1977 No. 137

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1977

Made . . . . . 18*th May* 1977

Coming into operation in accordance with the provisions of Regulation 1

To be laid before Parliament under paragraph 3(3) *of Schedule* 1 *to the Northern Ireland Act* 1974

The Department of Commerce, after consultation with such persons and bodies of persons as appear to it to be requisite, in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 1 and 2(4) and (5) of, and paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Schedule to, the Consumer Protection Act (Northern Ireland) 1965(**a**) and now vested in it(**b**), and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1977 and shall come into operation on 1st July 1977 in relation to goods sold, or in the possession of any person for the purpose of being sold, by the manufacturer or importer into Northern Ireland of those goods and, subject to that, shall come into operation on 1st October 1977.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

"the Act" means the Consumer Protection Act (Northern Ireland) 1965;

"British Standard 52" means the British Standard Specification for bayonet lamp-caps, lampholders and B.C. adaptors (lampholder plugs) for voltages not exceeding 250 volts BS 52: 1963, published on 30th November 1963, as amended by Amendment Slips Nos. 1, 2 and 3 published respectively, on 7th September 1964, 29th April 1966 and 28th December 1966;

"British Standard 546" means the British Standard Specification for two-pole and earthing-pin plugs, socket-outlets and socket-outlet adaptors for circuits up to 250 volts BS 546: 1950, published on 16th March 1950, as amended by Amendment Slips Nos. 1, 2, and 3 published, respectively, in December 1953, November 1961 and May 1969;

"British Standard 3456" followed by a reference to a numbered Section means Part 1 (General Requirements) of the British Standard Specification for testing and approval of household electrical appliances British Standard 3456: 1969 published on 31st December 1969, as applied and modified by the Section so numbered of Part 2 of the Specification, being that Section as published, and, where indicated, as amended on the date or dates shown in relation thereto;

(**a**) 1965 c. 14 (N.I.)
(**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 504 Article 5(*c*) (II, p. 2992)

"British Standard 4647" means the British Standard Specification for lighting sets for Christmas trees and decorative purposes for indoor use BS 4647: 1970, published on 30th October 1970;

"British Standard 6500" means the British Standard Specification for insulated flexible cords BS 6500: 1969, published on 29th August 1969, as amended by Amendment Slips Nos. 1, 2 and 3 published, respectively, on 16th March 1972, 11th May 1973 and 17th April 1974;

"in use" in relation to any equipment means in use when properly assembled, installed and maintained and when being used with proper care having regard to the purpose for which the equipment is intended.

(2) For the purposes of these Regulations, where any British Standard or section thereof mentioned in these Regulations specifies relevant requirements by reference to another British Standard Specification that reference is to be construed as a reference to that other Specification as it has effect at the date on which these Regulations are made.

(3) Any reference in these Regulations to an electric shock is a reference to an electric shock of such severity as to be liable to cause personal injury.

Application

3.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), these Regulations shall apply to any electrical equipment (including any electrical apparatus, device or component part) designed or suitable for domestic use (whether indoors or out-of-doors) at a voltage (in the case of an alternating current) of not less than 50 volts nor more than 500 volts or (in the case of a direct current) of not less than 75 volts nor more than 750 volts.

(2) These Regulations shall not apply to any electric blanket within the meaning of the Electric Blankets (Safety) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1972(c).

(3) These Regulations shall not apply to component parts intended for the replacement of parts in the course of repair of any equipment to which these Regulations apply which previously to the imposition of the relevant requirements contained in these Regulations has been disposed of by retail but nothing hereinbefore contained shall preclude the application of these Regulations to any component parts intended for the reconditioning of any such equipment for subsequent resale.

Basic insulation

4. Any part of any equipment to which these Regulations apply which is intended to be electrified shall be so insulated or isolated as not to be liable, when the equipment is in use, to electrify any part of the equipment not intended to be electrified, and the insulation or isolation required by this Regulation is hereinafter referred to as "basic insulation".

Insulation and earthing of non-electrified parts

5.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), and Regulation 7, where any equipment to which these Regulations apply, other than filament, discharge and tubular fluorescent lights, has any parts not intended to be electrified and capable of being touched by hand, or with a finger, without something first being done to the equipment which requires the use of tools, then either—

(*a*) those parts shall be separated from parts intended to be electrified—

(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 69 (p. 246)

(i) by sufficient additional or supplementary insulation (whether or not formed of the material of which the part not intended to be electrified is made) to ensure protection against an electric shock in the event of failure of basic insulation, or

(ii) by metal parts with adequate provision for earthing; or

(*b*) where the parts capable of being so touched are made of metal adequate provision for earthing those parts shall be incorporated.

(2) Where any equipment referred to in this paragraph does not comply with paragraph (1) by reason only that it is fitted with cords which incorporate basic insulation only, those cords shall not—

(*a*) in the case of equipment designed for the illumination of Christmas trees, be required to comply with paragraph (1) if the cords conform to the requirements of British Standard 4647 as to the minimum thickness of insulation and cross sectional area of the conductors;

(*b*) in the case of equipment specified in column 1 of Table 1, be required to comply with paragraph (1) if the cords are flexible flat twin cords which conform to the requirements as to minimum thickness of insulation and cross sectional area of the conductors in the British Standard specified in column 2 of that Table in relation to that equipment;

TABLE 1

Column 1	Column 2
Shavers, hair clippers and similar appliances.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.5: 1970, published on 14th August 1970 as amended by Amendment Slip No. 1 published on 16th November 1973.
Clocks.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.16: 1971, published on 30th July 1971.
Hand-held massage appliances which have an input of 0.5 amperes or less at full load.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.18: 1970, published on 14th August 1970.
Hand-held appliances for skin and hair treatment which have an input of 3 amperes or less at full load.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.31: 1973, published on 8th October 1973.
Hand-held appliances in respect of which no particular requirements in British Standard 3456 have been published before the date of making of these Regulations and which have an input of 0.5 amperes or less at full load.	British Standard 6500.

(*c*) in the case of equipment specified in column 1 of Table 2, if the cords are flexible flat twin cords which conform to the requirements as to minimum thickness of insulation and cross sectional area of conductors in the British Standard specified in column 2 of that Table in relation to that equipment, be required to comply with paragraph (1) until 1st

October 1977 if the equipment is sold, or in possession of any person for the purpose of being sold, by the manufacturer of the equipment or the importer into Northern Ireland of it, and until 1st October 1978 if it is sold, or in possession of any person for the purpose of being sold, by some person other than such manufacturer or importer;

TABLE 2

Column 1	Column 2
Electric heaters for baby feeding bottles.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.15: 1970, published on 19th March 1970.
Massage appliances (not intended to be hand-held).	British Standard 3456: Section 2.18: 1970, published on 14th August 1970.
Ventilating fans.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.29: 1971, published on 4th February 1971.
Appliances for skin and hair treatment, not intended to be hand-held and having an input of 3 amperes or less at full load.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.31: 1973, published on 8th October 1973.
Lighting fittings.	British Standard 6500.

(3) Where any equipment does not comply with paragraph (1) by reason only that it is fitted with rubber-insulated and braided cord which incorporates basic insulation only, that cord shall not be required to comply with paragraph (1) if the thickness of the basic insulation round each conductor conforms to that specified in Table 4 or Table 5 of British Standard 6500.

(4) Lighting fittings which fail to comply with paragraph (1) by reason only that the fittings incorporate a cover which can be moved without something first being done to the fittings which requires the use of tools and movement of which permits access to the basic insulation of parts intended to be electrified, shall be deemed to comply with this Regulation if, when the cover is in the closed position, every metal part (including the cover if of metal) which can be touched by hand or with a finger, is adequately earthed.

This paragraph shall not apply to portable lighting fittings—

(*a*) which are sold, or in possession of any person for the purpose of being sold, by the manufacturer or importer into Northern Ireland after 1st October 1977;

(*b*) which are sold, or in possession for the purpose of being sold, by any other person after 1st October 1978.

Prevention of access to electrified parts

6.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2), (3), (4) and (5) and Regulation 7, where any part of equipment to which these Regulations apply which is intended to be electrified is capable of causing an electric shock to a person touching it, the equipment shall be so designed that that part is not capable of being touched by hand, or with a finger, without something first being done to the equipment which requires the use of tools.