Tel. Address: " Emarp, So London."
Tel. No.: VICtoria 6826.

Any communication on the subject of this letter should be addressed to—

THE SECRETARY,
MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY,
HORSEFERRY HOUSE,
THORNEY STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1,

and the following reference quoted :—

H.S.C.132/40.
J.3.
F.B.79/40.

MINISTRY OF HOME SECURITY, HORSEFERRY HOUSE, THORNEY STREET, LONDON, S.W.1.

15th June, 1940.

Sir,

Home Security Circular No.132/1940.
F.B.Circular No.79/1940.
Use of Unlicensed Vehicles for A.R.P. and Emergency Fire Brigade Purposes.

1. I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to refer to A.R.P. Department Circular No.254/1939 and F.B. Circular No.68/1939 with regard to the services on behalf of which unlicensed vehicles may be used on the roads for the purposes of Civil Defence Services.

2. In view of the issue by the Minister of Transport of the Emergency Powers (Defence) Road Vehicles and Drivers Order, 1940, dated 6th May,1940, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Regulation 72 of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939, certain changes are necessary in existing procedure with regard to the exemption from licensing provisions of the Finance Act, 1920 and the Roads Act, 1920. The effect of the new Order made by the Ministry of Transport is to include in the services on behalf of which unlicensed vehicles may be used on the roads vehicles engaged in the carrying or drawing of personnel or equipment for exercises, training or other specific duties in connexion with Air-Raid Precautions or Auxiliary Fire Services. In this context training may be taken to include the training of drivers. Such vehicles must exhibit a certificate in the form set out in Schedule G to Appendix II to this Circular. The certificate must bear both the stamp of the local authority and of the Ministry of Transport. This latter stamp will be affixed by the Ministry's District Transport Officer upon application if he is satisfied with the grounds upon which the certificate is required.

3. The certificates at present in use (certificates H) should be recalled at intervals during the next three months and replaced by certificates for "designated services". These certificates will be available for a period of six months, at the end of which time they should be replaced by a fresh issue. A specimen certificate in circular form is given in Appendix III to this Circular. It is thought that this type of

The Clerk of the County Council,
The County Clerk,
The Town Clerk.

certificate will be suitable for insertion in a Road Fund licence container. It should be understood however, that, although the new certificate will be marked as available for a period of six months from date of issue, the certificate will remain valid only provided that the vehicle is used solely and exclusively for A.R.P. or emergency fire brigade purposes; if it ceases to be so used the certificate lapses and must be removed from the vehicle. The certificate is not available in respect of vehicles used partly for A.R.P. or emergency fire brigade purposes and partly for other purposes. (except where a vehicle has only a limited licence, e.g. an 'agricultural' or 'hackney' licence; in such cases a certificate may be given to cover the designated services only, for which the vehicle could not be used under the limited licence.)

4. With regard to vehicles taken over for full-time and sole use as emergency ambulances (i.e. stretcher-carrying vehicles) it is pointed out that the statutory exemption from license duty will operate, as provided by Section 13(4) of the Finance Act, 1920, reproduced in Appendix I to this Circular. The exemption applies only to vehicles actually constructed or adapted and equipped as ambulances, and not to ordinary vehicles which may be used for ambulance purposes. The procedure is the same as that involved in the licensing, without payment, of peace-time ambulances.

5. A copy of Sections 15 and 16 of the Order dated 6th May, 1940 referred to above is re-produced as Appendix II to this Circular.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

H. E. Emmerson

Issued to all scheme-making authorities in England, Wales and Scotland.

Copies sent for information to all other local authorities, to Chief Officers of Police in England, Wales and Scotland and to Chief Officers of Fire Brigades in England and Wales.

GEN.128/19.