

Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Design of Numberplates Determination 2023 (No 1)

Notifiable instrument NI2023–139

made under the

Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2000, sections 47 (Determination of nonstandard registration numbers) and 51 (Dimensions, layout etc. of numberplates)

1 Name

This instrument is the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Design of Numberplates Determination 2023 (No 1)*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences on 3 April 2023.

3 Determination of the design of numberplates

I determine that the design of numberplates shall be as set out in the Schedule to this determination.

4 Revocation

The *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Design of Numberplates Determination 2020 (No 1)* NI2020-187 is revoked.

Derise Cubin

Executive Branch Manager, Licensing and Registration, Access Canberra

Delegate of the Head of Access Canberra exercising a declared function of the Director-General of the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate in that entity's capacity as road transport authority.

21 March 2023

Note: The *Public Sector Management (Head of Access Canberra Functions) Declaration 2017 (No 1)* declares that the head of Access Canberra may exercise functions given to the Director-General of the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, including the powers and functions under sections 47 and 51 of the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2000*, for which the Director-General of the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate is the Road Transport Authority. The Executive Branch Manager, Licensing and Registration, Access Canberra is then delegated the head of Access Canberra's declared powers and functions under the *Road Transport Legislation (Access Canberra) Delegations 2017 (No 1)*.

Part 1 - Dimensions

- 1.1 A numberplate for a motor vehicle shall be approximately 190 to 522 millimetres wide and approximately 84 to 135 millimetres high.
- 1.2 A numberplate for a motorbike shall be approximately 185 to 255 millimetres wide and approximately 100 millimetres high.
- 1.3 A numberplate for a trailer shall be approximately 190 to 372 millimetres wide and approximately 135 millimetres high.
- 1.4 A numberplate for use on a bicycle rack shall be approximately 255 millimetres wide and approximately 100 millimetres high.
- 1.5 A number plate for use on a heavy vehicle or heavy trailer (over 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass) shall be approximately 370 millimetres wide and approximately 132 millimetres high.

Part 2 – Materials and Colour

- 2.1 A numberplate for a:
 - 2.1.1 **public bus**, included in the accreditation of an accredited bus service operator;
 - 2.1.2 **taxi**, included in the accreditation of an accredited taxi service operator;
 - 2.1.3 **restricted taxi**, included in the accreditation of an accredited restricted taxi service operator;
 - 2.1.4 **private hire car**; or
 - 2.1.5 **vehicle** included in section 83 of the *Road Transport (Public Passenger Services) Act 2001*; shall be formed of a metal plate bearing a black legend on a pale yellow reflective background.

However, the numberplates of public buses described in 3.4 (ACTION buses), shall bear a maroon legend on a white reflective background.

- 2.2 A numberplate for a motor vehicle which is registered in the name of:
 - 2.2.1 the Government of an overseas country, or of an international organisation, being a vehicle used for the purpose of a **diplomatic mission**;
 - 2.2.2 a diplomatic agent or a person (not being a person who is an Australian citizen or who is a permanent resident of Australia) who is a member of the **family of a diplomatic agent** forming part of his or her household; or
 - 2.2.3 a member of the **administrative and technical staff** of a diplomatic mission or a person (not being a person who is an Australian citizen or who is a permanent resident of Australia) who is a member of the family of such a person forming part of his or her household;

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- shall be formed of a metal plate bearing a black legend on a blue reflective background.
- 2.3 A numberplate for a motor vehicle or trailer which is registered in the name of the **ACT Government** other than a motor vehicle used by a Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly or by a person performing the duties of an executive officer in the ACT public service, shall be formed of a metal plate bearing a maroon legend on a white reflective background.
- 2.4 A numberplate for any other motor vehicle or trailer, except a **European style numberplate**, may be formed of either metal plate, plastic, or plastic and aluminium composite bearing either a blue legend on a white reflective background or a legend and background in colours of a combination which the Road Transport Authority (RTA) is satisfied is able to be distinguished by traffic offence detection devices.
- 2.5 A **European style numberplate** may only be formed in aluminium composite and may be a blue legend on a white reflective background or a white legend on a black reflective background.
- 2.6 A heavy vehicle number plate issued under Section 28 of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (ACT) 2013 will consist of a white reflective background, black legend, text reading ‘National Heavy Vehicle’ on a blue background sash at the bottom edge of the number plate and directional security mark in reflective material featuring a silver kangaroo emblem.
- 2.7 Where a registered vehicle is required to display more than one number plate, each of the number plates will display the same registration number, the ACT identification (except a heavy vehicle number plate), be manufactured from the same material and the characters and background on each plate will be the same colour.
- 2.8 Where a registered vehicle is required to display more than one number plate and a slimline number plate is issued, that slimline number plate must be affixed to the front of the vehicle.

Part 3 – Registration Numbers, Layout of Numberplates

- 3.1 Part 3 (Registration numbers, layout of numberplates) is subject to Part 4 (Slogans, logos and ACT identification).
- 3.2 A numberplate for a **taxi** included in the accreditation of an accredited taxi service operator shall carry the letters ‘TX’ followed by one to three numerals.
- 3.3 A numberplate for a **restricted taxi** included in the accreditation of an accredited restricted taxi service operator shall carry the letters ‘TX’ followed by one to three numerals and shall bear the words ‘Restricted Taxi’ along the bottom of the plate.
- 3.4 A numberplate for:

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- 3.4.1 a **public bus** included in the accreditation of an accredited bus service operator and registered in the name of ACTION shall carry the letters ‘BUS’ followed by three numerals.
- 3.4.2 **any other public bus** included in the accreditation of an accredited bus service operator, or a vehicle included in section 83 of the *Road Transport (Public Passenger Services) Act 2001*, may carry the letters ‘MO’ followed by one to three numerals or be issued with national heavy vehicle plates where the gross vehicle mass of the bus exceeds 4.5 tonnes.
- 3.5 A numberplate for a **private hire car** shall carry the letter ‘H’ followed by one to three numerals.
- 3.6 A numberplate for a **veteran, vintage or historic vehicle** shall carry the words ‘Veteran Vehicle – ACT’, ‘Vintage Vehicle – ACT’, ‘Historic Vehicle – ACT’ or ‘Modified Historic – ACT’ (as the case may be) followed by three or four numerals.
- 3.7 A numberplate for a **veteran, vintage or historic motorbike** shall carry the letter ‘V’ followed by three or four numerals.
- 3.8 A numberplate for a vehicle which is registered in the name of a government, organisation or person specified in clause 2.2.1 and 2.2.2 shall carry the letters ‘DC’ followed by four or five numerals.
- 3.9 A numberplate for a vehicle which is registered in the name of a person of a kind specified in clause 2.2.3 shall carry the letters ‘DX’ followed by four or five numerals.
- 3.10 A numberplate for a motor vehicle or trailer which is registered in the name of the **ACT Government**, other than a bus or motor vehicle used by a Member of the ACT Legislative Assembly or a person performing the duties of an executive officer in the ACT public service may carry the number ‘2’ followed by five additional numerals.
- 3.11 A numberplate for motor vehicles (except motor bikes) and trailers operated by or on behalf of a **Commonwealth Government** agency or authority may display a red letter ‘Z’ followed by, in black, the letter ‘Y’ and a further letter and three numerals.
- 3.12 A standard numberplate for a light trailer (less than 4.5 tonnes gross vehicle mass) shall carry:
- 3.12.1 the letter ‘T’ followed by one to five numerals; or
- 3.12.2 the letter ‘T’ followed by four numerals, followed by a letter.
- 3.13 A standard numberplate for a **motorbike** shall carry one to five numerals or a letter followed four numerals.
- 3.14 A **Centenary of Federation standard numberplate** is to display the letters ‘YCA’ or ‘YCB’ followed by two numerals and a further letter.
- 3.15 A standard **European style numberplate** is to carry:
- 3.15.1 the letter ‘A’ followed by ‘Y’ followed by two letters two numerals and a further letter; or
- 3.15.2 the letter “A” followed by “Y” followed by two letters and three numerals.

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- 3.16 A **standard numberplate** for any vehicle registered in the name of a **Jervis Bay resident** is to carry the letter ‘Y’ followed by:
- 3.16.1 two additional letters and three numerals; or
 - 3.16.2 two additional letters, two numerals and a further letter.
- 3.17 A **standard numberplate** for any other vehicle is to carry the letter ‘Y’ followed by:
- 3.17.1 two additional letters, other than the letters ‘OH’, and three numerals; or
 - 3.17.2 two additional letters, other than ‘CA’, two numerals and a further letter, not including the letters ‘O’ or ‘I’.
- 3.18 A **non-standard numberplate** may display, either with or without a logo and/or slogan approved by the RTA, one of the following non-standard registration numbers:
- 3.18.1 the letter ‘A’ followed by one to four numerals (**Bicentennial**);
 - 3.18.2 the letter ‘R’ followed by one to three numerals (**Raiders ‘R’**);
 - 3.18.3 the letters ‘YOH’ followed by three numerals (**Raiders ‘Y’**);
 - 3.18.4 an **Olympic** registration number:
 - 3.18.4.1 the letter ‘B’ followed by one to two numerals; or
 - 3.18.4.2 the letters ‘ATL’ followed by one to two numerals; or
 - 3.18.4.3 the letters ‘ATH’ followed by one numeral, from 1 to 5 inclusive;
 - 3.18.5 a **Centenary of Federation registration number**, being the letters ‘CF’ in black followed by one of the numbers in the range 1901 to 2001, inclusive;
 - 3.18.6 a **customised registration number** of no more than seven characters, including:
 - 3.18.6.1 for a motor vehicle excluding motorbikes and trailers, a **vehicle make** registration number in the form of a series of letters or a combination of letters and numerals that accurately describe the name of a vehicle manufacturer, excluding the singular and plural forms of existing vehicle make numberplates, and may include the model name of a vehicle produced by the manufacturer, or the year of manufacture of a vehicle produced by the manufacturer;
 - 3.18.6.2 for a motor vehicle or motorbike, a **surname** or a **personal name** in the form of a series of at least two letters describing the name of a person in full, as initials, or as a commonly known abbreviation;
 - 3.18.6.3 for a motor vehicle or a motorbike, a **company name** in the form of a series of at least two letters describing the name of a company or business, in full, in part, or as initials, and excluding the singular and plural forms of existing company name numberplates, and which may be followed by numerals when multiple plates with the same combination are issued at one time;
 - 3.18.6.4 for a motor vehicle, excluding motorbikes and trailers, a **unique** registration number in the form of a series of letters or a

combination of letters and numerals, excluding the names of vehicle manufacturers, surnames, personal names, company names and the singular and plural forms of existing unique numbers, and in which the letter ‘O’ must not precede or be immediately preceded by a numeral and the numeral ‘0’ (zero) must be immediately preceded by a numeral;

- 3.18.6.5 for a motorbike, a **unique** registration number in the form of a series of letters or a combination of letters and numerals, excluding the names of surnames, personal names, company names and the singular and plural forms of existing unique numbers, and in which the letter ‘O’ must not precede or be immediately preceded by a numeral and the numeral ‘0’ (zero) must be immediately preceded by a numeral;
- 3.18.6.6 a customised registration number must not be a number which, in the opinion of the RTA a reasonable person would find offensive;
- 3.18.6.7 a customised registration number must not be a number which is the registered name of a company or business, unless the applicant has registered the name or has the written consent of the owner of the name to use it;
- 3.18.6.8 a customised registration number must not conflict with an existing number on issue;
- 3.18.7 a **personalised number**, being;
 - 3.18.7.1 a motorbike, two letters followed by three numerals;
 - 3.18.7.2 a motor vehicle, two letters followed by three numerals.
- 3.18.8 a **numeric series number** not commencing with the numeral ‘0’ (zero), including:
 - 3.18.8.1 for a motor vehicle excluding motorbikes, three to five numerals in the number range starting from 1 and ending in 99,999 and not including numbers beginning with the numeral ‘0’ (zero);
 - 3.18.8.2 for a motorbike, where a standard numberplate is issued out of sequence, one to five numerals in the number range starting from 1 and ending in 99,999 and not including numbers beginning with the numeral ‘0’ (zero);
 - 3.18.8.3 for a trailer, the letter ‘T’ followed by from one to five numerals, and not including ‘T’ followed by only ‘0’s (zeros);
- 3.18.9 An **approved number**, being
 - 3.18.9.1 for a **motor vehicle**, a number described in 3.16 or 3.17 issued out of sequence;
 - 3.18.9.2 for a **trailer**, where a standard numberplate described in 3.12.2 is issued out of sequence;
 - 3.18.9.3 for a **veteran, vintage or historic vehicle**, a numberplate described in 3.6 and 3.7, issued out of sequence;

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- 3.18.10 An **ACT bushfire appeal number**, being a number from 1 to 9 followed by ‘ACT’. The number is to the right of an image of the ACT flag.
- 3.18.11 A **Brumbies number**, being:
- 3.18.11.1 ‘BR’ followed by a number from 0 to 200, inclusive (excluding BR 111 and BR 125, which are pre-existing personalised numbers and remain so);
 - 3.18.11.2 ‘BR’ followed by a number from 0000 to 1200, inclusive; and
 - 3.18.11.3 ‘BR’ followed by a number from 1996 to 2005, inclusive.
- 3.19 A **traders numberplate**, being a plate issued under Part 5.2 of the *Road Transport (Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2000*:
- 3.19.1 for a motorbike, shall carry the letter ‘C’ followed by three numerals;
 - 3.19.2 for a trailer, shall carry the letter ‘E’ followed by three numerals; and
 - 3.19.3 for any other vehicle shall carry the letter ‘D’ followed by three numerals.
- 3.20 A **bicycle rack numberplate** shall carry the same registration number as displayed on the plates issued to the vehicle on which the bicycle rack is to be attached.
- 3.21 **European style numberplates** may also be provided as a customised registration number described in 3.18.6 except for motorbikes and trailers.
- 3.22 **European style numberplates** may also be provided as a personalised number described in 3.18.7.2 with the letter ‘A’ before the personalised sequence.
- 3.23 Number plates issued by ACT under Section 28 of the Heavy Vehicle National Law (ACT) 2013 will display ‘National Heavy Vehicle’ and a plate syntax for each category between the following:
- 3.23.1 Heavy Vehicle XA-00AA to XA-99ZZ (except XA-00-WA to XA -99WA)
 - 3.23.2 Heavy Trailer YA-00AA to YA-99ZZ (except YA-00WA to YA-99WA)
 - 3.23.3 Heavy Primary Producer FA-00AA to FA-99ZZ (except FA-00WA to FZ-99WA)
 - 3.23.4 Heavy Limited Use KA-00AA to KA-99ZZ (except KA-00WA to KA-99WA)

Part 4 – Slogans, logos and ACT identification

- 4.1 A numberplate for a vehicle of a kind specified in any of the following paragraphs shall carry the letters ‘ACT’ positioned at the top centre of the numberplate:
- 4.1.1 Clause 3.2 to 3.5 inclusive (public vehicle);
 - 4.1.2 Clause 3.7 (vintage, veteran, or historic motorbike);
 - 4.1.3 Clause 3.8 and 3.9 (diplomats and administrative staff);
 - 4.1.4 Clause 3.12 (trailer);
 - 4.1.5 Clause 3.13 (motorbike);
 - 4.1.6 Clause 3.14 (Centenary of Federation standard);
 - 4.1.7 Clause 3.18 (non-standard);

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- 4.1.8 Clause 3.20 (bicycle rack).
- 4.2 A numberplate for a vehicle of a kind specified in paragraph 3.12 (light trailer) shall carry the letters ‘ACT’ positioned at the top centre of the numberplate and may carry one of the following slogans:
- 4.2.1 ‘Canberra – The Nation’s Capital’;
 - 4.2.2 ‘Canberra – Heart of the Nation’;
 - 4.2.3 ‘Feel the Power of Canberra’;
 - 4.2.4 ‘Celebration of a Century 2013’;
 - 4.2.5 ‘Canberra – Age Friendly City’; or
 - 4.2.6 no slogan at the bottom edge of the numberplate.
- 4.3 A numberplate for a vehicle of a kind specified in clauses 3.16 (Jervis Bay) and 3.17 (standard numberplate) shall carry the letters ‘ACT’ positioned either at the top centre of the numberplate or vertically at the left hand side edge of the numberplate.
- 4.4 A numberplate of a kind specified in clauses 3.17 (standard numberplate), 3.18.7.2 (personalised motor vehicle) and 3.18.9 (standard numberplate issued out of sequence) may carry one of the following slogans or motif:
- 4.4.1 ‘Canberra – The Nation’s Capital’;
 - 4.4.2 ‘Canberra – Heart of the Nation’;
 - 4.4.3 ‘Feel the Power of Canberra’;
 - 4.4.4 ‘Celebration of a Century 2013’;
 - 4.4.5 ‘Canberra – Age Friendly City’;
 - 4.4.6 no slogan at the bottom edge of the numberplate;
 - 4.4.7 ‘Canberra – The Bush Capital’ or
 - 4.4.8 ‘Rainbow Motif’.
- 4.5 A numberplate for a vehicle of a kind specified in clauses 3.4.1 (ACTION bus) and 3.10 (ACT Government) shall carry the slogan ‘ACT GOVERNMENT’ which shall appear at the bottom edge of the numberplate.
- 4.6 A Centenary of Federation numberplate of the kind described in clause 3.14 (Centenary of Federation standard plate) shall display the slogan ‘Canberra – Symbol of Federation’, except in the slimline format.
- 4.7 A Centenary of Federation numberplate of the kind described in clause 3.18.5 (Centenary of Federation plate) shall display the slogan ‘Australia – It’s What We Make It’, except in the slimline format.
- 4.8 A numberplate of the kind described in 3.18.11 (Brumbies Plates) shall display the slogan ‘Brumbies Rugby’.
- 4.9 A numberplate for a vehicle of the kind specified in 3.16 (Jervis Bay) shall carry the slogan ‘Jervis Bay Territory’ at the bottom edge of the numberplate.

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- 4.10 A numberplate for a vehicle specified in 3.19 (Traders Plates) shall carry the slogan ‘Trader ACT’ along the bottom edge of the plate and ‘Limited Use’ along the left hand side edge of the plate.
- 4.11 A numberplate for a vehicle of a kind specified in clause 3.20 (bicycle rack) shall carry the slogan ‘Bike Rack – ACT’ at the bottom edge of the number plate.
- 4.12 Where a numberplate is formed of plastic, or plastic and aluminium composite, and a slogan is to be included, the slogan must be positioned at the bottom edge of the numberplate. Slogans may only be composed of alphabetical and/or numerical characters. Where a logo is to be included at the request of the plate purchaser, the logo must be positioned at the left hand side edge of the numberplate.
- 4.13 Where the numberplate is formed of plastic, or plastic and aluminium composite, it shall carry the letters ‘ACT’ positioned in the top centre of the numberplate.
- 4.14 Standard European style numberplates shall not carry slogans or logos. European style numberplates shall carry the letters ‘ACT’ vertically on the left hand side of the numberplate. Standard and personalised European style numberplates shall carry the ACT crest and Bluebell after the first letter ‘A’. Other European style numberplates shall carry the ACT crest and Bluebell on the right hand side of the numberplate.
- 4.15 A numberplate of a kind specified in clauses 3.13 (standard numberplate for a motorbike), 3.18.7.1 (personalised numberplate for a motorbike), may carry a ‘Rainbow Motif’
- 4.16 A numberplate of a kind specified in clause 3.6 (veteran, vintage or historic motor vehicle) shall carry one of the slogans “‘Veteran Vehicle’, Vintage Vehicle”, Historic Vehicle” or Modified Historic” as appropriate at the bottom edge of the numberplate.

Part 5 – Meaning of diplomatic terms

In Part 2 (Materials and colour) ‘diplomatic agent’ and ‘member of the administrative and technical staff of a diplomatic mission’ have meanings assigned to them in the Vienna Convention on diplomatic relations.