

New Style Number Plates

BD51 SMR

A new number plate format was introduced on 1 September 2001.

At the same time new regulations took effect governing design, manufacture and display of number plates. The regulations introduce a standard typeface, making it easier for number plates to be read. The change applies to the plates of vehicles registered from 1 September 2001 and to all replacement plates issued from that date. The regulations end the use of italic, multiple stroke and other difficult to read lettering on number plates.

The Mandatory Typeface

An example of the new character typeface is shown below.

I 23456789
ABCDEFGHIH
JKLMNOPQ
RSTUVWXYZ

N.B: I and Q are not used in the new format. Q appears on some old format number plates, these "Q marks" will continue to be issued. See booklet INF46 "Registration numbers and you" for information.

Z is only used in the random element of the new format.

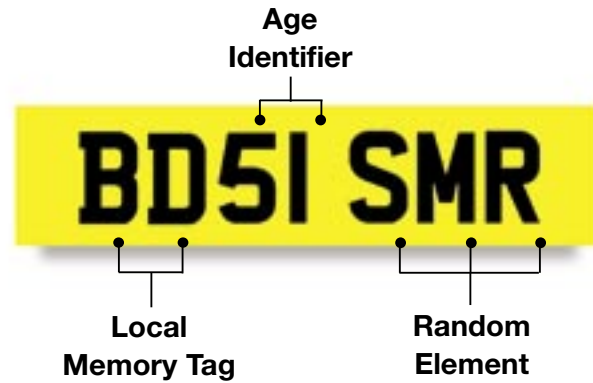
The Euro Plate

There is also provision, on a voluntary basis, for the display of the Euro symbol and GB national identifier on the plate. This enables motorists to dispense with a separate GB sticker when travelling within the EU, if they wish.



A New Format

A new registration mark system began on 1 September 2001 for all new vehicles being registered. The new format is as follows:



The new format will comprise seven characters and include local and age identifiers, as shown above. The local memory tag is linked to the DVLA local office where the vehicle was first registered and is intended to help witnesses recall details of the number plate.

The age identifier changes every six months in March and September. In the example above BD signifies Birmingham, 51 represents September 2001 and SMR is the random element. Lists of local memory tags and age identifiers are shown overleaf. Please note, DVLA local office identifiers may on occasion be subject to change.

Personalised Registrations

DVLA Personalised Registrations gives motorists the opportunity to purchase both prefix and current style registrations. To check the availability and price of all DVLA's Personalised Registrations visit www.dvlaregistrations.co.uk.

Local Memory Tags

| Letter | | Local Office | DVLA local office Identifier |
|----------|------------------------------------|---|--|
| A | Anglia | Peterborough Norwich Ipswich | AA AB AC AD AE AF AG AH AJ AK AL AM AN AO AP AR AS AT AU AV AW AX AY |
| B | Birmingham | Birmingham | BA – BY |
| C | Cymru | Cardiff Swansea Bangor | CA CB CC CD CE CF CG CH CJ CK CL CM CN CO CP CR CS CT CU CV CW CX CY |
| D | Deeside to Shrewsbury | Chester Shrewsbury | DA DB DC DD DE DF DG DH DJ DK DL DM DN DO DP DR DS DT DU DV DW DX DY |
| E | Essex | Chelmsford | EA – EY |
| F | Forest & Fens | Nottingham Lincoln | FA FB FC FD FE FF FG FH FJ FK FL FM FN FP FR FS FT FV FW FX FY |
| G | Garden of England | Maidstone Brighton | GA GB GC GD GE GF GG GH GJ GK GL GM GN GO GP GR GS GT GU GV GW GX GY |
| H | Hampshire & Dorset | Bournemouth Portsmouth | HA HB HC HD HE HF HG HH HJ HK HL HM HN HO HP HR HS HT HU HV HW HX HY (HW will be used exclusively for Isle of Wight residents) |
| K | | Luton Northampton | KA KB KC KD KE KF KG KH KJ KK KL KM KN KO KP KR KS KT KU KV KW KX KY |
| L | London | Wimbledon Stanmore Sidcup | LA LB LC LD LE LF LG LH LJ LK LL LM LN LO LP LR LS LT LU LV LW LX LY |
| M | Manchester & Merseyside | Manchester | MA – MY (MN + MAN Reserved for the Isle of Man) |
| N | North | Newcastle Stockton | NA NB NC ND NE NG NH NJ NK NL NM NN NO NP NR NS NT NU NV NW NX NY |
| O | Oxford | Oxford | OA – OY |
| P | Preston | Preston Carlisle | PA PB PC PD PE PF PG PH PJ PK PL PM PN PO PP PR PS PT PU PV PW PX PY |
| R | Reading | Reading | RA – RY |
| S | Scotland | Glasgow Edinburgh Dundee Aberdeen Inverness | SA SB SC SD SE SF SG SH SJ SK SL SM SN SO SP SR SS ST SU SV SW SX SY |
| V | Severn Valley | Worcester | VA – VY |
| W | West of England | Exeter Truro Bristol | WA WB WC WD WE WF WG WH WJ WK WL WM WN WO WP WR WS WT WU WV WW WX WY |
| Y | Yorkshire | Leeds Sheffield Beverley | YA YB YC YD YE YF YG YH YJ YK YL YM YN YO YP YR YS YT YU YV YW YX YY |

N.B: DVLA cannot guarantee that any specific local memory tag or DVLA local office Identifier will be issued.

Age Identifiers

| Date | Code | Date | Code | Further information about number plates can be found on the website www.direct.gov.uk/motoring |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|--|
| | | Sept 2001 – Feb 2002 | 51 | |
| March 2002 – Aug 2002 | 02 | Sept 2002 – Feb 2003 | 52 | Or you can contact Customer Enquiries (Vehicles) on 0870 240 0010 between 8.00am and 8.30pm Monday to Friday and 8.00am to 5.30pm on Saturday. |
| March 2003 – Aug 2003 | 03 | Sept 2003 – Feb 2004 | 53 | |
| March 2004 – Aug 2004 | 04 | Sept 2004 – Feb 2005 | 54 | Some calls will be monitored for quality and training purposes. |
| March 2005 – Aug 2005 | 05 | Sept 2005 – Feb 2006 | 55 | |
| March 2006 – Aug 2006 | 06 | Sept 2006 – Feb 2007 | 56 | Customers with impaired hearing who have a textphone/minicom should phone 01792 766426 for vehicle enquiries. You should be aware that the minicom numbers will not respond to ordinary telephones. |
| March 2007 – Aug 2007 | 07 | Sept 2007 – Feb 2008 | 57 | |
| March 2008 – Aug 2008 | 08 | Sept 2008 – Feb 2009 | 58 | Fax: 0870 850 1285 |
| March 2009 – Aug 2009 | 09 | Sept 2009 – Feb 2010 | 59 | |
| March 2010 – Aug 2010 | 10 | Sept 2010 – Feb 2011 | 60 | E-mail: vehicles.dvla@gtnet.gov.uk |
| March 2011 – Aug 2011 | 11 | Sept 2011 – Feb 2012 | 61 | |

This pattern will continue until all permutations are exhausted.