1991 No. 536

ELECTRICITY

The Electricity Supply Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991

Made . . . . . 17th December 1991
Coming into operation . . 3rd February 1992

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

PART I

INTRODUCTORY

Regulation
1. Citation and commencement
2. Application of Regulations
3. Interpretation

PART II

CONNECTION WITH EARTH

4. Continuity of the supply neutral conductor and earthing connections
5. General requirements for connection with earth
6. Multiple earthing
7. Protective multiple earthing
8. Earthing of metalwork

PART III

ELECTRIC LINES BELOW GROUND

9. General restriction
10. Protective screens
11. Excavations

PART IV

ELECTRIC LINES PLACED ABOVE GROUND

12. Restriction on placing electric lines above ground

13. Minimum height of overhead lines, wires and cables
14. Position, insulation and protection of electric lines
15. Precautions against access
16. Insulators in stay wires
17. Exceptions

PART V

SUPPLIER'S WORKS

18. Sufficiency of supplier's works
19. Maximum voltage
20. Enclosed spaces
21. High voltage: additional provisions
22. Protective measures
23. Precautions against excess voltage
24. Precautions against supply failure
25. Inspection of supplier's works

PART VI

SUPPLY TO CONSUMER'S INSTALLATIONS

26. Supplier's works on consumer's premises
27. Interconnected supplies
28. General conditions as to consumers
29. Discontinuance of supply in certain circumstances
30. Notices and determination of differences
31. Declaration of phases, frequency and voltage at supply terminals
32. Information to be provided on request
33. Interruptions of supply

PART VII

MISCELLANEOUS

34. Inspections, etc. for the Department of Economic Development
35. Notification of supply failure
36. Works in breach of Regulations
37. Offences

SCHEDULE

1. Design, colours and proportions of the safety sign

2. Minimum height above ground of overhead lines
3. Interconnected supplies
4. Notice of supply failure

The Department of Economic Development in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 36(1) and (2) and 49(2) and (3) of the Electricity Supply (Northern Ireland) Order 1972(**a**) and now vested in it(**b**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

PART I

INTRODUCTORY

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Electricity Supply Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991 and shall come into operation on 3rd February 1992.

Application of Regulations

2.—(1) These Regulations apply to any supplier, supplier's works or supply; regulation 27 also applies to any person who provides energy to or whose electric lines are used to provide energy to his own installation, and regulations 36 and 37 also apply to any consumer but subject to the following provisions of this regulation:—

(*a*) regulations 7(1)(*a*), 7(10)(*b*), 7(11), 9, 13, 15(2), 16, 21(2)(*b*)(i) and 27 do not apply in relation to supplier's works or supplies where those works were brought into use or supplies commenced prior to the date of the coming into operation of these Regulations, and

(*b*) the proviso to regulation 26(1)(*c*) does not apply to any supplier's works brought into use on or before 31st December 1944.

(2) Where the regulations specified in paragraph (1) do not apply in relation to any supplier's works or supplies, the provisions of any Regulations made under section 6 of the Electric Lighting Act 1882(**c**) and continued in force by virtue of Article 36(3) of the Electricity Supply (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 and any Regulations made under Article 36(1) of that Order, in force in respect of those supplier's works or supplies immediately prior to the coming into operation of these Regulations and which are equivalent to the regulations mentioned in paragraph (1), including any approvals or authorities granted or given under those provisions, shall apply until the date specified in paragraph (3).

(**a**) S.I. 1972/1702 (N.I. 9) as amended by S.I. 1987/1275 (N.I. 12) Article 21 and the Schedule. Article 49(3) is to be read with S.I. 1984/703 (N.I. 3) and S.R. 1984 No. 253
(**b**) By S.I. 1982/846 (N.I. 11) Article 4
(**c**) 1882 c. 56

(3) The date referred to in paragraph (2) is the date on which any material alteration is made to the supplier's works or supplies in question.

(4) From the date specified in paragraph (3) the exception in paragraph (1) shall cease to apply to the extent of any material alteration referred to in paragraph (3).

Interpretation

3. In these Regulations—

"apparatus" includes plant, equipment, meters, lines and appliances used or intended to be used for carrying electricity for the purposes of supplying or using energy;

"associated main" means the distributing main to which the consumer's installation which has or is intended to have protective multiple earthing is connected directly or by a service line;

"associated branch" means the branch to which the consumer's installation which has or is intended to have protective multiple earthing is connected either directly or by a service line;

"branch" means a secondary distributing main from its end furthest from the source of voltage to its junction with the principal part of the distributing main;

"bonding conductor" means a conductor providing equipotential bonding;

"circuit protective conductor" means a conductor on the consumer's side of the supply terminals used for protection against electric shock which connects the exposed conductive parts of apparatus with earth but does not include any conductor which is used as a neutral conductor;

"conductor" means an electrical conductor arranged to be electrically connected to a system but does not include conductors used or intended to be used solely for the purposes of control or regulation of supply or for communication;

"connected with earth" means connected with earth in such manner as will at all times provide a rapid and safe discharge of energy;

"consumer" means any person supplied or entitled to be supplied by a supplier but shall not include in regulations 26, 28, 29 and 30 any body authorised by any enactment to carry goods and passengers by railway in respect of any supply to meet its haulage or traction requirements;

"consumer's installation" means the electric lines situated upon the consumer's side of the supply terminals together with any apparatus permanently connected or intended to be permanently connected thereto;

"danger" includes danger to health or danger to life or limb from shock, burn, injury or mechanical movement to persons, livestock or domestic animals, or from fire attendant upon the generation, transformation, supply or use of energy;

"the Department" means the Department of Economic Development;

"distributing main" means an electric line through which energy is supplied or is intended to be supplied by a supplier to service lines or directly to a single consumer;

"earth" means the general mass of the earth;

"earth electrode" means a conductor or group of conductors in intimate contact with and providing a connection with earth;

"earthing terminal" means a terminal directly connected to the supply neutral conductor at the supplier's fusible cut-out, or automatic switching device nearest to the supply terminals;

"electric line" means any line which is used or intended to be used for carrying electricity for any purpose and includes, unless the context otherwise requires:—

(*a*) any apparatus connected to any such line for the purpose of carrying electricity;

(*b*) any wire, cable, tube, pipe, insulator or other similar thing (including its casing or coating) which surrounds or supports, or is surrounded or supported by, or is installed in close proximity to, or is supported, carried or suspended in association with, any such line;

"energy" means electrical energy;

"generating station" means those parts of any premises which are principally used for the purposes of generating energy;

"high voltage" means any voltage exceeding low voltage;

"Institution of Electrical Engineers Regulations" means the 16th edition of the Regulations for Electrical Installations published by the Institution of Electrical Engineers;

"insulation" means non-conducting material enclosing, surrounding or supporting a conductor or any part thereof and of such quality and thickness as to be suitable for the purposes of the regulation in which the term is used;

"low voltage" means:—

(*a*) in relation to alternating current, a voltage exceeding 50 volts but not exceeding 1000 volts, in each case measured between the phase conductors taking the square root of the mean of the squares of the instantaneous values of a voltage during a complete cycle; and

(*b*) in relation to direct current, a voltage exceeding 75 volts but not exceeding 1500 volts,

with any variations of voltage allowed by these Regulations;

"metalwork" does not include any electric line or conductor used for earthing purposes;

"neutral conductor" means a conductor on the consumer's side of the supply terminals which is, or is intended to be, connected to the neutral point of a system and intended to contribute to the carrying of energy;