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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**1990 No. 593**

**The Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1990**

**PART II**

**COMPANY ACCOUNTS**

*Provisions applying to companies generally*

**Approval and signing of accounts**

9. The following Article is inserted in Part VIII of the 1986 Order—

*“Approval and signing of accounts*

**Approval and signing of accounts**

**241.**—(1) A company’s annual accounts shall be approved by the board of directors and signed on behalf of the board by a director of the company.

(2) The signature shall be on the company’s balance sheet.

(3) Every copy of the balance sheet which is laid before the company in general meeting, or which is otherwise circulated, published or issued, shall state the name of the person who signed the balance sheet on behalf of the board.

(4) The copy of the company’s balance sheet which is delivered to the registrar shall be signed on behalf of the board by a director of the company.

(5) If annual accounts are approved which do not comply with the requirements of this Order, every director of the company who is party to their approval and who knows that they do not comply or is reckless as to whether they comply is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine.

For this purpose every director of the company at the time the accounts are approved shall be taken to be a party to their approval unless he shows that he took all reasonable steps to prevent their being approved.

(6) If a copy of the balance sheet—

(a) is laid before the company, or otherwise circulated, published or issued, without the balance sheet having been signed as required by this Article or without the required statement of the signatory’s name being included, or

(b) is delivered to the registrar without being signed as required by this Article,

the company and every officer of it who is in default is guilty of an offence and liable to a fine.”.