



# Factories Act 1961

1961 CHAPTER 34 9 and 10 Eliz 2

## PART I

### HEALTH (GENERAL PROVISIONS)

[<sup>F1</sup>1] **Cleanliness.**

- (1) Every factory shall be kept in a clean state and free from effluvia arising from any drain, sanitary convenience or nuisance.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of this section,—
  - (a) accumulations of dirt and refuse shall be removed daily by a suitable method from the floors and benches of workrooms, and from the staircases and passages;
  - (b) the floor of every workroom shall be cleaned at least once every week by washing or, if it is effective and suitable, by sweeping or other method.
- (3) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of this section but subject to subsection (4) thereof, the following provisions shall apply as respects all inside walls and partitions and all ceilings or tops of rooms, and all walls, sides and tops of passages and staircases, that is to say,—
  - (a) where they have a smooth impervious surface, they shall at least once in every period of fourteen months be washed with hot water and soap or other suitable detergent or cleaned by such other method as may be approved by the inspector for the district;
  - (b) where they are kept painted in a prescribed manner or varnished, they shall be repainted in a prescribed manner or revarnished at such intervals of not more than seven years as may be prescribed, and shall at least once in every period of fourteen months be washed with hot water and soap or other suitable detergent or cleaned by such other method as may be approved by the inspector for the district;
  - (c) in any other case they shall be kept whitewashed or colourwashed and the whitewashing or colourwashing shall be repeated at least once in every period of fourteen months.

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- (4) Except in a case where the inspector for the district otherwise requires, the provisions of subsection (3) of this section shall not apply to any factory where mechanical power is not used and less than ten persons are employed.
- (5) ..... <sup>F2</sup>]

**Textual Amendments**

**F1** S. 1 repealed (1.1.1993 with respect to certain premises and 1.1.1996 with respect to certain further premises) by S.I. 1992/3004, regs. 1(2)(3), 2, 3, 27(1), **Sch. 2 Pt. I** (with reg. 27(2)).

**F2** Ss. 1(5), 2(4), 3(3), 4(2), 5(2), 7(2), 9, 10, 14(3)(4)(6), 17(3)–(5), 18(5)(6), 25(4), 53–55, 58(2)–(4), 59(2)(3), 62, 66, 70, 71, 72(2), 73(2), 76, 81, 83, 121(7), 122(6), 124(2)(3), 129(1), 134, 137(5), 142, 145, 149, 150, 153(3), 159, 164(3), 174(2), 177, 179, 180(5)(7)(8)(10), 181(2), 182(5)(6), Schs. 3, 4 repealed by S.I. 1974/1941, reg. 7, **Sch. 1**

**[<sup>F3</sup>2 Overcrowding.**

- (1) A factory shall not, while work is carried on, be so overcrowded as to cause risk of injury to the health of the persons employed in it.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of this section but subject to subsection (3) thereof, the number of persons employed at a time in any workroom shall not be such that the amount of cubic space allowed for each is less than [<sup>F4</sup>11 cubic metres]].
- (3) If the chief inspector is satisfied that, owing to the special conditions under which the work is carried on in any workroom in which explosive materials are manufactured or handled, the application of subsection (2) of this section to that workroom would be inappropriate or unnecessary, he may by certificate except the workroom from that subsection subject to any conditions specified in the certificate.
- (4) ..... <sup>F5</sup>
- (5) In calculating for the purposes of this section the amount of cubic space in any room no space more than [<sup>F4</sup>4.2 metres] from the floor shall be taken into account and, where a room contains a gallery, the gallery shall be treated for the purposes of this section as if it were partitioned off from the remainder of the room and formed a separate room.
- (6) Unless the inspector for the district otherwise allows, there shall be posted in the workroom a notice specifying the number of persons who, having regard to the provisions of this section, may be employed in that room.

**Textual Amendments**

**F3** S. 2 repealed (1.1.1993 with respect to certain premises and 1.1.1996 with respect to certain further premises) by S.I. 1992/3004, regs. 1(2)(3), 2, 3, 27(1), **Sch. 2 Pt.I** (with reg. 27(2)).

**F4** Words substituted by S.I. 1983/978, regs. 3, 4, **Sch. 1**

**F5** Ss. 1(5), 2(4), 3(3), 4(2), 5(2), 7(2), 9, 10, 14(3)(4)(6), 17(3)–(5), 18(5)(6), 25(4), 53–55, 58(2)–(4), 59(2)(3), 62, 66, 70, 71, 72(2), 73(2), 76, 81, 83, 121(7), 122(6), 124(2)(3), 129(1), 134, 137(5), 142, 145, 149, 150, 153(3), 159, 164(3), 174(2), 177, 179, 180(5)(7)(8)(10), 181(2), 182(5)(6), Schs. 3, 4 repealed by S.I. 1974/1941, reg. 7, **Sch. 1**

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[<sup>F6</sup>3] **Temperature.**

- (1) Effective provision shall be made for securing and maintaining a reasonable temperature in each workroom, but no method shall be employed which results in the escape into the air of any workroom of any fume of such a character and to such extent as to be likely to be injurious or offensive to persons employed therein.
- (2) In every workroom in which a substantial proportion of the work is done sitting and does not involve serious physical effort a temperature of less than [<sup>F7</sup>16 degrees Celsius]] shall not be deemed, after the first hour, to be a reasonable temperature while work is going on, and at least one thermometer shall be provided and maintained in a suitable position in every such workroom.
- (3) . . . . . <sup>F8</sup>

**Textual Amendments**

- F6** S. 3 repealed (1.1.1993 with respect to certain premises and 1.1.1996 with respect to certain further premises) by S.I. 1992/3004, regs. 1(2)(3), 2, 3, 27(1), **Sch. 2 Pt. I** (with reg. 27(2)).
- F7** Words substituted (with saving) by S.I. 1983/978, regs. 3, 4, **Sch. 1**
- F8** Ss. 1(5), 2(4), 3(3), 4(2), 5(2), 7(2), 9, 10, 14(3)(4)(6), 17(3)–(5), 18(5)(6), 25(4), 53–55, 58(2)–(4), 59(2)(3), 62, 66, 70, 71, 72(2), 73(2), 76, 81, 83, 121(7), 122(6), 124(2)(3), 129(1), 134, 137(5), 142, 145, 149, 150, 153(3), 159, 164(3), 174(2), 177, 179, 180(5)(7)(8)(10), 181(2), 182(5)(6), Schs. 3, 4 repealed by S.I. 1974/1941, reg. 7, **Sch. 1**

[<sup>F9</sup>4] **Ventilation.**

- (1) Effective and suitable provision shall be made for securing and maintaining by the circulation of fresh air in each workroom the adequate ventilation of the room . . . <sup>F10</sup>.
- (2) . . . . . <sup>F11</sup>]

**Textual Amendments**

- F9** S. 4 repealed (1.1.1993 with respect to certain premises and 1.1.1996 with respect to certain further premises) by S.I. 1992/3004, regs. 1(2)(3), 2, 3, 27(1), **Sch. 2 Pt. I** (with reg. 27(2)).
- F10** Words repealed by S.I. 1988/1657, reg. 19(1), **Sch. 8 Pt. II**
- F11** Ss. 1(5), 2(4), 3(3), 4(2), 5(2), 7(2), 9, 10, 14(3)(4)(6), 17(3)–(5), 18(5)(6), 25(4), 53–55, 58(2)–(4), 59(2)(3), 62, 66, 70, 71, 72(2), 73(2), 76, 81, 83, 121(7), 122(6), 124(2)(3), 129(1), 134, 137(5), 142, 145, 149, 150, 153(3), 159, 164(3), 174(2), 177, 179, 180(5)(7)(8)(10), 181(2), 182(5)(6), Schs. 3, 4 repealed by S.I. 1974/1941, reg. 7, **Sch. 1**

[<sup>F12</sup>5] **Lighting.**

- (1) Effective provision shall be made for securing and maintaining sufficient and suitable lighting, whether natural or artificial, in every part of a factory in which persons are working or passing.
- (2) . . . . . <sup>F13</sup>
- (3) Nothing in the foregoing provisions of this section or in any regulations made thereunder shall be construed as enabling directions to be prescribed or otherwise

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given as to whether any artificial lighting is to be produced by any particular illuminant.

- (4) All glazed windows and skylights used for the lighting of workrooms shall, so far as practicable, be kept clean on both the inner and outer surfaces and free from obstruction; but this subsection shall not affect the whitewashing or shading of windows and skylights for the purpose of mitigating heat or glare.]

**Textual Amendments**

- F12** S. 5 repealed (1.1.1993 with respect to certain premises and 1.1.1996 with respect to certain further premises) by S.I. 1992/3004, regs. 1(2)(3), 2, 3, 27(1), **Sch. 2 Pt. I** (with reg. 27(2)).
- F13** Ss. 1(5), 2(4), 3(3), 4(2), 5(2), 7(2), 9, 10, 14(3)(4)(6), 17(3)–(5), 18(5)(6), 25(4), 53–55, 58(2)–(4), 59(2)(3), 62, 66, 70, 71, 72(2), 73(2), 76, 81, 83, 121(7), 122(6), 124(2)(3), 129(1), 134, 137(5), 142, 145, 149, 150, 153(3), 159, 164(3), 174(2), 177, 179, 180(5)(7)(8)(10), 181(2), 182(5)(6), Schs. 3, 4 repealed by S.I. 1974/1941, reg. 7, **Sch. 1**

**[<sup>F14</sup>6 Drainage of floors.**

Where any process is carried on which renders the floor liable to be wet to such an extent that the wet is capable of being removed by drainage, effective means shall be provided and maintained for draining off the wet.]

**Textual Amendments**

- F14** S. 6 repealed (1.1.1993 with respect to certain premises and 1.1.1996 with respect to certain further premises) by S.I. 1992/3004, regs. 1(2)(3), 2, 3, 27(1), **Sch. 2 Pt.I** (with reg. 27(2)).

**[<sup>F15</sup>7 Sanitary Conveniences.**

- (1) Sufficient and suitable sanitary conveniences for the persons employed in the factory shall be provided, maintained and kept clean, and effective provision shall be made for lighting them and, where persons of both sexes are or are intended to be employed (except in the case of factories where the only persons employed are members of the same family dwelling there) the conveniences shall afford proper separate accommodation for persons of each sex.

- (2) ..... <sup>F16</sup>]

**Textual Amendments**

- F15** S. 7 repealed (1.1.1993 with respect to certain premises and 1.1.1996 with respect to certain further premises) by S.I. 1992/3004, regs. 1(2)(3), 2, 3, 27(1), **Sch. 2 Pt.I** (with reg. 27(2)).
- F16** Ss. 1(5), 2(4), 3(3), 4(2), 5(2), 7(2), 9, 10, 14(3)(4)(6), 17(3)–(5), 18(5)(6), 25(4), 53–55, 58(2)–(4), 59(2)(3), 62, 66, 70, 71, 72(2), 73(2), 76, 81, 83, 121(7), 122(6), 124(2)(3), 129(1), 134, 137(5), 142, 145, 149, 150, 153(3), 159, 164(3), 174(2), 177, 179, 180(5)(7)(8)(10), 181(2), 182(5)(6), Schs. 3, 4 repealed by S.I. 1974/1941, reg. 7, **Sch. 1**

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**Textual Amendments**

**F17** Ss. 8, 153(2) repealed by S.I. 1977/746, **Sch. 3**

**9, 10.** ..... **F18**

**Textual Amendments**

**F18** Ss. 1(5), 2(4), 3(3), 4(2), 5(2), 7(2), 9, 10, 14(3)(4)(6), 17(3)–(5), 18(5)(6), 25(4), 53–55, 58(2)–(4), 59(2)(3), 62, 66, 70, 71, 72(2), 73(2), 76, 81, 83, 121(7), 122(6), 124(2)(3), 129(1), 134, 137(5), 142, 145, 149, 150, 153(3), 159, 164(3), 174(2), 177, 179, 180(5)(7)(8)(10), 181(2), 182(5)(6), Schs. 3, 4 repealed by S.I. 1974/1941, reg. 7, **Sch. 1**

[<sup>F19</sup>**10A**

- (1) If an employment medical adviser is of opinion that there ought, on grounds mentioned in subsection (2) below, to be a medical examination of a person or persons employed in a factory, he may serve on the occupier of the factory a written notice stating that he is of that opinion and requiring that the occupier shall permit a medical examination in accordance with this section of the person or persons in question, and the examination shall be permitted accordingly.
- (2) The grounds on which a medical examination of a person may be required by an employment medical adviser's notice under subsection (1) above are that (in the adviser's opinion) the person's health has been or is being injured, or it is possible that it has been, is being or will be injured, by reason of the nature of the work he is or has been called upon to do or may (to the adviser's knowledge) be called upon to do; and a notice under that subsection may be given with respect to one or more named persons or to persons of a class or description specified in the notice.
- (3) A notice under subsection (1) above shall name the place where the medical examination is to be conducted and, if it is a place other than the factory, the day on which and the time at which it is to be begun; and—
  - (a) every person to whom the notice relates shall be informed, as soon as practicable after service thereof, of the contents thereof and of the fact that he is free to attend for the purpose of submitting to the examination; and
  - (b) if the notice states that the examination is to be conducted at the factory, suitable accommodation thereat shall be provided for the conduct of the examination.
- (4) A medical examination conducted in pursuance of a notice under subsection (1) above shall be begun within seven days after the day on which the notice is served, and shall be conducted by, or in accordance with arrangements made by, an employment medical adviser, and take place at a reasonable time during working hours.
- (5) An employment medical adviser may, by written notice served on the occupier of a factory, cancel a notice served on the occupier under subsection (1) above; and a notice which relates to two or more named persons may be cancelled either in relation to them all or in relation to any one or more of them.
- (6) In this section, "medical examination" includes pathological, physiological and radiological tests and similar investigations.]

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### Textual Amendments

**F19** S. 10A inserted by [Employment Medical Advisory Service Act 1972 \(c. 28\), s. 3](#)

## [<sup>F20</sup>11 Power to require medical supervision.

- (1) Where it appears to the Minister—
- (a) that in any factory or class or description of factory—
    - (i) cases of illness have occurred which he has reason to believe may be due to the nature of a process or other conditions of work; or
    - (ii) by reason of changes in any process or in the substances used in any process, or by reason of the introduction of any new process or new substance for use in a process, there may be risk of injury to the health of persons employed in that process; or
    - (iii) ..... <sup>F21</sup>
  - (b) that there may be risk of injury to the health of persons employed in a factory—
    - (i) from any substance or material brought to the factory to be used or handled therein; or
    - (ii) from any change in the conditions of work or other conditions in the factory;

he may make special regulations requiring such reasonable arrangements to be made for the medical supervision (not including medical treatment other than first-aid treatment and medical treatment of a preventive character) of the persons, or any class of the persons, employed at that factory or class or description of factory as may be specified in the regulations.

- (2) Where the Minister proposes to exercise his powers under this section in relation to a particular factory and for a limited period, he may exercise those powers by order instead of by special regulations, and any such order shall, subject to subsection (3) of this section, cease to have effect at the expiration of such period not exceeding six months from the date when it comes into operation as may be specified in the order.
- (3) The Minister may by subsequent order or orders extend the said period, but if the occupier of the factory by notice in writing to him objects to any such extension, the original order shall cease to have effect as from one month after the service of the notice, without prejudice to the making of special regulations in relation to the factory.]

### Textual Amendments

**F20** S. 11 repealed by [S.I. 1974/1941, reg. 7, Sch. 1](#) except in so far as it enables orders to be made otherwise than by statutory instrument

**F21** S. 11(1)(a)(iii) repealed by [Employment Act 1989 \(c. 38, SIF 43:1\), ss. 10\(1\)\(b\), 29\(4\), Sch. 3 Pt. II, Sch. 7 Pt II](#)

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C1** Reference to Minister in s. 11(2) to be construed as reference to the Health and Safety Executive: [S.I. 1974/1941, reg. 7, Sch. 1](#)

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