1981 No. 352

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Safety Signs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981

Made	*30th October 1981*
Coming into operation	
for the purposes of new signs	*1st February 1982*
for all other purposes	*1st January 1986*

The Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, the Department of the Environment, the Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Manpower Services, acting jointly as the Department concerned(**a**), in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 17(1), (2) and (6)(*a*) and 55(2) of, and paragraph 1(1)(*c*) and (3) of Schedule 3 to the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978(**b**) and of every other power enabling them in that behalf, after consultation with the Health and Safety Agency for Northern Ireland and such other bodies as appeared to them to be appropriate, hereby make the following regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Safety Signs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981 and shall come into operation on 1st February 1982 for the purposes of new signs and colours and on 1st January 1986 for all other purposes; in this regulation "new signs and colours" means any sign or colour erected or placed on or after 1st February 1982.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

"the Order of 1978" means the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978;

"mine" means a mine within the meaning of section 156 of the Mines Act (Northern Ireland) 1969(**c**);

"Part 1 of BS 5378" means Standard number BS 5378: Part 1: 1980 entitled "Safety signs and colours. Part 1 Specification for colour and design" issued by the British Standards Institution, as published on 31st July 1980(**d**);

"safety sign" means a sign combining geometrical shape, colour and pictorial symbol to provide specific health or safety information or instruction (whether or not any text is also included);

"vessel" means a craft which is capable of travelling in or on water.

Safety signs and colours

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (4), a safety sign (including any colour on it) giving health or safety information or instruction to persons at work shall comply with Part 1 of BS 5378; but nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as requiring compliance with other standards referred to in that Part or with any other Part of BS 5378.

(**a**) *See* Article 2(2) of S.I. 1978/1039 (N.I. 9)
(**b**) S.I. 1978/1039 (N.I. 9)
(**c**) 1969 c. 6 (N.I.)
(**d**) Obtainable from the British Institution, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9ND

(2) Subject to paragraph (4), where a place at which there is a danger to the health or safety of persons at work is identified by a strip of alternate colours, those colours (including the proportion of each colour) shall comply with Part 1 of BS 5378.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), a sign specified in appendix A of Part 1 of BS 5378 shall not be used at—

(*a*) any place of work, or

(*b*) any premises to which Article 6 of the Order of 1978 applies (which Article relates to non-domestic premises made available to persons as a place of work or as a place where they may use plant or substances provided for their use there),

except to provide the health or safety information or instruction specified beside it in that appendix.

(4) The preceding paragraphs shall not apply to—

(*a*) any sign or colour—

(i) for regulating rail, road, inland waterway, marine or air traffic (including pedestrians in relation to such traffic), or

(ii) which is in such proximity to such traffic that it might be confused with a sign or colour to which head (i) applies, or

(iii) relating to any load caried by such traffic, or

(iv) on an aircraft or hovercraft, or

(v) on a vessel;

(*b*) any sign or colour at a mine which is a coal mine or at any premises on which there is an active tip or a closed tip within the meaning of section 128 of the Mines Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 and which is associated with a coal mine;

(*c*) any sign or colour relating to fire fighting or rescue equipment or emergency exits;

(*d*) any label or marking on a package or container;

(*e*) any label or marking on an explosive article;

(*f*) any sign, colour, label or marking, as the case may be, used in simulating for training purposes any circumstances in which any of the preceding sub-paragraphs apply;

(*g*) any use of an emblem or design authorised for the time being under section 6 of the Geneva Conventions Act 1957(**a**).

Internal works traffic

4.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), where at a place of work or at any premises to which Article 6 of the Order of 1978 applies a sign is used for regulating traffic on land (including pedestrians in relation to such traffic) in circumstances in which the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(**b**) does not apply, then, if there is an appropriate traffic sign described in regulations made under that Order, that sign shall be used; in this paragraph "traffic" does not include rail traffic.

(2) This regulation shall not apply at a mine which is a coal mine or at any premises on which there is an active tip or a closed tip within the meaning of section 128 of the Mines Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 and which is associated with a coal mine.

(**a**) 1957 c. 52
(**b**) S.I. 1981/154 (N.I. 1)