

1995 No. 258

CONSUMER PROTECTION

**Price Indications (Resale of Tickets)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995**

Made 21st June 1995

Coming into operation 24th July 1995

The Department of Economic Development, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 19 of the Consumer Protection (Northern Ireland) Order 1987(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and after consultation with the Director General of Fair Trading and such other persons as the Department considered it appropriate to consult, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Price Indications (Resale of Tickets) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 and shall come into operation on 24th July 1995.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“entertainment” includes any gathering, amusement, exhibition, performance, game, sport or trial of skill or other similar event;

“the Order” means the Consumer Protection (Northern Ireland) Order 1987; and

“ticket” means a card, badge or document giving to its holder—

(a) the right of admission to a place of entertainment; or

(b) the said right of admission to a place of entertainment and the right to use a seat or space in such a place

and the fact that those rights are subject to the condition that the holder may be refused admission to or may be removed from the place of entertainment shall not cause it to be treated as other than a ticket.

Scope of application

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3), the provisions of these Regulations have effect where a person to whom paragraph (2) applies gives to consumers, in the course of business, an indication of the price at which a ticket, or a ticket in combination with another element, is or will be available (“a price indication”).

(a) S.I. 1987/2049 (N.I. 20)

(2) This paragraph applies to any person who is prepared or may be prepared to supply a ticket by way of resale save for the holder or promoter of the entertainment to which the ticket relates or a person acting on behalf of such holder or promoter.

(3) These Regulations do not apply where a person gives a price indication in relation to a package to which the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992(a) apply.

Price indication information

4. Where a person gives a price indication, the following information shall be given to consumers—

- (a) the price (if any) which appears on the ticket and which has been caused to be placed thereon by the holder or promoter of the entertainment to which the ticket relates;
- (b) any other detail which appears on the ticket which relates to or affects the rights conferred or to be conferred on the holder of the ticket (including the location of the seat or space) and which has also been caused to be placed thereon by the holder or promoter of the entertainment to which the ticket relates; and
- (c) the location of the seat or space (if any) which the holder of the ticket will have the right to use and any features of such seat or space which would adversely affect the holder's use or enjoyment of it and which are known or could reasonably be expected to be known to the person giving the price indication.

Requirements relating to price indication information

5.—(1) The information required to be given by regulation 4 shall be given before the person who gives a price indication enters into any contract with a consumer under which the ticket is to be supplied.

(2) Except in cases where the contract to supply the ticket by way of resale is concluded by telephone, the information required to be given by regulation 4(a) and (b) shall be given in writing.

(3) The requirement in paragraph (2) shall be deemed to be satisfied if the consumer is shown the ticket in accordance with paragraph (1) and in such a manner that the details appearing on the ticket are visible by and legible to the consumer.

Manner of giving price indication information

6. The information required to be given by regulation 4 need not be given in the same manner as the price indication but—

- (a) if the information is given orally, it shall be given audibly and in a manner that is comprehensible to the consumer; and
- (b) if it is given in writing, it shall be given clearly, prominently and legibly

and in any case the information shall be given in such a way that it comes to the attention of the consumer before he enters into any contract under which the ticket is to be supplied to him.

Price indication information to be accurate

7. Any information which is given pursuant to the requirements of regulation 4 shall be accurate.

Offences and defences

8.—(1) Any contravention of a requirement of these Regulations shall constitute a criminal offence punishable—

- (a) on conviction on indictment, by a fine; or
- (b) on summary conviction, by a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum.

(2) In relation to an offence under this regulation—

- (a) Article 17(2) of the Order (defence that indication was not contained in an advertisement) shall apply as it applies to an offence under Article 13(1) or (2) of the Order;
- (b) Article 30 of the Order (defence of due diligence) shall apply as it applies to an offence under Article 13(1) of the Order; and
- (c) Article 31 of the Order (liability of persons other than principal offender) shall apply as it applies to an offence to which Article 30(1) of the Order applies.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Economic Development on 21st June 1995.

(L.S.)

A. L. Brown

Assistant Secretary

(a) Article 17(2) was amended by section 203(1) of and paragraph 49(a) of Schedule 20 to the Broadcasting Act 1990 (1990 c. 42)

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations, which will come into operation on 24th July 1995, regulate the manner in which a person who is or may be prepared to resell tickets by way of business gives consumers an indication as to the price at which the ticket is, or would be, available (regulation 3).

The Regulations apply to a ticket which gives its holder the right of admission to a place of entertainment and, if appropriate, the right to use a seat or space. They define "entertainment" to include any gathering, amusement, exhibition, performance, game, sport or trial of skill and other similar events (regulation 2).

The Regulations require the following information to be given to consumers—

- (a) the price which appears on the ticket and which has been caused to be placed thereon by the holder or promoter of the entertainment to which the ticket relates;
- (b) any other detail which appears on the ticket which relates to or affects the rights conferred or to be conferred on the holder of the ticket (including the location of any seat or space) and which has also been caused to be placed thereon by the holder or promoter of the entertainment to which the ticket relates; and
- (c) the location of the seat or space (if any) and any features of such which would adversely affect the holder's use or enjoyment and which are known, or could reasonably be expected to be known, to the reseller (regulation 4).

The information must be given before a contract is concluded and, except in the case of contracts concluded by telephone, any details appearing on a ticket must be given in writing (a provision is included for the latter requirement to be satisfied by showing the ticket) (regulation 5).

Information, if given orally, must be given audibly and in a manner that is comprehensible to the consumer and, if given in writing, must be given clearly, prominently and legibly (regulation 6). Information must also be accurate (regulation 7).

Contravention of the Regulations is an offence punishable on conviction on indictment, by a fine, or, on summary conviction, by a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum (currently £5,000). Provisions of the Consumer Protection (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 relating to offences are applied to an offence under these Regulations (regulation 8).

A Compliance Cost Assessment of the impact that these Regulations will have on business is available, copies of which can be obtained from the Department of Economic Development, Trading Standards Branch, 176 Newtownbreda Road, Belfast BT8 4QS.