

The Royal Automobile Club Competition Authorisation Office

Notes for guidance on the completion of Form E.404 (Application for authorisation of a motoring event on the public highway)

Applicants are reminded that a race or a trial of speed on the public highway are prohibited under Section 12 of the Road Traffic Act 1988. It is also an offence (subject to a fine not exceeding £50) under section 13 of the Road Traffic Act 1988, to promote or take part in a competition or trial (other than a race or trial of speed) involving the use of motor vehicles on the public highway, unless the event is authorised by the Motor Vehicles (Competitions and Trials) Regulations 1969 (as amended), and is conducted in accordance with any conditions imposed by or under these regulations.

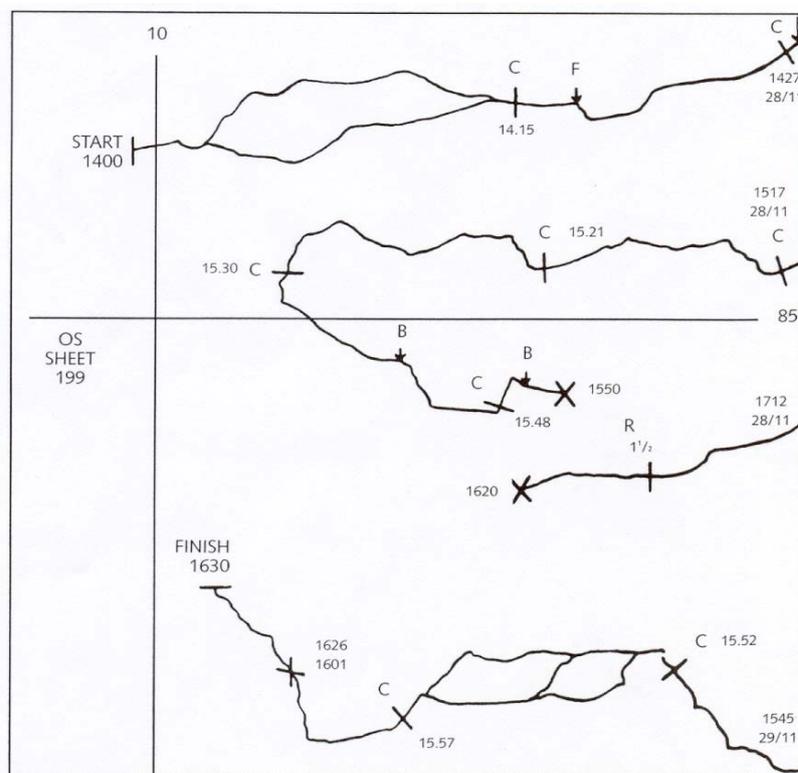
Applicants are advised to read the Standard Conditions listed at Schedule 3 of the Motor Vehicles (Competitions and Trials) Regulations 1969. The event if authorised will be required to be held subject to these conditions except in so far as the Royal Automobile Club might modify them.

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- a. The promoter (who is the person primarily responsible for the organisation or arrangements for the event) may be a club, a limited company or other organisation or a private individual. Please ensure that your answer to question 1 gives the correct style of the club, company, organisation or individual promoting the event.
 - b. Applications must be submitted to the Competition Authorisation Office of the Royal Automobile Club at Motor Sports House not less than 2 months and not more than 6 months before the date of the event, except that an application may be submitted more than 6 months beforehand if the event is one of those specified in Schedule 4 to the Regulations. The events listed in Schedule 4 represent major sporting events accepted and included because of their traditional place in the motor sporting calendar. The list contains 16 events.
 - c. If the number of competing vehicles does not exceed 12, you do not need to apply the authorisation of the event. On the other hand, in accordance with standard condition No. 2, the number of competing vehicles must not exceed 120 in a night event (an event, any part of which takes place between 10pm and 7am) or 180 in any other event, unless the event is one of those listed in Schedule 4 to the regulations and the condition has been modified by the Royal Automobile Club.
 - d. If the event is a time schedule event, a time limit event or a problem-solving event (see note h), the interval between the dispatch of any two competitors from the starting point must be in accordance with standard condition No.5.
 - e. State whether cars, motorcycles, motorcycle combinations, cars towing caravans, or other vehicles. If other vehicles, state which. If the event is a Vintage event (i.e. one in which all the vehicles driven by competitors were registered before 1st January 1930) this should also be stated.
 - f. "Route", in relation to an event means a route that the rules of the event require or are likely to cause the competitors taking part in the event to travel. If there are two or more likely routes between particular points, traversing different 1:50,000 Ordnance Survey sheets, the numbers of all the sheets likely to be traversed should be given in answer to question 9; all the likely routes should be shown on the tracings asked for on the reverse of application form E.404.
 - g. A public highway is a way over which the public have right of passage, and includes footpaths, bridleways and green lanes as well as metalled roads. As applied to a road, it comprises not only the carriageway but also any footways and verges. Section 33 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 provides that it shall be an offence for a person to promote or take part in a trial of any description between motor vehicles on a footpath or bridleway which has not been authorised by the appropriate local authority. If the route lies in whole or in part on a footpath or bridleway, authorisation must be obtained from the appropriate local authority.
 - h. A "time schedule event" is one in which individual competitors or groups of competitors are required by the rules of the event to arrive or depart from control points at or between specific times or to arrive at the finish of the event at or between specific times. A "time limit event" is one in which the competitors are required by the rules of the event to travel the route of the event by a fixed time which causes them to maintain an overall average speed on the public highway exceeding 10 m.p.h. (see note i). A "problem solving event" is one in which the competitors are required by the rules of the event to travel the route by a fixed time and are given before that time the task of setting or solving a number of set problems (whether the problems are required to be set or solved before or after that time) and in which there is an average of more than one set problem for each three miles of route.

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- i. To calculate a competitor's overall speed on the public highway, the total distance in miles to be driven by each competitor on the public highway in the event should be divided by the interval in hours between the time when he is to start driving in the event and the time he is to finish, excluding any period during which the vehicle is off the public highway or at a rest halt (see note j).
- j. A rest halt is a place specified in the rules of the event as a place where competitors are required to stop during the course of the event, or may stop during the course of the event without incurring a penalty or demerit in the event, in either case for the purpose of obtaining rest or refreshment.
- k. Standard condition No. 6 provides that the rules of an event shall not require or be such as are likely to cause any length of public highway (other than a motorway) to be traversed more than once by a competitor during the course of the event. The Competition Authorisation Office may, at their discretion, modify this provision in respect of the events listed in Schedule 4 to the Regulations and also, in respect of other events, to the extent that the modification is to permit competitors: -
 - 1. To travel twice the same length of trunk road or Class A road,
 - 2. to reach a finishing point in the same place as a starting point or,
 - 3. to use: -
 - (i) a rest halt,
 - (ii) private property on which part of the event is being held, or
 - (iii) a filling station.
- l. Each tracing should be made with a black ballpoint or lead (not coloured) pencil or Indian ink. Please use a good quality tracing paper, natural tracing paper 85/90 GSM is suggested and fold it as little as possible. Any unsatisfactory tracings that are submitted will be returned to the applicant. The following is a fictitious example of a tracing that might be submitted: -



- m. A control point is a place, other than the start or finish of an event, where the route being followed by competitors or the times being kept by them are checked.