EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These regulations amend those provisions of the National Insurance (Unemployment and Sickness Benefit) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948, which relate to the substitution, for the purposes of unemployment and sickness benefit, of a day for Sunday, and those provisions which, for those purposes, apply in relation to night-workers; and they provide for a relaxation, in certain cases, of the condition (imposed by section 4(1) of the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland), 1957, in relation to a person who is employed in any employed contributor's employment which has not been terminated) with respect to the treatment, as a day of unemployment, of a day on which in the normal course such a person would not work. They also make provision as to the weekly rate of an increase of unemployment benefit or sickness benefit for a person over pensionable age.

REGULATIONS, DATED 15TH NOVEMBER, 1957, MADE BY THE NATIONAL INSURANCE JOINT AUTHORITY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, UNDER THE NATIONAL INSURANCE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1946.

1957. No. 234. [C]

The National Insurance Joint Authority, in conjunction with the Ministry of Finance so far as relates to matters with regard to which the Ministry of Finance has so directed, in exercise of powers conferred by sections 9(3), 10(3) and 23(2) of the National Insurance Act (Northern Ireland), 1946(a), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following regulations:—

Citation, interpretation and commencement

1. These regulations, which may be cited as the National Insurance (Unemployment and Sickness Benefit) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1957, shall be read as one with the National Insurance (Unemployment and Sickness Benefit) Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1948(b), (hereinafter referred to as "the principal regulations") and shall come into operation on the 18th November, 1957.

Regulation substituted for regulation 2 of the principal regulations

2. As from the 17th February, 1958, for regulation 2 of the principal regulations (which relates to contributions treated as equivalent to contributions of the appropriate class), there shall be substituted the following regulation:—

(a) 1946. c. 23.
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1948. No. 248 as amended by S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1949. No. 197; S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1953. No. 123; S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1954. No. 22; S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1955. No. 7; S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1955. No. 19; S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1956. No. 32.

Contributions treated as equivalent to contributions of the appropriate class

"2. Where a person makes a claim for unemployment benefit or for sickness benefit for a day which forms part of a period of interruption of employment, the following provisions of this regulation shall apply in relation to the claimant and, for the purposes of those provisions, the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them—

"appropriate week" means a contribution week in respect of which a contribution as an employed person or as a self-employed person does not, by virtue of any other provision of the regulations made under the Act, fall to be credited to the claimant;

"relevant contribution year" means the last complete contribution year before the benefit year which includes the day for which benefit is claimed;

"relevant period" means the period beginning with the first day of the relevant contribution year and ending immediately before the contribution week which includes the day for which benefit is claimed:—

(1) If, in respect of the relevant contribution year, there have been paid by or credited to the claimant not less than thirty-nine contributions of the appropriate class, every contribution as an insured person which is not a contribution of the appropriate class and has been paid by or credited to the claimant in respect of the relevant contribution year shall, for the purpose of his right to the benefit claimed for the day in question, be treated as equivalent to a contribution of the appropriate class.

(2) If, in respect of appropriate weeks in the relevant period or (in a case where the number of appropriate weeks in the relevant period exceeds thirty-nine) in respect of the last thirty-nine appropriate weeks in the relevant period, the claimant has paid not less than twenty-six contributions as an employed person, every contribution as a self-employed or non-employed person paid by or credited to the claimant in respect of a contribution week in the relevant contribution year shall be treated as equivalent to a contribution as an employed person for the purpose of his satisfying the contribution condition set out in sub-paragraph (*b*) of paragraph (1) of the Third Schedule to the Act (which paragraph sets out the contribution conditions for unemployment and sickness benefit) whether in relation to the benefit claimed for the day in question or in relation to any benefit of the same description claimed by the claimant for any later day in the benefit year which includes the day in question.

(3) If the claim is a claim for sickness benefit and, in respect of appropriate weeks in the relevant period or (in a case where the number of appropriate weeks