



Home Office

Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)

Design and Use of in-car equipment

February 2017



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Contents

Introduction	2
ANPR In-Car Design Principles	3
Transitional Developments	5
Annex A	6

Introduction

Regulation 109 of The Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986 (Reg 109) has the effect of rendering it unlawful for the screens displaying details from ANPR systems to be deployed in a position where the equipment can be seen by the driver of the vehicle.

The necessity for drivers of police vehicles to be able to see details from ANPR systems is acknowledged and as a result the Secretary of State for Transport has exercised powers under Section 44 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 to issue the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use)(Police Order) 2015 . (Police Order 2015)

The effect of the Police Order 2015 is to extend the circumstances where visibility of the equipment by the driver of a vehicle is permitted within Reg 109 to include the:

- a) The provision of information about the location of a vehicle, and
- b) To assist a police officer in the detection of crime and the apprehending of criminals.

The Police Order 2015 ceases to have effect on 31st October 2019.

It is intended that prior to the expiry of the Police Order 2015, Reg 109 will be amended to permit visibility of display screens for the above purposes subject to design safeguards to limit the risk of driver distraction whilst viewing the display.

Design principles applicable to the use of ANPR digital display equipment are described within this document are intended to meet the requirements of forthcoming regulations.

ANPR In-Car Design Principles

The design principles for in-car ANPR systems provide effective mitigation of the risk arising from driver distraction when viewing information displayed within the vehicle that is proportionate taking account of the operational requirements for the police to be able to obtain information about the location of a vehicle that is of interest and to assist a police officer in the detection of crime and the apprehending of criminals. It will also enable the driver to validate the need for a response to that information.

The following information may be displayed such that it is visible to the driver whilst the vehicle is used otherwise than when the vehicle is stationary with the parking brake set:

1. An image of the vehicle may be displayed (Overview image)
2. An image of the number plate may be displayed (Plate Patch)
3. The Vehicle Registration Mark (VRM) as interpreted by the ANPR system may be displayed.

The purpose of the above is to enable the accuracy of the 'read' by the ANPR system to be confirmed by an operator and to support visual identification of the vehicle that is subject of the ANPR 'read'.

4. Information as to the nature and assigned operational priority for a vehicle matching against a list of vehicles of interest will be displayed by the use of symbols (Examples at Annex A)
5. Information relating to the descriptions for any persons of interest associated with the ANPR 'read' will be displayed by the use of symbols (Examples at Annex A)
6. Information relating to any warnings associated with the vehicle of interest or potential occupants will be displayed by the use of symbols (Examples at Annex A)

The purpose of the above is to enable evaluation of the information associated with an ANPR 'read' to inform a decision whether a response to the information is appropriate in the circumstances pertaining at the time; the level of urgency applicable to any response and as a result ensuring that the risks arising from a response are proportionate to the need for that response.

7. Additional information relating to a vehicle of interest circulation may be obtained by 'text to voice' functionality of an ANPR system which may be obtained and repeated by a driver using a steering column mounted button or lever.

All information may be displayed such that it is visible to the driver on an in car digital display screen when the vehicle is stationary with a parking brake set.

Information may be displayed to the passenger of a vehicle without restriction.

Transitional Developments

It is indeed that the principles within this document will inform the development of in-car ANPR systems such that prior to expiry of the Police Order 2015 all new equipment procured by the police services will enable operation in accordance with the principles.

Systems currently deployed within police vehicles will either be subject to technical upgrade to enable their operation in accordance with the principles, used solely when the vehicle is stationary with the parking brake set or decommissioned by 31st October 2019.

Annex A



Overview Image



Plate Patch Image

Examples of Symbols relevant to matches against ANPR VOI lists:

Vehicle of Interest Description Symbols

Police National Computer (PNC) ACT Reports



High Priority
(Sexual Offences)



Medium Priority
(Crime Wanted)



Low Priority
(Fraud)

All PNC originated vehicle of interest circulations to be octagonal Shape and colouring indicate as a PNC circulation with easily recognisable graphics to give immediate basic information regarding the purpose of the circulation.

(ACT is a specific vehicle circulation facility within PNC and relates to Action reports)

PNC Stolen Vehicle



The shape and colouring indicate as a PNC circulation with easily recognisable graphics to give immediate basic information regarding the purpose of the circulation

(Stolen is a specific vehicle circulation facility within PNC and relates to Stolen Vehicle reports)

Vehicles of Interest (VOI)



Other vehicle of interest symbols to be round. Shape and colouring indicates a vehicle of interest circulation other than via the PNC. In this example Local Interest Document Offences – low priority

Person Description Symbols

M or **F** Indicates gender

IC1 Indicates ethnicity

25 yrs Indicates age

The above are examples of the format for these description elements.

Warning Symbols



Warning symbols to be triangular. Shape and colouring indicate a warning that should be taken into account when responding to an alert. In this example firearms.

