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*Changes to legislation: Deregulation Act 2015, Paragraph 9 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 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) View outstanding changes*

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## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 21

#### POISONS AND EXPLOSIVES PRECURSORS

##### *Establishment of common regulatory system*

9 After section 7 insert—

##### **“7A Proof of lack of knowledge**

- (1) This section applies to the following offences—
  - (a) an offence under section 3(1),
  - (b) an offence under section 3A(1), (3) or (4),
  - (c) an offence under section 3B(1) or (3).
- (2) In any proceedings for an offence to which this section applies, it is a defence for the accused to prove that the accused neither knew of nor suspected nor had reason to suspect the existence of some fact alleged by the prosecution that it is necessary for the prosecution to prove if the accused is to be convicted of the offence charged.
- (3) This is subject to subsection (5).
- (4) Subsection (5) applies where, in any proceedings for an offence to which this section applies—
  - (a) it is necessary, if the accused is to be convicted of the offence charged, for the prosecution to prove that some substance or mixture involved in the alleged offence was the regulated substance that the prosecution allege it to have been, and
  - (b) it is proved that the substance or mixture in question was that regulated substance.
- (5) Where this subsection applies—
  - (a) the accused must not be acquitted of the offence charged by reason only of proving that the accused neither knew nor suspected nor had reason to suspect that the substance or mixture was the particular regulated substance alleged, but
  - (b) the accused must be acquitted of the offence charged if—
    - (i) the accused proves that the accused neither believed nor suspected nor had reason to suspect that the substance or mixture was a regulated substance, or
    - (ii) the accused proves that the accused believed the substance or mixture to be a regulated substance such that, if it had in fact been that regulated substance, the accused would not at the material time have been committing any offence to which this section applies.

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(6) Nothing in this section affects any defence that it is open to a person accused of an offence to which this section applies to raise apart from this section.”

**Commencement Information**

- I1** Sch. 21 in force for certain purposes at Royal Assent, see s. 115
- I2** Sch. 21 para. 9 in force at 20.4.2015 for specified purposes by S.I. 2015/994, art. 5
- I3** Sch. 21 para. 9 in force at 26.5.2015 in so far as not already in force by S.I. 2015/994, art. 6(p)

**Changes to legislation:**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- specified provision(s) amendment to earlier commencing SI 2015/994 art. 13 Sch. by [S.I. 2015/1405 art. 2\(3\)](#)

**Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:**

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 110A inserted by [2016 c. 12 s. 16\(1\)](#)