

1971 No. 1961

CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Electric Blankets (Safety) Regulations 1971

<i>Made</i>	- - -	1st December 1971
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		10th December 1971
<i>Coming into Operation—</i>		
<i>All but Regulation 5</i>		1st January 1972
<i>Regulation 5</i>		1st September 1972

In pursuance of sections 1 and 2(4) and (6) of the Consumer Protection Act 1961(a) and of the Schedule to that Act as amended by the London Government Act 1963(b), and after consulting with such persons and bodies of persons as appear to me to be requisite, I hereby make the following Regulations:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Electric Blankets (Safety) Regulations 1971 and (with the exception of Regulation 5 which shall come into operation on 1st September 1972) shall come into operation on 1st January 1972.

2.—(1) In these Regulations, except where the context otherwise requires, the expression—

“the Act” means the Consumer Protection Act 1961 as amended by the London Government Act 1963, the Hire-Purchase Act 1965(c), the Hire-Purchase (Scotland) Act 1965(d) and the Consumer Protection Act 1971(e);

“electric blanket” means an electrical appliance designed or suitable for household use which has as its principal part an electrically heated blanket (which exceeds 0·15 square metres in area and does not exceed 100 mm in thickness) and is intended to be connected to an electricity supply having a voltage not exceeding 250 volts;

“the Standard of 1971” means the British Standard Specification for the Testing and Approval of Household Electrical Appliances Section A4 Electrically-Heated Blankets BS 3456 : Section A4 : 1971, as published on 4th February 1971, with the exception of Appendix D to that specification (which contains recommendations relating to radio interference).

(2) Any reference in these Regulations to any requirement or test specified in the Standard of 1971 includes a reference to any requirement or test incorporated in that specification by reference to one or more other British Standard specifications.

(a) 1961 c. 40.
(c) 1965 c. 66.
(e) 1971 c. 15.

(b) 1963 c. 33.
(d) 1965 c. 67.

(3) For the purposes of these Regulations, any reference to a British Standard specification (other than the Standard of 1971) is to be construed as a reference to that specification as amended before the said 4th February 1971.

(4) The Interpretation Act 1889(a) applies for the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

3.—(1) This Regulation applies to any electric blanket (whether it is of a kind mentioned in clause 1 of the Standard of 1971 or not) other than one which bears a certification mark of the British Electrotechnical Approvals Board for Household Equipment (formerly known as the British Electrical Approvals Board for Domestic Appliances), indicating that the blanket conforms to BS 3456.

(2) An electric blanket to which this Regulation applies shall be such as to comply with the requirements of the Standard of 1971 and be capable of satisfying any of the tests specified in that specification :

Provided that clauses 3, 5 and 7 of that specification (which relate to performance generally, voltage rating and marks and explanatory literature) shall not have effect for the purposes of this Regulation.

(3) In the case of an electric blanket to which this Regulation applies and of which the principal part is intended to be used as an under-blanket and to be kept switched on notwithstanding that a person is occupying the bed upon which it is used, the electric blanket shall have an isolating transformer and be so designed that no electricity other than electricity having an alternating voltage not exceeding 30 volts A.C. will be applied to that part.

4. An electric blanket shall on some part thereof be legibly and durably marked so as to indicate the matters specified in the Schedule to these Regulations.

5. Where an electric blanket is individually packed in a box or other container, that box or container shall be conspicuously marked so as to indicate in words whether the blanket is for use as an over-blanket or as an under-blanket and, if as an under-blanket, whether the blanket is or is not suitable to be kept switched on when a person is occupying the bed upon which it is used.

6. As respects the requirements of these Regulations, subsections (1) and (2) of section 2 of the Act (which prohibit sales and possession for sale of goods and component parts not complying with regulations) shall apply in relation to goods and component parts manufactured before the imposition of these requirements notwithstanding anything in subsection (4) of that section (which exempts such goods and parts unless regulations otherwise provide).

7. Section 2(1), (2) and (3) (other than paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (3)) of the Act (which relate to sale and possession for sale of goods and component parts not complying with regulations) shall, except as provided by the proviso to section 2(6), apply in relation to goods to which these Regulations apply as if references to selling or to a sale included references to letting under a hire-purchase agreement or on hire, and the reference to a sale under a credit-sale agreement were a reference to a letting under a hire-purchase agreement.

8.—(1) The Schedule to the Act shall have effect in relation to goods to which these Regulations apply.

(2) Any test of goods to which these Regulations apply, being a test such as is referred to in paragraph 2 of the Schedule to the Act (which empowers a local authority to purchase goods for the purpose of a test) shall be carried out, at the expense of the local authority, by such person or body as may be authorised by the Secretary of State under this Regulation to carry out such tests.

(3) In relation to goods to which these Regulations apply, "local authority" in the Schedule to the Act means the council of a county borough, the council of a London borough or the Common Council of the City of London ; as respects any non-county borough or urban district which has according to the last published census for the time being a population of 60,000 or upwards, the council of the borough or urban district ; as respects any other area in England and Wales, the council of the county ; and, in Scotland, the council of any county or any town.

R. Maudling,
One of Her Majesty's Principal
Secretaries of State.

Home Office,
Whitehall.
1st December 1971.

Regulation 4

SCHEDULE

MARKINGS REQUIRED ON ELECTRIC BLANKETS

The rated voltage or voltage range in volts.

The rated input in watts.

A warning against using the blanket when folded, rucked or creased.

A warning against laundering, or against dry-cleaning, or against both laundering and dry-cleaning, as the case may require.

In the case of a blanket to be connected only to an A.C. electricity supply or only to a D.C. electricity supply, the type of current (A.C. or D.C.) to be used.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

In the case of an over-blanket

A warning against using the blanket otherwise than as an over-blanket.

A warning against switching on the blanket when it is wet.

In the case of an under-blanket for heating a bed even when occupied

A warning against using the blanket otherwise than as an under-blanket.

In the case of an under-blanket for heating a bed only when unoccupied

A warning against using the blanket otherwise than as an under-blanket.

A warning against switching on the blanket when it is wet.

A warning either that the blanket must be disconnected from the electricity supply before the user gets into bed or that the blanket must be switched off before the user gets into bed.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

The Consumer Protection Act 1961 gives the Secretary of State power to make regulations imposing requirements, in respect of any class of goods, to prevent or reduce risk of death or personal injury. These Regulations impose such requirements in relation to electric blankets for household use, and accordingly under the Act, subject to certain exceptions, no person may sell or have in his possession for sale an appliance not complying with the Regulations. By virtue of Regulation 7, letting on hire or hire-purchase is similarly prohibited.

The Regulations apply to electric blankets as defined in Regulation 2. Regulation 3 requires electric blankets which do not bear the appropriate certification mark to comply with certain of the requirements of the relevant British Standard. Regulation 4 and the Schedule specify the information and warnings to be marked, in all cases, on the blanket itself, and Regulation 5 specifies the information to be given on the box in which the blanket is packed.

Copies of the British Standard Specifications referred to in the Regulations can be obtained from the British Standards Institution.

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