Hydrocarbon Oil Duties
Act 1979

CHAPTER 5

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An Act to consolidate the enactments relating to the excise duties on hydrocarbon oil, petrol substitutes, power methylated spirits and road fuel gas.

[22nd February 1979]

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

The dutiable commodities

1.—(1) Subsections (2) to (4) below define the various descriptions of oil referred to in this Act.

(2) "Hydrocarbon oil" means petroleum oil, coal tar, and oil produced from coal, shale, peat or any other bituminous substance, and all liquid hydrocarbons, but does not include such hydrocarbons or bituminous or asphaltic substances as are—

(a) solid or semi-solid at a temperature of 15°C, or

(b) gaseous at a temperature of 15°C and under a pressure of 1013·25 millibars.

(3) "Light oil" means hydrocarbon oil—

(a) of which not less than 90 per cent. by volume distils at a temperature not exceeding 210°C, or

(b) which gives off an inflammable vapour at a temperature of less than 23°C when tested in the manner prescribed by the Acts relating to petroleum.

(4) "Heavy oil" means hydrocarbon oil other than light oil.
2.—(1) The method of testing oil for the purpose of ascertaining its classification in accordance with section 1 above shall, subject to subsection (3)(b) of that section, be such as the Commissioners may direct.

(2) Subject to subsection (3) below, the Treasury may from time to time direct that, for the purposes of any duty of excise for the time being chargeable on hydrocarbon oil, any specified description of light oil shall be treated as being heavy oil.

(3) The Treasury shall not give a direction under subsection (2) above in relation to any description of oil unless they are satisfied that the description is one which should, according to its use, be classed with heavy oil.

(4) For the purposes of the Customs and Excise Acts 1979, the production of hydrocarbon oil includes—

(a) the obtaining of one description of hydrocarbon oil from another description of hydrocarbon oil; and

(b) the subjecting of hydrocarbon oil to any process of purification or blending,

as well as the obtaining of hydrocarbon oil from other substances or from any natural source.

(5) Where heavy oil having a temperature exceeding 15°C is measured for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of any duty of excise chargeable, or of any rebate or drawback allowable, on the oil and the Commissioners are satisfied that the oil is artificially heated, the duty shall be charged or the rebate or drawback shall be allowed on the number of litres which, in the opinion of the Commissioners, the oil would have measured if its temperature had been 15°C.

3. Where imported goods contain hydrocarbon oil as a part or ingredient thereof, the oil shall be disregarded in the application to the goods of section 126 of the Management Act (charge of duty on manufactured or composite imported articles) unless in the opinion of the Commissioners the goods should, according to their use, be classed with hydrocarbon oil.

4.—(1) In this Act “petrol substitute” means any liquid intended to take the place of petrol as fuel for internal combustion piston engines, being neither hydrocarbon oil nor power methylated spirits.

(2) In subsection (1) above, “liquid” does not include a substance which is gaseous at a temperature of 15°C and under a pressure of 1013.25 millibars.
(3) In this Act "power methylated spirits" means spirits methylated in such manner as may be prescribed by regulations made under section 77 of the Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979 1979 c. 4. for methylated spirits of that class.

5. In this Act "road fuel gas" means any substance which is Road fuel gaseous at a temperature of 15°C and under a pressure of 1013.25 gas. millibars, and which is for use as fuel in road vehicles.

Charging provisions

6.—(1) Subject to subsection (2) below, there shall be charged Excise duty on hydrocarbon oil—
   (a) imported into the United Kingdom; or
   (b) produced in the United Kingdom and delivered for home use from a refinery or from other premises used for the production of hydrocarbon oil or from any bonded storage for hydrocarbon oil, not being hydrocarbon oil chargeable with duty under paragraph (a) above,

   a duty of excise at the rate of £0.0660 a litre in the case of light oil and £0.0770 a litre in the case of heavy oil.

(2) Where imported hydrocarbon oil is removed to a refinery, the duty chargeable under subsection (1) above shall, instead of being charged at the time of the importation of that oil, be charged on the delivery of any goods from the refinery for home use and shall be the same as that which would be payable on the importation of like goods.

7. A duty of excise at the same rate as the duty of excise on petrol substitutes and power methylated spirits shall be charged—
   (a) on any petrol substitute which is sent out from the premises of a person producing or dealing in petrol substitutes and which was not acquired by him duty on methylated spirits. paid under this paragraph; and
   (b) on spirits used for making power methylated spirits (payable by the methylator immediately after the spirits have been so used).

8.—(1) A duty of excise shall be charged on road fuel gas which is sent out from the premises of a person producing or dealing in road fuel gas and on which the duty charged by this section has not been paid.

(2) The like duty of excise shall be charged on the setting aside for use, or on the use, by any person, as fuel in a road vehicle, of road fuel gas on which the duty charged by this section has not been paid.
(3) The rate of the duty under this section shall be prescribed by order made by the Treasury, and in exercising their power under this subsection the Treasury shall select the rate (whether for all road fuel gas or for a particular kind of road fuel gas) which in their opinion is for the time being the nearest convenient and suitable rate corresponding with the rate of excise duty on light oil.

In comparing the excise duty chargeable under this section with that on light oil account shall be taken of relative average calorific values and of other relevant factors.

(4) An order made under subsection (3) above—

(a) may express the rate of duty by reference to any method of measuring the road fuel gas;

(b) may prescribe different rates for different kinds of road fuel gas; and

(c) may prescribe a rate which depends in whole or in part on the rate for the time being of excise duty charged on light oil.

(5) The power to make orders under subsection (3) above shall be exercisable by statutory instrument, and any statutory instrument by which the power is exercised shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Commons.

(6) For the purposes of this Act, so far as it relates to the excise duty chargeable under this section, road fuel gas shall be deemed to be used as fuel in a road vehicle if, but only if, it is used as fuel for the engine provided for propelling the vehicle, or for an engine which draws its fuel from the same supply as that engine.

(7) Subsection (2) above shall not apply to road fuel gas delivered to, or in the stock of, the person otherwise chargeable if it was delivered to, or stocked by, him before 3rd July 1972.

**Delivery of oil without payment of duty**

9.—(1) The Commissioners may permit hydrocarbon oil to be delivered for home use to an approved person, without payment of excise duty on the oil, where—

(a) it is to be put by him to a use qualifying for relief under this section; or

(b) it is to be supplied by him in the course of a trade of supplying oil for any such use.
(2) The uses of hydrocarbon oil qualifying for relief under this section are—

(a) use in the manufacture or preparation of any article, not being hydrocarbon oil or an article which in the opinion of the Commissioners should, according to its use, be classed with hydrocarbon oil; and

(b) use for cleaning plant, in connection with the use of the plant in the manufacture or preparation of such an article,

but do not include the use of oil as fuel or, except as provided by subsection (3) below, as a lubricant.

(3) Where, in the manufacture or preparation of an article described in subsection (2)(a) above, hydrocarbon oil is used for preventing or reducing friction, adhesion or contact—

(a) between parts or components of the article; or

(b) between the article or a part or component of the article and any plant used in the manufacture or preparation, or any part or component of plant so used,

that use of the oil is to be included among the uses qualifying for relief under this section.

(4) Where the Commissioners are authorised to give permission under subsection (1) above in the case of any oil, but the permission is for any reason not given, they shall, if satisfied that the oil has been put by an approved person to a use qualifying for relief under this section, repay to him the amount of the excise duty paid on the oil, less any rebate allowed in respect of the duty.

(5) In this section—

(a) "an approved person" means a person for the time being approved in accordance with regulations made for any of the purposes of subsection (1) or (4) above under section 24(1) below; and

(b) "plant" means any machinery, apparatus, equipment or vessel.

10.—(1) Except with the consent of the Commissioners, no oil in whose case delivery without payment of duty has been permitted under section 9 above shall—

(a) be put to a use not qualifying for relief under that section; or

(b) be acquired or taken into any vehicle, appliance or storage tank in order to be put to such a use.
(2) In giving their consent for the purposes of subsection (1) above, the Commissioners may impose such conditions as they think fit.

(3) A person who—

(a) uses or acquires oil in contravention of subsection (1) above; or

(b) is liable for oil being taken into a vehicle, appliance or storage tank in contravention of that subsection,

shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of three times the value of the oil or £100, whichever is the greater; and the Commissioners may recover from him an amount equal to the excise duty on like oil at the rate in force at the time of the contravention.

(4) A person who supplies oil having reason to believe that it will be put to a use not qualifying for relief under section 9 above shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of three times the value of the oil or £100, whichever is the greater, if that use without the consent of the Commissioners would contravene subsection (1) above.

(5) A person who, with the intent that the restrictions imposed by subsection (1) above should be contravened,—

(a) uses or acquires oil in contravention of that subsection; or

(b) supplies oil having reason to believe that it will be put to a use not qualifying for relief under section 9 above, being a use which, without the consent of the Commissioners, would contravene that subsection,

shall be guilty of an offence under this subsection.

(6) A person who is liable for oil being taken into a vehicle, appliance or storage tank in contravention of subsection (1) above shall be guilty of an offence under this subsection where the oil was taken in with the intent by him that the restrictions imposed by that subsection should be contravened.

(7) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (5) or (6) above shall be liable—

(a) on summary conviction, to a penalty of the prescribed sum or of three times the value of the oil in question, whichever is the greater, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to both; or

(b) on conviction on indictment, to a penalty of any amount or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or to both.
(8) For the purposes of this section, a person is liable for oil being taken into a vehicle, appliance or storage tank in contravention of subsection (1) above if he is at the time the person having the charge of the vehicle, appliance or tank, or is its owner, except that if a person other than the owner is, or is for the time being, entitled to possession of it, that person and not the owner is liable.

(9) Any oil acquired, or taken into a vehicle, appliance or storage tank as mentioned in subsection (1) above, or supplied as mentioned in subsection (4) or (5) above, shall be liable to forfeiture.

Rebate of duty

11.—(1) Subject to sections 12 and 13 below, where heavy oil is charged with the excise duty on hydrocarbon oil for home use, there shall be allowed on the oil at the time of delivery a rebate of duty at a rate—

(a) in the case of kerosene other than aviation turbine fuel, of £0.0022 a litre less than the rate at which the duty is for the time being chargeable;

(b) in the case of aviation turbine fuel, and heavy oil other than kerosene, of £0.0055 a litre less than the rate at which the duty is for the time being chargeable.

(2) In this section—

(a) "aviation turbine fuel" means kerosene which is intended to be used as fuel for aircraft engines and is allowed to be delivered for that purpose without being marked in accordance with the regulations made for the purposes of this section;

(b) "kerosene" means heavy oil of which more than 50 per cent. by volume distils at a temperature not exceeding 240°C.

12.—(1) If, on the delivery of heavy oil for home use, it is intended to use the oil as fuel for a road vehicle, a declaration shall be made to that effect in the entry for home use and thereupon no rebate shall be allowed in respect of that oil.

(2) No heavy oil on whose delivery for home use rebate has been allowed shall—

(a) be used as fuel for a road vehicle; or

(b) be taken into a road vehicle as fuel,

unless an amount equal to the amount for the time being allowable in respect of rebate on like oil has been paid to the Commissioners in accordance with regulations made under section 24(1) below for the purposes of this section.
(3) For the purposes of this section and section 13 below—

(a) heavy oil shall be deemed to be used as fuel for a road vehicle if, but only if, it is used as fuel for the engine provided for propelling the vehicle or for an engine which draws its fuel from the same supply as that engine; and

(b) heavy oil shall be deemed to be taken into a road vehicle as fuel if, but only if, it is taken into it as part of that supply.

13.—(1) A person who—

(a) uses heavy oil in contravention of section 12(2) above; or

(b) is liable for heavy oil being taken into a road vehicle in contravention of that subsection,

shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of three times the value of the oil or £100, whichever is the greater; and the Commissioners may recover from him an amount equal to the rebate on like oil at the rate in force at the time of the contravention.

(2) A person who supplies heavy oil having reason to believe that it will be put to a particular use shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of three times the value of the oil or £100, whichever is the greater, where that use would, if a payment under subsection (2) of section 12 above were not made in respect of the oil, contravene that subsection.

(3) A person who, with the intent that the restrictions imposed by section 12 above should be contravened,—

(a) uses heavy oil in contravention of subsection (2) of that section; or

(b) supplies heavy oil having reason to believe that it will be put to a particular use, being a use which would, if a payment under that subsection were not made in respect of the oil, contravene that subsection,

shall be guilty of an offence under this subsection.

(4) A person who is liable for heavy oil being taken into a road vehicle in contravention of subsection (2) of section 12 above shall be guilty of an offence under this subsection where the oil was taken in with the intent by him that the restrictions imposed by that section should be contravened.
(5) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (3) or (4) above shall be liable—

(a) on summary conviction, to a penalty of the prescribed sum or of three times the value of the oil in question, whichever is the greater, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to both; or

(b) on conviction on indictment, to a penalty of any amount, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or to both.

(6) Any heavy oil—

(a) taken into a road vehicle as mentioned in section 12(2) above or supplied as mentioned in subsection (2) or (3) above; or

(b) taken as fuel into a vehicle at a time when it is not a road vehicle and remaining in the vehicle as part of its fuel supply at a later time when it becomes a road vehicle,

shall be liable to forfeiture.

(7) For the purposes of this section, a person is liable for heavy oil being taken into a road vehicle in contravention of section 12(2) above if he is at the time the person having the charge of the vehicle or is its owner, except that if a person other than the owner is, or is for the time being, entitled to possession of it, that person and not the owner is liable.

14.—(1) On light oil charged with the excise duty on hydrocarbon oil, and delivered for home use as furnace fuel for burning in vaporised or atomised form by a person for the time being approved in accordance with regulations made for the purposes of this subsection under section 24(1) below, there shall be allowed at the time of delivery a rebate of duty at a rate of £0.0055 a litre less than the rate at which the duty is charged.

(2) Except with the consent of the Commissioners, no oil in whose case rebate has been allowed under this section shall—

(a) be put to a use otherwise than as mentioned in subsection (1) above; or

(b) be acquired or taken into any vehicle, appliance or storage tank in order to be put to such a use.

(3) In giving their consent for the purposes of subsection (2) above, the Commissioners may impose such conditions as they think fit.

(4) A person who—

(a) uses or acquires oil in contravention of subsection (2) above; or
(b) is liable for oil being taken into a vehicle, appliance or storage tank in contravention of that subsection, shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of three times the value of the oil or £100, whichever is the greater; and the Commissioners may recover from him the amount of the rebate allowed on the oil.

(5) A person who supplies oil having reason to believe that it will be used otherwise than as mentioned in subsection (1) above shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of three times the value of the oil or £100, whichever is the greater, if that use without the consent of the Commissioners would contravene subsection (2) above.

(6) A person who, with the intent that the restrictions imposed by subsection (2) above should be contravened,—

(a) uses or acquires oil in contravention of that subsection;

or

(b) supplies oil having reason to believe that it will be put to a use otherwise than as mentioned in subsection (1) above, being a use which, without the consent of the Commissioners, would contravene subsection (2) above, shall be guilty of an offence under this subsection.

(7) A person who is liable for oil being taken into a vehicle, appliance or storage tank in contravention of subsection (2) above shall be guilty of an offence under this subsection where the oil was taken in with the intent by him that the restrictions imposed by that subsection should be contravened.

(8) A person guilty of an offence under subsection (6) or (7) above shall be liable—

(a) on summary conviction, to a penalty of the prescribed sum or of three times the value of the oil in question, whichever is the greater, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months, or to both; or

(b) on conviction on indictment, to a penalty of any amount, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years, or to both.

(9) For the purposes of this section, a person is liable for oil being taken into a vehicle, appliance or storage tank in contravention of subsection (2) above if he is at the time the person having the charge of the vehicle, appliance or tank, or is its owner, except that if a person other than the owner is, or is for the time being, entitled to possession of it, that person and not the owner is liable.
(10) Any oil acquired, or taken into a vehicle, appliance or storage tank, as mentioned in subsection (2) above, or supplied as mentioned in subsection (5) or (6) above, shall be liable to forfeiture.

**Drawback**

15.—(1) A drawback equal to any amount shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioners to have been paid in respect of the goods in question by way of the excise duty on hydrocarbon oil shall be allowed on the exportation, shipment as stores or warehousing in an excise warehouse for use as stores of—

(a) any hydrocarbon oil; or

(b) any article in which there is contained any hydrocarbon oil which was used, or which formed a component of any article used, as an ingredient in the manufacture or preparation of the article.

(2) The Treasury may by order direct as respects articles of any class or description specified in the order that, subject to the provisions of the order, drawback shall be allowed under subsection (1) above in respect of hydrocarbon oil (or goods containing it) used as a material, solvent, extractant, preservative or finish in the manufacture or preparation of the articles.

(3) On the making of an order under subsection (2) above this Act shall have effect, subject to the provisions of the order and of this section, as if the reference in subsection (1)(b) above to an article in which there is contained any hydrocarbon oil used as an ingredient in the manufacture or preparation of the article included a reference to an article of the class or description specified in the order.

(4) An order made under subsection (2) above as respects articles of any class or description—

(a) may provide for drawback to be allowed in respect of hydrocarbon oil (or goods containing it) used as a material, solvent, extractant, preservative or finish in the manufacture or preparation not directly of articles of that class or description but of articles incorporated in them; and

(b) may provide that the quantity of hydrocarbon oil as respects duty on which drawback is to be allowed shall be determined by reference to average quantities or otherwise.

(5) The power to make orders under subsection (2) above shall be exercisable by statutory instrument, and any statutory instrument by which the power is exercised shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the House of Commons.
16. On power methylated spirits which are exported, shipped as stores or warehoused in an excise warehouse for use as stores there shall be allowed a drawback equal to the amount of excise duty shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioners to have been paid in respect of those spirits.

Miscellaneous reliefs

17.—(1) If, on an application made for the purposes of this section by a horticultural producer, it is shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioners that within the period for which the application is made any quantity of heavy oil has been used by the applicant as mentioned in subsection (2) below, then, subject as provided below, the applicant shall be entitled to obtain from the Commissioners repayment of the amount of any excise duty which has been paid in respect of the quantity so used, unless that amount is less than £2.50.

(2) A horticultural producer shall be entitled to repayment under this section in respect of oil used by him—

(a) in the heating, for the growth of horticultural produce primarily with a view to the production of horticultural produce for sale, of any building or structure, or of the earth or other growing medium in it; or

(b) in the sterilisation of the earth or other growing medium to be used for the growth of horticultural produce as mentioned in paragraph (a) above in any building or structure.

(3) Where any quantity of oil is used partly for any such purpose as is mentioned in subsection (2) above and partly for another purpose, such part of that quantity shall be treated as used for each purpose as may be determined by the Commissioners.

(4) An application under this section shall be made for a period of 6 months ending with June or December and within 3 months following that period, unless the Commissioners otherwise allow, and shall be made in such manner as the Commissioners may direct.

(5) The Commissioners may require an applicant for repayment under this section—

(a) to state such facts concerning the hydrocarbon oil delivered to or used by him, or concerning the production of horticultural produce by him, as they may think necessary to deal with the application;

(b) to furnish them in such form as they may require with proof of any statement so made; and
(c) to permit an officer to inspect any premises or plant used by him for the production of horticultural produce or in or for which any such oil was used.

(6) If—

(a) the facts required by the Commissioners under subsection (5)(a) above are not stated; or

(b) proof of the matters referred to in subsection (5)(b) above is not furnished to the satisfaction of the Commissioners; or

(c) an applicant fails to permit inspection of premises or plant as required under the subsection (5)(c) above, the facts shall be deemed for the purposes of this section to be such as the Commissioners may determine.

(7) In this section—

(a) "horticultural produce" has the meaning assigned to it by Schedule 2 to this Act; and

(b) "horticultural producer" means a person growing horticultural produce primarily for sale.

18.—(1) If, on an application made for the purposes of this subsection in such manner as the Commissioners may direct by the owner of a ship specified in the application, not being a pleasure yacht, it is shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioners—

(a) that at any time within the period of 6 months preceding the date of the application (or within such longer period preceding that date as the Commissioners may in any special case allow) any quantity of heavy oil has been used as fuel for the machinery of the ship while engaged on a voyage in home waters; and

(b) that no drawback was allowable on the shipment of the oil,

the applicant shall be entitled to obtain from the Commissioners repayment of the amount of any excise duty which has been paid in respect of the quantity so used, unless that amount is less than £5.

(2) Subject to subsections (3) and (4) below, heavy oil in a warehouse or refinery may, on an application made for the purposes of this subsection in such manner as the Commissioners may direct by the owner of a ship specified in the application, not being a pleasure yacht, and on the prescribed security being given, be delivered without payment of excise duty to the applicant for use as fuel for the machinery of the ship while engaged on a voyage in home waters.
(3) At any time not later than 12 months after any oil has been delivered as mentioned in subsection (2) above the Commissioners may require the applicant to prove in the prescribed manner that the whole of the oil, or such part of it as is not on board the ship or has not been relanded with the sanction of the proper officer, has been used as so mentioned.

(4) If proof of any matter relating to the use of any oil, required by the Commissioners under subsection (3) above is not furnished to their satisfaction, any duty which but for the provisions of subsection (2) above would have been payable on the delivery of the oil shall become payable by the applicant on demand made by the Commissioners in the prescribed manner.

(5) If, where oil has been delivered from a warehouse or refinery without payment of duty on an application under subsection (2) above, a person—

(a) uses the oil or any part of it otherwise than as fuel for the machinery of the ship specified in the application while engaged on a voyage in home waters; or

(b) relands the whole or any part of the oil at any place in the United Kingdom without the sanction of the proper officer,

he shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of three times the value of the whole of the oil so delivered or £100, whichever is the greater; and in the case of an offence under paragraph (b) of this subsection the oil relanded shall be liable to forfeiture.

(6) In this section—

(a) "owner", in relation to an application, includes a charterer to whom the specified ship is demised, or, in a case where the application relates to oil used, or for use, on a ship while undergoing trials for the purpose of testing her hull or machinery, the builder or other person conducting the trials;

(b) "prescribed" means prescribed by regulations made by the Commissioners; and

(c) "voyage in home waters", in relation to a ship, means a voyage in which the ship is at all times either at sea or within the limits of a port.

(7) This section shall apply as if references to ships included references to hovercraft (and "pleasure yacht", "voyage", "reland" and other expressions shall be construed accordingly).

19.—(1) Subsection (3) below shall have effect in the case of—

(a) any fishing boat entered in the fishing boat register under the Merchant Shipping Act 1894 and used for
the purposes of fishing by a person gaining a substantial part of his livelihood by fishing, whether he is the owner of the boat or not; or

(b) any lifeboat owned by the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (in this subsection called "the Institution"); or

(c) any tractor or gear owned by the Institution and used for the purpose of launching or hauling in any lifeboat owned by it,
in respect of which an application is made to the Commissioners for the purposes of this section by the owner or master of the fishing boat or, as the case may be, by the Institution.

(2) Paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1) above shall apply to hovercraft as if hovercraft were boats or vessels.

(3) Subject to the provisions of this section, if it appears to the satisfaction of the Commissioners that the applicant has at any time within the period of 6 months preceding the date of the application or within such longer period preceding that date as the Commissioners may in any special case allow, used any quantity of hydrocarbon oil on board that boat or for the purposes of that tractor or gear, the applicant shall be entitled to obtain from the Commissioners repayment of any excise duty which has been paid in respect of the oil so used.

(4) An application for the purposes of this section shall be made in such manner as the Commissioners may direct.

(5) No person who has previously made application under this section for repayment of duty shall be entitled to make a further application until the expiration of at least 3 months from the date on which the last preceding application was made.

(6) This section shall have effect in relation to excise duty paid in respect of power methylated spirits as it has effect in relation to excise duty paid in respect of hydrocarbon oil.

20.—(1) Where in the case of hydrocarbon oil which has been oil delivered for home use it is shown to the satisfaction of the Commissioners—

(a) that since it was so delivered the oil has been deposited unused in an oil warehouse; and

(b) that it has been so deposited by reason of having become contaminated or by reason of its consisting of different descriptions of hydrocarbon oil which have accidentally become mixed; and

(c) that at the time when it was so deposited it was oil or, as the case may be, was a mixture of oils, on which
the appropriate duty of excise had been paid and not repaid and on which drawback had not been allowed, then, subject to any conditions which the Commissioners see fit to impose for the protection of the revenue, the Commissioners may make to the occupier of that warehouse a payment in accordance with subsection (2) below.

(2) The payment referred to in subsection (1) above shall be a payment of an amount appearing to the Commissioners to be equal to the excise duty which would have been payable if—

(a) the oil had not become contaminated or mixed; and

(b) it had first been delivered for home use at the time when it was deposited in the warehouse and the duty had first become chargeable on that delivery.

(3) In this section “oil warehouse” means a place of security approved by the Commissioners under section 92 of the Management Act for the depositing, keeping and securing of hydrocarbon oil, and includes a refinery.

Administration and enforcement

21.—(1) The Commissioners may, with a view to the protection of the revenue, make regulations—

(a) for any of the purposes specified in Part I of Schedule 3 to this Act (which relates to hydrocarbon oil);

(b) for any of the purposes specified in Part II of that Schedule (which relates to petrol substitutes);

(c) for any of the purposes specified in Part III of that Schedule (which relates to road fuel gas).

(2) In the case of regulations made for the purposes mentioned in subsection (1)(a) above, different regulations may be made for different classes of hydrocarbon oil; and the power to make such regulations shall include power to make regulations—

(a) regulating the allowance and payment of drawback under or by virtue of section 15 above; and

(b) for making the allowance and payment of drawback by virtue of an order under subsection (2) of that section subject to such conditions as the Commissioners see fit to impose for the protection of the revenue.

(3) A person who contravenes or fails to comply with any regulation made under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of three times the value of any goods in respect of which the offence was committed or £100, whichever is the greater; and the goods shall be liable to forfeiture.
22.—(1) A person who uses as fuel for an internal combustion piston engine any liquid which is neither hydrocarbon oil nor power methylated spirits and on which he knows or has reason- able cause to believe that the excise duty on petrol substitutes has not been paid shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of three times the value of the goods in respect of which the offence was committed or £100, whichever is the greater; and the goods shall be liable to forfeiture.

(2) In subsection (1) above, “liquid” does not include any substance which is gaseous at a temperature of 15°C and under a pressure of 1013.25 millibars.

23.—(1) A person who—

(a) uses as fuel in ; or

(b) takes as fuel into,
a road vehicle any road fuel gas on which he knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the excise duty chargeable under section 8 above has not been paid shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of three times the value of the goods in respect of which the offence was committed or £100, whichever is the greater; and the goods shall be liable to forfeiture.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b) above, road fuel gas shall be deemed to be taken into a road vehicle as fuel if, but only if, it is taken into it as part of the supply of fuel for the engine provided for propelling the vehicle or for an engine which draws its fuel from the same supply as that engine.

24.—(1) The Commissioners may make regulations for any of the purposes of section 9(1) or (4), section 12 or section 14(1) above, and in particular for the purposes specified in Schedule 4 to this Act.

(2) Regulations made for the purposes of section 12 above may provide for restricting (whether by reference to locality, the obtaining of a licence from the Commissioners or other matters) the cases in which payments to the Commissioners under subsection (2) of that section are to be effective for the purposes of that subsection.

(3) For the purposes of the Customs and Excise Acts 1979, the presence in any hydrocarbon oil of a marker which, in regulations made under this section, is prescribed in relation to—

(a) oil delivered without payment of duty under section 9 above; or

(b) rebated heavy oil or rebated light oil,
shall be conclusive evidence that that oil has been so delivered or, as the case may be, that the rebate in question has been allowed.
(4) A person who contravenes or fails to comply with any regulation made under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty of three times the value of any goods in respect of which the offence was committed or £100, whichever is the greater; and the goods shall be liable to forfeiture.

(5) Schedule 5 to this Act shall have effect with respect to any sample of hydrocarbon oil taken in pursuance of regulations made under this section.

Supplementary

Regulations. 25. Any power to make regulations under this Act shall be exercisable by statutory instrument, and any statutory instrument by which the power is exercised shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Directions. 26. Directions given under any provision of this Act may make different provision for different circumstances and may be varied or revoked by subsequent directions thereunder.

Interpretation. 27.—(1) In this Act—

"heavy oil" has the meaning given by section 1(4) above;
"hydrocarbon oil" has the meaning given by section 1(2) above;
"light oil" has the meaning given by section 1(3) above;
"the Management Act" means the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979;
"petrol substitute" shall be construed in accordance with section 4(1) and (2) above;
"power methylated spirits" has the meaning given by section 4(3) above;
"the prescribed sum", in relation to the penalty provided for an offence, means—

(a) if the offence was committed in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, the prescribed sum within the meaning of section 28 of the Criminal Law Act 1977 (£1,000 or other sum substituted by order under section 61(1) of that Act);

(b) if the offence was committed in Scotland, the prescribed sum within the meaning of section 289B of the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975 (£1,000 or other sum substituted by order under section 289D(1) of that Act);

"rebate" means rebate of duty under section 11 or 14 above, and "rebated" has a corresponding meaning;
"refinery" means any premises approved by the Commissioners for the treatment of hydrocarbon oil;
“road fuel gas” has the meaning given by section 5 above; and

“road vehicle” means a vehicle constructed or adapted for use on roads, but does not include any vehicle of a kind specified in Schedule 1 to this Act.

(2) This Act and the other Acts included in the Customs and Excise Acts 1979 shall be construed as one Act but where a provision of this Act refers to this Act that reference is not to be construed as including a reference to any of the others.

(3) Any expression used in this Act or in any instrument made under this Act to which a meaning is given by any other Act included in the Customs and Excise Acts 1979 has, except where the context otherwise requires, the same meaning in this Act or in any such instrument as in that Act; and for ease of reference the Table below indicates the expressions used in this Act to which a meaning is given by any other such Act—

Management Act

“the Commissioners”
“container”
“the Customs and Excise Acts 1979”
“excise warehouse”
“goods”
“hovercraft”
“occupier”
“officer” and “proper” in relation to an officer
“port”
“ship”
“shipment”
“stores”
“warehouse”

Alcoholic Liquor Duties Act 1979

“methylated spirits”
“spirits.”

28.—(1) The enactments and order specified in Schedule 6 to this Act shall be amended in accordance with the provisions of that Schedule.

(2) The enactments specified in Schedule 7 to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.

(3) Any provision of this Act relating to anything done or required or authorised to be done under or by reference to that provision or any other provision of this Act shall have effect as if any reference to that provision, or that other provision, as the case may be, included a reference to the corresponding provision of the enactments repealed by this Act.

(4) The repeal by subsection (2) above of the Hydrocarbon Oil (Customs & Excise) Act 1971 shall not affect the operation of the saving in paragraph 2 in Part I of Schedule 14 to the
1975 c. 45. Finance (No. 2) Act 1975 in relation to the provisions of the said Act of 1971 repealed by section 75(5) of the said Act of 1975 and specified in that Part.

S.I. 1977/1866. (5) The Amendment of Units of Measurement (Hydrocarbon Oil, etc) Order 1977 is hereby revoked.

1978 c. 30. (6) Nothing in this section shall be taken as prejudicing the operation of sections 15 to 17 of the Interpretation Act 1978 (which relate to the effect of repeals).

Citation and commencement. 29.—(1) This Act may be cited as the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979 and is included in the Acts which may be cited as the Customs and Excise Acts 1979.

(2) This Act shall come into operation on 1st April 1979.
SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1

VEHICLES WHICH ARE NOT ROAD VEHICLES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THIS ACT

Vehicles excluded from definition of “road vehicle”

1. Any vehicle while it is not used on a public road and no vehicle excise licence is in force in respect of it.

2. The following—
   (a) any vehicle exempted from vehicle excise duty by section 4(1)(h) of the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971 (road construction vehicles) or section 7(1) of that Act (vehicles used only for passing to and from land in the same occupation);
   (b) a vehicle of any of the following descriptions which is not chargeable with duty as a goods vehicle, namely an agricultural machine, digging machine, mobile crane, works truck, mowing machine or fisherman’s tractor mentioned in Schedule 3 to that Act;
   (c) a road roller.

Interpretation

3. In paragraph 1 above “public road” means a road which is repairable at the public expense.

4. In this Schedule “vehicle excise licence”, “vehicle excise duty” and “duty” means a licence and duty under the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971; but a vehicle in respect of which there is current a certificate or document in the form of a licence issued in pursuance of regulations under section 23 of that Act shall be treated as a vehicle for which a road licence is in force.

5. In the application of this Schedule to Northern Ireland, for any reference to the Vehicles (Excise) Act 1971 there shall be substituted a reference to the Vehicles (Excise) Act (Northern 1972 c. 10 (N.I.) Ireland) 1972.

SCHEDULE 2

MEANING OF “HORTICULTURAL PRODUCE” FOR PURPOSES OF RELIEF UNDER SECTION 17

In section 17 of this Act “horticultural produce” means—

(a) fruit;
(b) vegetables of a kind grown for human consumption, including fungi, but not including maincrop potatoes or peas grown for seed, for harvesting dry or for vining;
(c) flowers, pot plants and decorative foliage;
(d) herbs;
(e) seeds other than pea seeds, and bulbs and other material, being seeds, bulbs or material for sowing or planting for the production of—
   (i) fruit,
Section 21(1).

SCHEDULE 3
SUBJECTS FOR REGULATIONS UNDER SECTION 21

PART I
HYDROCARBON OIL

1. Prohibiting the production of hydrocarbon oil or any description of hydrocarbon oil except by a person holding a licence.

2. Fixing the date of expiration of any such licence.

3. Regulating the production, storage and warehousing of hydrocarbon oil or any description of hydrocarbon oil and the removal of any such oil to or from premises used for the production of any such oil.

4. Prohibiting the refining of hydrocarbon oil elsewhere than in a refinery.

5. Prohibiting the incorporation of gas in hydrocarbon oil elsewhere than in a refinery.

6. Regulating the use and storage of hydrocarbon oil in a refinery.

7. Regulating or prohibiting the removal to a refinery of hydrocarbon oil in respect of which any rebate has been allowed.

8. Regulating the removal of imported hydrocarbon oil to a refinery without payment of the excise duty on such oil.

9. Making provision for securing payment of the excise duty on any imported hydrocarbon oil received into a refinery.

10. Relieving from the excise duty chargeable on hydrocarbon oil produced in the United Kingdom any such oil intended for exportation or shipment as stores.

11. Generally for securing and collecting the excise duty chargeable on hydrocarbon oil produced in the United Kingdom.

PART II
PETROL SUBSTITUTES

12. Prohibiting the production of petrol substitutes, and dealing in petrol substitutes on which the excise duty has not been paid, except by persons holding a licence.
13. Fixing the date of expiration of any such licence.

14. Regulating the production, dealing in, storage and warehousing of petrol substitutes and their removal to and from premises used therefor.

15. Relieving from the excise duty petrol substitutes intended for exportation or shipment as stores.

16. Generally for securing and collecting the excise duty.

In this Part of this Schedule “the excise duty” means the excise duty on petrol substitutes.

PART III
ROAD FUEL GAS

17. Prohibiting the production of gas, and dealing in gas on which the excise duty has not been paid, except by persons holding a licence.

18. Fixing the date of expiration of any such licence.

19. Regulating the production, dealing in, storage and warehousing of gas and the removal of gas to and from premises used therefor.

20. Requiring containers for gas to be marked in the manner prescribed by the regulations.

21. Conferring power to require information relating to the supply or use of gas and containers for gas to be given by producers of and dealers in gas, and by the person owning or possessing or for the time being in charge of any road vehicle which is constructed or adapted to use gas as fuel.

22. Requiring a person owning or possessing a road vehicle which is constructed or adapted to use gas as fuel to keep such accounts and records in such manner as may be prescribed by the regulations, and to preserve such books and documents relating to the supply of gas to or by him, or the use of gas by him, for such period as may be so prescribed.

23. Requiring the production of books or documents relating to the supply or use of gas or the use of any road vehicle.

24. Authorising the entry and inspection of premises (other than private dwelling-houses) and the examination of road vehicles, and authorising, or requiring the giving of facilities for, the inspection of gas found on any premises entered or on or in any road vehicle.

25. Generally for securing and collecting the excise duty.

In this Part of this Schedule “the excise duty” means the excise duty chargeable under section 8 of this Act on gas, and “gas” means road fuel gas.

SCHEDULE 4
SUBJECTS FOR REGULATIONS UNDER SECTION 24
As to grant of relief under sections 9 and 14

1. Regulating the approval of persons for purposes of section 9(1) or (4) or 14(1) of this Act, whether individually or by reference to
a class, and whether in relation to particular descriptions of oil or generally; enabling approval to be granted subject to conditions and providing for the conditions to be varied, or the approval revoked, for reasonable cause.

2. Enabling permission under section 9(1) of this Act to be granted subject to conditions as to the giving of security and otherwise.

3. Requiring claims for repayment under section 9(4) of this Act to be made at such times and in respect of such periods as are prescribed; providing that no such claim shall lie where the amount to be paid is less than the prescribed minimum; and preventing, where such a claim lies, the payment of drawback.

As to mixing of oil

4. Imposing restrictions on the mixing with other oil of any rebated oil or oil delivered without payment of duty.

As to marking of oil

5. Requiring as a condition of allowing rebate on, or delivery without payment of duty of, any oil (subject to any exceptions provided by or under the regulations) that there shall have been added to that oil, at such times, in such manner and in such proportions as may be prescribed, one or more prescribed markers, with or without a prescribed colouring substance (not being a prescribed marker), and that a declaration to that effect is furnished.

6. Prescribing the substances which are to be used as markers.

7. Providing that the presence of a marker shall be disregarded if the proportion in which it is present is less than that prescribed for the purposes of this paragraph.

8. Prohibiting the addition to any oil of any prescribed marker or prescribed colouring substance except in such circumstances as may be prescribed.

9. Prohibiting the removal from any oil of any prescribed marker or prescribed colouring substance.

10. Prohibiting the addition to oil of any substance, not being a prescribed marker, which is calculated to impede the identification of a prescribed marker.

11. Regulating the storage or movement of prescribed markers.

12. Requiring any person who adds a prescribed marker to any oil to keep in such manner and to preserve for such period as may be prescribed such accounts and records in connection with his use of that marker as may be prescribed, and requiring the production of the accounts and records.

13. Requiring, in such circumstances or subject to such exceptions as may be prescribed, that any drum, storage tank, delivery pump or other container or outlet which contains any oil in which a prescribed marker is present shall be marked in the prescribed manner to indicate that the oil is not to be used as road fuel or for any other prohibited purpose.
14. Requiring any person who supplies oil in which a prescribed marker is present to deliver to the recipient a document containing a statement in the prescribed form to the effect that the oil is not to be used as road fuel or for any other prohibited purpose.

15. Prohibiting the sale of any oil the colour of which would prevent any prescribed colouring substance from being readily visible if present in the oil.

16. Prohibiting the importation of oil in which any prescribed marker, or any other substance which is calculated to impede the identification of a prescribed marker, is present.

As to control of storage, supply etc. of oil, entry of premises etc.

17. Regulating the storage or movement of oil.

18. Restricting the supplying of oil in respect of which rebate has been allowed and not repaid or on which excise duty has not been paid.

19. Requiring a person owning or possessing a road vehicle which is constructed or adapted to use heavy oil as fuel to keep such accounts and records in such manner as may be prescribed, and to preserve such books and documents relating to the supply of heavy oil to or by him, or the use of heavy oil by him, for such period as may be prescribed.

20. Requiring the production of books or documents relating to the supply or use of oil or the use of any vehicle.

21. Authorising the entry and inspection of premises (other than private dwelling-houses) and the examination of vehicles, and authorising, or requiring the giving of facilities for, the inspection of oil found on any premises entered or on or in any vehicle and the taking of samples of any oil inspected.

Interpretation

22. In this Schedule—

"oil" means hydrocarbon oil;

"prescribed" means prescribed by regulations made under section 24 of this Act;

and section 12(3)(a) of this Act shall apply for the purposes of paragraph 19 above as it applies for the purposes of that section.

SCHEDULE 5

SAMPLING

1. The person taking a sample—

(a) if he takes it from a motor vehicle, shall if practicable do so in the presence of a person appearing to him to be the owner or person for the time being in charge of the vehicle;

(b) if he takes the sample on any premises but not from a motor vehicle, shall if practicable take it in the presence of a person appearing to him to be the occupier of the premises.
Sch. 5

or for the time being in charge of the part of the premises from which it is taken.

2.—(1) The result of an analysis of a sample shall not be admissible—

(a) in criminal proceedings under the Customs and Excise Acts 1979; or

(b) on behalf of the Commissioners in any civil proceedings under those Acts,

unless the analysis was made by an authorised analyst and the requirements of paragraph 1 above (where applicable) and of the following provisions of this paragraph have been complied with.

(2) The person taking a sample must at the time have divided it into three parts (including the part to be analysed), marked and sealed or fastened up each part, and—

(a) delivered one part to the person in whose presence the sample was taken in accordance with paragraph 1 above, if he requires it; and

(b) retained one part for future comparison.

(3) Where it was not practicable to comply with the relevant requirements of paragraph 1 above, the person taking the sample must have served notice on the owner or person in charge of the vehicle or, as the case may be, the occupier of the premises informing him that the sample has been taken and that one part of it is available for delivery to him, if he requires it, at such time and place as may be specified in the notice.

3.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, in any such proceedings as are mentioned in paragraph 2(1) above a certificate purporting to be signed by an authorised analyst and certifying the presence of any substance in any such sample of oil as may be specified in the certificate shall be evidence, and in Scotland sufficient evidence, of the facts stated in it.

(2) Without prejudice to the admissibility of the evidence of the analyst (which shall be sufficient in Scotland as well as in England), such a certificate shall not be admissible as evidence—

(a) unless a copy of it has, not less than 7 days before the hearing, been served by the prosecutor or, in the case of civil proceedings, the Commissioners on all other parties to the proceedings; or

(b) if any of those other parties, not less than 3 days before the hearing or within such further time as the court may in special circumstances allow, serves notice on the prosecutor or, as the case may be, the Commissioners requiring the attendance at the hearing of the person by whom the analysis was made.

4.—(1) Any notice required or authorised to be given under this Schedule shall be in writing.
(2) Any such notice shall be deemed, unless the contrary is shown, to have been received by a person if it is shown to have been left for him at his last-known residence or place of business in the United Kingdom.

(3) Any such notice may be given by post, and the letter containing the notice may be sent to the last-known residence or place of business in the United Kingdom of the person to whom it is directed.

(4) Any such notice given to the secretary or clerk of a company or body of persons (incorporated or unincorporated) on behalf of the company or body shall be deemed to have been given to the company or body; and for the purpose of the foregoing provisions of this paragraph any such company or body of persons having an office in the United Kingdom shall be treated as resident at that office or, if it has more than one, at the registered or principal office.

(5) Where any such notice is to be given to any person as the occupier of any land, and it is not practicable after reasonable inquiry to ascertain—

(a) what is the name of any person being the occupier of the land; or

(b) whether or not there is a person being the occupier of the land,

the notice may be addressed to the person concerned by any sufficient description of the capacity in which it is given to him.

(6) In any case to which sub-paragraph (5) above applies, and in any other case where it is not practicable after reasonable inquiry to ascertain an address in the United Kingdom for the service of a notice to be given to a person as being the occupier of any land, the notice shall be deemed to have been received by the person concerned on being left for him on the land, either in the hands of a responsible person or conspicuously affixed to some building or object on the land.

(7) Sub-paragraphs (2) to (6) above shall not affect the validity of any notice duly given otherwise than in accordance with those sub-paragraphs.

5. In this Schedule "authorised analyst" means—

(a) the Government Chemist or a person acting under his direction;

(b) the Government Chemist for Northern Ireland or a person acting under his direction;

(c) any chemist authorised by the Treasury to make analyses for the purposes of this Schedule; or

(d) any other person appointed as a public analyst or deputy public analyst under—

section 89 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955,

section 27 of the Food and Drugs (Scotland) Act 1956,

or

section 31 of the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland) 1958.
6. References in this Schedule to the taking of a sample or to a sample shall be construed respectively as references to the taking of a sample in pursuance of regulations under section 24 of this Act and to a sample so taken.

7. This Schedule shall have effect in its application to a vehicle of which a person other than the owner is, or is for the time being, entitled to possession as if for references to the owner there were substituted references to the person entitled to possession.

SCHEDULE 6

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS

1. In section 92(2) of the Finance Act 1965 and section 14(2) of the Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 1966 (grants towards duty on bus fuel) for the words "hydrocarbon oil" there shall be substituted the words "heavy oil".

2. In section 69 of the Transport Act 1968 (revocation etc. of operators' licences), in subsection (4)(e), after the words "section 200 of the Customs and Excise Act 1952" there shall be inserted the words "section 11 of the Hydrocarbon Oil (Customs & Excise) Act 1971 or section 13 of the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979".

3. In Item 4 of Group 7 in Schedule 4 to the Finance Act 1972 for the words "the Hydrocarbon Oil (Customs & Excise) Act 1971" there shall be substituted the words "the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979".

4. In Note (3) to Group 7 in Schedule 4 to the Finance Act 1972 for the words from "gas" to "road vehicles and" there shall be substituted the words "road fuel gas (within the meaning of the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979)".

5. In Note (4) to Group 7 in Schedule 4 to the Finance Act 1972 the words "or is to be" shall be omitted and at the end of that Note there shall be added the words "or on which a duty of excise has been or is to be charged without relief from, or rebate of, such duty by virtue of the provisions of the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979".

6. In Article 3 of the Excise Duties (Gas as Road Fuel) Order 1972 for the words "hydrocarbon oil" there shall be substituted the words "light oil".

7. In Note (1) to Group 8 in Schedule 7 to the Finance (No. 2) Act 1975 for the words "the Hydrocarbon Oil (Customs & Excise) Act 1971" there shall be substituted the words "the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979".
## SCHEDULE 7

### REPEALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
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<tr>
<td>1975 c. 45.</td>
<td>The Finance (No. 2) Act 1975.</td>
<td>In Schedule 4, in Note (4) to Group 7, the words “or is to be”.</td>
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<td>In Schedule 12, paragraph 8.</td>
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