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**COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ON
NATIONAL ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

New legislation transmitted by the Government of Spain

Ministerial Order of 15 September 2000 amending Annex XVIII of the General Vehicle
Regulations, adopted by Royal Decree No. 2822/1998 of 23 December 1998

Annex XVIII of the General Vehicle Regulations, adopted by Royal Decree No. 2822/1998 of 23 December 1998 sets out provisions concerning registration plates, especially the colours and particulars featured on them, identification marks, the number, the position of the plates, dimensions, technical conditions and other particulars.

The present system for the numbering of ordinary registration plates set out in the above-mentioned annex is reaching saturation point in the provinces of Madrid and Barcelona; it is therefore essential to set up a new numbering system.

Since Spain is a member of the European Union it seems timely to take advantage of this change in ordinary registration plates to include in them, on the left hand side, a vertical blue stripe containing the Community symbol of 12 yellow stars, placed in a circle, and the distinguishing sign for Spain in the form of a white letter E; this requires larger plates.

This would not only encourage European integration but would facilitate the identification of vehicles as belonging to one and the same European area. The registration plate model proposed is the one most States members of the European Union have introduced into their legal systems.

On analogy with the rest of the registration plates of the General Vehicle Regulations, it was decided to use a system of four figures and three letters. The five vowels are excluded so as to avoid rude or offensive words; Ñ and Q are also excluded, since they are easily confused with the letter N and the figure 0, respectively, as are the letters CH and LL which are incompatible with the design of the registration plate. These changes provide an opportunity to rectify the present system which did not exclude them and which then becomes consistent with sketch 4 of Annex XVIII.

Single article

The following have been amended:

- paragraph I.(A)(a), to which are added (b), (c) and (d);
- paragraph I.(B), (b) and (c);
- paragraph I.(C), (a) and (b);
- paragraph IV, tables 1, 2 and 3 while a table 5 is added as part of Annex XVIII of the General Vehicle Regulations, adopted by Royal Decree No. 2822/1998 of 23 December 1998.

(A) Paragraph I.(A)(a), concerning colours and particulars for the ordinary registration of vehicles should read:

(a) Motor vehicles

The background of the plates shall be retroreflective and white in colour. The characters in relief shall be painted in matt black. Registration plates shall carry two groups of characters consisting of a four-figure number, beginning with 0000 up to 9999 and three letters, from BBB to ZZZ. The five vowels and the letters Ñ, Q, CH and LL shall not be included.

In addition, the left hand portion of the registration plate shall include, on a blue stripe placed vertically, the symbol of the European flag consisting of 12 yellow stars and the distinguishing sign of Spain, represented by a white letter E, in accordance with sketch 5 of the annex.

Cars registered in Spain fitted with registration plates carrying the European flag and the distinguishing sign of Spain shall not be required to affix to the rear of the body the afore-mentioned distinguishing sign, as required in sign V-7 of Annex XI of these Regulations, in international traffic in the various countries of the European Union.

First transitional provision

Owners of vehicles registered prior to the entry into force of this Ministerial Order may, if they so wish, exchange their registration plates for the new type, the size of which must be adapted to the conditions set out in this Order. They will nevertheless carry the registration number assigned to them.
