



Isle of Man
Government

Reiltys Ellan Vannin



Number Plate Regulations in the Isle of Man

1. Q. Are black & white number plates legal?

A. Black & white number plates are only legal on vehicles manufactured before 1st February 1990.

2. Q. What type of number plates have replaced black & white?

A. Retro-reflective yellow (back) and white (front) plates must be used on vehicles manufactured on or after 1st February 1990. (They can also be used on earlier vehicles if the owner wishes).

3. Q. Must we use hyphens on number plates?

A. Yes, hyphens must be used to separate a letter from a figure (and vice versa) appearing on the same line. Hyphens must not be used to separate a letter from a letter or a figure from a figure. (The exception being on small motorbike plates).

4. Q. What is the standard size character appearing on a number plate?

A. The new sizes are 79mm high x 44mm with 11.5mm stroke (which appears on the "Ellan Vannin" type plates with the 3 legs symbol on) or 79mm high x 50mm, with 14mm stroke, which is used on "plain" plates.

5. Q. What is the minimum size of character on a number plate?

A. 70mm high x 36mm, with 10mm stroke. On motorbike plates, the height can be 64mm.

6. Q. Can italics or different sizes of characters be used on a number plate?

A. Italic or "ornamental" characters **must not** be used on number plates. Characters on a number plate must be of the permitted size, be vertical and have constant stroke-width.

7. Q. What colour characters can appear on a number plate?

A. On retro-reflective number plates characters must be either solid black, or black and grey 3D effect.