

**2006 No. 335**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**The Agriculture (Safety of Children and Young Persons)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006**

*Made* - - - - *15th August 2006*

*Coming into operation* - *31st October 2006*

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment(**a**), being the Department concerned(**b**), makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 17(1), (2), (3) and (6)(c) and 55(2) of, and paragraph 13 of Schedule 3 to, the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978(**d**). The Regulations give effect without modifications to proposals submitted to it by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland under Article 13(1A) of that Order(**e**), after the Executive had carried out consultations in accordance with Article 46(3) of that Order(**f**).

**Citation and commencement**

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Agriculture (Safety of Children and Young Persons) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 and shall come into operation on 31st October 2006.

**Interpretation**

2. In these Regulations—

“adult” means a person who has attained the age of 18 years;

“agricultural activities”—

(a) includes horticulture, fruit growing, seed growing, dairy farming, livestock breeding and keeping, including the management of livestock up to the point of slaughter or export from Northern Ireland, forestry, the use of land as grazing land, osier land, market gardens and nursery grounds and the preparation of land for agricultural use;

(b) does not include such activities at a garden centre or other shop,  
and for this purpose “livestock breeding and keeping” does not include activities the main purpose of which is entertainment;

“agricultural machinery” means—

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(a) Formerly the Department of Economic Development; *see* S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1), Article 3(5); that Department was formerly the Department of Manpower Services, *see* S.I. 1982/846 (N.I. 11), Article 3

(b) *See* Article 2(2) of S.I. 1978/1039 (N.I. 9)

(c) Article 17 must be read with S.I. 1992/1728 (N.I. 17), Articles 3(2) and 4(2)

(d) S.I. 1978/1039 (N.I. 9); the general purposes of Part II referred to in Article 17(1) were extended by S.I. 1992/1728 (N.I. 17), Article 3(1). Article 47A was inserted by Article 3, and Article 2 was amended by Articles 4 and 8, of S.I. 1997/1774 (N.I. 16)

(e) Article 13 (1) was substituted by S.I. 1998/2795 (N.I. 18), Article 4

(f) Article 46(3) was amended by S.I. 1998/2795 (N.I. 18), Article 6(1) and Schedule 1, paragraphs 8 and 18(c)

(a) a vehicle or other machinery designed mainly for use in agricultural activities;

(b) a vehicle mainly used in agricultural activities;

“child” means a person who has not attained the age of 16 years;

“livestock” means any creature kept for the production of food, wool, skins or fur or for the purpose of any agricultural activity;

“young person” means a person who has attained the age of 16 years but has not attained the age of 18 years.

### **Prevention of access**

3. Every employer and self employed person shall so far as is reasonably practicable prevent a child from gaining access to any hazardous part of premises used by him for agricultural activities except under the supervision of an adult.

### **Prohibition on children operating agricultural machinery**

4. An employer or self-employed person shall not cause or permit a child under the age of 13 years to—

(a) drive, tow or otherwise operate agricultural machinery in the course of agricultural activities; or

(b) drive or tow such machinery to or from the site of such activities.

### **Prohibition on children riding on agricultural machinery**

5. An employer or self-employed person shall not cause or permit a child who is under the age of 13 years to ride in or on agricultural machinery in the course of, or to or from the site of, agricultural activities.

### **Prohibition on children and restriction on young persons maintaining agricultural machinery**

6.—(1) An employer or self-employed person (“the responsible person”) shall not cause or permit a child to maintain agricultural machinery.

(2) The responsible person shall not cause or permit a young person to maintain such machinery, unless the maintenance is supervised by a competent adult.

### **Restriction on the use of agricultural machinery**

7.—(1) An employer or self-employed person (“the responsible person”) shall not cause or permit a child aged 13 years and over or a young person to drive, tow or otherwise operate agricultural machinery in the course of agricultural activities, or to drive it to or from the site of such activities unless—

(a) the child or young person is supervised by a competent adult;

(b) the child or young person has received adequate training;

(c) it is necessary for his practical training;

(d) having carried out a risk assessment, any risk is reduced to the lowest level that is reasonably practicable; and

(e) where the child or young person is not an employee, the requirements of the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999(a) are complied with in relation to his use of the machinery as if—

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(a) S.R. 1999 No. 305, amended by S.I. 1999/2001, S.R. 2000 No. 87, S.I. 2001/1701, S.R. 2003 No. 423, S.I. 2004/129, S.R. 2005 No. 279, S.R. 2005 No. 397 and S.R. 2006 No. 1

- (i) he were an employee of the responsible person; and
  - (ii) the machinery were work equipment within the meaning of those Regulations.
- (2) In this regulation—
- (a) “adequate training” means having attained a certificate of competence by attending a relevant machinery course; and
  - (b) “risk assessment” means a risk assessment carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000(a).

### **Defence**

8. It shall be a defence for a person charged with a contravention of a provision of these Regulations to prove that he used all due diligence to secure compliance with that provision.

### **Revocation of the Agriculture (Safety of Children) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981 and the Agriculture (Safety of Children)(Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983**

9. The Agriculture (Safety of Children) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(b) and the Agriculture (Safety of Children) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983(c) are hereby revoked.

### **Amendment of the Agriculture (Tractor Cabs) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993**

10. In the Agriculture (Tractor Cabs) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993(d) for paragraphs (4) and (5) of regulation 6 (Obligations on employers, employees and others) there shall be substituted—

“(4) Notwithstanding regulation 7 of the Agriculture (Safety of Children and Young Persons) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 a person who has attained the age of thirteen years but has not attained the age of eighteen years shall not drive a tractor in the course of agricultural operations or while it is travelling to or from the site of such operations, and a person shall not cause or permit him to do so, unless the tractor is properly fitted with an enclosed approved safety cab.

(5) Notwithstanding paragraphs (1), (2), (3) and (4) and regulations 4, 6 and 7 of the Agriculture (Safety of Children and Young Persons) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 a person shall not drive a tractor in the course of agricultural operations, or drive it to or from the site of such operations unless it is properly fitted with a safety cab marked with the appropriate approval mark.”

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment on 15th August 2006.



*M. Bohill*  
A senior officer of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment

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(a) S.R. 2000 No. 388, amended by S.R. 2001 No. 348, S.R. 2003 No. 454 and S.R. 2006 No. 255  
(b) S.R. 1981 No. 6  
(c) S.R. 1983 No. 355  
(d) S.R. 1993 No. 477, amended by S.R. 1997 No. 149 and S.R. 1999 No. 150

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

1. These Regulations revoke and replace the Agriculture (Safety of Children) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981 (S.R. 1981 No. 6) and the Agriculture (Safety of Children) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983 (S.R. 1983 No. 355).

2. The Regulations—

- (a) place a duty on those in control of agricultural activities to prevent children from gaining access to hazardous areas of the farm (*regulation 3*);
- (b) prohibit children under the age of 13 years from—
  - (i) driving, towing or operating agricultural machinery in the course of agricultural activities (*regulation 4(a)*); or
  - (ii) driving or towing such machinery to or from the site of such activities (*regulation 4(b)*);
- (c) prohibit children under the age of 13 from riding on tractors, trailers and agricultural machinery while it is being used in agricultural activities or travelling to or from the site of those activities (*regulation 5*);
- (d)
  - (i) prohibit children maintaining agricultural machinery (*regulation 6(1)*); and
  - (ii) restrict young people (16-17 year olds) from maintaining such machinery unless supervised by a competent adult (*regulation 6(2)*);
- (e) restrict the use of agricultural machinery by children over 13 years of age and young people by setting out a series of conditions that will help to minimise the risks. These include the need for—
  - (i) supervision by a competent adult (*regulation 7(1)(a)*);
  - (ii) adequate training (*regulation 7(1)(b)*);
  - (iii) it to be necessary for his practical training (*regulation 7(1)(c)*);
  - (iv) any risk to be reduced to the lowest level that is reasonably practicable (*regulation 7(1)(d)*); and
  - (v) the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 (S.R. 1999 No. 305), as amended, to be complied with as if the agricultural machinery is work equipment being used by an employee (*regulation 7(1)(e)*);
- (f) amend regulation 6, paragraphs (4) and (5) of the Agriculture (Tractor Cabs) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 (S.R. 1993 No. 477) (*regulation 10*).

3. The main provisions governing children's employment are contained in the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (S.I. 1995 No. 755 (N.I. 2)). The Employment of Children Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 (S.R. 1996 No. 477) place restrictions on the hours and conditions and the nature of employment permitted. They also prohibit the employment of children in any occupation other than one specified in the Schedule to those Regulations. These Regulations build on that framework, but also apply where children are not employed.

4. A regulatory impact assessment prepared by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland in respect of these Regulations is held at the offices of the Executive at 83 Ladas Drive, Belfast, BT6 9FR from where a copy may be obtained on request.

5. A person who contravenes the 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 the statutory maximum (currently £5,000) or, on conviction on indictment, to a fine.

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