**1984 No. 283**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**Factories Act (Metrication) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984**

*Made . . . . . 8th August 1984*

*Coming into operation . . . 24th September 1984*

The Department of Economic Development being the Department concerned(a) in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 17(1) and (3)(*a*), 45 and 55(2) of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978(b) (''the Order of 1978'') and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, after consultation with the Health and Safety Agency for Northern Ireland and such other bodies as appear to it to be appropriate, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

*Citation and commencement*

**1.** These Regulations may be cited as the Factories Act (Metrication) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984 and shall come into operation on 24th September 1984.

*Amendment of section 20(1) of the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 to alter standards of safety*

**2.** Section 20(1) of the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965(c) (which relates to self-acting machines) shall be amended by substituting for the measurement ''eighteen inches'' the measurement ''500 millimetres''.

*Substitution of metric measurements for imperial in the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965*

**3.**—(1) The provisions of the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 shall be amended by substituting for the measurements set out opposite thereto in column 3 the measurements set out in the corresponding entry in column 4.

(2) In section 176(1) of the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 the words ' ''degrees'' means degrees Fahrenheit' shall be omitted.

(3) For Schedule 1 to the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 there shall be substituted Schedule 2.

*Application to existing premises and plant or premises and plant under construction*

**4.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) where any premises or plant in existence or under construction immediately before the coming into operation of these Regulations complied with the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 as then in force, then those premises or that plant shall be deemed to comply with that Act as amended by these Regulations.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), sections 3(2), 67(4) and (8) of, Schedule 1 to, the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 as amended by these Regulations shall apply in all relevant workrooms whether or not in existence or under construction immediately before the coming into operation of these Regulations, but nothing in this paragraph shall prevent the use of thermometers graduated in degrees Fahrenheit

(a) *See* Article 2(2) of S.I. 1978/1039 (N.I. 9)
(b) S.I. 1978/1039 (N.I. 9)
(c) 1965 c. 20 (N.I.)

in workrooms under construction or in existence immediately before the coming into operation of these Regulations if such thermometers are provided with suitable conversion tables to convert their readings to degrees Celsius.

*Amendments to the Abstract of Factories Act (Northern Ireland) Order 1969*

**5.**—(1) The provisions of the Abstract of Factories Act (Northern Ireland) Order 1969(**a**) specified in column 1 of Schedule 3 shall be amended by substituting for the measurements set out opposite thereto in column 3 the measurements set out in the corresponding entry in column 4.

(2) After paragraph 56 of the Schedule to the Abstract of Factories Act (Northern Ireland) Order 1969 there shall be added the following paragraph—

57. *Metrication:* Where any premises or plant in existence or under construction immediately before the coming into operation of the Factories Act (Metrication) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984 complied with the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 as then in force, then those premises or that plant shall be deemed to comply with that Act as amended by those Regulations except that section 3(2) of the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 as likewise amended and which is referred to in paragraph 3 shall apply to all relevant workrooms whether or not in existence or under construction immediately before the coming into operation of these Regulations.

*Amendment to the Factories (Extension of Fire Certification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967*

**6.** The provisions of the Factories (Extension of Fire Certification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967(**b**) specified in column 1 of Schedule 4 shall be amended by substituting for the measurement set out opposite thereto in column 3 the measurements set out in the corresponding entry in column 4.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Economic Development for Northern Ireland on 8th August 1984.

(L.S.)

*Ian W. McMurtry*
Assistant Secretary

(**a**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1969 No. 46
(**b**) S. R. & O.(N.I.) 1967 No. 48

SCHEDULE 1

**Amendments to the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965**

Regulation 3(1)

| (1) *Provision to be amended* | (2) *Subject matter of measurement* | (3) *Present measurement* | (4) *Measurement to be substituted* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Section 2(2) | Minimum amount of cubic space per person employed in a workroom | Four hundred cubic feet | 11 cubic metres |
| Section 2(5) | Maximum height from floor to be taken into account when calculating cubic space | Fourteen feet | 4.2 metres |
| Section 3(2) | Minimum temperature of workroom after the first hour | Sixty degrees | 16 degrees Celsius |
| Section 19(1) | Minimum height of edge of fixed vessel, structure, sump or pit containing scalding, corrosive or poisonous liquid which need not be covered or fenced | Three feet | 920 millimetres |
| | Minimum height of secure fencing to surround the vessel, structure, sump or pit etc. | Three feet | 920 millimetres |
| Section 19(2)(*a*) | Minimum width of ladder, stair or gangway placed above, across or inside any vessel, structure, sump etc. | Eighteen inches | 460 millimetres |
| Section 19(2)(*b*) | Minimum height of fencing on either side of ladder, stair or gangway | Three feet | 920 millimetres |
| Section 19(3) | Passage between adjoining vessels etc. to be barred unless there is | | |
| | (a) minimum space between vessels, | Eighteen inches | 460 millimetres |
| | or | | |
| | (b) minimum height of secure fencing | Three feet | 920 millimetres |
| Section 20(1) | Minimum distance between traversing carriage of any self-acting spinning mule and any part of the head stock of another such machine | Twelve inches | 310 millimetres |
| Section 27(1)(*f*) | Maximum thickness of chains or slings to be annealed every six months | Half-inch | 13 millimetres |
| Section 28(7) | Minimum distance between overhead travelling crane and person working on or near its wheel track | Twenty feet | 6 metres |