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 STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS
 

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1980 No. 1471

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

## The Safety Signs Regulations 1980

Made - - - - 3rd October 1980

Laid before Parliament 14th October 1980

Coming into Operation—

for the purposes of new signs 1st January 1981

for all other purposes 1st January 1986

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 15(1), (2) and (6)(a) and 82(3)(a) of, and paragraph 1(1)(c) and (3) of Schedule 3 to, the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974(a) (“the 1974 Act”) and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf and for the purpose of giving effect without modifications to proposals submitted to him by the Health and Safety Commission under section 11(2)(d) of the 1974 Act after the carrying out by the said Commission of consultations in accordance with section 50(3) of that Act, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

*Citation and commencement*

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Safety Signs Regulations 1980 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1981 for the purposes of new signs and colours and on 1st January 1986 for all other purposes; in this Regulation “new signs and colours” means any sign or colour erected or placed on or after 1st January 1981.

*Interpretation*

2.—(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“the 1974 Act” means the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974;

“mine” and “quarry” mean a mine or a quarry, as the case may be, within the meaning of section 180 of the Mines and Quarries Act 1954(b);

“Part 1 of BS 5378” means Standard number BS 5378: Part 1: 1980 entitled “Safety signs and colours. Part 1. Specification for colour and design” issued by the British Standards Institution, as published on 31st July 1980(c);

“safety sign” means a sign combining geometrical shape, colour and pictorial symbol to provide specific health or safety information or instruction (whether or not any text is also included);

“vessel” means a craft which is capable of travelling in or on water.

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(a) 1974 c. 37; section 15 was amended by the Employment Protection Act 1975 (c. 71), section 116 and Schedule 15, paragraph 6.

(b) 1954 c. 70; the relevant amending instrument is S.I. 1974/2013.

(c) Obtainable from the British Standards Institution, 101 Pentonville Road, London N1 9ND.

(2) Any reference in these Regulations to a numbered paragraph is a reference to the paragraph bearing that number in the Regulation in which the reference appears.

*Safety signs and colours*

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (4), a safety sign (including any colour on it) giving health or safety information or instruction to persons at work shall comply with Part 1 of BS 5378 ; but nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as requiring compliance with other standards referred to in that Part or with any other Part of BS 5378.

(2) Subject to paragraph (4), where a place at which there is a danger to the health or safety of persons at work is identified by a strip of alternate colours, those colours (including the proportion of each colour) shall comply with Part 1 of BS 5378.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4), a sign specified in Appendix A of Part 1 of BS 5378 shall not be used at—

- (a) any place of work, or
- (b) any premises to which section 4 of the 1974 Act applies (which section relates to non-domestic premises made available to persons as a place of work or as a place where they may use plant or substances provided for their use there),

except to provide the health or safety information or instruction specified beside it in the said Appendix.

(4) The preceding paragraphs of this Regulation shall not apply to—

- (a) any sign or colour—
  - (i) for regulating rail, road, inland waterway, marine or air traffic (including pedestrians in relation to such traffic),
  - or
  - (ii) which is in such proximity to such traffic that it might be confused with a sign or colour to which head (i) above applies,
  - or
  - (iii) relating to any load carried by such traffic, or
  - (iv) on an aircraft or hovercraft, or
  - (v) on a vessel ;
- (b) any sign or colour at a mine which is a coal mine or at any premises on which there is a tip to which Part I of the Mines and Quarries (Tips) Act 1969(a) applies and which is associated with a coal mine ;
- (c) any sign or colour relating to fire fighting or rescue equipment or emergency exits ;
- (d) any label or marking on a package or container ;
- (e) any label or marking on an explosive article ;
- (f) any sign, colour, label or marking, as the case may be, used in simulating for training purposes any circumstances in which any of the preceding sub-paragraphs of this paragraph apply ;
- (g) any use of an emblem or design authorised for the time being under section 6 of the Geneva Conventions Act 1957 (b).

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(a) 1969 c. 10 ; the relevant amending instrument is S.I. 1974/2013.

(b) 1957 c. 52.

*Internal works traffic*

4.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), where at a place of work or at any premises to which section 4 of the 1974 Act applies a sign is used for regulating traffic on land (including pedestrians in relation to such traffic) in circumstances in which the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967(a) does not apply, then, if there is an appropriate traffic sign prescribed under that Act, that sign shall be used; in this paragraph “traffic” does not include rail traffic.

(2) This Regulation shall not apply at a mine which is a coal mine or at any premises on which there is a tip to which Part I of the Mines and Quarries (Tips) Act 1969 applies and which is associated with a coal mine.

*Duty to ensure that these Regulations are complied with*

5.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the employer or self-employed person, as the case may be, shall ensure that these Regulations are complied with, except that where signs or colours to which these Regulations apply are at a place of work or at premises over which that employer or self-employed person has no control, the person having control of that place of work or those premises shall ensure that these Regulations are complied with.

(2) In the case of a mine or quarry, the manager shall ensure that these Regulations are complied with.

Signed by order of the Secretary of State.

3rd October 1980.

*Patrick Mayhew,*

Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,  
Department of Employment.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations implement in part the provisions of Council Directive 77/576/EEC (O.J. No. L229, 7.9.77, p.12) on the provision of safety signs at places of work.

The Regulations provide that safety signs (that is signs combining geometrical shape, colour and pictorial symbol to provide specific health or safety information or instruction) for persons at work and colours in strips identifying places where there is danger to their health or safety shall comply with Standard number BS 5378: Part 1: 1980 issued by the British Standards Institution. The Regulations also provide that certain safety signs are not to be used at places of work except to provide specified health or safety information or instruction. The exceptions are listed in Regulation 3(4).

The Regulations also provide that signs used for regulating traffic at places of work shall be the appropriate signs under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1967.

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