



Friendly Societies Act 1992

1992 CHAPTER 40

PART X

GENERAL AND SUPPLEMENTARY

Interpretation

116 Friendly societies etc

In this Act—

“friendly society” means an incorporated friendly society or a registered friendly society;

“incorporated friendly society” means a society incorporated under this Act;

“registered branch” means a branch of a registered friendly society which is separately registered within the meaning of the 1974 Act;

“registered friendly society” means a society registered within the meaning of the 1974 Act by virtue of section 7(1)(a) of that Act or any enactment which it replaced.

117 Insurance business etc

(1) For the purposes of this Act—

“annual contribution income” means, in relation to a friendly society’s long term business, the income of the society in a financial year without any deduction for reinsurance cessions;

“insurance business” means long term business and general business but does not include the operations of a society whose benefits vary according to the resources available and which require each of its members to contribute on a flat-rate basis;

“long term business” means insurance business of any of the classes specified in head A of Schedule 2 to this Act; and

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

“general business” means insurance business of any of the classes specified in head B of that Schedule.

- (2) For the purposes of any provision of Parts IV, V, VI and VIII of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—
- (a) references to insurance business include references to reinsurance business; and
 - (b) reinsurance business consisting of the effecting and carrying out of a contract of reinsurance of risks of any class shall be taken to constitute the carrying on of insurance business of that class;
- and “reinsurance business” means the effecting and carrying out of contracts of reinsurance.
- (3) For the purposes of this Act the effecting and carrying out of a contract whose principal object is within one class of insurance business, but which contains related and subsidiary provisions within another class or classes, shall be taken to constitute the carrying on of insurance business of the first-mentioned class, and no other, if subsection (4) or (5) below applies to the contract.
- (4) This subsection applies to a contract whose principal object is within any class of long term business, but which contains subsidiary provisions within general business class 1 or 2, if the society concerned is authorised under section 32 above to carry on long term business class I.
- (5) This subsection applies to a contract whose principal object is within one of the classes of general business but which contains subsidiary provisions within another of those classes.
- (6) In relation to a contract of insurance with a friendly society references in this Act to the member State where the risk is situated are references to the member State where the person who has entered into the contract has his habitual place of residence.

118 Financial year of friendly societies

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, in this Act “financial year” means the period of 12 months ending with 31st December.
- (2) The initial financial year of a friendly society shall be such period as expires with the end of the calendar year in which it is registered under the 1974 Act or incorporated under this Act and the final financial year of the society shall be such shorter period than 12 months as expires with the date as at which the society makes up its final accounts.

119 General interpretation

- (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires—
- “the 1974 Act” means the Friendly Societies Act 1974;
- “actuary” means an actuary possessing the qualifications prescribed by regulations under section 44 above;
- “annuities on human life” does not include superannuation allowances and annuities payable out of any fund applicable solely to the relief and maintenance of persons engaged or who have been engaged in any particular profession, trade or employment, or of the dependants of such persons;

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“appointed actuary” means the actuary appointed under section 44 above;

“the appropriate actuary” means—

- (a) if the society is under the duty imposed by section 44(1) above, the society’s appointed actuary; and
- (b) if it is not under that duty, an actuary appointed to perform the function in question;

“the central office” means the central office of the registry of friendly societies except in relation to Scotland where it means the assistant registrar of friendly societies for Scotland;

“the Chief Registrar” means the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies;

“collecting society” has the same meaning as in the Industrial Assurance Act 1923 or the Industrial Assurance (Northern Ireland) Order 1979;

“the Commission” means the Friendly Societies Commission established by section 1 above;

“committee of management” means the committee of management or other directing body of a society or branch;

“contract of insurance” includes any contract the effecting of which constitutes the carrying on of insurance business by virtue of section 117 above;

“the court” except in relation to the winding-up of an incorporated friendly society, means—

- (a) in the case of a body whose registered office is situated in England and Wales or in Northern Ireland, the county court for the district in which the office is situated;
- (b) in the case of a body whose registered office is situated in Scotland, the sheriff in whose jurisdiction the office is situated;

and, in relation to the winding-up of an incorporated friendly society, means the court which has jurisdiction under the applicable winding-up legislation to wind-up the society;

“the criteria of prudent management” means the criteria set out in section 50 above;

“financial year” is to be construed in accordance with section 118;

“the first general insurance Directive” means Council Directive [73/239/EEC](#) of 24th July 1973 on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking-up and pursuit of the business of direct insurance other than life assurance;

“the first life Directive” means Council Directive [79/267/EEC](#) of 5th March 1979 on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking up and pursuit of the business of direct life assurance;

“the general insurance Directives” means the first general insurance Directive and the second general insurance Directive as amended, and such other Directives as make provision with respect to the business of direct insurance other than life assurance;

“group business” is to be construed in accordance with section 11 above;

“jointly controlled body” is to be construed in accordance with section 13 above;

“the life Directives” means the first life Directive and the second life Directive as amended, and such other Directives as make provision with respect to the business of direct life assurance;

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“memorandum” has the meaning given by paragraph 4(3) of Schedule 3 to this Act;

“modifications”, in relation to enactments, includes additions, omissions and amendments;

“non-insurance business” means business falling within head C of Schedule 2 to this Act;

“notice” means written notice and “notice to” a person means notice given to that person, and “notify” shall be construed accordingly;

“officer” means—

(a) in relation to a registered friendly society or a registered branch—

- (i) a trustee;
- (ii) the treasurer, secretary and chief executive (however described);
- (iii) a member of the committee of management; and
- (iv) a person appointed by the society or branch to sue or be sued on its behalf; or

(b) in relation to an incorporated friendly society, a member of the committee of management, the chief executive (however described) and the secretary;

“the public file”, in relation to a friendly society, means the file relating to the society which the central office is required to maintain under section 104 above;

“registered address”, in relation to a member of an incorporated friendly society, has the meaning given by paragraph 14(6) of Schedule 3 to this Act;

“the second general insurance Directive” means Council Directive [88/357/EEC](#) of 22nd June 1988 on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to direct insurance other than life assurance and laying down provisions to facilitate the effective exercise of freedom to provide services and amending Directive [73/239/EEC](#);

“the second life Directive” means Council Directive [90/619/EEC](#) of 8th November 1990 on the co-ordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to direct life assurance, laying down provisions to facilitate the effective exercise of freedom to provide services and amending Directive [79/267/EEC](#);

“special resolution” has the meaning given by paragraph 7 of Schedule 12 to this Act;

“subscription” includes any premium or other sum (however described) payable, in respect of the provision of benefits, by (or on behalf of) a member of a friendly society under the rules of the society;

“subsidiary” is to be construed in accordance with section 13 above; and

“valuation regulations” means regulations under section 45 above.

- (2) References in this Act to the “ECU” are to the unit of account of that name defined in Council Regulation (EEC) No.3180/78 as amended; and the exchange rates as between the ECU and pounds sterling to be applied for each year beginning on 31st December shall be the rates applicable on the last day of the preceding October for which exchange rates for the currencies of all the member States were published in the Official Journal of the Communities.