

1992 No. 537

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

**Weighing Equipment (Non-automatic Weighing Machines)
(Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992**

Made 11th December 1992

Coming into operation 30th December 1992

The Department of Economic Development, in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 9(1) and (3) and 13(1) of the Weights and Measures (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(a) and now vested in it(b) 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 Weighing Equipment (Non-automatic Weighing Machines) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 and shall come into operation on 30th December 1992.

Amendment of the Weighing Equipment (Non-automatic Weighing Machines) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991

2. The Weighing Equipment (Non-automatic Weighing Machines) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991(c) shall be amended as provided in regulations 3 to 19.

3. In regulation 2(1)—

(a) for the definition of “automatic catchweight weighing machine” there shall be substituted—

“ “automatic catchweight weighing machine” means an automatic weighing machine which determines, but does not regulate, the mass of individual items but does not include—

- (i) an automatic checkweighing machine, that is to say, a machine which subdivides articles the mass of which varies on either side of a predetermined value, or
- (ii) an automatic weight grading machine, that is to say, a machine which subdivides articles of different mass for which there is no predetermined nominal mass;”;

(b) in the definition of “non-automatic weighing machine” for the words “a weigh-price labeller” there shall be substituted the words “an automatic catchweight weighing machine”;

(a) S.I. 1981/231 (N.I. 10)

(b) By S.I. 1982/846 (N.I. 11) Art. 4

(c) S.R. 1991 No. 266

- (c) the definition of “customer check weighing machine” shall be omitted; and
- (d) the definition of “weigh-price labeller” shall be omitted.
4. In regulation 2(2), for the words “carat (metric) CM” there shall be substituted the words “carat (metric) CM, ct”.
5. In regulation 3(2), after sub-paragraph (g) there shall be added—
- “(h) machines used for weighing persons which are made available for use by the public, whether on payment or otherwise;
- (i) customer check weighing machines, that is to say, non-automatic weighing machines which, in accordance with Article 5(3)(a) of the Order are made available for use for trade by prospective buyers of goods so that they may check the weight of the goods before purchasing them;”.
6. In regulation 4—
- (a) for paragraph (1) there shall be substituted—
- “(1) Where a non-automatic weighing machine is marked with a weighing range, a person shall not use that machine for trade for determining a weight outside that range unless that use is for the purpose of determining the weight of any item by way of ascertaining the difference between two weights, that is to say, the weight of that item and another item or items and the weight of that other or those other items only.”;
- (b) in paragraph (5), sub-paragraph (d) shall be omitted;
- (c) in head (i) of paragraph (6)(a), after the semi-colon there shall be inserted the word “or”;
- (d) head (iii) of paragraph (6)(a) shall be omitted.
7. In regulation 10, at the beginning there shall be inserted the words “Subject to regulation 10A,”.
8. After regulation 10 there shall be added the following regulation:—
- “Transactions by retail in drugs or other pharmaceutical products*
- 10A. In the case of a non-automatic weighing machine (being a non-graduated Class II machine with a maximum capacity of not less than 25 g and not more than 1 kg) which is used for trade in any transaction by retail in drugs or other pharmaceutical products, the verification scale interval ‘e’ in Table 2 of Schedule 2 shall be within the range Max/2000 to Max/20000 inclusive.”.
9. In regulation 14—
- (a) in paragraph (1) for the words “paragraph (2)” there shall be substituted the words “paragraphs (2) and (3)”;

(b) after paragraph (2) there shall be added—

“(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1)—

(a) in the case of a Class II, III or IIII non-automatic weighing machine used for the purpose of determining postal or other tariffs, the approved minimum load (as indicated in relation to the machine in Table 2, 3 or 4 in Schedule 2, as the case may require) shall be not less than five times the scale interval ‘d’ (for a graduated machine) or five times the verification scale interval ‘e’ (for a non-graduated machine) specified in relation to the machine in that Table; and

(b) in the case of a non-automatic weighing machine which is balanced otherwise than at zero, the approved minimum load shall be determined by reference to the balanced position.”.

10. In sub-paragraph (f) of regulation 16(2), after head (iii) there shall be added the following head—

“(iv) in the case of a machine to which regulation 14(3) applies, “Min ...” (where “...” is the approved minimum load for the purpose of determining postal or other tariffs) and the words “for determining ... tariffs” (where “...” is the specific tariff for which the machine is used).”.

11. In regulation 17(1), after sub-paragraph (c) there shall be added—

“(d) on and after 30th December 1992, they shall be marked in metric units or in pounds or ounces, in full or by means of one of the following abbreviations or symbols only:—

lb, oz, oz tr, t, kg, g, CM, ct, mg.”.

12. In regulation 18, the words “with a maximum capacity not exceeding 12 kg,” shall be omitted.

13. In regulation 20—

(a) in paragraph (1), the words “whether as a customer check weighing machine or as a self service weighing machine” shall be omitted; and

(b) paragraph (3) shall be omitted.

14. In paragraph (a)(ii) of regulation 21, for the words “machine; and” there shall be substituted the words “machine; or”.

15. In regulation 27, after the word “erected” there shall be inserted the words “and used”.

16. In regulation 36—

(a) in paragraph (1), for the words “paragraph (2)” there shall be substituted the words “paragraphs (2) and (3)”; and

(b) after paragraph (2) there shall be added—

“(3) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the procedures specified in paragraphs 15 and 16 of that Schedule shall not be carried out unless the inspector considers it necessary to do so having regard to the characteristics of the machine or to the particular circumstances.”.

17. In Schedule 2, for Table 3 there shall be substituted the following Table—

"TABLE 3

Maximum capacity 'Max'	Lower limit of the minimum load 'Min'	Scale interval 'd'	Number of scale intervals 'n'	Verification scale interval 'e'
<i>Non-graduated machines</i>				
20 g \leq Max < 100 g	20 e			0.1 g
100 g \leq Max < 1 kg	20 e			Max
				1 000
1 kg \leq Max < 2 kg	20 e			1 g
2 kg \leq Max	20 e			Max
				2 000
<i>Graduated machines</i>				
<i>Non-self indicating machines</i>				
20 g \leq Max \leq 100 g	10 d	0.1 g \leq d \leq 0.2 g	200 \leq n < 1 000	0.1 g
100 g \leq Max < 1 kg	20 d	0.2 g \leq d \leq 1 g	200 \leq n < 1 000	Max
				1 000
100 g \leq Max \leq 10 kg	20 d	0.1 g \leq d \leq 1 g	1 000 \leq n \leq 10 000	d
400 g \leq Max < 5 kg	20 d	2 g \leq d \leq 5 g	200 \leq n < 1 000	Max
				1 000
2 kg \leq Max \leq 50 kg	20 d	2 g \leq d \leq 5 g	1 000 \leq n \leq 10 000	d
5 kg \leq Max < 10 t	20 d	10 g \leq d \leq 10 kg	500 \leq n < 1 000	Max
				1 000

10 kg \leq Max \leq 100 t	20 d	10 g \leq d \leq 10 kg	1 000 \leq n \leq 10 000	d
15 t \leq Max $<$ 100 t	20 d	20 kg \leq d \leq 50 kg	750 \leq n $<$ 1 000	Max
				1 000
15 t \leq Max $<$ 100 t	10 d	100 kg	750 \leq n $<$ 1 000	Max
				1 000
20 t \leq Max \leq 1 000 t	20 d	20 kg \leq d \leq 50 kg	1 000 \leq n \leq 10 000	d
20 t \leq Max \leq 1 000 t	10 d	100 kg	1 000 \leq n \leq 10 000	d
150 t \leq Max	10 d	200 kg \leq d	750 \leq n $<$ 1 000	Max
				1 000
200 t \leq Max	10 d	200 kg \leq d	1 000 \leq n \leq 10 000	d
<i>Self and semi-self indicating machines</i>				
20 g \leq Max \leq 10 kg	10 d	0.1 g \leq d \leq 1 g	50 \leq n \leq 10 000	d
400 g \leq Max \leq 50 kg	20 d	2 g \leq d \leq 5 g	200 \leq n \leq 10 000	d
5 kg \leq Max \leq 200 kg	20 d	10 g \leq d \leq 20 g	500 \leq n \leq 10 000	d
25 kg \leq Max \leq 100 t	20 d	50 g \leq d \leq 10 kg	500 \leq n \leq 10 000	d
15 t \leq Max \leq 1 000 t	20 d	20 kg \leq d \leq 50 kg	750 \leq n \leq 10 000	d
15 t \leq Max \leq 1 000 t	10 d	100 kg	750 \leq n \leq 10 000	d
150 t $<$ Max	10 d	200 kg \leq d	750 \leq n \leq 10 000	d

Notes

1. In the case of machines where the weight indicating or printing is in units of the imperial system the relevant capacity and verification scale interval shall be the amounts in imperial units which are equivalent to those specified in the Table in terms of g, kg and t.

2. Where the equivalent metric value for an imperial scale interval falls between ranges then the value shall be considered as belonging to the lower range.”.

18. In Schedule 3—

(a) in paragraph 17—

(i) in sub-paragraph (c) for the words “sub-paragraph (d)” there shall be substituted the words “paragraph 17A”; and

(ii) sub-paragraph (d) shall be omitted;

(b) after paragraph 17 there shall be added the following paragraph—

“17A.— (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b)—

(i) in the case of a load receptor having four or fewer supports, a test load equal to one-third of the maximum load shall be applied in turn to each of the four quarter segments of the load receptor, each quarter segment being as nearly as is practicable equal to one quarter in area of the receptor; or

(ii) in the case of a load receptor having more than four supports, a test load which is equal to the fraction $1/(n-1)$ of the maximum load shall be applied to each support over an area of $1/n$ of the surface area of the load receptor (where ‘n’ is the number of supports),

provided that, if the load receptor has a pair of supports which are so close together that it is not practicable to proceed in this manner, a test load which is equal to $2/(n-1)$ of the maximum load (where ‘n’ is the number of supports) shall be applied to twice that area equally spaced about the axis connecting the pair of supports; or

(iii) in the case of a machine which falls within head (i) or (ii) but which has a load receptor in the form of a tank or hopper where the off-centre loading is minimal, a test load which is equal to one-tenth of the maximum load shall be applied to each point of support of the load receptor.

(b) In the case of a machine used for weighing vehicles of any description, a test load which is as nearly as

practicable equal to, but in any event does not exceed, four-fifths of the maximum load shall also be applied at both ends and in the middle of the load receptor in all directions of movement of the vehicle on the load receptor.”.

19. In Schedule 4, for the heading to Column 4 of the Table there shall be substituted the heading “Number of verification scale intervals for loads — see Note”.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Economic Development on 11th December 1992.

(L.S.)

A. H. McAlister

Assistant Secretary

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations amend the Weighing Equipment (Non-automatic Weighing Machines) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991 (S.R. 1991 No. 266).

They make the following changes of substance—

- (a) The definitions of “automatic catchweight weighing machine” and “non-automatic weighing machine” are changed (regulation 3).
- (b) The abbreviation or symbol used for carat (metric) may be “ct” as an alternative to “CM” (regulations 4 and 11).
- (c) Machines used for weighing persons and customer check weighing machines no longer need to be tested, passed as fit for use for trade and stamped by an inspector of weights and measures (regulations 5, 6(d) and 13).
- (d) The provision prohibiting the use for trade of a non-automatic weighing machine marked with a weighing range outside that range is revised (regulation 6(a)).
- (e) It is no longer a requirement that a weighing machine used for trade for retail transactions in drugs or other pharmaceutical products shall be a Class I or Class II machine (regulation 6(b)).
- (f) The verification scale interval ‘e’ for certain machines used for transactions in drugs or other pharmaceutical products is changed from Max/2000 to an interval in the range Max/2000 to Max/20000 inclusive (regulation 8).
- (g) The approved minimum load for certain tariff non-automatic weighing machines is defined (regulations 9 and 10).
- (h) The provision of a rider and certain other devices on Class II machines is no longer restricted to machines with a maximum capacity not exceeding 12 kg (regulation 12).
- (i) Non-automatic weighing machines, in addition to being erected in such a manner that the load being weighed is stationary, must also be so used (regulation 15).
- (j) Level indicator testing and tilt testing is required to be carried out only if the inspector considers it necessary (regulation 16).
- (k) The specifications for Class III machines are changed to reduce the lower limit of the minimum load from 50 verification scale intervals (50 e) or 50 scale intervals (50 d) to 20 e and 20 d respectively (regulation 17).
- (l) The requirements for eccentric load testing are modified (regulation 18).