

1970. No. 31

[C]

**CONSUMER PROTECTION****Colour Code for Electrical Appliances**

REGULATIONS\*, DATED 1ST JANUARY 1970, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1965.

The Ministry of Home Affairs in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 1 of the Consumer Protection Act (Northern Ireland) 1965(a), and after consulting with such persons and bodies of persons as appears to it requisite, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

*Citation and Commencement*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Electrical Appliances (Colour Code) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970, and shall come into operation on 1st April 1970.

*Interpretation*

2. In these Regulations—

“the Act” means the Consumer Protection Act (Northern Ireland) 1965;

“earth-continuity conductor” has the meaning assigned to it by Regulation 4;

“mains lead” has the meaning assigned to it by Regulation 3; and

“working conductors” has the meaning assigned to it by Regulation 4.

*Goods to which the Regulations apply*

3. These Regulations apply to any electrical appliance (including any electrical apparatus or device) designed or suitable for domestic use (whether indoors or out-of-doors) which—

(a) requires for its operation a supply, from an external source, of electricity at a voltage of 100 volts or more; and

(b) has a flexible cord or cable (in these Regulations referred to as a “mains lead”) containing three electricity conductors of which two are for connecting the appliance to such a supply of electricity, and one is for connecting it to earth.

*Connection of Conductors*

4. The conductors in the mains lead of an appliance to which these Regulations apply shall be connected, or adapted for connection, to the appliance in such a way that one, and only one, of the conductors (in these Regulations referred to as the “earth-continuity conductor”) is connected, or adapted for connection, to a part of the appliance not intended to be electrified while the appliance is working properly, and the other conductors (in these Regulations referred to as “working conductors”) are connected, or adapted for connection, to parts of the appliance intended to conduct electricity.

(a) 1965. c. 14 (N.I.).

\*These Regulations were affirmed by a Resolution of the Senate on 12th February 1970 and by a Resolution of the House of Commons on 17th February 1970.

*Colouring of Covering of Conductors*

5.—(1) Each of the conductors in the mains lead of an appliance to which these Regulations apply shall have an outer covering (not common to that and any other conductor) which is coloured on all its surface in accordance, subject to the provisions of Regulation 7, with the following provisions of this Regulation.

(2) The covering of the earth-continuity conductor shall be coloured green and yellow, and in such a way that the covering (on any length of the conductor measuring 15 mm. or more) has not more than 70 per cent. (nor less than 30 per cent.) of its surface coloured one of those colours, and has the remainder of its surface coloured the other.

(3) The covering of one of the working conductors shall be coloured brown, and that of the other shall be coloured blue.

(4) Where (because of the use of a single-pole switch or for some other reason) the electrical plan of the appliance is such that one of the working conductors is more suitable in the interests of safety than the other for connection to the phase or live pole of the electricity supply, the covering to be coloured brown shall be that of the first-mentioned conductor and the covering to be coloured blue shall be that of the other.

*Labelling*

6.—(1) Subject to the provisions of Regulation 7 the mains lead of an appliance to which these Regulations apply shall have attached to it a label bearing the following words set out in legible characters:—

**“IMPORTANT**

The wires in this mains lead are coloured in accordance with the following code:

|                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| Green and Yellow—Earth |          |
| Blue                   | —Neutral |
| Brown                  | —Live”.  |

(2) This Regulation shall cease to have effect on 1st July 1977.

*Colouring of Covering of Conductors until 1st July 1970*

7. Until 1st July 1970, the covering of one of a pair of working conductors in the mains lead of an appliance may for the purposes of Regulation 5 be coloured black instead of blue if, but only if, the covering of the other working conductor is coloured red instead of brown, and in such a case—

- references in that Regulation to the colours brown and blue shall be treated as references to the colours red and black respectively; and
- the covering of the earth-continuity conductor in that mains lead may be coloured green instead of green and yellow; and if it is so coloured paragraph (2) of that Regulation shall have effect as if the words after the word “green” were omitted; and
- Regulation 6 shall not have effect.

*Goods already manufactured*

8. As respects the requirements of these Regulations, Sections 2(1) and 2(2) of the Act (which prohibit sales and possession for sale of goods and component parts not complying with regulations) shall apply in relation to goods and

component parts manufactured before the imposition of these requirements notwithstanding anything in Section 2(4) (which exempts such goods and parts unless regulations otherwise provide).

*Letting under hire-purchase agreement or on hire*

9. Sections 2(1) to (3) (other than paragraphs (d) and (e) of Section 2(3)) of the Act (which relate to sales and possession for sale of goods and component parts not complying with regulations) shall, subject to subsection (6) of that section, apply in relation to goods to which these Regulations apply as if references to selling or to a sale included references to letting under a hire-purchase agreement or on hire, and the reference to a sale under a credit-sale agreement were a reference to a letting under a hire-purchase agreement.

*Local Authorities*

10.—(1) The Schedule to the Act shall have effect in relation to goods to which these Regulations apply.

(2) In relation to goods to which these Regulations apply, “local authority” in the Schedule to the Act shall mean the council of a county, the council of a county borough, or the council of a borough or urban district.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this 1st day of January 1970, in the presence of

(L.S.)

*W. G. Robinson,*  
Assistant Secretary.

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

By the Consumer Protection Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 the Ministry of Home Affairs is empowered to make regulations imposing requirements, in respect of any class of goods, to prevent or reduce risk of death or personal injury. These Regulations impose such requirements in relation to domestic electrical appliances, and accordingly under the Act, subject to certain exceptions, no person may sell or have in his possession for sale an appliance not complying with the Regulations. By virtue of Regulation 9, letting on hire or hire-purchase is similarly prohibited.

The Regulations apply to any domestic electrical appliance, apparatus or device, which has a mains lead with three wires. Regulation 5 requires the “earth” wire to be coloured green and yellow, the “live” wire brown and the “neutral” wire blue.

Regulation 6 requires (until 1st July 1977) a label to be attached explaining this code.

The colour code of green (or green and yellow), red and black which has been in common use in the past may be used until 1st July 1970 (Regulation 7).