
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1998 No. 494

The Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations 1998

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Health and Safety (Enforcing Authority) Regulations 1998 and shall come into force on 1st April 1998.

Interpretation

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

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

“agricultural activities”—

(a) includes horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming, livestock breeding and keeping, including the management of livestock up to the point of slaughter or export from Great Britain, forestry, the use of land as grazing land, market gardens and nursery grounds and the preparation of land for agricultural use;

(b) does not include such activities at a garden centre or other shop,

and for this purpose “livestock breeding and keeping” does not include activities the main purpose of which is entertainment;

“the Commission” means the Health and Safety Commission;

“common parts” means those parts of premises used in common by, or for providing common services to or common facilities for, the occupiers of the premises;

“construction work” and “contractor” have the meanings assigned to them by regulation 2(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994(1);

“dock premises” has the meaning assigned to it by regulation 2(1) of the Docks Regulations 1988(2);

“electricity system” does not include the consumer’s installation within the meaning of regulation 3(1) of the Electricity Supply Regulations 1988(3);

“the Executive” means the Health and Safety Executive;

“fairground” means such part of premises as is for the time being used wholly or mainly for the operation of any fairground equipment, other than a coin-operated ride, non-powered children’s playground equipment, swimming pool slide, go-kart, or plant designed to be used by members of the public for entertainment purposes for bouncing upon;

“gas” has the meaning assigned to it by section 48 of the Gas Act 1986(4);

“gas fitting” has the meaning assigned to it by section 48 of the Gas Act 1986;

“gas system” does not include a portable or mobile appliance supplied with gas from a cylinder, or the cylinder, pipes and other fittings used for supplying gas to that appliance;

(1) S.I.1994/3140; amended by S.I. 1996/1592.

(2) S.I. 1988/1655.

(3) S.I. 1988/1057.

(4) 1986 c. 44.

“ionising radiation” has the meaning assigned to it by regulation 2(1) of the Ionising Radiations Regulations 1985⁽⁵⁾;

“livestock” means any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skins or fur or for the purpose of any agricultural activity;

“local authority” means—

- (a) in relation to England, a county council so far as they are the council for an area for which there are no district councils, a district council, a London borough council, the Common Council of the City of London, the Sub-Treasurer of the Inner Temple, the Under-Treasurer of the Middle Temple or the Council of the Isles of Scilly;
- (b) in relation to Scotland, the council for a local government area; and
- (c) in relation to Wales, a county council or a county borough council;

“mine” has the meaning assigned to it by section 180 of the Mines and Quarries Act 1954⁽⁶⁾;

“office activities” includes any activity for the purposes of administration, clerical work, handling money, telephone and telegraph operating and the production of computer software by the use of computers; and for this purpose “clerical work” includes writing, book-keeping, sorting papers, filing, typing, duplicating, machine calculating, drawing and the editorial preparation of matter for publication except where that preparation is on the premises where newspapers, magazines, periodicals or books are printed;

“pleasure craft” has the meaning assigned to it by regulation 2(1) of the Docks Regulations 1988;

“preparation dangerous for supply” has the meaning assigned to it by regulation 2(1) of the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 1994⁽⁷⁾;

“prescribed system of guided transport” means a system using a mode of guided transport prescribed by regulation 3 of the Railways and Other Transport Systems (Approval of Works, Plant and Equipment) Regulations 1994⁽⁸⁾;

“quarry” has the meaning assigned to it by section 180 of the Mines and Quarries Act 1954;

“railway” means a railway or tramway with (in either case) a gauge of 350 millimetres or more or a prescribed system of guided transport;

“substance dangerous for supply” has the meaning assigned to it by regulation 2(1) of the Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) Regulations 1994;

“veterinary surgery” has the meaning assigned to it by section 27 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966⁽⁹⁾;

“work” in relation to a gas fitting has the meaning assigned to it by regulation 2(1) of the Gas Safety (Installation and Use) Regulations 1994⁽¹⁰⁾;

“zoo” has the meaning assigned to it by section 1(2) of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981⁽¹¹⁾.

(2) In these Regulations (except regulation 4(7)), unless the context otherwise requires, any reference to the enforcing authority for premises or parts of premises is a reference to the enforcing authority for the relevant statutory provisions in relation to those premises or parts, as the case may be, and to any activity carried on in them.

(3) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, any reference to—

⁽⁵⁾ S.I. 1985/1333.

⁽⁶⁾ 1954 c. 70.

⁽⁷⁾ S.I. 1994/3247.

⁽⁸⁾ S.I. 1994/157.

⁽⁹⁾ 1966 c. 36.

⁽¹⁰⁾ S.I. 1994/1886.

⁽¹¹⁾ 1981 c. 37.

- (a) a numbered regulation or Schedule is a reference to the regulation of or Schedule to these Regulations so numbered; and
- (b) a numbered paragraph is a reference to the paragraph so numbered in the regulation or Schedule in which that reference appears.

Local authorities to be enforcing authorities in certain cases

3.—(1) Where the main activity carried on in non-domestic premises is specified in Schedule 1, the local authority for the area in which those premises are situated shall be the enforcing authority for them, and the Executive shall be the enforcing authority in any other case including the common parts of domestic premises.

(2) Where such premises are occupied by more than one occupier each part separately occupied shall be regarded as being separate premises for the purposes of paragraph (1).

(3) While a vehicle is parked in connection with the sale from it of food, drink or other articles the vehicle together with its pitch shall be regarded as separate premises for the purposes of paragraph (1).

(4) Where paragraph (2) applies, the local authority shall be the enforcing authority for the common parts, except that—

- (a) if the Executive is the enforcing authority for—
 - (i) all other parts of the premises, the Executive shall be the enforcing authority for the common parts;
 - (ii) any other part of the premises and the occupier of that part has any obligations under the relevant statutory provisions for any matters appertaining to the common parts, the Executive shall be the enforcing authority for those provisions in respect of such matters;
- (b) in the case of land within the perimeter of an airport the Executive shall be the enforcing authority for the common parts—
 - (i) which are not within a building; or
 - (ii) to which passengers are admitted but other members of the public are not admitted.

(5) Paragraph (2) shall not apply to—

- (a) the tunnel system within the meaning it would have in section 1(7) of the Channel Tunnel Act 1987(12) if the words “to be” did not appear;
- (b) an offshore installation within the meaning of regulation 3 of the Offshore Installations and Pipeline Works (Management and Administration) Regulation 1995(13);
- (c) a building or construction site, that is to say, premises where the only activities being undertaken are construction work and activities for the purposes of or in connection with such work;
- (d) the campus of a university, polytechnic, college, school or similar educational establishment;
- (e) a hospital;

and the Executive shall be the enforcing authority for the whole of any such premises.

(6) Notwithstanding paragraph (4), the Executive shall be the enforcing authority for the common parts in a railway station or terminal or in a goods yard which is served by a railway.

(7) This regulation shall have effect subject to regulations 4, 5 and 6.

(12) 1987 c. 53.

(13) S.I. 1995/738.

Exceptions

4.—(1) The Executive shall be the enforcing authority for—

- (a) the enforcement of any of the relevant statutory provisions against a body specified in paragraph (3) or the officers or servants of such a body;
- (b) any part of premises occupied by such a body.

(2) Where premises are mainly occupied by a body specified in paragraph (3) and are partly occupied by another person for the purpose of providing services at the premises for that body, the Executive shall be the enforcing authority for the part of the premises occupied by that other person.

(3) The bodies referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) are—

- (a) a county council;
- (b) any other local authority as defined in regulation 2;
- (c) a parish council in England or a community council in Wales or Scotland;
- (d) a police authority or the Receiver for the Metropolitan Police District;
- (e) a fire authority within the meaning of section 43(1) of the Fire Precautions Act 1971⁽¹⁴⁾;
- (f) a headquarters or an organisation designated for the purposes of the International Headquarters and Defence Organisation Act 1964⁽¹⁵⁾; or a service authority of a visiting force within the meaning of section 12 of the Visiting Forces Act 1952⁽¹⁶⁾;
- (g) the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority;
- (h) the Crown, but regulation 3 shall apply to any part of premises occupied by the Executive and to any activity carried on there.

(4) The Executive shall be the enforcing authority for—

- (a) section 6 of the 1974 Act;
- (b) the other relevant statutory provisions in respect of any activity specified in Schedule 2 (whether or not it is the main activity carried on in premises).

(5) Regulation 3 and the preceding provisions of this regulation shall have effect subject to any provisions made for enforcement responsibility by other regulations made under the 1974 Act or by any of the existing statutory provisions.

(6) The preceding provisions of this regulation shall have effect subject to regulations 5 and 6.

(7) Notwithstanding regulation 3 and the preceding provisions of this regulation, an authority empowered to grant a licence for a factory, magazine or store or to register premises under the 1875 Act shall be the enforcing authority for the 1875 Act in relation to such factory, magazine, store or premises, as the case may be; and in this paragraph “the 1875 Act” means such provisions of the Explosives Act 1875⁽¹⁷⁾ and such Orders in Council, Orders, Bylaws, Regulations and Rules made thereunder as are relevant statutory provisions.

Arrangements enabling responsibility for enforcement to be transferred

5.—(1) The responsibility for enforcing any of the relevant statutory provisions in respect of any particular premises, part of premises, or any activity carried on there may be transferred from the Executive to the local authority or from the local authority to the Executive.

(2) A transfer may be made only by agreement between the enforcing authority which has the current responsibility and the authority to which it proposed to transfer it, or by the Commission.

⁽¹⁴⁾ 1971 c. 40.

⁽¹⁵⁾ 1964 c. 5.

⁽¹⁶⁾ 1952 c. 67.

⁽¹⁷⁾ 1875 c. 17; the relevant amending instrument is S.I. 1974/1885.

(3) Where a transfer has been made, the authority to which responsibility has been transferred shall cause notice of the transfer to be given to persons affected by it, and where a transfer has been made by the Commission the Commission shall cause notice of it to be given to both enforcing authorities concerned.

(4) The preceding provisions of this regulation shall not apply to any part of premises occupied by the Crown or to any activity carried on there but responsibility for enforcing any of the relevant statutory provisions in respect of office activities and the premises used for them may be transferred by an agreement between the Executive, the local authority concerned and the Government Department or other public body concerned.

Arrangements enabling responsibility for enforcement to be assigned in cases of uncertainty

6.—(1) The responsibility for enforcing any of the relevant statutory provisions in respect of any particular premises, part of premises or any activity carried on there may be assigned to the Executive or to the local authority; and an assignment under this paragraph may be made only by the Executive and the local authority jointly and only where they agree—

- (a) that there is uncertainty in the particular case as to what are their respective responsibilities by virtue of regulations made under section 18(2) of the 1974 Act; and
- (b) which authority is more appropriate to be responsible for enforcement in that case;

and where such an assignment is made the authority to which responsibility has been assigned shall cause notice of assignment to be given to persons affected by it.

(2) For the purpose of removing uncertainty in any particular case as to what are their respective responsibilities by virtue of regulations made under section 18(2) of the 1974 Act either the Executive or the local authority may apply to the Commission and where the Commission considers that there is uncertainty it shall, after considering the circumstances and any views which may have been expressed to them by either enforcing authority or by persons affected, assign responsibility to whichever authority it considers appropriate; and where such an assignment is made the Commission shall cause notice of the assignment to be given to both enforcing authorities concerned and to persons affected by it.

Revocation of instruments

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

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State

Angela Eagle
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,
Department of the Environment, Transport and
the Regions

2nd March 1998