

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Dartford-Thurrock Crossing (Amendment) Regulations 2004 No. 1441

This explanatory memorandum is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty. These regulations and the memorandum have been prepared by the Department for Transport.

These regulations are subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Brief description of the regulations

1. The regulations amend the Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/1980) by updating a reference to the 11th Edition of the booklet entitled "Dangerous Traffic", issued in 2001, to the 12th Edition of that booklet, issued in 2003.

Legislative background

2. The Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Act 1988 allows the Secretary of State to make provision for the management of the Dartford Crossing, including, at s.25(1), the making of regulations prohibiting or regulating the use of the crossing by vehicles conveying dangerous goods or substances. Regulation 5 of the 1998 regulations referred to above provides that the permission of the crossing operator has to be obtained before dangerous goods are taken into the tunnels at the crossing. Dangerous goods are any of those listed in the table headed "List of Restrictions on Dangerous Goods" set out in the booklet "Dangerous Traffic" issued on behalf of the Mersey, Tyne, and Dartford tunnel authorities. The 1998 regulations originally referred to the 9th Edition of that booklet, issued in 1997. The booklet has since been updated and reissued. Previous amending regulations (the Dartford-Thurrock Crossing (Amendment) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003/496)) updated the reference to the 11th Edition, issued in 2001.

Extent

3. The regulations apply to England, specifically the Dartford Crossing.

European Convention on Human Rights

4. It is the Minister's view that the provision of these regulations is compatible with Convention rights.

Policy background

5. Part III of the Act is aimed at providing for the effective management of traffic using the Dartford Crossing. The change introduced by these regulations is not legally or politically important, but ensures the regulations are kept up to date.

Impact

6. A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been produced for these regulations, as they have no impact on the costs of business.

Contact

7. The official within the Department of Transport who can be contacted with any queries in relation to these regulations is Malcolm Webbe, Highways Agency, Federated House, London Road, Dorking, RH4 1SZ; telephone 01306 87 8453; e-mail malcolm.webbe@highways.gsi.gov.uk.

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