operated Vehicles, the registration mark shall be exhibited in Yellow colour on Green background for transport vehicles and for all other cases, in White colour on Green background.]

²[(3) The registration mark shall be exhibited in two lines, the State code and registering authority code forming the first line and the rest forming the second line, one below the other:

³[Provided that the registration mark in the front may be exhibited in one line in case, in 200mm × 100mm size plate, there is no sufficient space to exhibit the registration mark in one line, the alpha numeric of the registration mark shall be displayed as under:

(i) where the total number of alpha numeric characters in the registration mark is even, then, equal number of alpha numeric character in each line; and

(ii) where the total number of alpha numeric characters in the registration mark is odd, then any extra alpha numeric character shall be exhibited on the second line,

and all dimensions shall be maintained as per rule 51 without disturbing security features in the plate:]

Provided further that in models of vehicles having no sufficient provision at the rear to exhibit the registration mark in two lines, it shall be sufficient if in such vehicles registration mark is exhibited in a single line:

Provided further that registration mark on a light motor vehicle may be in the centre with illumination.

(4) Every motor vehicle, except motor cab and motor car, manufactured on and from the date of commencement of the Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 1993, shall be provided with sufficient space in the rear for display of registration mark in two lines.

(5) In case of agricultural tractors, the registration mark need not be inclined to the ⁴[vertical plane by more than 45 degrees].

1. Inserted by G.S.R. 749(E), dated 7-8-2018 (w.e.f. 7-8-2018).

2. Added by G.S.R. 338(E), dated 26-3-1993 (w.e.f. 26-3-1993).

3. Substituted by G.S.R. 324(E), dated 7-5-2014 (w.e.f. 7-5-2014).

4. Substituted by G.S.R. 111(E), dated 10-2-2004, for "vertical by more than 30 degrees" (w.e.f. 10-8-2004).

(6) The registration mark of the drawing agricultural tractor may not be exhibited on the agricultural trailer or trailers.]

¹[(7) The registration mark of the modular hydraulic trailer may not be exhibited on the puller tractor.]

²[51. Size of letters and numerals of the registration mark.—The dimension of letters and figures of the registration mark and the space between different letters and numerals and letters and edge of the plain surface shall be as follows:—

Sl. No.	Class of vehicle	Dimensions not less than			
		Height	Thickness	Space between	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	
1.	All motor cycles and three-wheeled invalid carriages	Rear-letters	35	7	5
2.	All motor cycles and three-wheeled invalid carriages	Rear-numeral	40	7	5
3.	Motor cycles with engine capacity less than 70 cc	Front-letters & numerals	15	2.5	2.5
4.	Other motor cycles	Front-letters & numerals	30	5	5
³ 5.	Three-wheelers of engine capacity not exceeding 500 cc [E-rickshaws and E-carts]	Rear and front numerals and letters	35	7	5
6.	Three-wheelers of engine capacity exceeding 500 cc	Rear and front numerals and letters	40	7	5]
7.	All other motor vehicles	Rear and front letters and numerals	65	10	10]
⁴ 8.	Power tillers	Front letters and numerals	15	2.5	2.5
9.	Trailers coupled to power tillers	Rear letters and numerals	30	5	5]
⁵ 10.	Combine harvester	Front and rear letters and numerals	65	10	10
11.	Trailer for header assembly of combine harvesters	Rear letters and numerals	65	10	10]

52. Renewal of certificate of registration.—(1) An application by or on behalf of the owner of a motor vehicle, other than a transport vehicle, for the renewal of a certificate of registration, shall be made to the registering authority in whose jurisdiction the vehicle is, in Form 25 not more than sixty days before the date of its expiry, accompanied by the appropriate fee as specified in rule 81.

1. Inserted by G.S.R. 212(E), dated 20-3-2015 (w.e.f. 1-4-2015).

2. Substituted by G.S.R. 338(E), dated 26-3-1993 (w.e.f. 26-3-1993).

3. Substituted by G.S.R. 214(E), dated 18-3-1999 (w.e.f. 18-3-1999).

4. Inserted by G.S.R. 709(E), dated 8-10-2014 (w.e.f. 8-10-2014).

5. Inserted by G.S.R. 589(E), dated 16-9-2005 (w.e.f. 16-9-2005).