1985 No. 319

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Weighing Equipment (Beltweighers) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1985

Made . . . . . *15th November 1985*

Coming into operation . . . *20th December 1985*

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SCHEDULE 1 — Testing.
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The Department of Economic Development, in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 9(1) and (3), 10(6) 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 and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Weighing Equipment (Beltweighers) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1985 and shall come into operation on 20th December 1985.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

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

"authorisation" means an authorisation of modifications as referred to in Article 11(5)(*b*) of the Order;

"automatic weighing machine" means a machine which accomplishes a weighing operation without intervention by an operator and which sets in motion an automatic process characteristic of the machine;

"automatic zero-setting device" means a device which allows the setting to zero of the beltweigher, without intervention by an operator, after the belt has been operating empty over a whole number of revolutions;

"ballast" means any of the materials to which the expression "ballast" applies in Schedule 4 to the Order;

"belt conveyor" means a device, being part of the beltweigher which, by means of a belt resting on rollers turning about their axes, conveys material;

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

"belt displacement transducer" means a device on the belt conveyor which supplies information either corresponding to the displacement of a defined length of the belt or proportional to the speed of the belt;

"beltweigher" means weighing equipment of the belt conveyor type, that is to say, a continuous totalising automatic weighing machine which determines the mass of material in bulk without systematic subdivision thereof, by using the action of gravity on the material, the movement of the belt being uninterrupted;

"certificate of approval" means a certificate of approval of a pattern of weighing equipment granted or renewed by the Department of Economic Development under Article 10 of the Order or any instrument having effect under Article 11(5) of the Order as if it were a certificate of approval so granted on 4th April 1979 or a certificate of approval of a pattern of weighing equipment deemed under Article 10(8) of the Order to have been granted and published under the provisions of the said Article 10;

"Class I beltweigher" means any beltweigher which is not a Class II beltweigher;

"Class II beltweigher" means any beltweigher which is marked as such on its descriptive plate or elsewhere on the beltweigher;

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

"mark of EEC initial verification" means the mark described in paragraph 5 of Schedule 1 to the Measuring Instruments (EEC Requirements) Regulations 1980(**a**);

"material testing" means the testing of the beltweigher by loading suitable material on the belt;

"material test load" means a load of suitable material used for material testing;

"maximum capacity of the weighing unit" means the maximum instantaneous net load which the weighing unit is constructed to weigh;

"maximum rate of flow" means the flowrate obtained by multiplying the maximum speed of the belt by the maximum capacity of the weighing unit, then dividing the product by the length of belt supported by the weighing unit;

"maximum speed" means the speed at which the belt will normally operate when empty;

"minimum rate of flow", when marked on the descriptive plate or elsewhere on the beltweigher, means the lowest rate of flow at which the beltweigher is designed to operate and, when not so marked, means 20% of the maximum rate of flow;

"minimum totalised load" means the smallest load which the beltweigher is designed to weigh;

"nominal speed" means the speed at which the belt conveyor is designed to convey material;

"non-automatic zero-setting device" means a device which allows an operator to observe, alter and then check the setting to zero of the beltweigher;

"notice of examination" means a notice caused to be published by the Secretary of State(**b**) in pursuance of section 12(1) of the Weights and Measures Act 1963(**c**) giving particulars of a pattern in respect of which a certificate of approval has been granted;

(**a**) S.I. 1980/1058
(**b**) By virtue of S.I. 1970/1537
(**c**) 1963 c. 31. This Act was amended by the Weights and Measures &c. Act 1976 (c. 77) and the Weights and Measures Act 1979 (c. 45)

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

"prescribed limits of error" has the meaning set out in Regulation 20;

"semi-automatic zero-setting device" means a device which, following a manual command, allows the automatic setting to zero of the beltweigher or indicates the value by which it is necessary to adjust the zero-setting;

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

"totalisation device" means a device which carries out the addition of partial loads, or the integration with respect to time of the product of the load per unit length and the speed of the belt, from information supplied by the weighing unit and the belt displacement transducer;

"totalisation indicating device" means a device which receives information from the totalisation device and indicates the mass of the load conveyed by the beltweigher;

"totalisation scale interval" means the value expressed in units of measurement of mass equal to, in the case of an analogue indication, the smallest subdivision of the scale of the totalisation indicating device, or, in the case of a digital indication, the difference between two consecutive values indicated by that device;

"weighing unit" means a device which provides information on the mass of the load being weighed by the beltweigher; and

"zero totalisation indicating device" means a device associated with but separate from the totalisation indicating device fitted to an automatic, semi-automatic or non-automatic zero-setting device and allowing zero-setting to be checked when the belt is not loaded.

(2) The abbreviations of, and symbols for, units of measurement used in these Regulations refer to the relevant units as follows:—

gramme	g
hundredweight	cwt
kilogramme	kilog or kg
pound	lb
quarter	qr
tonne	t

Application of Regulations and prescription of beltweighers

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), these Regulations apply to beltweighers for use for trade which do not bear the mark of EEC initial verification.

(2) These Regulations do not apply to beltweighers which are designed to operate at more than one belt speed.

(3) Beltweighers to which these Regulations apply are hereby prescribed for the purposes of Article 9(1) of the Order.

Amendment of the Weights and Measures Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967

4. After sub-paragraph (*g*) of Regulation 3(2) of the Weights and Measures Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967(**b**) there shall be added the following sub-paragraph:—

"(*h*) beltweighers to which the Weighing Equipment (Beltweighers) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1985 apply.".

(**a**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1969 No. 11
(**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1967 No. 237 as amended by S.R. 1979 No. 436 and S.R. 1984 No. 85

Purposes of use

5.—(1) A person shall not use a beltweigher except for the purpose of measuring quantities of material the values of which expressed in units of measurement of mass are not less than the value of the minimum totalised load.

(2) A person shall not use a Class II beltweigher for the purpose of weighing any material other than ballast.

PART II

MATERIALS AND PRINCIPLES OF CONSTRUCTION AND MARKING

Construction of beltweighers with removable parts

6. Every beltweigher which has removable parts, the removal of which would affect its accuracy, shall be so constructed that it cannot be used if any of the said parts are removed.

Accuracy of beltweighers with interchangeable or reversible parts

7. Where a beltweigher has interchangeable or reversible parts, the interchange or reversal thereof shall not affect its accuracy.

Approved patterns, marking and construction

8.—(1) Every beltweigher shall be made in accordance with a pattern in respect of which a certificate of approval is in force.

(2) The marking of a beltweigher as a Class II beltweigher after it has been made in accordance with such a pattern shall not in itself be a breach of paragraph (1).

(3) The marking of the minimum totalised load on a beltweigher after it has been made in accordance with such a pattern shall not in itself be a breach of paragraph (1).

(4) The constituent parts of a beltweigher shall be sufficiently strong to withstand the wear and tear of ordinary use in trade.

Uniformity of belts

9.—(1) The mass per unit length of the belt of every beltweigher shall be virtually constant.

(2) There shall not be any joint in the belt which causes any disturbance in the operation of the beltweigher.

Zero totalisation indicating devices

10.—(1) The scale interval of every zero totalisation indicating device shall not exceed the greater of the following, that is to say, the scale interval of its associated totalisation indicating device, and the appropriate limit mentioned in paragraph (2).

(2) The appropriate limit referred to in paragraph (1) is—

(*a*) in the case of a Class I beltweigher with:

(i) an analogue scale interval, 1/20,000 of the load which would be passed in one hour over the weighing unit at the maximum rate of flow;

(ii) a digital scale interval, 1/40,000 of the load which would be passed in one hour over the weighing unit at the maximum rate of flow;

(*b*) in the case of a Class II beltweigher with:

(i) an analogue scale interval, 1/10,000 of the load which would be passed in one hour over the weighing unit at the maximum rate of flow;

(ii) a digital scale interval, 1/20,000 of the load which would be passed in one hour over the weighing unit at the maximum rate of flow.