1987 No. 310

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Weights and Measures (Weights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987

Made . . . . . 24th July 1987

Coming into operation in accordance with Regulation 1

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

PART I

GENERAL

Regulation

1. Citation, commencement and revocation.
2. Interpretation.
3. Application.

PART II

MATERIALS AND PRINCIPLES OF CONSTRUCTION AND MARKING OF WEIGHTS

4. Materials.
5. Shape.
6. Adjusting holes.
7. Marking.

PART III

TESTING

8. Cleanliness of weights.
9. Testing of weights.

PART IV

SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

10. Prescribed limits of error.
11. Passing as fit for use for trade.
12. Stamping.
13. Inspectors' powers and duties regarding obliteration of stamps.

Schedule 1 Symbols for, and abbreviations of, units of weight and measurement.
Schedule 2 Form of metric weights.
Schedule 3 Appropriate local or working standard weights.
Schedule 4 Prescribed limits of error.
Schedule 5 Regulations revoked.

The Department of Economic Development, in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 9(1) and (3) and 13(1) of the Weights and Measures (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(**a**) and now vested in it(**b**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

PART I

GENERAL

Citation, commencement and revocation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Weights and Measures (Weights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987 and shall come into operation as follows—

(*a*) all Regulations except Regulations 1(4) and 13, on 1st September 1987; and

(*b*) Regulations 1(4) and 13, on 1st September 1988.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), the Regulations specified in Schedule 5, with the exception of Regulation 12 of the Weights and Measures (Weights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971(**c**), are hereby revoked.

(3) Part II of, and Schedule 3 to, the Weights and Measures (Weights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971 shall continue to have effect until 1st September 1988 in so far as they are necessary for the purposes of Regulation 12 of those Regulations.

(4) Regulation 12 of the Weights and Measures (Weights) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971 shall be revoked with effect from 1st September 1988.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

"analogue" means capable of assigning any value or position within a continuous range;

"appropriate local or working standard weights" means the Northern Ireland local standards or working standards of weights specified in column 2 of the Table in Schedule 3 in the case of the weights specified in column 1;

"digital" means capable of assigning only certain discrete values or positions within a continuous range by a series of discontinuous steps;

(**a**) S.I. 1981/231 (N.I. 10)
(**b**) By S.I. 1982/846 (N.I. 11) Art. 4
(**c**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1971 No. 342 as amended by S.R. 1977 No. 136

"discrimination threshold" means, in the case of testing equipment with a digital indicator, the weight which produces a change of reading of one digit, and in the case of testing equipment with an analogue indicator, the weight which produces a 1 mm apparent movement of the pointer;

"the Order" means the Weights and Measures (Northern Ireland) Order 1981;

"prescribed limits of error" in relation to weights has the meaning set out in Regulation 10;

"repeatability" means the ability of weighing equipment to indicate, under defined conditions of use, closely similar quantities on repeated weighings; and

"the stamp" means the stamp prescribed by the Weights and Measures (Prescribed Stamp) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969(**a**).

(2) The symbols for, and abbreviations of, units of weight and of measurement used in these Regulations refer to the relevant units as set out in Schedule 1.

Application

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), these Regulations shall apply to all weighing equipment for use for trade of the following class, namely weights, and such weights are hereby prescribed for the purposes of Article 9(1) of the Order.

(2) These Regulations shall not apply to—

(*a*) weights for use only for weighing coins or currency notes for the purpose of determining their number;

(*b*) proportional weights or proportional counterpoises used through a system of levers on graduated non-self-indicating weighing machines; or

(*c*) externally-controlled weights used through a system of levers and incorporated in two- or three-knife edge balances.

PART II

MATERIALS AND PRINCIPLES OF CONSTRUCTION AND MARKING OF WEIGHTS

Materials

4. Except to the extent that it may—

(*a*) contain lead in an adjusting hole, or

(*b*) be painted, coated or otherwise treated to inhibit corrosion,

a weight, other than a weight for use in connection with the manufacture of explosives, shall—

(i) if of the flat or wire type, be made of gold or platinum or aluminium or of an alloy of any of those metals or of a metal of a density of not less than 7000 nor more than 9500 kg/m^3; or

(**a**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1969 No. 11

(ii) if of any other type, be made of a metal of such a density as mentioned in paragraph (i) and of hardness at least equal to cast brass.

Shape

5.—(1) Except as provided by paragraph (2), a weight shall only be of a type or form mentioned in the following Table in relation to a weight of its purported mass:—

TABLE

Type or form	*Weights which may be of that type or form*
1. Metric weights (other than carat (metric) weights):	
(i) The irregular octahedronal form described in Schedule 2	Weights of 25 kg.
(ii) The rectangular form described in Schedule 2	Weights of 5 kg, 10 kg or 20 kg.
(iii) The cylindrical form described in Schedule 2	Weights of not more than 10 kg nor less than 20 g and of 10, 5, 2 and 1 g.
(iv) The hexagonal form described in Schedule 2	Weights of not more than 2 kg nor less than 100 g.
(v) The disc form described in Schedule 2	Weights of not more than 50 g nor less than 1 g.
(vi) Flat type	Weights of not more than 1 g nor less than 10 mg.
(vii) Wire type	Weights of 50 mg or less.
2. Carat (metric) weights:	
(i) Cylindrical with a knob	Weights of 5 C.M. or more.
(ii) Flat type	Weights of not more than 20 C.M. nor less than 0·05 C.M.
(iii) Wire type	Weights of 0·25 C.M. or less.
3. Imperial weights (other than weights in paragraphs 4 and 5):	
(i) Bell, bar, flat-circular or ring type	Any weight other than a weight of 50, 20, 10 or 5lb.
(ii) Octagonal type	Weights of 50, 20, 10 or 5lb.
4. Weights expressed as multiples or fractions of 1/7000 lb:	
Flat or wire type	All such weights.

Type or form	*Weights which may be of that type or form*
5. Ounce troy weights:	
(i) Cylindrical with a carrying handle or knob	Weights of 1 oz. tr or more.
(ii) Flat or wire type	Weights of 0·5 oz tr or less.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) or Schedule 2 shall preclude any weight from being regarded as fit for use for trade by reason of the fact that one or more edges are chamfered or rounded.

Adjusting holes

6.—(1) A metric weight of less than 20 g and an imperial weight of less than 1 oz shall not have an adjusting hole.

(2) Any other weight shall not have more than one adjusting hole.

(3) An adjusting hole shall be in the form of a cavity in a plane surface of the weight, and shall be—

(*a*) empty;

(*b*) undercut and plugged with lead; or

(*c*) closed by a plug or disc made of brass or steel.

(4) Where an adjusting hole is closed with a plug or disc, the plug or disc shall, except in the case of a carat (metric) weight or an ounce troy weight, be secured by a lead pellet driven into an undercut recess or, if the cavity is threaded, into the thread so that it is not readily removable.

(5) The plug, disc or lead shall not protrude from the surface of the weight.

Marking

7.—(1) All weights other than wire weights shall be marked with a durable and legible indication of their purported mass.

(2) The marking shall comprise figures indicating the number of units and words or an appropriate symbol or abbreviation mentioned in Schedule 1 to indicate the relevant unit.

(3) A weight shall not bear any marking other than:—

(*a*) the markings referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2);

(*b*) the name or mark of the maker;

(*c*) the name of the owner or an indication of his name;

(*d*) the stamp applied by an inspector; or

(*e*) in the case of a weight first passed as fit for use for trade and stamped before 27th April 1978, the word "dram" or the abbreviation "dr".

(4) Where a weight bears the name or mark of its maker or the name of its owner or an indication of the owner's name, the height of the mark or lettering shall not exceed one-half of the height of the figures employed to indicate its purported mass.