



Government Decree amending the Government Decree on Vehicles

Main content of the proposal

It is proposed that the Government Decree on Vehicles (162/2021, hereinafter the *Vehicles Decree*) be amended. Provisions on the registration mark and the colour of the registration mark of a vehicle used for taxi services would be added to the Decree. The amendment is proposed because a Government proposal for an Act amending the Act on Transport Services and related Acts ([HE 15/2026 vp](#)) has been submitted to Parliament, proposing provisions for the Vehicles Act on separate compulsory registration plates in colour (taxi plate). At the same time, a technical amendment would be made to remove from the Decree a reference to customs plates which are no longer issued.

The regulation is intended to enter into force simultaneously with the amendments to the Vehicles Act on 1 January 2027.

Background and legal basis of the proposal

The Government proposal ([HE 15/2026 vp](#)) on amending the Act on Transport Services and related Acts suggests, amongst other things, amendments to the Vehicles Act (82/2021). In the future, the Vehicles Act would require that separate registration plates be issued for vehicles used to provide a taxi service, and which are different from normal registration plates. However, the Act would not lay down the details of these taxi plates; instead, the Act would be supplemented in this respect by the Vehicles Decree.

According to section 99(2) of the Vehicles Act in force, further provisions on the issuance of registration plates, the content of the registration mark, the colour of the plates and how the registration mark is specified may be laid down by Government Decree issued. In the future, the same power to adopt decrees would be included in section 99(3). The government proposal referred to above does not propose to amend the substance of this power; only the numbering of the subsection would change. The decree would be adopted pursuant to section 99(3) once the amendments to the Vehicles Act have been confirmed.

Section 128 of the Vehicles Act, previously in force, concerned vehicles registered in other countries and the separate customs plates issued for them. This section was repealed in 2023 (Act No. 493/2023 amending the Vehicles Act), and separate customs plates therefore no longer exist.

Preparatory work

The amendment to the decree has been prepared by the officials of the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The Finnish Transport and Communications Agency has also been involved in the preparatory work. The amendment to the decree has been prepared in parallel with the government



proposal (VN/25768/2024 [project window](#)). In the course of the preparatory work, the Transport and Communications Agency has examined the position of both the licence plate providers and the National Police Board on the colour of the taxi plate, taking particularly into account the needs of police field surveillance and the possibilities of reading licence plates in different colours. The police have tested a sample of the plates with their automated monitoring equipment and found that the colour combination chosen meets the monitoring requirements.

[Between xx.xx.2026 and xx.xx.2026, the Ministry of Transport and Communications requested opinions on the amendment to the decree via the [lausuntopalvelu.fi](#) website, particularly from the following parties:

A total of X opinions were received, and a summary of the opinions has been drawn up. The preparatory documents are available in Finnish at [XXXX].

Current situation and key proposals

At present, vehicles used for taxi services do not have separate taxi plates; instead, taxis have the same registration plates as other similar vehicles. Under the amendment to section 99 of the Vehicles Act, taxis would be issued separate taxi plates. Under the amendment to section 101(3) of the Vehicles Act, a vehicle must use taxi plates if it is used for taxi services. The proposed decree would establish the content of the registration mark and the colour of the registration plate of a vehicle used for taxi services. It is proposed that the taxi plate be green.

As the section of the Vehicles Act relating to customs plates has been repealed, the provision on customs plates would also be removed from the Vehicles Decree. This would be a technical amendment to the provision, made for the sake of clarity.

Main impacts and other options for implementation

Together, the amendments to the Vehicles Act and the decree currently proposed form a regulatory package, the effects of which have already been fully assessed and presented in the government proposal (see HE 15/2026 vp, section 4.2). The amendment to the decree does not in itself have other implications; instead, it enables the implementation of the amendment to the Vehicles Act concerning taxi plates and specifies the colour of taxi plates.

During the preparatory work for the decree, possible background colours for taxi plates have been considered. In practice, the black registration mark font against a green background was found to be the most suitable for the purpose.

In order to achieve the objective of distinctiveness set for the taxi plate, the colouring of the taxi plate must take account of the colours already used for registration plates. In addition to the usual black and white plates, other plate colours are also used in Finland. On military vehicles and test plates, the background colour is yellow. The background colour of the plate is black in the Heritage Vehicle Register. The



background colour of diplomatic vehicle registration plates is blue, whilst the so-called transfer stickers used for transfer purposes use a red font on a white background.

It is essential to take accessibility into account in the colouring of the registration plates. The background colour and font must be clearly distinguishable from one another. The coat of paint on the plate must be reflective. Registration plates are also subject to technical control requirements, including the use of automatic registration plate readers for the purpose of road traffic control by the authorities. In addition, readers are also used by private operators, for instance in car parks. From a technical point of view, the police have found that the green colour of the plate meets the requirements of traffic control.

Feedback

[To be supplemented after the consultation procedure]

Provision-specific explanatory notes

Section 16 of the Vehicle Decree concerns the content of the registration mark and the colour of the registration plates. Subsection 1 of the section lists the registration marks of vehicles and the colours of the registration plates issued for vehicles, and it is proposed that taxi plates be added to this list and that customs plates be removed. From a technical point of view, the amendment would be implemented so that the current subsection 8, which concerns customs plates, would be amended to cover taxi plates. Although the basic provision on customs plates (section 128 of the Vehicles Act) has already been repealed from the Vehicles Act in 2023, section 16(1)(8) on customs plates has not been repealed from the Decree. Since this legislative amendment amends section 16(1) by adding a new type of plate, it is most appropriate to amend the provision so that the current subsection 8 on customs plates applies to taxi plates in the future.

Under the proposed subsection 8, the taxi plate would feature two or three black letters and a black number of up to three digits on a green reflective background, as well as the country code. The term 'taxi plate' would refer to the definition of a taxi plate proposed in section 99(2) of the Vehicles Act.

According to section 4(1) of the Act on Transport Services, passenger cars, vans, lorries, tricycles, light quadricycles or quadricycles may be used as taxis. The registration plates of these vehicles, with the exception of light quadricycles, now include a country code in addition to the registration mark. In the future, taxi plates should also include a country code: as a rule, each taxi plate would include a country code. Provisions on the country code and the possibility of requesting registration plates without a country code are laid down in section 105 of the Vehicles Act.

Section 16(3) of the current Vehicles Decree provides for special registration plates to be issued for heritage vehicles upon application. It is not proposed to amend this subsection. If a heritage vehicle were to be used for taxi services, it would be issued with green taxi plates, just as any other vehicle used for taxi services. A heritage vehicle may be equipped with a registration plate other than a heritage vehicle registration plate without this affecting its approval as a heritage vehicle.



Entry into force

It is proposed that the Decree shall enter into force on 1 January 2027. The entry into force of the Decree depends on the adoption and entry into force of the amendments to the Vehicles Act, which are currently being deliberated by Parliament.

Proposal

It is proposed that the Government adopt a Decree amending the Government Decree on Vehicles.

The Rapporteur

Ministry of Transport and Communications