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Any communication on the subject  
of this letter should be addressed  
to:-

The Secretary.  
and the following number quoted:-

MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY,  
CORNWALL HOUSE,  
STAMFORD STREET,  
LONDON, S.E.1.

H.S.C. 192/40  
L.L.

26th July, 1940.

Sir,

Home Security Circular 192/1940.  
Fire Brigades Circular No. 110/1940.  
Scottish Home Department Fire Brigades  
Division Circular No. L.139/40.

Use of Illuminated Lettering on A.R.P. Vehicles.

I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to refer to A.R.P. Department Circular No. 329/1939, Fire Brigades Circulars Nos. 75/1939 (paragraph 9) and 4/1940, and Scottish Home Department Fire Brigades Division Circulars Nos. L.87/39 and L.9/40 and to inform you that further consideration has been given to the question of displaying illuminated lettering on (1) motor cycles; (2) motor cars having combined head and side lamps and (3) pedal cycles. It is also necessary to add a further set of illuminated lettering to the list set out in the Appendix to Circular 329/1939.

(1) Motor cycles.

It is not practicable to modify a motor-cycle mask so as to provide a satisfactory method of displaying the lettering by the use of light from the headlamp; and it will accordingly be necessary (except in the case of motor cycles having dual headlamps - see below) to fit an additional lighting unit for the purpose. The unit should not be elaborate; it might consist of a rectangular sheet metal box 7" wide and  $3\frac{1}{2}$ " high painted white inside and fitted with a lampholder and stencilled front plate carrying the required lettering. Diffusing material, such as opal glass, will need to be fitted behind the front plate. The brightness of the lettering should be such as to render it just legible at a distance of 50 yards; a 6 watt bulb should normally be adequate to secure this result.

A hood projecting  $1\frac{3}{4}$ " must be fitted above the lettering. It should be arranged so as not to obscure the lettering unduly.

The lighting unit should preferably be placed in such a position that, when viewed from the front, it is directly above the panel in the headlamp mask through which the obligatory light is displayed.

In a case where a motor cycle is equipped with dual headlamps fitted side by side, one headlamp may be used for the driving light and the other for the illuminated lettering.

The Clerk of the County Council,  
The County Clerk,  
The Town Clerk,  
The Clerk of the District Council.



(2) Motor Cars having combined head and side lamps.

It is not, generally speaking, desirable that, in the case of motor cars having combined head and side lamps, illuminated lettering should be displayed from any auxiliary front lamp e.g. a spot or pass lamp, since, owing to the low mounting position, the hood will obscure the lettering unduly. The most satisfactory solution will usually be to fit the headlamp which normally shows the obligatory light only with a screen displaying both the lettering and the obligatory light.

It may not be possible for fire authorities to adopt the standard fire disc supplied in accordance with Fire Brigades Circular No. 4/1940 or Scottish Home Department Fire Brigades Division Circular No. D. 9/40, so as to make them suitable for the purposes mentioned in this Circular. In such cases suitable discs displaying the word FIRE in amber may be obtained locally.

(3) Pedal Cycles.

Pedal cyclists acting at night as outdoor messengers or guides for reinforcements will need to be equipped with lamps displaying illuminated lettering. Accordingly each centre or depot from which pedal cyclists may be despatched on duties of this kind should be provided with a sufficient number of such lamps to meet the needs of the maximum number of pedal cyclists who may be expected to be called upon for such duties at night.

The illuminated lettering, which should not be less than  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " high, should be displayed from an additional lamp having an opal glass. The brightness of the stencilled lettering should be such as to render it just legible at a distance of 20 yards. No hooding is necessary.

Cycles which may need to carry the second lamp when they are being used on duty should be fitted with an additional lamp bracket.

(4) Additional lettered sign to those for which provision is made in Circular 329/1939.

Some difficulty has been experienced in night exercises in distinguishing ambulances from motor cars for sitting cases, as both types of vehicle are indicated by an illuminated "A" in accordance with circular 329/1939. In order to overcome this difficulty, motor cars for sitting cases may add the word "CAR" in smaller letters (preferably  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " high) underneath the "A".

Reasonable expenditure incurred on the provision and fitting of the above lettered signs will be allowed to rank for grant.

An additional copy of this circular is forwarded to each local authority for transmission to the Chief Financial Officer.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*F. E. Johnson*

Issued to all local authorities in England, Wales and Scotland, to Chief Officers of Fire Brigades in England and Wales and to Firemasters in Scotland.