

## 1981 No. 6

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**  
**AGRICULTURE**

**Agriculture (Safety of Children) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981**

*Made* . . . . . 8th January 1981

*Coming into operation* . . . . . 16th February 1981

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 17(2) and 46(1) of and paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 3 to the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978(a) 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 Agriculture (Safety of Children) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981 and shall come into operation on 16th February 1981.

*Interpretation*

2.—(1) In these regulations—

“agriculture” includes horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming, livestock breeding and keeping, forestry, the use of land as grazing land, meadow land, osier land, market gardens and nursery grounds, and the preparation of land for agricultural use;

“approved”, in relation to a safety cab, means approved in accordance with the Agriculture (Tractor Cabs) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(b);

“child” means an individual who has not attained the age of thirteen years;

“enclosed”, in relation to a safety cab, means a roll-over protection structure which is enclosed and secured in such a manner as to prevent a person who drives the tractor to which such safety cab is affixed from falling from that tractor;

“safety cab” means a cab which is of rigid construction and is designed so as to protect the driver of a tractor to which it is fitted from being crushed if that tractor should overturn.

(2) In these regulations a reference to a tractor, machine, implement, trailer or other vehicle includes any drawbar, towbar or coupling which may be used for the purpose of or in connection with its towing or propulsion.

*Riding on vehicles and machines*

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a child shall not ride on a vehicle or machine of a kind which is set out in the Schedule while that vehicle or machine is being used in the course of any operations in connection with agriculture or is travelling or being transported to or from the site of such operations.

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(a) S.I. 1978/1039 (N.I. 9)

(b) S.R. 1981 No. 5

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply where a child rides on the floor of a trailer or on any load carried by a trailer—

- (a) if that trailer has four sides each of which is higher than the load being carried in that trailer, and
- (b) if the trailer is one into which a conveyor mechanism is built the drive to that conveyor mechanism is disengaged.

*Driving or operating vehicles and machines*

4.—(1) A child shall not drive any tractor, self-propelled vehicle or machine while that tractor, vehicle or machine is being used in the course of any operations in connection with agriculture or is travelling or being transported to or from the site of such operations.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply where—

- (a) the tractor is properly fitted with an enclosed approved safety cab;
- (b) the child while driving is under the supervision of one of his parents; and
- (c) the tractor, self-propelled vehicle or machine is being driven by the child on land in the ownership or occupation of one or both of the parents of the child.

*Riding on implements*

5. A child shall not ride on an agricultural implement which is mounted in whole or in part on a tractor or vehicle or which is towed or propelled by a tractor or vehicle or on a roller which is drawn by an animal while such implement or roller is being towed or propelled.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 8th January 1981.

(L.S.)

*D. J. Alexander*

Assistant Secretary

**Vehicles or machines upon which a child shall not ride**

- (a) Tractors.
  - (b) Self-propelled agricultural machines.
  - (c) Trailers.
  - (d) Trailers into which any conveyor mechanism is built.
  - (e) Machines which are mounted in whole or in part on tractors or vehicles or which are towed or propelled by tractors or vehicles.
  - (f) Binders or mowers either of which are drawn by animals.
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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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

These Regulations prohibit children who have not attained the age of thirteen years from—

- (a) riding on or driving certain kinds of vehicle or machine while they are being used in the course of any operations in connection with agriculture or are travelling or being transported to or from such operations;
- (b) riding on certain implements while they are being towed or propelled.

Certain exceptions are permitted.