



Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (repealed)

1975 CHAPTER 65

PART VI

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION

Codes of practice

56A Codes of practice.

- (1) The Commission may issue codes of practice containing such practical guidance as the Commission think fit for either or both of the following purposes, namely—
 - (a) the elimination of discrimination in the field of employment;
 - (b) the promotion of equality of opportunity in that field between men and women.
- (2) When the Commission propose to issue a code of practice, they shall prepare and publish a draft of that code, shall consider any representations made to them about the draft and may modify the draft accordingly.
- (3) In the course of preparing any draft code of practice for eventual publication under subsection (2) the Commission shall consult with—
 - (a) such organisations or associations of organisations representative of employers or of workers; and
 - (b) such other organisations, or bodies,as appear to the Commission to be appropriate.
- (4) If the Commission determine to proceed with the draft, they shall transmit the draft to the Secretary of State who shall—
 - (a) if he approves of it, lay it before both Houses of Parliament; and
 - (b) if he does not approve of it, publish details of his reasons for withholding approval.
- (5) If, within the period of forty days beginning with the day on which a copy of a draft code of practice is laid before each House of Parliament, or, if such copies are

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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (repealed), Section 56A. (See end of Document for details)

laid on different days, with the later of the two days, either House so resolves, no further proceedings shall be taken thereon, but without prejudice to the laying before Parliament of a new draft.

- (6) In reckoning the period of forty days referred to in subsection (5), no account shall be taken of any period during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued or during which both Houses are adjourned for more than four days.
- (7) If no such resolution is passed as is referred to in subsection (5), the Commission shall issue the code in the form of the draft and the code shall come into effect on such day as the Secretary of State may by order appoint.
- (8) Without prejudice to section 81(4), an order under subsection (7) may contain such transitional provisions or savings as appear to the Secretary of State to be necessary or expedient in connection with the code of practice thereby brought into operation.
- (9) The Commission may from time to time revise the whole or any part of a code of practice issued under this section and issue that revised code, and subsections (2) to (8) shall apply (with appropriate modifications) to such a revised code as they apply to the first issue of a code.
- (10) A failure on the part of any person to observe any provision of a code of practice shall not of itself render him liable to any proceedings; but in any proceedings under this Act [^{F1}or the ^{M1}Equal Pay Act 1970]before an industrial tribunal any code of practice issued under this section shall be admissible in evidence, and if any provision of such a code appears to the tribunal to be relevant to any question arising in the proceedings it shall be taken into account in determining that question.
- (11) Without prejudice to subsection (1), a code of practice issued under this section may include such practical guidance as the Commission think fit as to what steps it is reasonably practicable for employers to take for the purpose of preventing their employees from doing in the course of their employment acts made unlawful by this Act.

Textual Amendments

F1 Words in s. 56A(10) inserted (30.8.1993) by 1993 c. 19, s. 49(1), **Sch. 7 para.15**; S.I. 1993/1908, art. 2(1), **Sch.1**

Marginal Citations

M1 1970 c. 41.

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