
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1989 No. 635

The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989

PART I

INTRODUCTION

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 and shall come into force on 1st April 1990.

Interpretation

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

“approved” means approved in writing for the time being by the Health and Safety Executive for the purposes of these Regulations or conforming with a specification approved in writing by the Health and Safety Executive for the purposes of these Regulations;

“circuit conductor” means any conductor in a system which is intended to carry electric current in normal conditions, or to be energised in normal conditions, and includes a combined neutral and earth conductor, but does not include a conductor provided solely to perform a protective function by connection to earth or other reference point;

“conductor” means a conductor of electrical energy;

“danger” means risk of injury;

“electrical equipment” includes anything used, intended to be used or installed for use, to generate, provide, transmit, transform, rectify, convert, conduct, distribute, control, store, measure or use electrical energy;

“firedamp” means any flammable gas or any flammable mixture of gases occurring naturally in a mine;

“injury” means death or personal injury from electric shock, electric burn, electrical explosion or arcing, or from fire or explosion initiated by electrical energy, where any such death or injury is associated with the generation, provision, transmission, transformation, rectification, conversion, conduction, distribution, control, storage, measurement or use of electrical energy;

“safety-lamp mine” means—

(a) any coal mine; or

(b) any other mine in which—

(i) there has occurred below ground an ignition of firedamp; or

(ii) more than 0.25% by volume of firedamp is found on any occasion at any place below ground in the mine;

“system” means an electrical system in which all the electrical equipment is, or may be, electrically connected to a common source of electrical energy, and includes such source and such equipment.

- (2) Unless the context otherwise requires, 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;
 - (b) a numbered paragraph is a reference to the paragraph so numbered in the regulation or Schedule in which the reference appears.

Persons on whom duties are imposed by these Regulations

3.—(1) Except where otherwise expressly provided in these Regulations, it shall be the duty of every—

- (a) employer and self-employed person to comply with the provisions of these Regulations in so far as they relate to matters which are within his control; and
 - (b) manager of a mine or quarry (within in either case the meaning of section 180 of the Mines and Quarries Act 1954⁽¹⁾) to ensure that all requirements or prohibitions imposed by or under these Regulations are complied with in so far as they relate to the mine or quarry or part of a quarry of which he is the manager and to matters which are within his control.
- (2) It shall be the duty of every employee while at work—
- (a) to co-operate with his employer so far as is necessary to enable any duty placed on that employer by the provisions of these Regulations to be complied with; and
 - (b) to comply with the provisions of these Regulations in so far as they relate to matters which are within his control.

⁽¹⁾ 1954 c. 70; section 180 was amended by S.I. 1974/2013.