

1985 No. 11

HEALTH AND SAFETY

AGRICULTURE

Agriculture (Field Machinery) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1985

Made 28th January 1985

Coming into operation

Paragraphs 13 and 14 of Part II of the Schedule 1st March 1986

All other provisions 1st March 1985

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 17(1), (2), (4) and (5) of and paragraphs 1(1)(a) and 1(2) of Schedule 3 to the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, after consultation with the Health and Safety Agency for Northern Ireland and such other bodies as appear to the Department to be appropriate, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Agriculture (Field Machinery) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1985 and shall come into operation on 1st March 1985 with the exception of the provisions in paragraphs 13 and 14 of Part II of the Schedule which shall come into operation on 1st March 1986.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these regulations—

“agriculture” includes horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming, livestock breeding and keeping, forestry, the use of land as grazing land, meadow land, osier land, market gardens and nursery grounds, and the preparation of land for agricultural use;

“agricultural unit” means land occupied as a unit for agricultural purposes;

“the Department” means the Department of Agriculture;

“employee” means a person who works under a contract of employment in agriculture, and “employer” and “employed” shall have corresponding meanings;

“field machine” means any machine designed or adapted for use in agriculture other than a machine so designed or adapted for stationary use only, and includes a power driven hand tool and (subject to paragraphs 7 and 9 of Part II of the Schedule) a towed agricultural vehicle, but does not include a self-propelled road vehicle which is designed primarily for the carriage of persons or of loads, or an aircraft;

“new” means not previously sold to a purchaser for use by him in agriculture;

“the Order” means the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978.

(2) For the purposes of these regulations an employee works at a field machine if—

- (a) he drives, operates or assists in the operation of the field machine; or
- (b) he is present at the site where the field machine, or any other machine operated in conjunction with such field machine, is being used and performs any task which is incidental to such use.

(3) Expressions used in Parts II, III, IV and V of the Schedule of which there are definitions in Part I thereof have the meanings thereby assigned to them.

Obligations affecting employers, employees and others

3.—(1) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) and of these regulations—

- (a) an employer shall not permit an employee to work at a field machine unless the requirements contained in Part II of the Schedule (Requirements applicable to Employers) are complied with;
- (b) every employee shall comply with the requirements contained in Part III of the Schedule (Requirements as respects which both Employers and Employees are responsible), and his employer shall not cause or permit him to contravene any such requirement;
- (c) an employee who, in the course of his employment, works at a field machine shall comply with the requirements contained in Part IV of the Schedule (Requirements applicable to Employees); and
- (d) every employer, employee and any other person shall comply with the requirements contained in Part V of the Schedule (Requirements applicable to Employers, Employees and others).

(2) Paragraph 1(d) shall apply to a person other than an employer or employee only insofar as contravention by such a person of any of the requirements contained in Part V of the Schedule would expose a person at work to risk of injury.

(3) Where an employee works at a field machine elsewhere than on an agricultural unit of which his employer is the occupier, the employee shall, while so working, be deemed for the purposes of these regulations to be in the employment of the occupier of the agricultural unit on which the field machine is being used, except in cases where paragraph (4) applies where the employee shall be deemed to be in the employment of the agricultural contractor to whom the field machine belongs.

(4) Where an employee works at a field machine belonging to an agricultural contractor, the employee shall, while so working, be deemed for the purposes of these regulations to be in the employment of the agricultural contractor.

(5) For the purposes of these regulations a field machine belongs to an agricultural contractor if he is the owner thereof, or if he has hired or borrowed it from the owner.

(6) Where by virtue of paragraph (3) or (4) any person is deemed to be the employer of an employee, paragraph (1) in its application to employers, shall not apply to any person other than the person so deemed as aforesaid.

Supply of field machinery

4.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) a person shall not supply for use in agriculture in Northern Ireland, a field machine which does not comply with the requirements contained in Part II of the Schedule.

(2) Where a person (“the ostensible supplier”) supplies a field machine for use in agriculture in Northern Ireland to another (“the customer”) under a hire-purchase agreement, conditional sale agreement or credit-sale agreement and the ostensible supplier—

- (a) carries on the business of financing the acquisition of goods by others by means of such agreements; and
- (b) in the course of that business acquired his interest in the field machine supplied to the customer as a means of financing its acquisition by the customer from a third person ("the effective supplier"),

the effective supplier and not the ostensible supplier shall be treated for the purposes of this regulation as supplying the field machine to the customer, and any duty imposed by this regulation on suppliers shall accordingly fall on the effective supplier and not on the ostensible supplier.

Certificates of exemption

5. Notwithstanding anything in these regulations the Department may grant certificates exempting (for such periods as may be specified therein and subject to such conditions, if any, as may be so specified) particular cases or particular persons from the operation of the provisions of these regulations; and where any such conditions are imposed, an employer (including any person deemed by these regulations to be an employer) and an employee to whom any such certificate applies, shall comply with those conditions.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture on 28th January 1985.

(L.S.)

R. E. Aiken

Assistant Secretary

SCHEDULE

PART I

Regulation 2(3)

Interpretation

1.—(1) In this Schedule—

“ground wheel” means, in relation to a field machine, any wheel thereof which revolves in contact with the ground;

“hay making machine” means a machine designed for the treatment or movement of a previously cut crop;

“manual” means by hand, foot or other bodily means;

“pedestrian controlled”, in relation to a field machine, means a field machine which can be operated only by a person on foot;

“power driven” means driven by any form of power other than that derived from a ground wheel;

“power take-off” means the splined shaft, with or without a spline adaptor, of any tractor intended for transmitting power to any machine by means of the power take-off shaft of that machine;

“prime mover” means every engine, motor, or other appliance which provides mechanical energy to a field machine;

“pulley” includes a roller on which a belt is carried;

“safety device” means anything required under this Schedule to be provided for an employee’s safety;

“tipping trailer” means a towed agricultural vehicle which can be unloaded by means of a mechanism which alters the angle of the load carrying surface;

“towed agricultural vehicle” means an agricultural trailer, the main purpose of which is to carry agricultural produce, or any vehicle with a maximum weight exceeding twice its unladen weight which is towed by an agricultural tractor, but excluding a land implement conveyor.

(2) References in this Schedule to an employee operating a field machine include references to an employee assisting in the operation thereof, and references to an employee (or to any part of an employee) coming in contact with any part of a field machine shall be construed as references to his coming in contact therewith, either directly or by means of his clothes.

PART II

Regulation 3(1)(a)

Requirements applicable to Employers*Components of field machines*

1.—(1) Every component of a field machine, being a component to which this paragraph applies, shall—

(a) if the component is driven by any ground wheel of the machine, be so situated or so guarded that any employee who operates the machine, while in the normal operating position applicable to such employee, is protected from coming in contact with such component;

(b) if the component is power driven, be so situated or so guarded that any employee, working at the machine, is protected from coming in contact with such component.

(2) Subject to the provisions of sub-paragraphs (3) to (5), the components to which this paragraph applies are—

(a) in the case of every field machine, any shafting, pulley, flywheel, gearing, sprocket, belt, chain, or as respects any fan, (in addition to any of the foregoing components) any wing or blade thereof; and

(b) in the case of a field machine designed to perform a function by means of reciprocal action, (in addition to the components mentioned in head (a)) the reciprocating parts of such a machine if they are so situated in relation to any other part of the machine as to expose the employee to risk of injury.

(3) This paragraph shall not apply to—

- (a) so much of any such component as functions in contact with the soil;
- (b) any axle of a ground wheel, or any component forming part of the track gear of a track laying tractor;
- (c) any smooth pulley or smooth flywheel;
- (d) any reciprocating knife; or
- (e) any shaft to which the Agriculture (Power Take-off) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(a) apply:

(4) As respects a belt or chain (other than a conveyor belt or chain for the movement of materials) it shall be sufficient compliance with this paragraph, so far as the requirements thereof are met by guarding, if the belt or chain is guarded at its run-on points and, in the case of a field machine designed for operation by an employee while on the machine, at every place where such an employee would (but for this provision) be exposed to risk of injury by such belt or chain; but this modification of requirements shall not apply where a belt or chain has fastenings which expose an employee to risk of injury.

(5) As respects a conveyor belt or chain for the movement of materials it shall be sufficient compliance with this paragraph, so far as the requirements thereof are met by guarding, if the belt or chain is guarded at its run-on points; but, if an employee is required to handle anything on such a belt or chain, or to work so close to it as to be exposed to risk of injury, the requirements of this paragraph shall be met only if the side of the belt or chain is so guarded, at every place where an employee is required to handle anything on the belt or chain, that the employee is protected from coming in contact with such side.

(6) In this paragraph "belt" includes any flexible material used to transmit power from one pulley to another; "chain" means any chain composed of links of metal or other non-flexible material used to transmit power from one sprocket to another; "run-on point" means the on-running point of contact of a belt with a pulley, or of a chain with a sprocket; and "smooth pulley" and "smooth flywheel" mean respectively a pulley or flywheel which has a continuous, unbroken and smooth surface between the centre and the rim, and has no protuberance which exposes an employee to risk of injury.

(7) The mention of particular guarding requirements in paragraphs 2 and 3 shall be without prejudice to the application of this paragraph to any field machine to which either of those paragraphs applies.

Guarding of operative parts of certain field machines

2.—(1) This paragraph applies to any power driven field machine which has rotating knives, tines, flails, or other parts similar thereto (in this paragraph referred to as the "operative parts") operating in or near the ground but shall not apply to—

- (a) a cylinder mower, hay making machine, hedge cutter other than the flail type, root gapper or thinner, or to
- (b) any pedestrian controlled field machine whose operative parts rotate in a vertical or near vertical plane.

(2) Every field machine to which this paragraph applies shall be fitted with a guard which—

- (a) covers the operative parts of the machine being as near to such parts as practicable; and
- (b) fulfils the other conditions respectively applicable to such a machine set forth in sub-paragraphs (3) and (4).

(3) Where the operative parts of the field machine rotate in a vertical or near vertical plane the said guard shall cover each end of the rotating assembly as well as the top thereof, and shall extend downwards so as to be as near the ground as practicable.

(4) Where the operative parts of the field machine rotate in a horizontal or near horizontal plane the said guard shall, unless it extends downwards below the plane of the rotating assembly so as to be as near the ground as practicable, extend at least 300 millimetres beyond the periphery of such parts; and every mowing machine fitted with high speed rotating blades shall in addition be fitted with a rigid or flexible skirt forward of the tip of the rotating member or members and extending downwards to as near ground level as is practicable.

Guarding and other requirements for specific field machines

3.—(1) Every chain saw designed or adapted for operation by one person shall, unless it has a guard between the handle and the saw which protects the operator's hand from slipping off the handle on to the saw, be fitted with a rigid safety bar which extends above and along the back of the saw from the end nearer to the operator for at least 230 millimetres.

(2) As respects every chain saw designed or adapted for operation by more than one person, being a saw which requires for its operation that one person shall be stationed at each end, the whole of the back of the saw shall be guarded by a rigid safety bar.

(3) Every chain saw which is new on or after 1st March 1986 shall—

- (a) be so designed as to minimise the level of vibration transmitted to the operator's hands;
- (b) be fitted with a saw chain brake which will come into operation when the front handguard is actuated or be activated automatically in response to kick-back;
- (c) be fitted with a chain catching device designed to restrain the backlash of a saw chain in the event of a breakage or de-railment;
- (d) be provided with a throttle control trigger which automatically reverts to the idling position and is retained in that position by the automatic engagement of a throttle lock-out control and have an automatic clutch device which ensures that at engine idling speed the drive to the saw chain is disengaged.

(4) Every rotary hedge cutter shall be so guarded as to protect every employee working at it while in the normal operating position from injury by material ejected by or from its cutting parts.

(5) As respects every field machine fitted with a tined pick-up, the pick-up shall be fitted with a rigid guard rail which affords an adequate handhold and which—

- (a) extends for the whole width of the pick-up;
- (b) is placed in such a position that when the pick-up is in the operating position the guard rail is not less than 460 millimetres nor more than 1.05 metres from the ground; and
- (c) is not less than 300 millimetres in front of the foremost revolving part of the pick-up.

Cutter bars

4. Where a field machine is fitted with a cutter bar (not being a cutter bar having a reel over the fingers which extends to at least 300 millimetres in front thereof) the points of the fingers shall, except where the cutter bar is in use or undergoing repair or adjustment, be at all times completely and securely covered by a rigid guard.

Stopping devices

5.—(1) Every prime mover shall be fitted with a device by means of which the prime mover may quickly be stopped.

(2) The purpose and method of operation of every such device shall be clearly indicated.

(3) Every such device shall be so constructed and maintained that—

- (a) it does not depend on sustained manual pressure for its operation; and
- (b) when it is set at the "off" or "stop" position the prime mover is incapable of being re-started unless the device is manually re-set.

(4) Every such device shall be readily accessible—

- (a) in the case of a self-propelled field machine, to the driver thereof at the normal driving position;
- (b) in the case of a field machine which is pedestrian controlled, to the employee operating it at the normal control position;
- (c) in the case of a field machine having its own prime mover, being a machine which is both towed and manned, as respects that prime mover, to at least one employee operating the machine at the normal operating position applicable to such employee, provided that this requirement shall not apply where there is readily accessible to at least one such employee at the said position a device by means of which the power from that prime mover may quickly be disconnected.

(5) In the case of a field machine having its own prime mover, being a machine which is towed but is not manned, the stopping device required by this paragraph shall be as near as practicable to that prime mover.

(6) Without prejudice to sub-paragraph (1), every self-propelled field machine (other than a machine which is pedestrian controlled) shall be fitted with a device, readily accessible to the driver of the machine at the normal driving position, by means of which the power from the prime mover may quickly be disconnected.

(7) Where a field machine is fitted with a clutch (other than a clutch which on release automatically returns to the engaged position) effective means shall be provided to secure the clutch in the disengaged position so that it is incapable of being re-engaged unless it is manually operated.

Prohibition of use of pointed hooks and spikes

6. No pointed hook or spike shall be used, or form part of any device, for the attachment of a bag or other container to a field machine.

Standing platforms

7.—(1) Every field machine (other than a towed agricultural vehicle) on which an employee may be required to stand while the machine is being operated shall be fitted with a platform which complies with sub-paragraph (2).

(2) The said platform shall afford the employee adequate and flat standing space and a firm foothold, and subject to sub-paragraphs (3) and (4) shall be fitted at each side with—

- (a) toeboards, which shall be at the edge of the platform or not more than 50 millimetres outside it, and shall extend not less than 75 millimetres above the platform; and
 - (b) guard rails, which shall be not less than 920 millimetres nor more than 1.05 metres above the platform.
- (3) No toeboard or guard rail need be fitted to the platform—
- (a) if the field machine itself affords no less protection to an employee against falling from the platform than would be afforded if a toeboard or guard rail (as the case may be) were fitted to the platform;
 - (b) at places on the platform where it is necessary to permit the access of persons or the movement of materials; and
 - (c) in the case of a platform not being more than 600 millimetres from the ground, at any side thereof from which an employee would, if he fell, fall clear of the machine or anything attached thereto.

(4) In the case of a drill having a platform at the rear of the machine and not towing any other implement, it shall be sufficient compliance with sub-paragraph (2) if there is—

- (a) in front of the employee operating the drill a handrail which is within his reach from any part of the platform, or behind such employee a guard rail; and
- (b) a toeboard at the leading edge of the platform.

(5) In the case of every field machine (including a towed agricultural vehicle) having a ground wheel which protrudes through or is adjacent to a platform, being a platform on which an employee may be required to stand while the machine is being operated, each such ground wheel shall be so guarded as to protect the employee's legs and feet from coming in contact with such wheel whenever the employee is on the platform.

(6) In this paragraph references to toeboards include references to other fittings serving the like purpose no less effectively, and references to towed agricultural vehicles include references to bale or other sledges.

Seats and footrests

8.—(1) Every field machine on which an employee may be required to be seated while the machine is being operated shall be fitted with—

- (a) a seat of adequate strength, being either fitted with a backrest, or otherwise so shaped, as to protect the employee against slipping from the seat; and
- (b) adequate and convenient footrests being so constructed and placed in position as to protect an employee's feet from slipping and from thereby coming in contact with any moving part of the machine, including its ground wheels and track gear.

(2) Whenever a ground wheel or track gear of a field machine is adjacent to a seat or footrest (whether or not the seat or footrest is part of that or of another field machine), a guard shall be

fitted which shall protect the legs and feet of an employee seated on the field machine from coming in contact with such ground wheel or track gear.

Mounting devices

9.—(1) Every field machine to which this paragraph applies shall be fitted with a mounting device which shall afford to an employee working at the machine a safe and convenient means of mounting and dismounting from it.

(2) This paragraph applies to any field machine in relation to which the mounting distance from the ground in order to reach the position where the employee is required to work exceeds 550 millimetres; but does not apply to a towed agricultural vehicle.

(3) In this paragraph “mounting device” means the combination of a mounting step, not more than 550 millimetres from the ground, with a suitable handhold being together designed as a means of mounting, and dismounting from, the machine, whether or not such step and handhold are designed exclusively for such purpose.

Towing devices

10.—(1) Whenever a field machine is used for towing, or is itself towed, the towing device shall be so constructed, fitted and maintained as to be secure for the purpose; and without prejudice to the generality of such requirement where such device includes a coupling pin it shall be firmly secured in position.

(2) In this paragraph “towing” includes propelling and winching; and “towing device” means everything which directly or indirectly serves as the means of connection of the field machine to that which is towed or (as the case may be) is used for towing.

(3) Nothing in this paragraph shall render unlawful the use of a safety breakaway hitch in connection with a machine any of whose parts operate directly in the soil, while any such part is so operating.

Warning signs

11.—(1) Every tipping trailer shall carry a notice clearly visible from the front of the tipping trailer warning persons to keep clear of the trailer whilst it is in the tipping position.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-paragraph (1), every tipping trailer which is new on or after 1st March 1986 shall carry a warning sign complying with Part I of British Standard Specification No. BS5378: 1980(a) (as revised or re-issued from time to time), accompanied by a clearly legible notice in letters at least 10 millimetres high clearly visible from the front of the tipping trailer warning persons to keep clear of the trailer whilst it is in the tipping position.

(3) Every field machine which is driven by a power take-off and which is new on or after 1st March 1986 shall have a warning sign complying with the British Standard Specification referred to in sub-paragraph (2), fixed beside the power input connection, together with a notice showing clearly in letters at least 10 millimetres high the nominal power take-off shaft speed for that machine.

Maintenance

12.—(1) Every field machine, including every part thereof, shall be so maintained as to be safe, at the time when the machine is in use, for an employee to use it.

(2) Every safety device with which a field machine is provided shall be of adequate strength and shall be properly secured in position and maintained.

Drawbar jacks

13.—(1) Every field machine having a drawbar, being a machine to which this paragraph applies, shall be fitted with a jack capable of raising and lowering the drawbar.

(2) Every such jack shall be so constructed and secured to the field machine as to prevent the drawbar from falling when the jack is in use.

(3) The jack shall not be removed from the field machine except where removal is necessary for the operation of the machine, for repair or for replacement.

(a) BS 5378: Part I: 1980. Safety signs and colours. Specification for colour and design. Published by the British Standards Institution, 2 Park Street, London, W1A 2BS

(4) This paragraph applies to any field machine having a drawbar other than a drawbar of a type that is designed exclusively for attachment otherwise than by manual means if, when the machine is unladen, the downward force exerted by the drawbar at the point of hitch is more than 250 newtons; and the downward force exerted by a drawbar shall be calculated for the purpose of this sub-paragraph on the basis that the field machine is on level ground and that the drawbar is at a height of 410 millimetres therefrom.

Braking system

14.—(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of the Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976(a), every towed agricultural vehicle which is designed to carry a load such that the total weight of the vehicle and the load exceeds 6 tonnes, must be fitted with a braking system which complies with sub-paragraphs (2) to (4).

(2) The braking system shall be capable of achieving a braking force at the wheels equivalent to 25 per cent of the maximum weight to be borne by the wheels of that vehicle.

(3) The braking device shall act on each wheel of at least one axle, and on at least half the number of wheels, fitted to the vehicle.

(4) The operation of the braking system to achieve the required braking effect shall be achieved using a pedal force not exceeding 600 newtons or a hand lever force not exceeding 400 newtons; and such pedal or hand lever shall be so situated that it can be operated conveniently by an operator from the normal operating position.

PART III

Regulation 3(1)(b)

Requirements as respects which both Employers and Employees are responsible

1.—(1) An employee shall not ride on the drawbar or other linkage of a field machine, or of any machine towed or propelled by a field machine, while the field machine is engaged in towing or propelling.

(2) An employee shall not mount, or, except in an emergency, dismount from, a self-propelled field machine while it is engaged in towing or propelling.

PART IV

Regulation 3(1)(c)

Requirements applicable to Employees

Use of safety appliances

1.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this paragraph, and without prejudice to Article 9 of the Order (which makes it a duty for a person not to interfere with or misuse intentionally or recklessly anything provided in the interests of health, safety or welfare in pursuance of any of the relevant statutory provisions), an employee shall keep in position and shall make full use of every safety device which satisfies the requirements of this Schedule:

Provided that if any part of a field machine required to be guarded is not in motion, the guard may be removed therefrom by an employee who has attained the age of sixteen years for so long only as is necessary—

(a) for the cleaning, repair or adjustment to such part while it is not in motion;

(b) for carrying out any essential adjustment to such part while it is in motion, being an adjustment which cannot otherwise be carried out.

(2) Nothing in sub-paragraph (1) shall prevent a guard from being temporarily removed from a prime mover by an employee who has attained the age of sixteen years if its removal is necessary in order to start the prime mover by hand.

(a) S.R. 1976 No. 320 as amended by S.R. 1978 No. 208

Damaged safety devices

2.—(1) If any safety device is or becomes damaged or defective, any employee employed to operate any field machine to which such a device has been fitted shall, on discovering that the device is damaged or defective, stop using the machine forthwith and report the damage or defect to his employer, or, in cases where for the purposes of these regulations some other person is deemed to be his employer, to that person.

(2) Nothing in this paragraph shall absolve an employer, or a person deemed for the purposes of these regulations to be an employer, from complying with the requirements contained in Part II.

PART V

Regulations 3(1)(d)

Requirements applicable to Employers, Employees and others

1.—(1) A person shall not set a self-propelled field machine in motion over the ground except from the driving position thereof.

(2) A person shall not, except in an emergency, leave the driving position of a self-propelled field machine while it is in motion over the ground.

(3) This paragraph, in its application to field machines which are remotely controlled, shall have effect as if for the references to the driving position there were substituted references to the place at which the remote controls are operated.

2. A person shall not ride on the drawbar or other linkage of a field machine, or of any machine towed or propelled by a field machine, while the field machine is engaged in towing or propelling.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These regulations provide for the protection of employees in agriculture against risk of injury while working at a field machine (as defined in regulation 2(1)).

These regulations prohibit an employer from permitting an employee to work at a field machine unless the requirements of Part II of the Schedule to the regulations are complied with. These requirements cover the situation or guarding of specified components (such as shafting, pulleys, flywheels etc) of certain field machines and also the guarding of the operative parts of certain field machines having rotating knives, tines, flails or similar parts, as well as the guarding of field machines such as chain saws, rotary hedge cutters and those with a tined pick-up or cutter bar. As from 1st March 1986 every new chain saw must be so designed as to reduce vibration and be fitted with additional guards.

As specified in Part II of the Schedule, field machines must be fitted with a device for quickly stopping the machine and, where appropriate, they must be fitted with a mounting device, a standing platform, a seat and footrests and a towing device. Field machines, guards and other safety devices must be properly maintained.

A further requirement in Part II of the Schedule is that every tipping trailer must carry a warning notice and as from 1st March 1986 every new tipping trailer and every new field machine driven by a power take-off must carry, along with a warning notice, a warning sign which complies with British Standard Specification No. BS5378: 1980 (obtainable from British Standards Institution, 2 Park Street, London W1A 2BS).

Measures in Part II of the Schedule relating to the provision of jacks for certain machines having a drawbar and the fitting of braking systems on tipping trailers and towed agricultural vehicles will come into operation on 1st March 1986.

A field machine must not be sold or let on hire for use in agriculture in Northern Ireland unless it satisfies the requirements of Part II of the Schedule.

As specified in Parts III and V of the Schedule, employees and others using field machines are prohibited from doing certain dangerous acts and, when an employee is involved, the employer shares responsibility for this requirement. Employees must keep safety devices in position (except under prescribed conditions) and make full use of them. On discovering that a safety device is damaged or defective, an employee must stop using the machine and report the damage or defect to his employer.

The Department of Agriculture has power to grant certificates exempting particular cases or particular persons from the operation of the regulations.

Any person who contravenes these regulations is guilty of an offence under Article 31 of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £1,000 or, on conviction on indictment, to a fine.