1962. No. 244 **[C]**

ATOMIC ENERGY AND RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

The Radioactive Substances (Uranium and Thorium) Exemption Order (Northern Ireland), 1962

ORDER, DATED 21ST DECEMBER, 1962, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNDER SECTIONS 2(6) AND (7), 6(5) AND 7(4) OF THE RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES ACT, 1960.

The Ministry of Health and Local Government, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Sections 2(6) and (7), 6(5) and 7(4) of the Radioactive Substances Act, 1960(a), 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 (Uranium and Thorium) Exemption Order (Northern Ireland), 1962, and shall come into operation on the 1st day of December, 1963.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In this Order—

"the Act" means the Radioactive Substances Act, 1960;

"decay products" means, in relation to any radionuclide, the radionuclides succeeding it in the radioactive series in which it and they occur;

"hardener alloy" means an alloy of magnesium falling within Article 4(*a*)(ii) and containing by weight more than four per cent. of natural thorium;

"magnesium alloy" means an alloy of magnesium falling within Article 4(*a*)(ii) and containing by weight four per cent. or less of natural thorium;

"month" means any period of four consecutive weeks;

"natural thorium" means a mixture of thorium extracted by a chemical process or processes the purpose or one of the purposes of which was the production of thorium, and decay products of thorium, being a mixture in which—

(*a*) the number of microcuries of thorium giving rise to the emission of alpha particles does not exceed 1·7 per gramme of thorium; and

(*b*) the number of microcuries of any of the decay products of thorium 232 does not exceed the number of microcuries of thorium 232 and the number of microcuries of any of the decay products of thorium 230 does not exceed the number of microcuries of thorium 230; and

(*c*) the decay products of isotopes of thorium consist of the remainder (if any) of the decay products present with those isotopes at the time the thorium was extracted and the decay products formed since that time through radioactive decay occurring in the mixture;

"natural uranium" means a mixture of uranium extracted by a chemical process or processes the purpose or one of the purposes of which was the

(a) 8 & 9 Eliz. 2, c. 34.

production of uranium, and decay products of uranium, being a mixture in which—

(*a*) the uranium comprises the isotopes 238, 235 and 234 and contains by weight not more than 0·72 per cent. of the isotope 235; and

(*b*) the number of microcuries of any of the decay products of uranium 238 does not exceed the number of microcuries of uranium 238, and the number of microcuries of any of the decay products of uranium 235 does not exceed the number of microcuries of uranium 235; and

(*c*) the decay products (other than uranium 234) of isotopes of uranium consist of the remainder (if any) of the decay products present with those isotopes at the time the uranium was extracted and the decay products formed since that time through radioactive decay occurring in the mixture;

"refuse disposal authority" means a local authority within the meaning of the Public Health Acts (Northern Ireland), 1878 to 1962, acting in pursuance of statutory powers or duties relating to the removal and disposal of refuse;

"the Schedule 3 elements" means the elements specified in column 1 of Schedule 3 to the Act;

"thoria ware" means fired ceramic and refractory articles made wholly or substantially of thorium dioxide;

"thoriated tungsten" means thoriated tungsten falling within Article 4(*a*)(ii) and containing by weight four per cent. or less of natural thorium;

"weight" means weight ascertained by weighing or, where it is not reasonably practicable to ascertain weight by weighing, weight as calculated by any generally accepted method;

and any reference to an exempted substance or article is a reference to a substance or article falling within Article 4.

(2) For the purposes of paragraphs (*a*) and (*b*) of Article 6 and paragraphs (2) and (3) of Article 7, all premises in the same occupation and lying within the same curtilage shall together be treated as the premises in respect of which the conditions in those paragraphs apply.

(3) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland), 1954(**a**), applies to the interpretation of this Order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland.

3. Subject to the provisions of Articles 5 and 6, any person who, on any premises which are used for the purposes of any undertaking carried on by him, keeps or uses or causes or permits to be kept or used any radioactive material to which this Article applies is hereby granted exemption from registration under Section 1 of the Act (which provides for the registration of persons who keep or use radioactive material) in respect of those premises and the keeping and use thereon of that radioactive material.

Descriptions of radioactive material to which exemption relates

4. Article 3 applies to radioactive material falling within any of the following descriptions,—

(*a*) a solid or liquid substance which—

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