

**GUIDE FOR MOTOR TRADERS  
ISSUED BY THE LICENCING OFFICER**



**ASCENSION ISLAND GOVERNMENT**

**TRADE PLATE POLICY**

**(Operative from 1 January 2014)**

## **LICENSING OFFICER**

### **Trade Plate Policy (Operative from 1 January 2014)**

#### **Guide for Motor Traders**

##### **Preface:**

- This guide does not purport to be a legal interpretation.
- It is vital that motor traders, in their own interest, comply with the conditions attaching to permits issued by the Licencing Officer which will be strictly enforced by the Police. Persons convicted of Road Traffic Offences through the misuse of Permits are liable to heavy penalties and to loss of the right to hold a trade licence.

##### **Legal Framework**

- Section 9 (1) of the Road Traffic Ordinance CAP A25.

##### **Definition of Motor Trader**

- Businesses/business departments whose key purpose is the servicing, repair and examination of Motor vehicles and trailers.

##### **Trade Plate Permits**

- On receipt of a written application the Licensing Officer will grant to a successful applicant (a Motor Trader) an annual permit authorising such Motor Trader to use on any road an unlicensed motor vehicle or trailer being examined by the motor trader as to its fitness and roadworthiness in accordance with the Road Traffic Ordinance. The permit will require the Motor Trader to:
  - Ensure that the allocated trade plates are properly displayed on all vehicles used in accordance with the permit.
  - Have no more than one passenger when using the vehicle in accordance with the permit.
  - Use the vehicle in accordance with this policy.

##### **Application for Trade Plate Permits**

- All application must be in writing, addressed to the Licensing Officer and furnish the following information:
  - A copy of motor Trade Insurance covering the use of unlicensed vehicles during vehicle testing/examination.

- A list of all Vehicle Inspectors employed by the Motor Trader who is authorised by the Administrator to inspect/examine vehicles under the Road Traffic Ordinance.
- A list of all employees who the Motor Trader's insurance authorises to test drive the vehicle in accordance with the testing /examination of the vehicle.

### **Format of Trade Plates**

- The formats of the trade licence plate for motor cycles and for other vehicles are illustrated in the attached **APPENDIX**.
- More than one trade plate number may be issued under any permit.

### **Display of Trade Plate**

- **Motor Cycle:** Single plate displayed to rear of motor cycle.
- **Other Motor Vehicle:** Two plates- one plate inside front window and the other plate inside rear window. Where a vehicle (e.g. van ) has no rear window or a vehicle is drawing a trailer, second plate to be affixed to rear of vehicle or trailer.

### **Validity of Trade Plate Permit**

- Expires at the end of a 12 month period from when it is issued.
- Permits may be renewed annually on application with the same trade plates being allocated to the motor trader.

### **Limitations as to Use of a Trade Plate under a Permit**

- May not be displayed on a vehicle being used for domestic, pleasure, or social purposes.
- May only be used by the motor trader to whom it issued – unless the permit holder or a person bona-fide in the permit holder's employment and acting under the permit holder's authority is present and in charge of the vehicle.
- May only be used on a vehicle which is in the possession of the permit holder for the purpose of being examined for road fitness purposes.
- May not be used on an unregistered vehicle on **Sundays** or **Public Holidays**, or before 08.00am. or after 5.00p.m. (on any other day) without the permission of the Licensing Officer.

### **Lawful uses of a Trade Plate allowed by a Permit**

- The Testing or trial of a vehicle or trailer in the ordinary course of construction or repair, or immediately after completion of construction or repair.
- The testing or trial of an unregistered and unlicensed vehicle for assessing fitness and performance prior to purchase in the ordinary course of business.
- Delivery a vehicle or trailer from the premises of the holder of the permit to the premises of another motor trader or removing it from the premises another motor trader to the permit holder's own premises for the purpose of either party conducting a roadworthy examination.
- Proceeding to or returning from a workshop in which a body, machine, appliance, device or accessory is to be or has been fitted to the vehicle or trailer or it is to be or has been painted or repaired as part of the testing and examination as to road worthiness.

### **Trade Licence/Plate Offences – Penalties**

- The use of a vehicle in contravention of a Permit Issued by the Licencing Officer:
  - A maximum fine of £100 on first conviction;
  - On Second and subsequent conviction a maximum fine of £300 or maximum prison term of 6 months or both fine/imprisonment.
  - The Court retains the power to disqualify from holding a driving licence.
- On conviction of an offence, a person will be automatically disqualified by the Licencing Officer from holding a trade licence/plate for:
  - a period of 1 year (first conviction)
  - a period of 3 years (second conviction)
  - life (third conviction)

**APPENDIX**

**PRESCRIBED FORM OF TRADE PLATE**

**DIAGRAM NO. 1**



**DIAGRAM**

**NO.**

**2**

