STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

1998 No. 443

ELECTRICITY

Meters (Approval of Pattern or Construction and Manner of Installation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998

Made - - - -	*15th December 1998*
Coming into operation	*1st February 1999*

The Director General of Electricity Supply for Northern Ireland, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by Articles 34 and 64 of, and paragraphs 1 and 3 of Schedule 7 to, the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992(**1**) and of every other power enabling him in that behalf, and with the consent of the Department of Economic Development in accordance with Article 2(2) of that Order, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Meters (Approval of Pattern or Construction and Manner of Installation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998 and shall come into operation on 1st February 1999.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

"EEA Agreement" means the Agreement on the European Economic Area signed at Oporto on 2nd May 1992(**2**) as adjusted by the Protocol signed at Brussels on 17th March 1993(**3**);

"EEA State" means a state which, at the date of the entry into force of these Regulations, is a Contracting Party to the EEA Agreement;

"meter examiner" means a person who has been appointed under paragraph 5 of Schedule 7 to the Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992; and

"notification of approval" means a notification issued under regulation 7.

(**1**) S.I. 1992/231 (N.I. 1)
(**2**) O.J. No. L1, 3.1.94, p. 3
(**3**) O.J. No. L1, 3.1.94, p. 572

Approved pattern or construction and approved manner of installation

3. A meter, other than a meter which is deemed to be of an approved pattern or construction under regulation 4(2) of the Measuring Instruments(EC Requirements) (Electrical Energy Meters) Regulations 1995(**4**), used for ascertaining the quantity of electricity supplied by an electricity supplier to a customer shall not be regarded as being:—

(a) of an approved pattern or construction unless a notification of approval in respect of that pattern or construction has been issued, or is deemed to have been issued, and that approval has not been revoked; or

(b) installed in an approved manner unless a notification of approval of that manner of installation has been issued, or is deemed to have been issued, and that approval has not been revoked.

Application for approval

4.—(1) Any person who requires the pattern or construction of a meter or its manner of installation to be approved shall submit to the Director—

(a) an application containing the information specified in the Schedule and signed by that person; and

(b) not less than three meters of the pattern or construction and containing the components described in the application.

(2) References in this regulation to the pattern or construction of a meter or to the manner of its installation include references to a modification of a pattern or construction or of a manner of installation which has previously been approved in accordance with these Regulations.

Testing of meters

5.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3), where a meter has been submitted to the Director under regulation 4, a meter examiner shall carry out, or procure the carrying out of, such tests as he considers are necessary to determine whether the pattern or construction of the meter or the proposed manner of its installation is such that any meter of that pattern or construction or such a meter installed in that manner will be capable of accurately recording the quantity of electricity for which the meter is intended to operate.

(2) In carrying out his functions under paragraph (1), a meter examiner shall have due regard to any national, European or international technical standards relating to meters of that or a similar pattern or construction.

(3) A meter examiner shall not carry out, or procure the carrying out of, tests in accordance with paragraph (1) if he is satisfied that the pattern or construction or the manner of installation complies with any relevant European or international standard recognised for use in any EEA State or—

(a) an equivalent standard or code of practice of a national standards body or equivalent body of any EEA State;

(b) an equivalent technical specification acknowledged for use as a standard by a public authority of any EEA State; or

(c) customary procedures of manufacture of an EEA State where these are the subject of a written technical description sufficiently detailed to permit assessment of the meter for this purpose,

(**4**) S.I. 1995/2607

provided that a meter complying with sub-paragraph (a), (b) or (c) will be of an equivalent standard to a meter complying with the relevant European or international standard recognised for use in any EEA State.

(4) Any meter which a meter examiner is satisfied complies with the standards set out in paragraph (3) shall be deemed to be capable of accurately recording the quantity of electricity for which it is intended to operate.

(5) For the purpose of paragraph (3) a meter examiner shall take into account the results of the checks and tests carried out by the bodies and laboratories of other EEA States if those checks and tests conform with European Standard EN45001(**5**).

(6) In relation to any one or more of the tests which the meter examiner considers necessary, he may require the person applying for approval to procure the carrying out of specified tests at any premises approved by the Director for carrying out tests of the type specified.

(7) A test referred to in paragraph (6) shall, if the meter examiner so requires—

(a) not be carried out until the meters have been sealed by him for identification purpose; and

(b) be carried out in his presence,

and the meters shall on completion of the test be delivered to the meter examiner.

(8) A meter which has been submitted to the Director under regulation 4 shall not be repaired or modified by any person, other than by a meter examiner for the purpose of carrying out tests in accordance with this regulation, until a notification has been issued under regulation 6 or 7.

Notification of refusal of approval

6.—(1) If a meter examiner concludes that the pattern or construction of the meter or the proposed manner of its installation is such that any meter of that pattern or construction of any such meter installed in that manner will not be capable of satisfying the requirement set out in regulation 5(1), the Director shall notify the person applying for approval accordingly, giving the reasons for such refusal.

(2) Where a meter examiner reaches the conclusion mentioned in paragraph (1) before he has completed every test which he had considered necessary for the purpose of regulation 5, he shall not be required to carryout the remainder of those tests.

Notification of approval

7.—(1) Where a meter examiner concludes that the pattern or construction of the meter or the manner of its installation complies with regulation 5(3) of is such that any meter of that pattern or construction or any such meter installed in that manner will be capable of satisfying the requirements set out in regulation 5(1), the meter examiner shall issue a notification of approval of the applicant, and a notification of approval may notify approval both of the pattern or construction of the meter and of the manner of its installation.

(2) A notification of approval for the purpose of paragraph (1) shall specify—

(a) the type or model number referred to in the application submitted under regulation 4(1)(a);

(b) (where the approval is of the pattern or construction of the meter and the meter contains more than one register of or relating to the quantity of electricity supplied) the maximum number of registers for which the approval is given;

(c) (where the approval is of the manner of installation of the meter)subject to paragraph (3), the approved manner of its installation;

(**5**) EN 45001 is a European Standard which is equivalent to BS 7501 (ISBN 0 580 17939 7), "General criteria for the operation of testing laboratories", published by the British Standards Institution and having effect from 31st October 1989