1986 No. 308

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Measuring Equipment (Measures of Length) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1986

Made . . . . . 24th September 1986

Coming into operation . . . 27th October 1986

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The Department of Economic Development, in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 9(1), (3) and (4) 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 Measuring Equipment (Measures of Length) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1986 and shall come into operation on 27th October 1986.

(2) The Regulations specified in column 1 of the Schedule are hereby revoked to the extent specified in column 2.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

"composite measure" means a measure of length where one of its principal scale marks is a surface and the other is a line, hole or mark;

"end measure" means a measure of length where its principal scale marks are formed by two surfaces;

"measure of length" means a linear measure set out in Part I of Schedule 1 to the Order;

"nominal length" means the maximum length in metric or imperial units which a measure of length is designed to measure in one measurement;

"prescribed limits of error" has the meaning set out in Regulation 23;

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

(**a**) S.I. 1981/231 (N.I. 10)
(**b**) By S.I. 1982/846 (N.I. 11) Art. 4

"principal scale marks" mean the two surfaces, lines, holes or marks (or combinations thereof) on a measure of length the distance between which is the nominal length of the measure;

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

"terminal surface" means a surface forming one of the principal scale marks.

Application of Regulations and prescription of measures of length

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

(2) Except for this paragraph, paragraph (3) and Regulation 19, these Regulations do not apply to measures of length which bear the mark of EEC initial verification.

(3) In paragraph (2), "mark of EEC initial verification" means the mark described in paragraph 5 of Schedule 1 to the Measuring Instruments (EEC Requirements) Regulations 1980(**b**).

PART II

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MATERIALS, PRINCIPLES OF CONSTRUCTION AND MARKING OF MEASURES OF LENGTH

Materials of construction

4. Subject to Regulation 5, every measure of length shall be made of—

(*a*) carbon steel, including matt chrome-plated carbon steel, steel protected by a clear film or rust-resisting steel;

(*b*) brass;

(*c*) aluminium alloy, including anodised and stained aluminium alloy;

(*d*) glass-reinforced or opaque plastics;

(*e*) wood; or

(*f*) any other material of adequate stability.

Strength and durability

5. Every measure of length shall be sufficiently strong and resistant to abrasion to withstand the wear and tear of ordinary use in trade.

Certain measures of length to have metal tips on terminal surfaces

6. Where an end measure or composite measure is made of wood or other material of durability equal to or less than that of wood, the terminal surfaces shall have metal tips which shall be securely fixed to the wood or other material.

Requirements in relation to terminal surfaces of end measures and composite measures

7. The terminal surfaces of end measures and of composite measures shall be flat and perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the measure.

(**a**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1969 No. 11
(**b**) S.I. 1980/1058; the relevant amending Regulations are S.I. 1985/1871

Rigid measures of length to be practically straight and free from flaws

8. Every rigid measure of length, including folding measures, shall be practically straight and free from flaws.

Construction of flexible measures of length

9. Every flexible measure of length shall be constructed so that when it is stretched out on a flat surface its edges are practically straight and parallel.

Construction of winding devices for flexible measures of length

10. Winding devices for flexible measures of length shall be constructed so that they do not cause any permanent deformation of the measure.

Construction of measures of length marked with a reference temperature

11. Where a measure of length is marked with a reference temperature, it shall be constructed so that a change of not more than 8 degrees Celsius above or below that temperature does not cause in normal use a variation in length exceeding the prescribed limit of error.

Construction of measures of length marked with a tractive force

12. Where a measure of length is marked with a tractive force, it shall be constructed so that a change of 10 per cent. above or below that force does not cause a variation in length exceeding the prescribed limit of error.

Marking of graduated measures of length

13.—(1) Every measure of length which is graduated shall be graduated clearly, indelibly and, subject to paragraph (2), regularly, so as to enable unambiguous readings to be made easily.

(2) Certain sections of a graduated measure of length may be subdivided more finely than other sections.

Marking of scale marks on measures of length

14. Where the scale marks on a measure of length are lines these shall be straight, perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the measure of length and all of the same thickness, constant throughout their length.

Numbering of graduated measures of length

15. The numbering of graduated measures of length shall be—

(*a*) (i) continuous; or
(ii) partly continuous and partly repetitive; and

(*b*) (i) parallel to the longitudinal axis of the measure of length; or
(ii) perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the measure of length,

depending on how the measure is designed to be read.

Numbering of folding graduated measures of length

16. Where a graduated measure of length is a folding measure, some of its numbering in close proximity to the joints may be omitted.

Marking of nominal length and, where appropriate, tractive force

17. Every measure of length shall be conspicuously, legibly and durably marked (in the case of a flexible measure, near the beginning of the measure) with the following items—