1986 No. 10

ATOMIC ENERGY AND RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

The Radioactive Substances (Gaseous Tritium Light Devices) Exemption Order (Northern Ireland) 1986

Made . . . . . *16th January 1986*

Coming into operation . . . *1st April 1986*

The Department of the Environment in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 2(6) and (7), 6(5), 7(4) and 21 of the Radioactive Substances Act 1960(**a**) and now vested in it(**b**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Order:—

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Radioactive Substances (Gaseous Tritium Light Devices) Exemption Order (Northern Ireland) 1986 and shall come into operation on 1st April 1986.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Order:—

"the Act" means the Radioactive Substances Act 1960;

"activity", expressed in becquerels, means the number of spontaneous nuclear transformations occurring in a period of one second in a radioactive substance;

"Class A article" means a relevant article (as hereafter defined) the activity in which does not exceed 20 gigabecquerels;

"Class B article" means a relevant article fulfilling the following conditions namely;

(*a*) that the number of gigabecquerels of activity in each sealed container in the article is not more than 80; and

(*b*) that the number of terabecquerels of activity in the article as a whole does not exceed 1:

"Class C article" means a relevant article which is installed, or awaiting installation, in (*i*) a vessel or aircraft; or (*ii*) a vehicle or equipment used or intended for use by the armed forces of the Crown;

"the Department" means the Department of the Environment;

"district council" means a district council within the meaning of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(**c**);

"month" means a period of 28 consecutive days;

"relevant article" means an illuminant, instrument, sign or indicator which—

(i) incorporates tritium gas in one or more robust sealed containers so constructed as to withstand normal use without breaking; and

(ii) is radioactive material solely because it contains that gas;

(**a**) 1960 c. 34

(**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964 No. 205; S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1965 No. 13; S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 111; S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 504

(**c**) 1972 c. 9 (N.I.)

"waste source" means any radioactive waste which immediately before it became waste was a Class A, B or C article or radioactive material forming part of such an article.

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

Exemption from registration under Section 1 of the Act

3. Subject to the conditions set out in Article 4, all persons are exempted from registration under section 1 of the Act in respect of the keeping and use of Class A, B or C articles on any premises other than premises used for or in connection with—

(*a*) the manufacture of any such articles; or

(*b*) the storage for sale or hire of any such article, the activity in which exceeds 20 gigabecquerels.

Conditions attaching to exemption under Article 3

4. The conditions mentioned in Article 3 are that—

(*a*) the activity in the form of tritium oxide and other water soluble compounds of tritium in any sealed container in any article on the premises does not exceed 2% of the total activity in that container or, in the case of any such container containing not more than 5 gigabecquerels of activity in total, does not exceed 100 megabecquerels;

(*b*) the aggregate number of terabecquerels of activity in all the Class A articles on the premises at any one time does not exceed 5;

(*c*) the aggregate number of terabecquerels of activity in all the Class B articles on the premises at any time (other than articles installed in or on railway vehicles) does not exceed 30;

(*d*) any Class B article on the premises (and not installed in or on a railway vehicle) is securely affixed or attached to the premises or, if it is stored on the premises, is not stored there for more than one month.

(*e*) where at any time railway vehicles are on the premises, the aggregate number of terabecquerels of activity in all the Class A and B articles installed in or on the vehicles that are on the premises at any one time, other than activity in material which falls to be ignored by virtue of section 19(2)(*a*) of the Act (which deals with radioactive material kept or used on vehicles in the course of a journey), does not exceed 30;

(*f*) any Class B article installed in or on a railway vehicle that is on the premises is securely attached to the vehicle;

(*g*) no individual Class C article awaiting installation is stored on the premises for more than one month;

(*h*) where 2 or more articles which are Class B or C articles are to be stored on the premises for more than 48 hours while awaiting installation, the local fire brigade are informed by telephone forthwith and the information confirmed in writing as soon as possible.

(*i*) all Class A, B and C articles stored on the premises are kept in packages each marked with, or having attached to them a label or notice bearing, in characters of adequate size, distinctly and legibly printed, the word "radioactive" and the basic ionising symbol recommended for use by British Standard 3510:1968;

(*j*) where reasonably practicable, all Class B articles and Class C articles on the premises are marked with, or have attached or affixed to them a label bearing in characters of adequate size and distinctly and legibly printed—

(**a**) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)