

## 1980 No. 421

## GAS

## Gas (Metrication) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1980

*Made* . . . . . 18th November 1980

*Coming into operation* . . . . . 1st January 1981

*To be laid before Parliament under paragraph 3(3) of Schedule 1 to the Northern Ireland Act 1974*

The Department of Commerce, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 26(1) and (2) of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1977(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:

*Citation and commencement*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Gas (Metrication) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1980 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1981.

*Amendment of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1977*

2.—(1) For the definition of “calorific value” in Article 2(2) of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 there shall be substituted—

““calorific value” means the number of megajoules (gross), expressed to 1 decimal place by ignoring any amount less than 0.05 and treating any amounts between 0.05 and 0.1 as 0.1, produced by the combustion of one cubic metre of gas measured at 15 °C under a pressure of 1013.25 millibars and, except as may be otherwise directed by the Department in relation to gas supplied from any undertaking specified in the direction, saturated with water vapour;”

(2) For the definition of “therm” in Article 2(2) of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 there shall be substituted—

““therm” means 105.5 megajoules;”

(3) After paragraph 10(3) (Meter to be evidence of quantity of gas supplied) of Schedule 1 to the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 the following sub-paragraph shall be added—

“(4) Where gas is supplied through a meter measuring in cubic feet to which Regulation 10(3) (Use for trade of measuring equipment measuring in cubic feet etc. after 1st December 1980) of the Units of Measurement Regulations 1980(b) applies, any indication by that meter of a quantity of gas in cubic feet shall be treated for the purposes of sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) as an indication of that quantity in cubic metres by reference to the relevant value (that is to say 1 cu. ft. = 0.0283m<sup>3</sup>) set out in Schedule 3 to those Regulations.”

*Amendment of Regulations of 1973*

3. Regulation 2 of the Gas (Declaration of Calorific Value) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973(c) shall be amended as follows—

(a) for the word “feet” there shall be substituted the word “metres”;

(a) S.I. 1977/596 (N.I. 7)

(b) S.I. 1980/1070

(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 298 (II, p. 1604)

- (b) for the words "British thermal units" there shall be substituted the word "megajoules";
- (c) for the words "one hundred thousand" there shall be substituted the figures "105.5";
- (d) at the end of the Regulation there shall be added the following note—

*"(Note: Where gas is supplied through a meter measuring in cubic feet, the number of therms supplied can be ascertained by multiplying the number of cubic feet of gas supplied by the number of megajoules in the declared calorific value and dividing the product by 3730.)"*

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Commerce for Northern Ireland on 18th November 1980.

(L.S.)

R. A. Burden

Assistant Secretary

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

For the purpose of adapting to metric terms certain units of measurement these Regulations amend provisions of the Gas (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 ("the Order of 1977") and certain Regulations made or having effect as if made thereunder in consequence of the implementation by the Units of Measurement Regulations 1980 (S.I. 1980/1070) of Council Directive No. 71/354/EEC (O.J. No. L243, 29.10.1971, p.29) as amended by Council Directive No. 76/770/EEC (O.J. No. L262, 27.9.1976, p.204), in so far as it had not been implemented, and of Council Directive No. 80/181/EEC (O.J. No. L39, 15.2.1980, p.40) which amends the former Directive and replaces it from 1st October 1981.

Article 2(2) of the Order of 1977 is amended by substituting (a) for the definition of "calorific value" a definition expressed in terms of metric units (b) for the definition of "therm" expressed in terms of British thermal units, which are no longer authorised for use, a definition expressed in terms of megajoules. A sub-paragraph is added to paragraph 10(3) of Schedule 1 to the Order of 1977 to provide for indications of quantities of gas by meters still in use registering in cubic feet to be treated as indications of those quantities in cubic metres.

Provisions of the Gas (Declaration of Calorific Value) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973 are amended by substituting for quantities expressed in imperial units quantities expressed in metric units.