

## 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

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(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) <i>Provision to be amended</i>	(2) <i>Subject matter of measurement</i>	(3) <i>Present measurement</i>	(4) <i>Measurement to be substituted</i>
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
Section 19(2)(a)	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

(1) <i>Provision to be amended</i>	(2) <i>Subject matter of measurement</i>	(3) <i>Present measurement</i>	(4) <i>Measurement to be substituted</i>
Section 30(2)	Distance which person will be liable to fall	Six feet six inches	2 metres
Section 31(2)	Minimum length of manhole (if rectangular or oval) in any chamber, tank, vat etc.	Eighteen inches	460 millimetres
	Minimum width of manhole (if rectangular or oval)	Sixteen inches	410 millimetres
	Minimum diameter of manhole (if circular)	Eighteen inches	460 millimetres
	Minimum length of manhole (if rectangular or oval) in any tank wagon and other mobile plant	Sixteen inches	410 millimetres
	Minimum width of manhole (if rectangular or oval)	Fourteen inches	360 millimetres
	Minimum diameter of manhole (if circular)	Sixteen inches	410 millimetres
Section 40(7)	Storage capacity of water-sealed gasholder	Five thousand cubic feet	140 cubic metres
Section 45(c)	Minimum height above the ground level	Twenty feet	6 metres
Section 49(1)	Minimum height above ground level	Twenty feet	6 metres
Section 67(4)	Wet bulb temperature reading above which artificial humidification is prohibited	Seventy-two and a half degrees	22.5 degrees Celsius
	Wet bulb temperature reading above which artificial humidification is prohibited when spinning cotton or spinning merino or cashmere by the French or dry process or spinning or combing wool by that process	Eighty degrees	26.5 degrees Celsius
Section 67(6)	Temperature of water absorbing oxygen from permanganate of potash solution	Sixty degrees	16 degrees Celsius
	Ratio of water to oxygen absorbed	Half a grain per gallon of water	7 milligrams per litre of water
Section 67(8)	Minimum difference in readings of the wet and dry bulb thermometers	Four degrees	2 degrees Celsius
Section 175(2)(n)	Storage capacity of gasholder	Five thousand cubic feet	140 cubic metres

SCHEDULE 2 Regulation 3(3)  
(replacement of Schedule 1 to the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965)

Section 67

SCHEDULE 1

Table of Humidity

I Dry Bulb Temperature Degrees Celsius	II Wet Bulb Temperature Degrees Celsius
10	9
11	10
12	11
13	12
14	13
15	14
16	15
17	16
18	17
19	18
20	19
21	20
22	20.5
23	21
24	22
25	22.5
26	23.5
27	24
28	25
29	26
30	26.5

## SCHEDULE 3

Regulation 5(1)

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

(1) <i>Provision to be amended</i>	(2) <i>Subject matter of measurement</i>	(3) <i>Present measurement</i>	(4) <i>Measurement to be substituted</i>
Schedule Paragraph 2	Minimum amount of cubic space per person employed in a workroom	Four hundred cubic feet	11 cubic metres
	Maximum height from floor to be taken into account when calculating cubic space	Fourteen feet	4.2 metres
Paragraph 3	Minimum temperature of workroom after the first hour	60°F	16 degrees Celsius
Paragraph 16	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 width of ladder, stair or gangway placed above, across or inside any vessel, structure, sump etc.	18 inches	460 millimetres
	Minimum height of secure fencing to ladder, stair or gangway	Three feet	920 millimetres
	Passage between vessels etc to be barred unless there is		
	(a) minimum space between vessels,	18 inches	460 millimetres
	or (b) minimum height of secure fencing	Three feet	920 millimetres
Paragraph 25	Minimum distance between overhead travelling crane and person working near its wheel track	20 feet	6 metres
Paragraph 27	Distance which person will be liable to fall	Six feet six inches	2 metres
Paragraph 32	Minimum height above ground level	20 feet	6 metres

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

(1) <i>Provision to be amended</i>	(2) <i>Subject matter of measurement</i>	(3) <i>Present measurement</i>	(4) <i>Measurement to be substituted</i>
Regulation 3(c)(ii)	Minimum height above ground level	20 feet	6 metres

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations amend the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 ("the 1965 Act") by substituting amounts or quantities expressed in metric units for amounts or quantities not so expressed. The substituted amounts preserve the effect of the original provisions except to the extent necessary to obtain amounts expressed in suitable and convenient terms, save that, by Regulation 2, section 20(1) of the Act (which relates to self-acting machines) is amended to improve standards of safety.

Regulation 4 provides that the amendments do not relate to premises or plant in existence or under construction immediately before the coming into operation of these Regulations if those premises or that plant complied with the then existing requirements, except that the amendments to sections 3(2), 67(4) and (8) of and Schedule 1 to the 1965 Act (which relate to the temperature and humidity of certain workrooms) shall apply to those workrooms whether or not in existence or under construction immediately before coming into operation of these Regulations.

The Abstract of Factories Act (Northern Ireland) Order 1969 which prescribes the abstract of the 1965 Act which must be posted in factories and the Factories (Extension of Fire Certification) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967 which extends section 41 of the 1965 Act are also amended by substituting metric for non-metric units.