

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1981 No. 1776

IRON AND STEEL

The European Communities (Iron and Steel Employees Re-adaptation Benefits Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 1981

Made - - - - 10th December 1981

Laid before Parliament 11th December 1981

Coming into Operation 3rd January 1982

Whereas the Commission of the European Communities have agreed to provide non-repayable aid towards the payment to or for the benefit of workers in the steel industry in the United Kingdom of such allowances and other payments as are provided for in Article 56(2) of the Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community signed at Paris on 18th April 1951(a), the provision of which aid is conditional upon payment by the Government of the United Kingdom of a contribution to those payments of not less than the amount of that aid:

Now therefore the Secretary of State, being the designated Minister under the European Communities (Designation) Order 1972(b), in exercise of his powers under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(c), hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the European Communities (Iron and Steel Employees Re-adaptation Benefits Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 1981 and shall come into operation on 3rd January 1982.

2. The Scheme set out in Schedule 1 to the European Communities (Iron and Steel Employees Re-adaptation Benefits Scheme) Regulations 1979(d) is hereby further amended—

(a) in Article 1, by the omission of the definition of “earnings-related supplement”;

(b) by the substitution for Article 4 of the following Article—

“Payments to unemployed men under 55 and unemployed women under 50

4.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of the Scheme, the Secretary of State may pay £16 to any eligible steel employee fulfilling the conditions specified in paragraph (2), in respect of any week during the period specified in paragraph (3):

Provided that where such employee ceases to be unemployed during that period, nothing in this paragraph shall authorise any payment to him in respect of the week in which he commences full-time

(a) Article 56(2) is set out in O.J. No. 33, 16.5.60, p. 781/60.

(b) S.I. 1972/1811.

(c) 1972 c. 68.

(d) S.I. 1979/954; these Regulations were amended by S.I. 1980/1912 and 1981/1102.

employment or in respect of any subsequent week in which he is so employed.

(2) The conditions referred to in paragraph (1) are that the said employee—

- (a) was on the relevant date under the age of 55 or, if a woman, under the age of 50; and
- (b) is an unemployed person; and
- (c) if a married woman, is not prevented from obtaining unemployment or sickness benefit or maternity allowance solely because she has elected to pay primary Class 1 contributions at the reduced rate in accordance with the Social Security (Contributions) Regulations 1979(a).

(3) Subject to the provisions of Article 11(1), the period referred to in paragraph (1) is a period of 52 weeks of unemployment (which weeks need not be consecutive) subsequent to the relevant date, beginning with the first and ending with the 52nd week of such unemployment.

(4) Where for any week a steel employee receives payment of the benefit specified in Article 13(1)(iii) of the Scheme, the amount of any payment for which he would otherwise be eligible under this Article shall be abated by the amount of that benefit.”;

(c) in Article 5—

- (i) in paragraph (3), by the substitution for the words “29th week” of the words “27th week”;
- (ii) by the substitution for paragraph (6) of the following paragraph:—

“(6) In addition to payments under paragraph (1), the Secretary of State may, subject to paragraph (9), pay £16 to any eligible steel employee fulfilling the conditions specified in paragraph (2) in respect of any week during the first 26 weeks of unemployment subsequent to the relevant date”; and
- (iii) by the omission of paragraph (7);
- (d) in Article 6(1) in the second column of the Table, by the substitution for the word “third” in both places where it occurs of the word “first”;
- (e) in Article 8(2)(b)(i), by the substitution for the words from “weekly” to “the relevant date” of the words “previous earnings”; and
- (f) in Article 11(1)(b), by the substitution for the words “106 weeks” of the words “104 weeks”; and
- (g) in Article 13—
 - (i) in paragraph (1)(i), (vi) and (viii) by the omission of the words “and earnings-related supplement”;
 - (ii) in paragraph (1)(iii) by the substitution for the words “Supplementary Benefits Commission determine” of the words “benefit officer determines”; and
 - (iii) by the substitution for paragraph (2) of the following paragraph—

“(2) In this Article, “the benefit officer” means a person appointed pursuant to section 27(2) of the Supplementary Benefits Act 1976(b) to perform the functions conferred by

(a) S.I. 1979/591.

(b) 1976 c. 71.

virtue of that Act on benefit officers and "supplementary allowance" means supplementary allowance payable under Part I of that Act".

3. Paragraphs (e) and (f) of Regulation 2 of the European Communities (Iron and Steel Employees Re-adaptation Benefits Scheme) (Amendment) Regulations 1980(a) are hereby revoked.

4.—(1) The amendments made by Regulations 2(a) to (d), (f) and (g)(i) of these Regulations and the revocations effected by Regulation 3 of these Regulations shall not have effect in the case of any steel employee who became a redundant employee before the coming into operation of these Regulations.

(2) The amendment made by Regulation 2(e) of these Regulations shall not have effect in the case of any steel employee until the first week in respect of which he is eligible for a payment under the said Scheme and which commences after the coming into operation of these Regulations.

John Wakeham,

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department of Industry.

10th December 1981.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations further amend the European Communities (Iron and Steel Employees Re-adaptation Benefits Scheme) Regulations 1979, which set out a scheme providing for the payment of benefits to certain steel workers who are made redundant or transferred to new work at lower rates of pay as a result of events which come within the terms of Article 56(2) of the ECSC Treaty.

The amendments made by paragraphs (a) to (d), (f) and (g)(i) of Regulation 2 of these Regulations provide that the weekly payments made to unemployed redundant steel workers during the first six months of their unemployment will continue to be made at the same level as before after January 3rd 1982 when section 4(2) of the Social Security (No. 2) Act 1980 comes into force and earnings-related supplement is abolished.

The Regulations also make three other minor amendments (paragraphs (e) and (g)(ii) and (iii) of Regulation 2).

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