



# Explosives Act 1875

## 1875 CHAPTER 17

### PART I

#### LAW RELATING TO GUNPOWDER

##### *Conveyance of Gunpowder*

### **33 General rules as to packing of gunpowder for conveyance**

The following general rules shall be observed with respect to the packing of gunpowder for conveyance :

1. The gunpowder, if not exceeding five pounds in amount, shall be contained in a substantial case, bag, canister, or other receptacle, made and closed so as to prevent the gunpowder from escaping; and
2. The gunpowder, if exceeding five pounds in amount, shall be contained either in a single package or a double package. A single package shall be a box, barrel, or case of such strength, construction, and character as may be for the time being approved by the Government inspector as being of such strength, construction, and character that it will not be broken or accidentally opened, or become defective or insecure whilst being conveyed, and will not allow the gunpowder to escape. If the gunpowder is packed in a double package the inner package shall be a substantial case, bag, canister, or other receptacle made and closed so as to prevent the gunpowder from escaping, and the outer package shall be a box, barrel, or case of wood or metal or other solid material, and shall be of such strength, construction, and character that it will not be broken or accidentally opened, or become defective or insecure whilst being conveyed, and will not allow the gunpowder to escape; and
3. The interior of every package, whether single or double, shall be kept free from grit and otherwise clean; and
4. Every package, whether single or double, when actually used for the package of gunpowder, shall not be used for any other purpose; and

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5. There shall not be any iron or steel in the construction of any such single package or inner or outer package, unless the same is effectually covered with tin, zinc, or other material; and
6. The amount of gunpowder in any single package, or if there is a double package in any one outer package, shall not exceed one hundred pounds, except with the consent of and under conditions approved by a Government inspector; and
7. On the outermost package there shall be affixed the word "gunpowder" in conspicuous characters by means of a brand or securely attached label or other mark.

In the event of any breach (by any act or default) of any general rule in this section, the gunpowder in respect of which the breach is committed may be forfeited, and the person guilty of such breach shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding twenty pounds.

The Secretary of State may from time to time make, and when made, repeal, alter, and add to rules for the purpose of rescinding, altering, or adding to the general rules contained in this section, and the rules so made by the Secretary of State shall have the same effect as if they were enacted in this section.

### **34 Byelaws by harbour authority as to conveyance, loading, &c of gunpowder**

Every harbour authority shall, with the sanction of the Board of Trade, make byelaws for regulating the conveyance, loading, and unloading of gunpowder within the jurisdiction of the said authority, and in particular for declaring or regulating all or any of the following matters within the jurisdiction of the said authority; namely,

1. Determining the notice to be given by ships and boats conveying, loading, or unloading gunpowder as merchandise within the said jurisdiction; and
2. Regulating the navigation and place of mooring of such ships and boats; and
3. Regulating, subject to the general rules with respect to packing in this Act contained, the mode of stowing and keeping gunpowder on board any such ship or boat, and of giving notice by brands, labels, or otherwise of the nature of the package containing the gunpowder; and
4. Regulating the description, construction, fitting up, and licensing of the ships, boats, or carriages to be used for, the conveyance of gunpowder, and the licensing and dress of the persons having charge thereof; and
5. Prohibiting or subjecting to conditions and restrictions the conveyance of gunpowder with any explosive or any articles or substances, or in passenger ships, boats, trains, or carriages; and
6. Prohibiting in cases where the loading or unloading of gunpowder within the jurisdiction of such authority appears to be specially dangerous to the public such loading or unloading, and fixing the places and times at which the gunpowder is to be loaded or unloaded, and the quantity to be loaded or unloaded or conveyed at one time or in one ship, boat, or carriage; and
7. Regulating the mode of and the precautions to be observed in conveying any gunpowder, and in the loading or unloading any ship, boat, or carriage conveying gunpowder as merchandise, and the time during which gunpowder may be kept during such conveyance, loading, or unloading; and
8. Fixing the times at which lights or fires are to be allowed or not allowed on board such ships or boats, as before mentioned, or at which a constable or officer of the harbour authority is to be on board them; and
9. Providing for the publication and supply of copies of the byelaws; and

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10. Enforcing the observance of this Act both by their own servants and agents and also by other persons when within the said jurisdiction; and
11. Generally for protecting, whether by means similar to those above mentioned or not, persons and property from danger.

The penalties to be annexed to any breach or attempt to commit any breach of any such byelaws may be all or any of the following penalties, and may be imposed on such persons and graduated in such manner as may be deemed just, according to the gravity of the offence, and according as it may be a first or second or other subsequent offence, that is to say, pecuniary penalties not exceeding twenty pounds for each offence, and ten pounds for each day during which the offence continues, and forfeiture of all or any part of the gunpowder in respect of which, or found in the ship, boat, or carriage in respect of which, the breach of byelaw has taken place.

In the event of any breach of a byelaw under this section in the case of any ship, boat, carriage, or gunpowder, whether there has or has not been any conviction for such breach, it shall be lawful for the harbour-master, or other officer named in the byelaws, or any person acting under the orders of the harbour authority, to cause such ship, boat, carriage, or gunpowder, at the expense of the owner thereof, to be removed to such place or otherwise dealt with in such manner as may be in conformity with the byelaws, and all expenses incurred in such removal may be recovered in the same manner as a penalty under this section, and any person resisting such harbour-master or officer or other person in such removal shall be liable to the same penalties as a person is liable to for obstructing the harbour-master in the execution of his duty.

On any part of the coast of the United Kingdom or in any tidal water for which there is no harbour authority, the Board of Trade may, if they think it expedient, make byelaws under this section for that part or water as if it were a harbour and they were the harbour authority, and such byelaws shall be deemed to have been made by a harbour authority with the sanction of the Board of Trade; and they may by such byelaws define the area within which such byelaws are to be observed, and the authorities and officers by whom such byelaws are to be enforced and carried into effect within such area, and every such authority and officer shall for the purposes of this Act, other than making byelaws or assenting to a site for a new factory or magazine, have the same power within the said harbour authority and an officer of a harbour authority have respectively under this Act in a harbour.

### **35 Byelaws by railway and canal company as to conveyance, loading, &c. of gunpowder**

Every railway company and every canal company over whose railway or canal any gunpowder is carried, or intended to be carried, shall, with the sanction of the Board of Trade, make byelaws for regulating the conveyance, loading, and unloading of such gunpowder on the railway or canal of the company making the byelaws, and in particular for declaring and regulating all or any of the following matters in the case of such railway or canal; that is to say,

1. Determining the notice to be given of the intention to send gunpowder for conveyance as merchandise on the railway or canal; and
2. Regulating, subject to the general rules with respect to packing in this Act contained, the mode of stowing and keeping gunpowder for conveyance and of giving notice by brands, labels, or otherwise of the nature of the package containing the gunpowder; and

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3. Regulating the description and construction of carriages, ships, or boats to be used in the conveyance of gunpowder; and
4. Prohibiting or subjecting to conditions and restrictions the conveyance of gunpowder with any explosive, or with any articles or substances, or in passenger trains, carriages, Ships, or boats; and
5. Fixing the places and times at which the gunpowder is to be loaded or unloaded, and the quantity to be loaded or unloaded or conveyed at one time, or in one carriage, ship, or boat; and
6. Determining the precautions to be observed, in conveying gunpowder, and in loading and unloading the carriages, ships, and boats used in such conveyance, and the time during which the gunpowder may be kept during such conveyance, loading and unloading; and
7. Providing for the publication and supply of copies of the byelaws; and
8. Enforcing the observance of this Act both by their servants and agents and also by other persons when on the canal or railway of such company; and
9. Generally for protecting, whether by means similar to those above mentioned or not, persons and property from danger.

Such byelaws, when confirmed by the Board of Trade, shall apply to the railway, canal, agents, and servants of the company making the same, and to the persons using such railway or canal, or the premises connected therewith and occupied by or under the control of such company.

The penalties to be annexed to any breach or attempt to commit any breach of any such byelaws may be all or any of the following penalties, and may be imposed on such persons and graduated in such manner as may be deemed just, according to the gravity of the offence, and according as it may be a first, second, or other subsequent offence, that is to say, pecuniary penalties not exceeding twenty pounds for each offence, and ten pounds for each day during which the offence continues, and forfeiture of all or any part of the gunpowder in respect of which, or being in the carriage, ship, or boat or train of carriages, ships, or boats, in respect of which, the breach of byelaw has taken place.

### **36 Byelaws as to wharves in which gunpowder is loaded or unloaded**

The occupier of every wharf or dock on or in which gunpowder is loaded or unloaded (if such loading or unloading is not otherwise subject to any byelaws under this Act) may, and if so required by the Secretary of State shall, from time to time, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, make byelaws for regulating the loading and unloading of gunpowder on or in such wharf or dock, and in particular for declaring or regulating all or any of the matters which can be declared or regulated in the case of any wharf or dock within the jurisdiction of a harbour authority by byelaws made by such authority in pursuance of this Act.

The penalties to be annexed to any breach, or attempt to commit any breach, of any such byelaws may be all or any of the following penalties, and may be imposed on such persons and graduated in such manner as may be deemed just, according to the gravity of the offence, and according as it may be a first or second or other subsequent offence, that is to say, pecuniary penalties not exceeding twenty pounds for each offence, and ten pounds for each day during which the offence continues, and forfeiture of all or any part of the gunpowder in respect" of which, or found on the wharf or in the dock or part of the wharf or dock in respect of which, the breach of byelaw has taken place.

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Any byelaws made in pursuance of this section may, and if required by the Secretary of State shall, be rescinded, altered, or added to by byelaws made by the occupier, with the sanction of the Secretary of State.

If an occupier is required by the Secretary of State to make byelaws under this section for any matter, and fail within three months after such requisition to comply therewith to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, the Secretary of State may make such byelaws, which shall have effect as if made by the occupier with the sanction of the Secretary of State.

Where by reason of a wharf being a public wharf or otherwise, there is no occupier thereof, or the occupier thereof is unknown, the Secretary of State may make byelaws with respect to such wharf in like manner as if the occupier had failed to comply with his requisition : Provided that where such wharf abuts on any harbour, canal, or railway, the harbour authority or canal or railway company shall have the same power, and, if so required by the Secretary of State, shall be under the same obligation to make byelaws under this section for such wharf as if they were the occupiers thereof.

**37 Byelaws as to conveyance by road or otherwise;, or loading of gunpowder. 38. Confirmation and publication of byelaws**

The Secretary of State may from time to time make, and when made, rescind, alter, or add to, byelaws for regulating the conveyance, loading, and unloading of gunpowder in any case in which byelaws made under any other provision of this Act do not apply, and in particular for declaring or regulating all or any of the following matters; that is to say,

1. Regulating the description and construction of carriages to be used in the conveyance of gunpowder as merchandise; and
2. Prohibiting or subjecting to conditions and restrictions the conveyance of gunpowder with any explosive, or with any articles or substances, or in passenger carriages; and
3. Fixing the places and times at which the gunpowder is to be loaded or unloaded, and the quantity to be loaded or unloaded or conveyed at one time or in one carriage; and
4. Determining the precautions to be observed in conveying gunpowder, and in loading and unloading the carriages used in such conveyance, and the time during which the gunpowder may be kept during such conveyance, loading and unloading; and
5. Providing for the publication and supply of copies of the byelaws; and
6. Generally for protecting, whether by means similar to those above mentioned or not, persons or property from danger; and
7. Adapting on good cause being shown the byelaws in force under this section to the circumstances of any particular locality.

The penalties to be annexed to any breach, or attempt to commit any breach, of any such byelaws may be all or any of the following penalties, and may be imposed on such persons and graduated in such manner as may be deemed just, according to the gravity of the offence, and according as it may be a first, second, or other subsequent offence, that is to say, pecuniary penalties not exceeding twenty pounds for each offence, and ten pounds for each day during which the breach continues, and forfeiture of all or any part of the gunpowder in respect of which, or being in the carriage in respect of which, the breach of byelaw has taken place.

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For the purpose of any mode of conveyance which is not a conveyance by land this section shall be construed as if ship and boat were included in the term carriage.

- 38** Any recommendation to Her Majesty in Council, any general rules with respect to packing, and any byelaws which is or are proposed to be made under this Act by a Secretary of State or the Board of Trade shall, before being so made, be published in such manner as the Secretary of State or the Board of Trade, as the case may be, may direct as being in his or their opinion sufficient for giving information thereof to all local authorities, corporations, and persons interested.

The byelaws framed by any railway company, canal company, or harbour authority under this Act shall, before being sanctioned by the Board of Trade, be published in such manner as may be directed by the Board of Trade, with a notice of the intention of such company or authority to apply for the confirmation thereof, and may be sanctioned by the Board of Trade with or without any omission, addition, or alteration, or may be disallowed.

Every such byelaw may be from time to time added to, altered, or rescinded by a byelaw made in like manner and with the like sanction as the original byelaw.

The Secretary of State or the Board of Trade, as the case may be, shall receive and consider any objections or suggestions made by any local authority, corporation, or persons interested with respect to any recommendation, general rules, or byelaws published in pursuance of this section, and may, if it seem fit, amend such recommendation, general rules, or byelaws with a view of meeting such objections or suggestions without again publishing the same.