

LIST OF COUNTY REGISTRATION LETTERS FOR IRELAND

1987 REPLACEMENT LETTERS (R o I)		ORIGINAL 1904 SCHEME		SUBSEQUENT SCHEME [1st YEAR where known]	
LET TER	COUNTY	LET TER	COUNTY	LET TER	COUNTY
		I		Z	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY) [1927]
		IA	ANTRIM	ZA	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY) [1933]
		IB	ARMAGH	ZB	CORK [1935]
CW	CEATHARLACH	IC	CARLOW	ZC	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY) [1937]
CN	AN CABHÁN	ID	CAVAN	ZD	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY) [1940]
CE	AN CLÁR	IE	CLARE	ZE	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY)
C	CORCAIGH	IF	CORK	ZF	CORK (CITY)
		IG	Note 1	ZG	Note 3
DL	DÚN NA nGALL	IH	DONEGAL	ZH	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY)
		II		ZI	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY) [1927]
		IJ	DOWN	ZJ	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY)
D	BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH	IK	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY)	ZK	CORK
		IL	FERMANAGH	ZL	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY)
G	GAILLIMH	IM	GALWAY	ZM	GALWAY
KY	CIARRÁÍ	IN	KERRY	ZN	MEATH
KE	CILL DARÁ	IO	KILDARE	ZO	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY)
KK	CILL CHAINNIGH	IP	KILKENNY	ZP	DONEGAL
		IQ		ZQ	
OY	UÍBH FHÁILÍ	IR	KING'S COUNTY (OFFALY)	ZR	WEXFORD
		IS	Note 2	ZS	Note 4
LM	LIATROIM	IT	LEITRIM	ZT	CORK
LK	LUIMNEACH	IU	LIMERICK	ZU	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY)
		IV		ZV	Notes 4 + 5
		IW	LONDONDERRY	ZW	KILDARE
LD	AN LONGFORT	IX	LONGFORD	ZX	KERRY
LH	LÚ	IY	LOUTH	ZY	LOUTH
MO	MAIGH EO	IZ	MAYO	ZZ	TEMP. IMPORTS
MH	AN MHI	AI	MEATH	AZ	BELFAST (CITY) [1928]
MN	MUINEACHÁN	BI	MONAGHAN	BZ	DOWN [1930]
LS	LAOIS	CI	QUEEN'S COUNTY (LAOIS)	CZ	BELFAST (CITY) [1932]
RN	ROS COMÁIN	DI	ROSCOMMON	DZ	ANTRIM [1932]
SO	SLIGEACH	EI	SLIGO	EZ	BELFAST (CITY) [1935]
TN	TIOBRAID ÁRANN	FI	TIPPERARY, N.R.	FZ	BELFAST (CITY) [1938]
		GI	Note 1	GZ	BELFAST (CITY) [1942]
TS	TIOBRAID ÁRANN	HI	TIPPERARY, S.R.	HZ	TYRONE [1944]
		JI	TYRONE	JZ	DOWN
W	PORT LÁIRGE	KI	WATERFORD	KZ	ANTRIM
WH	AN IARMHÍ	LI	WESTMEATH	LZ	ARMAGH
WX	LOCH GARMAN	MI	WEXFORD	MZ	BELFAST (CITY)
WW	CILL MHANTÁIN	NI	WICKLOW	NZ	LONDONDERRY
		OI	BELFAST (CITY)	OZ	BELFAST (CITY)
C	CORCAIGH	PI	CORK (CITY)	PZ	BELFAST (CITY)
		QI		QZ	
D	BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH	RI	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY)	RZ	ANTRIM
		SI		SZ	DOWN
L	LUIMNEACH	TI	LIMERICK (CITY)	TZ	BELFAST (CITY)
		UI	LONDONDERRY (CITY)	UZ	BELFAST (CITY)
		VI		VZ	TYRONE
W	PORT LÁIRGE	WI	WATERFORD (CITY)	WZ	BELFAST (CITY) [Early 60s?]
		XI	BELFAST (CITY) [1921]	XZ	ARMAGH [Early 60s?]
D	BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH	YI	DUBLIN (CITY & CNTY.) [1921]	YZ	LONDONDERRY [Early 60s?]
D	BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH	ZI	DUBLIN (CITY & COUNTY)		

From www.asharte.freereserve.co.uk/veh_reg.htm

The vehicle registration scheme still in use in the British Isles started with the Motor Car Act of 1903 (effective 01/01/04). From looking at the table it appears that the scheme was initially quite simple. The letter 'I' was assigned to Ireland and the 32 counties were then given 33 (*because Tipperary is divided into the North & South Ridings*) combinations using the letter 'I' in alphabetical order (excluding those with G,I,Q,S & V) thus:

IA = Antrim, **IB** = Armagh, *through to* **IZ** = Mayo; *then* **AI** = Meath *through to* **NI** = Wicklow; *and then* **OI** - **WI** were allocated alphabetically to the six major cities.

It would appear that the remaining letters and the 'Z's were divided at a later date between the Irish Free State / Republic of Ireland (Z - ZZ) and Northern Ireland (AZ - YZ).

A three figure (or four in NI) number was then added to make the 'number plate' and if the number series ran out then a letter was prefixed to the 2 letter code eg AIL 123. Occasionally the sequence was reversed eg 123 ABC. Although not strictly relevant, in September 2001, the DVLA (Driver & Vehicle Licensing Authority) introduced a replacement to the 1904 registration mark scheme [for new vehicle registration in Great Britain](#) which, after the introduction of the new plates in the Republic of Ireland on 1st January 1987, now leaves only Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man as the locations where the 1904 Act is still in force.

Notes: The following E-mail was received Sept 2001 regarding Rol's use of additional letters in the 1980s:
To whom it may concern

I happened upon your site and though I might be able to help with some info.

1. I think the letter code GI was used for County Clare in the 80s I think and IG was probably used for Tipp north or south.
2. IS was used in Mayo
3. ZG was first used in Dublin as AZG 123 in 1983 and again as ZG1234 in 1986 but never the reverse, as the new system started in 1987.
4. The same applies to ZS and ZV (only as 3 letters and three numbers) which were the last codes used in Dublin before the 1987 system.
5. ZV followed by numbers was never used as a standard plate, so it is now used to identify vintage vehicles registered after 1987 e.g., ZV 1234.

Full explanation and details for the above E-mail and the table below at www.asharte.freereserve.co.uk/veh_zv.htm

VETERAN & VINTAGE VEHICLES (introduced early 1990s)			
LICENSING AUTHORITY	ALLOCATION OF NUMBERS IN ZV SERIES	LICENSING AUTHORITY	ALLOCATION OF NUMBERS IN ZV SERIES
01 CARLOW	ZV101 - ZV300	17 MEATH	ZV3601 - ZV3800
02 CAVAN	ZV301 - ZV500	18 MONAGHAN	ZV3801 - ZV3999
03 CLARE	ZV501 - ZV700	19 OFFALY	ZV4001 - ZV4200
04 CORK	ZV701 - ZV1200 (excl. ZV1000)	20 ROSCOMMON	ZV4201 - ZV4400
05 DONEGAL	ZV1201 - ZV1400	21 SLIGO	ZV4401 - ZV4600
07 GALWAY	ZV1401 - ZV1700	22 TIPP N.R.	ZV4601 - ZV4800
08 KERRY	ZV1701 - ZV1900	23 TIPP S.R.	ZV4801 - ZV4999
09 KILDARE	ZV2001 - ZV2200	24 WATERFORD CC	ZV5001 - ZV5200
10 KILKENNY	ZV2201 - ZV2400	25 WESTMEATH	ZV5201 - ZV5400
11 LAOIS	ZV2401 - ZV2600	26 WEXFORD	ZV5401 - ZV5600
12 LEITRIM	ZV2601 - ZV2800	27 WICKLOW	ZV5601 - ZV5800
13 LIMERICK CC	ZV2801 - ZV2999	29 DUBLIN	ZV5801 - ZV6800 (excl. ZV6000)
14 LONGFORD	ZV3001 - ZV3200	30 LIMERICK CBC	ZV6801 - ZV6999
15 LOUTH	ZV3201 - ZV3400	31 WATERFORD	ZV7001 - ZV7200
16 MAYO	ZV3401 - ZV3600		