



Customs and Excise Management Act 1979

1979 CHAPTER 2

PART XII

GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS

General offences

171 General provisions as to offences and penalties.

(1) Where—

- (a) by any provision of any enactment relating to an assigned matter a punishment is prescribed for any offence thereunder or for any contravention of or failure to comply with any regulation, direction, condition or requirement made, given or imposed thereunder; and
- (b) any person is convicted in the same proceedings of more than one such offence, contravention or failure,

that person shall be liable to that punishment for each such offence, contravention or failure of which he is so convicted.

(2) In this Act the “prescribed sum”, in relation to the penalty provided for an offence, means—

- (a) if the offence was committed in England [^{F1}or Wales], the prescribed sum within the meaning of [^{F2}section 32 of the Magistrates’ Courts Act 1980 (£1,000 or other sum substituted by order under section 143(1) of that Act)];
- (b) if the offence was committed in Scotland, the prescribed sum within the meaning of section 289B of the ^{M1}Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975 (£1,000 or other sum substituted by order under section 289D(1) of that Act);
- [^{F3}(c) if the offence was committed in Northern Ireland, the prescribed sum within the meaning of Article 4 of the Fines and Penalties (Northern Ireland) Order

Status: Point in time view as at 09/12/1992. This version of this provision has been superseded.

Changes to legislation: Customs and Excise Management Act 1979, Section 171 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

1984 (£1,000 or other sum substituted by order under Article 17 of that Order);]

and in subsection (1)(a) above, the reference to a provision by which a punishment is prescribed includes a reference to a provision which makes a person liable to a penalty of the prescribed sum within the meaning of this subsection.

[^{F4}(2A) In this Act “the standard scale” has the meaning assigned to it by section 75 of the Criminal Justice Act ^{M2}1982 ^{F5}]

- (3) Where a penalty for an offence under any enactment relating to an assigned matter is required to be fixed by reference to the value of any goods, that value shall be taken as the price which those goods might reasonably be expected to have fetched, after payment of any duty or tax chargeable thereon, if they had been sold in the open market at or about the date of the commission of the offence for which the penalty is imposed.
- (4) Where an offence under any enactment relating to an assigned matter which has been committed by a body corporate is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or any person purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

In this subsection “director”, in relation to any body corporate established by or under any enactment for the purpose of carrying on under national ownership any industry or part of an industry or undertaking, being a body corporate whose affairs are managed by the members thereof, means a member of that body corporate.

- (5) Where in any proceedings for an offence under the customs and excise Acts any question arises as to the duty or the rate thereof chargeable on any imported goods, and it is not possible to ascertain the relevant time specified in section 43 above [^{F6}or the relevant excise duty point], that duty or rate shall be determined as if the goods had been imported without entry at the time when the proceedings were commenced [^{F6}or, as the case may be, as if the time when the proceedings were commenced was the relevant excise duty point.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words substituted by [S.I. 1984/703](#), (N.I. 3) Sch. 6 para. 7(a)
- F2** Words substituted by [Magistrates' Courts Act 1980 \(c. 43, SIF 82\)](#), s. 154, [Sch. 7 para. 178](#)
- F3** [S. 171\(2\)\(c\)](#) inserted by [S.I. 1984/703](#), (N.I. 3) Sch. 6 para. 7(b)
- F4** [S. 171\(2A\)](#) inserted by [Finance Act 1984 \(c. 43, SIF 40:1\)](#), s. 9, [Sch. 5 para. 3](#)
- F5** Words repealed by [Statute Law \(Repeals\) Act 1986 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 1(1), [Sch. 1 Pt. III](#)
- F6** Words in [s. 171\(5\)](#) inserted (9.12.1992) by [Finance \(No. 2\) Act 1992 \(c. 48\)](#), s. 3(1), [Sch. 2 para. 9\(a\)](#) [\(b\)](#); [S.I. 1992/3104](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#).

Marginal Citations

- M1** 1975 c. 21.
- M2** 1982 c. 48(39:1).

Status:

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Changes to legislation:

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