
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1992 No. 2966

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992

Made - - - - 25th November 1992
Laid before Parliament 2nd December 1992
Coming into force - - 1st January 1993

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred upon her by sections 15(1), (2), (3)(a) and (b), (5)(b) and (9) of, and paragraphs 11 and 14 of Schedule 3 to the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974⁽¹⁾, and of all other powers enabling her in that behalf and for the purpose of giving effect without modifications to proposals submitted to her by the Health and Safety Commission under section 11(2)(d) of the said 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 Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 and shall come into force on 1st January 1993.

Commencement Information

II [Reg. 1](#) in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, “personal protective equipment” means all equipment (including clothing affording protection against the weather) which is intended to be worn or held by a person at work and which protects him against one or more risks to his health or safety, and any addition or accessory designed to meet that objective.

(2) Any reference in these Regulations to—

- (a) a numbered regulation or Schedule is a reference to the regulation or Schedule in these Regulations so numbered; and

(1) [1974 c. 37](#); sections 15 and 50 were amended by the Employment Protection Act [1975 \(c. 71\)](#), Schedule 15, paragraphs 6 and 16 respectively.

Status: Point in time view as at 06/04/2006.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) a numbered paragraph is a reference to the paragraph so numbered in the regulation in which the reference appears.

Commencement Information

I2 Reg. 2 in force at 1.1.1993, see **reg. 1**

Disapplication of these Regulations

3.—(1) These Regulations shall not apply to or in relation to the master or crew of a sea-going ship or to the employer of such persons in respect of the normal ship-board activities of a ship's crew under the direction of the master.

- (2) Regulations 4 to 12 shall not apply in respect of personal protective equipment which is—
- ordinary working clothes and uniforms which do not specifically protect the health and safety of the wearer;
 - an offensive weapon within the meaning of section 1(4) of the Prevention of Crime Act 1953⁽²⁾ used as self-defence or as deterrent equipment;
 - portable devices for detecting and signalling risks and nuisances;
 - personal protective equipment used for protection while travelling on a road within the meaning (in England and Wales) of section 192(1) of the Road Traffic Act 1988⁽³⁾, and (in Scotland) of section 151 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984⁽⁴⁾;
 - equipment used during the playing of competitive sports.

(3) Regulations 4 and 6 to 12 shall not apply where any of the following Regulations apply and in respect of any risk to a person's health or safety for which any of them require the provision or use of personal protective equipment, namely—

- the Control of Lead at Work Regulations 1980⁽⁵⁾;
- ^{F1}the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 [S.I.1999/xxxx];
- the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 1987⁽⁶⁾;
- the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1988⁽⁷⁾;
- ^{F2}the Noise at Work Regulations 1989⁽⁸⁾^{F2}The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005];
- the Construction (Head Protection) Regulation 1989⁽⁹⁾.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in reg. 3 substituted (1.1.2000) by [The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 \(S.I. 1999/3232\)](#), [reg. 1\(a\)](#), [Sch. 9 para. 3](#) (with [reg. 3](#))
- F2** Words in reg. 3(3)(e) substituted (6.4.2006 for specified purposes, 6.4.2008 in so far as not already in force) by [The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 \(S.I. 2005/1643\)](#), [regs. 1, 15\(1\)\(a\)](#) (with [reg. 3\(3\)\(4\)](#))

- (2) 1953 c. 14.
 (3) 1988 c. 52.
 (4) 1984 c. 54.
 (5) S.I. 1980/1248.
 (6) S.I. 1987/2115; amended by S.I. 1988/712.
 (7) S.I. 1988/1657; amended by S.I. 1990/2026 and S.I. 1992/2382.
 (8) S.I. 1989/1790.
 (9) S.I. 1989/2209.

Commencement Information

I3 Reg. 3 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

Provision of personal protective equipment

4.—(1) [^{F3}Subject to paragraph (1A),] Every employer shall ensure that suitable personal protective equipment is provided to his employees who may be exposed to a risk to their health or safety while at work except where and to the extent that such risk has been adequately controlled by other means which are equally or more effective.

[^{F4}(1A) Where the characteristics of any policing activity are such that compliance by the relevant officer with the requirement in paragraph (1) would lead to an inevitable conflict with the exercise of police powers or performance of police duties, that requirement shall be complied with so far as is reasonably practicable.]

(2) Every self-employed person shall ensure that he is provided with suitable personal protective equipment where he may be exposed to a risk to his health or safety while at work except where and to the extent that such risk has been adequately controlled by other means which are equally or more effective.

(3) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraphs (1) and (2), personal protective equipment shall not be suitable unless—

- [^{F5}(a) it is appropriate for the risk or risks involved, the conditions at the place where exposure to the risk may occur, and the period for which it is worn;
- (b) it takes account of ergonomic requirements and the state of health of the person or persons who may wear it, and of the characteristics of the workstation of each such person;]
- (c) it is capable of fitting the wearer correctly, if necessary, after adjustments within the range for which it is designed;
- (d) so far as is practicable, it is effective to prevent or adequately control the risk or risks involved without increasing overall risk;
- (e) it complies with any enactment (whether in an Act or instrument) which implements in Great Britain any provision on design or manufacture with respect to health or safety in any relevant Community directive listed in Schedule 1 which is applicable to that item of personal protective equipment.

[^{F6}(4) Where it is necessary to ensure that personal protective equipment is hygienic and otherwise free of risk to health, every employer and every self-employed person shall ensure that personal protective equipment provided under this regulation is provided to a person for use only by him.]

Textual Amendments

- F3** Words in reg. 4(1) inserted (14.4.1999) by [The Police \(Health and Safety\) Regulations 1999 \(S.I. 1999/860\)](#), [regs. 1, 4\(2\)](#)
- F4** Reg. 4(1A) inserted (14.4.1999) by [The Police \(Health and Safety\) Regulations 1999 \(S.I. 1999/860\)](#), [regs. 1, 4\(3\)](#)
- F5** Reg. 4(3)(a)(b) substituted (17.9.2002) by [The Health and Safety \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2002 \(S.I. 2002/2174\)](#), [regs. 1, 5\(a\)](#)
- F6** Reg. 4(4) added (17.9.2002) by [The Health and Safety \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2002 \(S.I. 2002/2174\)](#), [regs. 1, 5\(b\)](#)

Status: Point in time view as at 06/04/2006.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992. (See end of Document for details)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Reg. 4(3)(e) restricted (temp.) (1.1.1995) by [The Personal Protective Equipment \(EC Directive\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 1994 \(S.I. 1994/2326\)](#), regs. 1(3), 5

Commencement Information

- I4** Reg. 4 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

Compatibility of personal protective equipment

5.—(1) Every employer shall ensure that where the presence of more than one risk to health or safety makes it necessary for his employee to wear or use simultaneously more than one item of personal protective equipment, such equipment is compatible and continues to be effective against the risk or risks in question.

(2) Every self-employed person shall ensure that where the presence of more than one risk to health or safety makes it necessary for him to wear or use simultaneously more than one item of personal protective equipment, such equipment is compatible and continues to be effective against the risk or risks in question.

Commencement Information

- I5** [Reg. 5](#) in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

Assessment of personal protective equipment

6.—(1) Before choosing any personal protective equipment which by virtue of regulation 4 he is required to ensure is provided, an employer or self-employed person shall ensure that an assessment is made to determine whether the personal protective equipment he intends will be provided is suitable.

(2) The assessment required by paragraph (1) shall include—

- (a) an assessment of any risk or risks to health or safety which have not been avoided by other means;
- (b) the definition of the characteristics which personal protective equipment must have in order to be effective against the risks referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph, taking into account any risks which the equipment itself may create;
- (c) comparison of the characteristics of the personal protective equipment available with the characteristics referred to in sub-paragraph (b) of this paragraph.
- [^{F7}(d) an assessment as to whether the personal protective equipment is compatible with other personal protective equipment which is in use and which an employee would be required to wear simultaneously.]

(3) Every employer or self-employed person who is required by paragraph (1) to ensure that any assessment is made shall ensure that any such assessment is reviewed if—

- (a) there is reason to suspect that it is no longer valid; or
- (b) there has been a significant change in the matters to which it relates,

and where as a result of any such review changes in the assessment are required, the relevant employer or self-employed person shall ensure that they are made.

Textual Amendments

F7 Reg. 6(2)(d) added (17.9.2002) by The Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2002 (S.I. 2002/2174), regs. 1, 5(c)

Commencement Information

I6 Reg. 6 in force at 1.1.1993, see reg. 1

Maintenance and replacement of personal protective equipment

7.—(1) Every employer shall ensure that any personal protective equipment provided to his employees is maintained (including replaced or cleaned as appropriate) in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair.

(2) Every self-employed person shall ensure that any personal protective equipment provided to him is maintained (including replaced or cleaned as appropriate) in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair.

Commencement Information

I7 Reg. 7 in force at 1.1.1993, see reg. 1

Accommodation for personal protective equipment

8. Where an employer or self-employed person is required, by virtue of regulation 4, to ensure personal protective equipment is provided, he shall also ensure that appropriate accommodation is provided for that personal protective equipment when it is not being used.

Commencement Information

I8 Reg. 8 in force at 1.1.1993, see reg. 1

Information, instruction and training

9.—(1) Where an employer is required to ensure that personal protective equipment is provided to an employee, the employer shall also ensure that the employee is provided with such information, instruction and training as is adequate and appropriate to enable the employee to know—

- (a) the risk or risks which the personal protective equipment will avoid or limit;
- (b) the purpose for which and the manner in which personal protective equipment is to be used; and
- (c) any action to be taken by the employee to ensure that the personal protective equipment remains in an efficient state, in efficient working order and in good repair as required by regulation 7(1) [^{F8}and shall ensure that such information is kept available to employees].

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1), the information and instruction provided by virtue of that paragraph shall not be adequate and appropriate unless it is comprehensible to the persons to whom it is provided.

[^{F9}(3) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (1) the employer shall, where appropriate, and at suitable intervals, organise demonstrations in the wearing of personal protective equipment.]

Status: Point in time view as at 06/04/2006.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F8** Words in [reg. 9\(1\)](#) added (17.9.2002) by [The Health and Safety \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2002 \(S.I. 2002/2174\)](#), regs. 1, **5(d)**
- F9** [Reg. 9\(3\)](#) added (17.9.2002) by [The Health and Safety \(Miscellaneous Amendments\) Regulations 2002 \(S.I. 2002/2174\)](#), regs. 1, **5(e)**

Commencement Information

- I9** [Reg. 9](#) in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

Use of personal protective equipment

10.—(1) Every employer shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that any personal protective equipment provided to his employees by virtue of regulation 4(1) is properly used.

(2) Every employee shall use any personal protective equipment provided to him by virtue of these Regulations in accordance both with any training in the use of the personal protective equipment concerned which has been received by him and the instructions respecting that use which have been provided to him by virtue of regulation 9.

(3) Every self-employed person shall make full and proper use of any personal protective equipment provided to him by virtue of regulation 4(2).

(4) Every employee and self-employed person who has been provided with personal protective equipment by virtue of regulation 4 shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that it is returned to the accommodation provided for it after use.

Commencement Information

- I10** [Reg. 10](#) in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

Reporting loss or defect

11. Every employee who has been provided with personal protective equipment by virtue of regulation 4(1) shall forthwith report to his employer any loss of or obvious defect in that personal protective equipment.

Commencement Information

- I11** [Reg. 11](#) in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

Exemption certificates

12.—(1) The Secretary of State for Defence may, in the interests of national security, by a certificate in writing exempt—

- (a) any of the home forces, any visiting force or any headquarters from those requirements of these Regulations which impose obligations on employers; or
- (b) any member of the home forces, any member of a visiting force or any member of a headquarters from the requirements imposed by regulation 10 or 11;

and any exemption such as is specified in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) of this paragraph may be granted subject to conditions and to a limit of time and may be revoked by the said Secretary of State by a further certificate in writing at any time.

(2) In this regulation—

- (a) “the home forces” has the same meaning as in section 12(1) of the Visiting Forces Act 1952⁽¹⁰⁾;
- (b) “headquarters” has the same meaning as in article 3(2) of the Visiting Forces and International Headquarters (Application of Law) Order 1965⁽¹¹⁾;
- (c) “member of a headquarters” has the same meaning as in paragraph 1(1) of the Schedule to the International Headquarters and Defence Organisations Act 1964⁽¹²⁾; and
- (d) “visiting force” has the same meaning as it does for the purposes of any provision of Part I of the Visiting Forces Act 1952.

Commencement Information

I12 [Reg. 12](#) in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

Extension outside Great Britain

13. These Regulations shall apply to and in relation to the premises and activities outside Great Britain to which sections 1 to 59 and 80 to 82 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 apply by virtue of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (Application Outside Great Britain) Order 1989⁽¹³⁾ as they apply within Great Britain.

Commencement Information

I13 [Reg. 13](#) in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

Modifications, repeal and revocations

14.—(1) The Act and Regulations specified in Schedule 2 shall be modified to the extent specified in the corresponding Part of that Schedule.

(2) Section 65 of the Factories Act 1961 is repealed.

(3) The instruments specified in column 1 of Schedule 3 are revoked to the extent specified in column 3 of that Schedule.

Commencement Information

I14 [Reg. 14](#) in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

⁽¹⁰⁾ 1952 c. 67.

⁽¹¹⁾ S.I. 1965/1536, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

⁽¹²⁾ 1964 c. 5.

⁽¹³⁾ S.I. 1989/840.

Status: Point in time view as at 06/04/2006.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The
Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992. (See end of Document for details)

Signed by order of the Secretary of State.

Patrick McLoughlin
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Department of Employment

[^{F10}SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 4(3)(e)

RELEVANT COMMUNITY DIRECTIVES

Textual Amendments

F10 Sch. 1 substituted (1.1.1995) by [The Medical Devices Regulations 1994 \(S.I. 1994/3017\)](#), regs. 1(b), **25**

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C2 Sch. 1 modified (1.1.1995) by [The Personal Protective Equipment \(EC Directive\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 1994 \(S.I. 1994/2326\)](#), regs. 1(3), **3(1)**

C3 Sch. 1 modified (1.1.1997) by [The Personal Protective Equipment \(EC Directive\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 1996 \(S.I. 1996/3039\)](#), regs. 1, **2(1)**

1. Council Directive [89/686/EEC](#) on the approximation of the laws of the member States relating to personal protective equipment (OJNo. L399, 30.12.89, p.18).

2. Council Directive [93/42/EEC](#) concerning medical devices (OJNo. L169, 12.7.93, p.1).]

SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 14(1)

MODIFICATIONS

PART I

THE FACTORIES ACT 1961(14)

1. In section 30(6), for “breathing apparatus of a type approved by the chief inspector”, substitute “suitable breathing apparatus”.

Commencement Information

I15 Sch. 2 para. 1 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

PART II

THE COAL AND OTHER MINES (FIRE AND RESCUE) ORDER 1956(15)

2. In Schedule 1, in regulation 23(a), for “breathing apparatus of a type approved by the Minister”, substitute “suitable breathing apparatus”.

Commencement Information

I16 Sch. 2 para. 2 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

(14) [1961 c. 34](#); in section 30(6), by virtue of [S.I. 1974/1941](#), references to the chief inspector are to be construed as references to an inspector appointed by the Health and Safety Executive under section 19 of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 who is authorised to act for the purposes of the provision in question.

(15) [S.I. 1956/1768](#); to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

Status: Point in time view as at 06/04/2006.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992. (See end of Document for details)

3. In Schedule 1, in regulation 23(b), for “smoke helmets or other apparatus serving the same purpose, being helmets or apparatus of a type approved by the Minister,”, substitute “suitable smoke helmets or other suitable apparatus serving the same purpose”.

Commencement Information

I17 Sch. 2 para. 3 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

4. In Schedule 1, in regulation 24(a), for “smoke helmet or other apparatus serving the same purpose, being a helmet or other apparatus of a type approved by the Minister,”, substitute “suitable smoke helmet or other suitable apparatus serving the same purpose”.

Commencement Information

I18 Sch. 2 para. 4 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

PART III

THE SHIPBUILDING AND SHIP-REPAIRING REGULATIONS 1960

5. In each of regulations 50, 51(1) and 60(1), for “breathing apparatus of a type approved for the purpose of this Regulation”, substitute “suitable breathing apparatus”.

Commencement Information

I19 Sch. 2 para. 5 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

PART IV

THE COAL MINES (RESPIRABLE DUST) REGULATIONS 1975(16)

6. In regulation 10(a), for “dust respirators of a type approved by the Executive for the purpose of this Regulation”, substitute “suitable dust respirators”.

Commencement Information

I20 Sch. 2 para. 6 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

PART V

THE CONTROL OF LEAD AT WORK REGULATIONS 1980

7. In regulation 7—

- (a) after “respiratory protective equipment”, insert “which complies with regulation 8A or, where the requirements of that regulation do not apply, which is”; and

(16) [S.I. 1975/1433](#); to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

(b) after “as will”, insert “, in either case.”.

Commencement Information

I21 Sch. 2 para. 7 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

8. In regulation 8, for “adequate protective clothing”, substitute “protective clothing which complies with regulation 8A or, where no requirement is imposed by virtue of that regulation, is adequate”.

Commencement Information

I22 Sch. 2 para. 8 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

9. After regulation 8, insert the following new regulations—

“Compliance with relevant Community directives

8A. Any respiratory protective equipment or protective clothing shall comply with any enactment (whether in an Act or instrument) which implements any provision on design or manufacture with respect to health or safety in any relevant Community directive listed in Schedule 1 to the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 which is applicable to that item of respiratory protective equipment or protective clothing.

Assessment of respiratory protective equipment or protective clothing

8B.—(1) Before choosing respiratory protective equipment or protective clothing, an employer shall make an assessment to determine whether it will satisfy regulation 7 or 8, as appropriate.

(2) The assessment required by paragraph (1) shall involve—

- (a) definition of the characteristics necessary to comply with regulation 7 or, as the case may be, 8, and
- (b) comparison of the characteristics of respiratory protective equipment or protective clothing available with the characteristics referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph.

(3) The assessment required by paragraph (1) shall be revised if—

- (a) there is reason to suspect that it is no longer valid; or
- (b) there has been a significant change in the work to which it relates,

and, where, as a result of the review, changes in the assessment are required, the employer shall make them.”.

Commencement Information

I23 Sch. 2 para. 9 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

10. In regulation 9, for sub-paragraph (b), substitute the following sub-paragraph—

“(b) where he is required under regulations 7 or 8 to provide respiratory protective equipment or protective clothing, adequate changing facilities and adequate facilities for the storage of—

Status: Point in time view as at 06/04/2006.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992. (See end of Document for details)

- (i) the respiratory protective equipment or protective clothing, and
- (ii) personal clothing not worn during working hours.”.

Commencement Information

I24 Sch. 2 para. 10 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

11. At the end of regulation 13, add the following new paragraph—

“(3) Every employee shall take all reasonable steps to ensure that any respiratory protective equipment provided to him pursuant to regulation 7 and protective clothing provided to him pursuant to regulation 8 is returned to the accommodation provided for it after use.”

Commencement Information

I25 Sch. 2 para. 11 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

12. In regulation 18(2), omit the full stop and add “and that any provision imposed by the European Communities in respect of the encouragement of improvements in the safety and health of workers at work will be satisfied.”.

Commencement Information

I26 Sch. 2 para. 12 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

F11 PART VI

THE IONISING RADIATIONS REGULATIONS 1985

Textual Amendments

F11 Sch. 2 Pt. 6 revoked (1.1.2000) by [The Ionising Radiations Regulations 1999 \(S.I. 1999/3232\)](#), [regs. 1\(a\), 41\(2\)\(c\)](#) (with [reg. 3](#))

- 13.**
- 14.**
- 15.**

PART VII

THE CONTROL OF ASBESTOS AT WORK REGULATIONS 1987

16. In regulation 8(3), after “shall” the first time that word appears, insert “comply with paragraph (3A) or, where no requirement is imposed by that paragraph, shall”.

Commencement Information

I27 Sch. 2 para. 16 in force at 1.1.1993, see **reg. 1**

17. Insert the following new paragraph after regulation 8(3)—

“(3A) Any respiratory protective equipment provided in pursuance of paragraph (2) or protective clothing provided in pursuance of regulation 11(1) shall comply with this paragraph if it complies with any enactment (whether in an Act or instrument) which implements in Great Britain any provision on design or manufacture with respect to health or safety in any relevant Community directive listed in Schedule 1 to the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 which is applicable to that item of respiratory protective equipment or protective clothing.”.

Commencement Information

I28 Sch. 2 para. 17 in force at 1.1.1993, see **reg. 1**

18. In regulation 20(2), omit the fullstop and add “and that any provision imposed by the European Communities in respect of the encouragement of improvements in the safety and health of workers at work will be satisfied.”.

Commencement Information

I29 Sch. 2 para. 18 in force at 1.1.1993, see **reg. 1**

PART VIII

**THE CONTROL OF SUBSTANCES
HAZARDOUS TO HEALTH REGULATIONS 1988**

F12**19.**

Textual Amendments

F12 Sch. 2 para. 19 revoked (16.1.1995) by The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1994 (S.I. 1994/3246), regs. 1, **18(1)**

F13**20.**

Textual Amendments

F13 Sch. 2 para. 20 revoked (16.1.1995) by The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1994 (S.I. 1994/3246), regs. 1, **18(1)**

F14**21.**

Status: Point in time view as at 06/04/2006.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992. (See end of Document for details)

Textual Amendments

- F14** Sch. 2 para. 21 revoked (16.1.1995) by The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 1994 (S.I. 1994/3246), regs. 1, **18(1)**

PART IX

THE NOISE AT WORK REGULATIONS 1989

- 22.** [^{F15}Add the following new paragraph at the end of regulation 8—

“(3) Any personal ear protectors provided by virtue of this regulation shall comply with any enactment (whether in an Act or instrument) which implements in Great Britain any provision on design or manufacture with respect to health or safety in any relevant Community directive listed in Schedule 1 to the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 which is applicable to those ear protectors.”.]

Textual Amendments

- F15** Sch. 2 Pt. 9 revoked (6.4.2006 for specified purposes, 6.4.2008 in so far as not already in force) by The Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005 (S.I. 2005/1643), regs. 1, 15(3), **Sch. 3** (with reg. 3(3)(4))

Commencement Information

- I30** Sch. 2 para. 22 in force at 1.1.1993, see **reg. 1**

PART X

THE CONSTRUCTION (HEAD PROTECTION) REGULATIONS 1989

- 23.** Add the following paragraphs at the end of regulation 3—

“(3) Any head protection provided by virtue of this regulation shall comply with any enactment (whether in an Act or instrument) which implements any provision on design or manufacture with respect to health or safety in any relevant Community directive listed in Schedule 1 to the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 which is applicable to that head protection.

(4) Before choosing head protection, an employer or self-employed person shall make an assessment to determine whether it is suitable.

(5) The assessment required by paragraph (4) of this regulation shall involve—

- (a) the definition of the characteristics which head protection must have in order to be suitable;
- (b) comparison of the characteristics of the protection available with the characteristics referred to in sub-paragraph (a) of this paragraph.

(6) The assessment required by paragraph (4) shall be reviewed if—

- (a) there is reason to suspect that it is no longer valid; or
- (b) there has been a significant change in the work to which it relates,

and where as a result of the review changes in the assessment are required, the relevant employer or self-employed person shall make them.

(7) Every employer and every self-employed person shall ensure that appropriate accommodation is available for head protection provided by virtue of these Regulations when it is not being used.”.

Commencement Information

I31 Sch. 2 para. 23 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

24. For regulation 6(4), substitute the following paragraph—

“(4) Every employee or self-employed person who is required to wear suitable head protection by or under these Regulations shall—

- (a) make full and proper use of it; and
- (b) take all reasonable steps to return it to the accommodation provided for it after use.”.

Commencement Information

I32 Sch. 2 para. 24 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

25. In regulation 9(2), omit the full stop and add “and that any provision imposed by the European Communities in respect of the encouragement of improvements in the safety and health of workers at work will be satisfied.”.

Commencement Information

I33 Sch. 2 para. 25 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

SCHEDULE 3

Regulation 14(3)

REVOCATIONS

Commencement Information

I34 Sch. 3 in force at 1.1.1993, see [reg. 1](#)

(1) Title	(2) Reference	(3) Extent of Revocation
Regulations dated 26th February 1906 in respect of the processes of spinning and weaving of flax and tow and the processes incidental thereto (the Flax and Tow—Spinning and Weaving Regulations 1906).	S.R. & O. 1906/177, amended by S.I. 1988/1657.	In regulation 9, the words “unless waterproof skirts, and bibs of suitable material, are provided by the occupier and worn by the workers”. Regulation 13.

Status: Point in time view as at 06/04/2006.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992. (See end of Document for details)

(1) Title	(2) Reference	(3) Extent of Revocation
Order dated 5th October 1917 (the Tin or Terne Plates Manufacture Welfare Order 1917).	S.R. & O. 1917/1035 .	Paragraph 1.
Order dated 15th August 1919 (the Fruit Preserving Welfare Order 1919).	S.R. & O. 1919/1136 , amended by S.I. 1988/1657 .	Paragraph 1.
Order dated 23rd April 1920 (the Laundries Welfare Order 1920).	S.R. & O. 1920/654 .	Paragraph 1.
Order dated 28th July 1920 (the Gut-Scrapping, Tripe Dressing, etc. Welfare Order 1920).	S.R. & O. 1920/1437 .	Paragraph 1.
Order dated 3rd March 1921 (the Glass Bevelling Welfare Order 1921).	S.R. & O. 1921/288 .	Paragraph 1.
The Aerated Water Regulations 1921.	S.R. & O. 1921/1932 ; amended by S.I. 1981/686 .	The whole Regulations.
The Sacks (Cleaning and Repairing) Welfare Order 1927.	S.R. & O. 1927/860 .	Paragraph 1.
The Oil Cake Welfare Order 1929.	S.R. & O. 1929/534 .	Paragraph 1.
The Cement Works Welfare Order 1930.	S.R. & O. 1930/94 .	Paragraph 1.
The Tanning Welfare Order 1930.	S.R. & O. 1930/312 .	Paragraph 1 and the Schedule.
The Magnesium (Grinding of Castings and Other Articles) Special Regulations 1946.	S.R. & O. 1946/2107 .	Regulation 12.
The Clay Works (Welfare) Special Regulations 1948.	S.I. 1948/1547 .	Regulation 5.
The Iron and Steel Foundries Regulations 1953.	S.I. 1953/1464 ; amended by S.I. 1974/1681 and S.I. 1981/1332 .	Regulation 8.
The Shipbuilding and Ship-Repairing Regulations 1960.	S.I. 1960/1932 ; amended by S.I. 1974/1681 .	Regulations 73 and 74.
The Non-Ferrous Metals (Melting and Founding) Regulations 1962.	S.I. 1962/1667 ; amended by S.I. 1974/1681 .	Regulation 13.

(1) Title	(2) Reference	(3) Extent of Revocation
The Abstract of Special Regulations (Aerated Water) Order 1963.	S.I. 1963/2058 .	The whole Order.
The Construction (Health and Welfare) Regulations 1966.	S.I. 1966/95 ; to which there are amendments not relevant to these regulations.	Regulation 15.
The Foundries (Protective Footwear and Gaiters) Regulations 1971.	S.I. 1971/476 .	The whole Regulations.
The Protection of Eyes Regulations 1974.	S.I. 1974/1681 ; amended by S.I. 1975/303 .	The whole Regulations.
The Aerated Water Regulations (Metrication) Regulations 1981.	S.I. 1981/686 .	The whole Regulations.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

1. These Regulations impose health and safety requirements with respect to the provision for, and use by, persons at work of personal protective equipment. Personal protective equipment is defined in regulation 2(1) and certain types of such equipment are excluded from the application of regulations 4 to 12 by regulation 3(2).

2. The Regulations do not apply in relation to sea transport (*regulation 3(1)*). With that exception, the Regulations, together with the existing Regulations listed in regulation 3(3) (which are modified by Parts V to X of Schedule 2), give effect as respects Great Britain to Council Directive [89/656/EEC](#) (OJ No. L 393, 30.12.89, p. 18) on the minimum health and safety requirements for the use by workers of personal protective equipment at the workplace.

3. Regulations 4 and 6 to 12 do not apply in respect of risks to health and safety for which personal protective equipment is required by specified existing Regulations (*regulation 3(3)*).

4. The Regulations require employers to ensure suitable personal protective equipment is provided for their employees and also require self-employed persons to ensure suitable personal protective equipment is provided for themselves. The circumstances in which personal protective equipment must be provided and minimum conditions of what is “suitable” are specified (*regulation 4*).

5. The Regulations also impose requirements with respect to—

- (a) compatibility of items of personal protective equipment where it is necessary to wear or use more than one item simultaneously (*regulation 5*);

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- (b) the making, review and changing of assessments in relation to the choice of personal protective equipment (*regulation 6*);
- (c) the maintenance (including replacement and cleaning as appropriate) of personal protective equipment (*regulation 7*);
- (d) the provision of accommodation for personal protective equipment (*regulation 8*);
- (e) the provision of information, instruction and training (*regulation 9*); and
- (f) ensuring personal protective equipment is used (*regulation 10(1)*).

6. Requirements are imposed on employees and self-employed persons in respect of the use of personal protective equipment and in respect of returning it to accommodation provided for it (*regulation 10(2) to (4)*). Employees are also required to report to their employer the loss of or any obvious defect in personal protective equipment (*regulation 11*).

7. The Secretary of State for Defence may grant exemptions from the Regulations in the interests of national security (*regulation 12*).

8. The Regulations extend to and in relation to certain premises and activities outside Great Britain (*regulation 13*).

9. Certain existing provisions relating to personal protective equipment are modified (*Schedule 2*). Provisions replaced by these Regulations are repealed or revoked (*regulation 14(2) and Schedule 3*).

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