1990 No. 145

EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

CLEAN AIR

The Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990

Made	*10th April 1990*
Coming into operation . .	*31st May 1990*

The Department of the Environment, being a department designated(**a**) for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(**b**) in relation to the control of air pollution, in exercise of the powers conferred by that section, and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation, commencement and application

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Air Quality Standards Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990 and shall come into operation on 31st May 1990.

(2) Regulations 5 and 6 shall not apply to exposure to lead in the air as a result of a person's occupation, and regulations 7 and 8 shall not apply to exposure to nitrogen dioxide in the atmosphere at work or within buildings.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these regulations—

"the Clean Air Order" means the Clean Air (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(**c**);

"the Department" means the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland;

"district" has the meaning given to it in section 1(3) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(**d**).

(2) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**e**) shall apply to these regulations as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

(**a**) S.I. 1988/785
(**b**) 1972 c. 68
(**c**) S.I. 1981/158 (N.I. 4)
(**d**) 1972 c. 9 (N.I.)
(**e**) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

Limit values for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates in the atmosphere

3.—(1) The Department shall pursuant to Council Directive 80/779/EEC on air quality limit values and guide values for sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates(**a**) (''the sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates Directive'') take appropriate measures to ensure that the concentrations of sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates in the atmosphere measured in accordance with regulation 4 do not exceed the limit values given in Annex I to that Directive.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply until 1st April 1993 in respect of the districts of—

(*a*) Belfast insofar as it applies to sulphur dioxide; and

(*b*) Belfast, Derry, and Newry and Mourne insofar as it applies to suspended particulates.

Measurement of sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates

4.—(1) The Department shall ensure that measuring stations for measuring the concentrations of sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates in the atmosphere are established and the concentration of sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates measured in accordance with Annexes III and V to the sulphur dioxide and suspended particulates Directive.

(2) The measuring stations shall be established at sites where pollution is thought to be greatest, and where the measured concentrations are representative of local conditions, and in particular in the districts specified in regulation 3(2) and in zones where the limit values referred to in regulation 3(1) are likely to be approached or exceeded.

Limit value for lead in the air

5. The Department shall pursuant to Council Directive 82/884/EEC on a limit value for lead in the air(**b**) take the necessary measures to ensure that the mean annual value for the concentration of lead in the air, measured in accordance with regulation 6, does not exceed the limit value of 2 micrograms of lead per cubic metre expressed as an annual mean concentration.

Measurement of lead in the air

6.—(1) The Department shall ensure that any sampling stations for measuring the concentration of lead in the air which may be necessary to comply with Council Directive 82/884/EEC are installed and operated, and that in those stations the mean value is calculated in accordance with the Annex to that Directive.

(2) Any such sampling stations shall be installed at sites where individuals may be exposed to lead in the air continually for a long period and where, in the opinion of the Department, the limit value specified in regulation 5 is likely to be exceeded.

(**a**) O.J. No. L229, 30.8.1980, p. 30
(**b**) O.J. No. L378, 31.12.1982, p. 15