

1957 No. 1385

AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Agriculture (Ladders) Regulations, 1957

Made - - - - - 1st August, 1957
Coming into Operation 1st November, 1957

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretary of State for Scotland, acting jointly, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by subsections (1) to (4) of section 1 of the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956(a), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, after consultation with such organisations as appear to them to represent the interests concerned, hereby make the following regulations, a draft whereof has been laid before Parliament and has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament:—

Citation, extent and commencement

1. These regulations which may be cited as the Agriculture (Ladders) Regulations, 1957, shall apply to Great Britain and shall come into operation three months after the making thereof.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these regulations—

“agriculture”, “agricultural unit”, “worker”, “employer” and “employed” have the meanings respectively assigned to them, as respects England and Wales, by subsection (1) of section 24 of the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956, and, as respects Scotland, by that subsection as applied by subsection (10) of section 25 of that Act;

“ladder” does not include a permanently fixed ladder, or a ladder made of rope or other non-rigid material, but save as aforesaid includes every kind of ladder (including steps and a trestle-ladder), whether made of wood, metal or other material;

“rung” means the rail or tread, serving as a step, set into the stiles of a ladder;

“steps” means a ladder (other than a trestle-ladder) provided with a means of self-support;

“stile” means the side-rail of a ladder into which the rungs are fitted;

“tie-rod” means a metal rod, extending through both stiles, which is so secured as to prevent the stiles moving apart;

“trestle-ladder” means a ladder made of two frames hinged together at the top, both being fitted with rungs.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889(b), applies to the interpretation of these regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(a) 4 & 5 Eliz. 2. c. 49.

(b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

Obligations on employer only

3.—(1) The employer of a worker employed in agriculture shall not cause or permit to be used by any worker so employed, in the course of his employment, any ladder unless it is of good construction and sound material, and is properly maintained.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing paragraph a ladder shall not be regarded as complying therewith if—

- (a) where a ladder has wooden stiles or rungs, the grain thereof does not run lengthwise, or either stile or any rung contains any defect likely to weaken it which reasonable examination would disclose ;
- (b) where a ladder has wooden stiles, any rung of the ladder is supported solely by nails or screws ;
- (c) where a ladder has wooden rungs, the rungs are not fixed into the stiles by rabbet, notch or mortise, and (unless tie-rods are fitted not more than two feet from each end of the ladder and not more than eight feet apart throughout its length) are not through-tenoned and wedged in the stiles ;
- (d) in the case of steps or a trestle-ladder, it is not fitted with a device that is effective, in the circumstances in which it is used, in preventing the back support from spreading ;
- (e) (except in the case of a trestle-ladder) the distance between adjacent rungs exceeds twelve inches from centre to centre.

Obligations on both employer and worker

4.—(1) Subject to the provisions of this regulation the employer of a worker employed in agriculture shall not cause or permit to be used by any worker so employed, in the course of his employment, and a worker employed in agriculture shall not, in the course of his employment, use, any ladder if—

- (a) it is not strong enough for the purposes and manner of its use ;
- (b) any rung is missing ;
- (c) it is not equally supported on each stile, and is not securely placed or held in position ;
- (d) the top of the ladder does not extend above any point at which it is necessary for the worker to get on or off the ladder.

(2) Sub-paragraph (d) of paragraph (1) of this regulation shall not apply—

- (a) to steps and trestle-ladders ; or
- (b) if there is available to the worker, apart from the ladder itself, some means of secure hand-hold.

Reporting by workers of defects

5.—(1) If any ladder, with which a worker employed in agriculture is employed to work, develops a defect to which this regulation applies, any such worker employed to work with that ladder, on discovering that defect, shall forthwith report it to his employer.

(2) The defects to which this regulation applies are—

- (a) the absence of any rung ;
- (b) the cracking or breaking of any wooden stile or rung ; and
- (c) in the case of steps or a trestle-ladder, the absence or breaking of any stop or cord with which such a ladder was designed to be operated.

(3) Nothing in this regulation shall absolve an employer from compliance with regulation 3, or an employer or worker from compliance with regulation 4, of these regulations.

In Witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed this thirty-first day of July, nineteen hundred and fifty-seven.

(L.S.) *D. Heathcoat Amory,*
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Given under the Seal of the Secretary of State for Scotland this first day of August, nineteen hundred and fifty-seven.

(L.S.) *John S. Maclay,*
Secretary of State for Scotland.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These regulations, made under section 1 of the Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956, prohibit an employer of a worker employed in agriculture from causing or permitting him to use a ladder that is not of good construction and sound material, and is not properly maintained. They also prohibit the worker himself from using, as well as his employer from causing or permitting to be used, a ladder which does not comply with the prescribed conditions as to its use. The regulations impose on a worker a duty to report to his employer prescribed defects that occur to any ladder with which he is employed to work.

The regulations apply to Great Britain.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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