

1976 No. 139

SOCIAL SECURITY

**The Occupational Pension Schemes (Friendly Societies) Regulations
(Northern Ireland) 1976**

Made 22nd April 1976

Coming into operation 7th June 1976

The Department of Health and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 67 of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975(a) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, after consultation with the Registrar of Friendly Societies for Northern Ireland, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Occupational Pension Schemes (Friendly Societies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976, and shall come into operation on 7th June 1976.

(2) In these regulations, “the registrar” means the Registrar of Friendly Societies for Northern Ireland.

Approval of registered societies for occupational pension schemes

2.—(1) A registered society may conduct approved group insurance business with a view to the establishment of occupational pension schemes if the registered society has been and continues to be approved for this purpose by the registrar.

(2) Application for approval for the purpose of paragraph (1) shall be made in writing to the registrar by or on behalf of the registered society.

(3) The registrar may at any time withdraw his approval of a registered society for the purpose of paragraph (1).

Modification of the Friendly Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1970

3. The provisions of section 55 of the Friendly Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1970(b) (maximum benefits) shall have effect as modified by the addition at the end of subsection (2) of “and any policy of insurance or annuity contract, by means of which the benefits to be provided under an occupational pension scheme as defined in Article 2(2) of the Social Security Pensions (Northern Ireland) Order 1975 are secured.”

Withdrawal of approval

4. Where a registered society that has been approved for the purpose of regulation 2(1) has issued a policy of insurance or entered into an annuity contract which secures the benefits to be provided under an occupational pension scheme, the rights, duties, liabilities or obligations arising under the policy or contract shall not be prejudiced by the withdrawal by the registrar of his approval of the registered society under regulation 2(3).

(a) S.I. 1975/1503 (N.I. 15)

(b) 1970 c. 31 (N.I.)

Membership of employers

5. Notwithstanding any provisions contained in its rules, a registered society that has been approved for the purpose of regulation 2(1) may admit to membership of the registered society any employer, whether or not that employer is a corporate body, for the purpose of making payments under such a policy of insurance or such an annuity contract as is mentioned in regulation 4.

Amendment of policy of insurance or annuity contract

6. A registered society that has been approved for the purpose of regulation 2(1) shall not have power, by amending its rules, to amend, revoke or rescind any of the terms of such a policy of insurance or such an annuity contract as is mentioned in regulation 4.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland on 22nd April 1976.

(L.S.)

C. G. Oakes
Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These regulations make provision enabling societies registered under the Friendly Societies Act (Northern Ireland) 1970 to conduct group insurance business with a view to the establishment of occupational pension schemes. Societies conducting such business must be approved for that purpose by the Registrar of Friendly Societies for Northern Ireland.

In relation to such business only, the regulations lift the restrictions on the amount of benefits which friendly societies may provide; they also enable employers to be members of societies for the purpose of paying contributions; and they contain incidental provisions.