

## British Railways - Dates of Changes – 1948 – 1984

The following are dates – as best I have been able to determine them – for when changes to liveries and train formations happened on BR. Of course older liveries remained for a long time after they were replaced, particularly on goods vehicles and even more so on departmental stock.

Date	Event	Notes
1948	“British Railways” on locos	
1948/01/01	Nationalisation	
1948/04	Experimental BR liveries	Ultramarine blue on express locos, apple green on others, plum and milk on carriages
1949/04	BR liveries	Medium blue top link locos, green other express locos, mixed traffic lined black, goods unlined, mainline passenger stock crimson and cream, other coaching stock crimson, goods unfitted battleship grey (later medium grey), fitted and containers orange-brown (later bauxite, insulated stone (changed to white). Insulated meat vans crimson (soon changed to bauxite). Loco name plates black background except those in mixed traffic and some SR locos which were red. Lion on wheel totem.
1950 ?	Blue dropped for top link express locos	Green used
1951 ?	Vac pipe on piped wagons painted white	Previously black fitted, red oxide unfitted. Changed to red oxide fitted, white unfitted to comply with UIC (International Union of Railways) agreement.
1952	Black background to loco nameplates	
1956	3 <sup>rd</sup> class renamed 2 <sup>nd</sup>	
1956	Signal red used for buffer beams on locos	Previously vermilion red, lighter and more orange. Note LMR 8Ps retained this colour.
1956/04	Revised BR liveries	New logo. LMR 8Ps red. Coaches maroon except all SR green and principle WR express coaches chocolate and cream. Logo applied to carriages intended for use on named trains. Containers changed to maroon. Diesels and Electrics renumbered with D and E prefixes.
1957	Lion on new logo always faced left	Previously faced towards front.
1958	Introduction of pre-group liveries on some old locos	Spread over several years
1959	Containers painted Bauxite	

1959	Banning of 6-wheel stock on passenger trains	
1960/03	Electification flashes	Possibly 1959. Added rapidly to BR(M) stock, less swiftly to others and shunters
1960/03	Gulf red for departmental stock	
1960	Yellow lines for first class	First introduced on SR, others adopted it 8/62. Shortly after a red line indicating catering vehicles was adopted.
1960	Ice blue for insulated wagons	In place of white and maroon (some time between 59 and 61)
1961	Red background to loco nameplates	Official date. Many SR depots used red earlier than this, and many remained black
1961	Wasp stripes on shunters	Some experimental use earlier
1962	Small yellow warning panels	
1962/05	Olive drab for departmental stock	
1963	Boxed style of lettering on wagons	Very gradually adopted.
1963/07	Unfitted wagons to be painted brown	May not have happened until 1964. Was later reversed to use grey again for unfitted
1963	"Door to Door" Container Branding	"Flying crate" logo.
1964/09/01	Yellow "not under overhead wire" stripes on cabsides	Appeared on larger locomotives, e.g. Scots. On BR(M) seem to have been added late August, later or not at all on other regions if loco would never visit Euston – Crewe
1965	Corporate image	Blue/grey or blue coaches, blue diesels
1965	Large yellow warning panels	
1965	Ends of coaching stock painted body colour instead of black	First on SR but soon done everywhere because of use of spray painting. Was applied when giving a single new coat to a coach in old colours not being fully repainted.
1965/08	Red lights/blinds could be used instead of tail lamp	Originally only for EMUs on certain lines
1966/01/01	All new wagons air braked	Orders for vacuum braked wagons were cancelled mid-1965
1966	Introduction of NCB capacity suffixes on coal wagons	Dropped early 70s
1968/08	End of steam on BR	D prefix on diesels dropped (E for electrics retained)
1968/09	Brake vans not needed on fitted trains	Still required on some such as nuclear flasks

1971 ?	Locos renumbered with class codes	
1972	Introduction of TOPS	
1976	DMUs off-white with blue band	
1976 ?	Blue/grey allowed for all passenger stock	
1980 ?	Large logo double arrow on locos	
1983	Orange cantrail stripe	
1983 ?	Flashing tail lamps	No proper information on date
1984/01	Decentralisation of BR control of liveries	

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