

1975 No. 1366

CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1975

Made - - - 12th August 1975

Laid before Parliament 21st August 1975

Coming into Operation—

In accordance with the provisions of Regulation 1.

The Secretary of State, after consulting in accordance with the provisions of section 1(5) of the Consumer Protection Act 1961(a) with such persons and bodies of persons as appear to the Secretary of State to be requisite, in exercise of her powers under sections 1 and 2 of, and paragraph 3 of the Schedule to, that Act and of all other powers enabling her in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1975 and shall come into operation on 1st April 1976 in relation to goods sold, or in the possession of any person for the purpose of being sold, by the manufacturer or importer into Great Britain of those goods and, subject to that, shall come into operation on 1st October 1976.

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“the Act” means the Consumer Protection Act 1961;

“British Standard 52” means the British Standard Specification for bayonet lamp-caps, lampholders and B.C. adaptors (lampholder plugs) for voltages not exceeding 250 volts BS 52: 1963, published on 30th November 1963, as amended by Amendment Slips Nos. 1, 2 and 3 published, respectively, on 7th September 1964, 29th April 1966 and 28th December 1966;

“British Standard 3456” followed by a reference to a numbered Section means Part 1 (General Requirements) of the British Standard Specification for testing and approval of household electrical appliances British Standard 3456: 1969 published on 31st December 1969, as applied and modified by the Section so numbered of Part 2 of the Specification, being that Section as published, and, where indicated, as amended on the date or dates shown in relation thereto;

“British Standard 4647” means the British Standard Specification for lighting sets for Christmas trees and decorative purposes for indoor use BS 4647: 1970, published on 30th October 1970;

(a) 1961 c. 40.

“British Standard 6500” means the British Standard Specification for insulated flexible cords BS 6500: 1969, published on 29th August 1969, as amended by Amendment Slips Nos. 1, 2 and 3 published, respectively, on 16th March 1972, 11th May 1973 and 17th April 1974;

“in use” in relation to any equipment means in use when properly assembled, installed and maintained and when being used with proper care having regard to the purpose for which the equipment is intended.

(2) For the purposes of these Regulations, where any British Standard or section thereof mentioned in these Regulations specifies relevant requirements by reference to another British Standard Specification that reference is to be construed as a reference to that other Specification as it has effect at the date on which these Regulations are made.

(3) Any reference in these Regulations to an electric shock is a reference to an electric shock of such severity as to be liable to cause personal injury.

(4) Any reference in these Regulations to an enactment shall be construed as a reference to that enactment as amended or extended by or under any other enactment.

(5) 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) Subject to paragraph (2) below, these Regulations apply to any electrical equipment (including any electrical apparatus or device) designed or suitable for domestic use (whether indoors or out-of-doors) which requires for its operation a supply of electricity at a voltage (in the case of an alternating current) of not less than 50 volts nor more than 500 volts or (in the case of a direct current) of not less than 75 volts nor more than 750 volts.

(2) These Regulations do not apply to any electric blanket within the meaning of the Electric Blankets (Safety) Regulations 1971(b).

4. Any part of any equipment to which these Regulations apply which is intended to be electrified shall be so insulated or isolated as not to be liable, when the equipment is in use, to electrify any part of the equipment not intended to be electrified, and the insulation or isolation required by this Regulation is hereinafter referred to as “basic insulation”.

5.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3) below, and Regulation 7, where any equipment to which these Regulations apply has any parts not intended to be electrified and capable of being touched by hand, or with a finger, without something first being done to the equipment which requires the use of tools, then either—

(a) those parts shall be separated from parts intended to be electrified—

(i) by sufficient additional or supplementary insulation (whether or not formed of the material of which the part not intended to be electrified is made) to ensure protection against an electric shock in the event of failure of basic insulation, or

(ii) by metal parts with adequate provision for earthing; or

(a) 1889 c. 63.

(b) S.I. 1971/1961 (1971 III, p. 5298).

- (b) where the parts capable of being so touched are made of metal adequate provision for earthing those parts shall be incorporated.

(2) Where any equipment referred to in this paragraph does not comply with paragraph (1) of this Regulation by reason only that it is fitted with cords which incorporate basic insulation only, those cords shall not—

- (a) in the case of equipment designed for the illumination of Christmas trees, be required to comply with paragraph (1) if the cords conform to the requirements of British Standard 4647, as to the minimum thickness of insulation and cross sectional area of the conductors;
- (b) in the case of equipment specified in column 1 of Table 1, be required to comply with paragraph (1) if the cords are flexible flat twin cords which conform to the requirements as to minimum thickness of insulation and cross sectional area of the conductor in the British Standard specified in column 2 of that Table in relation to that equipment;

TABLE 1

Column 1	Column 2
Shavers, hair clippers and similar appliances.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.5: 1970, published on 14th August 1970 as amended by Amendment Slip No. 1 published on 16th November 1973.
Clocks.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.16: 1971, published on 30th July 1971.
Hand-held massage appliances which have an input of 0.5 amperes or less at full load.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.18: 1970, published on 14th August 1970.
Hand-held appliances for skin and hair treatment which have an input of 3 amperes or less at full load.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.31: 1973, published on 8th October 1973.
Hand-held appliances in respect of which no particular requirements in British Standard 3456 have been published before the date of making of these Regulations and which have an input of 0.5 amperes or less at full load.	British Standard 6500.

- (c) in the case of equipment specified in column 1 of Table 2, if the cords are flexible flat twin cords which conform to the requirements as to minimum thickness of insulation and cross sectional area of the conductors in the British Standard specified in column 2 of that Table in relation to that equipment, be required to comply with paragraph (1) until 1st October 1977 if the equipment is sold, or in possession of any person for the purpose of being sold, by the manufacturer of the equipment or the importer into Great Britain of it, and until 1st October 1978 if it is sold, or in possession of any person for the purpose of being sold, by some person other than such manufacturer or importer;

TABLE 2

Column 1	Column 2
Electric heaters for baby feeding bottles.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.15: 1970, published on 19th March 1970.
Massage appliances (not intended to be hand-held).	British Standard 3456: Section 2.18: 1970, published on 14th August 1970.
Ventilating fans.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.29: 1971, published on 4th February 1971.
Appliances for skin and hair treatment, not intended to be hand-held and having an input of 3 amperes or less at full load.	British Standard 3456: Section 2.31: 1973, published on 8th October 1973.
Lighting fittings.	British Standard 6500.

(3) Where any equipment does not comply with paragraph (1) of this Regulation by reason only that it is fitted with rubber-insulated and braided cord which incorporates basic insulation only, that cord shall not be required to comply with paragraph (1) if the thickness of the basic insulation round each conductor conforms to that specified in Table 4 or Table 5 of British Standard 6500.

6.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2), (3) and (4) below, and Regulation 7, where any part of equipment to which these Regulations apply which is intended to be electrified is capable of causing an electric shock to a person touching it, the equipment shall be so designed that that part is not capable of being touched by hand, or with a finger, without something first being done to the equipment which requires the use of tools. In determining in the case of a lampholder whether this paragraph is complied with, the lamp shall be left in position in the lampholder.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this Regulation shall not have effect in relation to—

- (a) the heating element of an electric fire which is a heating appliance as defined in the Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Regulations 1973(a);
- (b) the heating element of any other equipment intended to generate radiant heat except an electric fire which is so constructed as to require attachment to a ceiling, so however that where such a heating element is capable of causing an electric shock to a person touching it, the equipment shall be so designed as to avoid, so far as is consistent with the purpose for which it is to be used, the likelihood of the element being accidentally touched when the equipment is in use;
- (c) the electrode holder of an arc welding set;
- (d) ceiling roses, ceiling switches designed to be operated by a cord, fixed wiring junction boxes and “pear” switches;
- (e) bayonet lampholders not incorporating a switch and not incorporated in other equipment.

(a) S.I. 1973/2106 (1973 III, p.7275).

(3) In the case of—

- (a) bayonet lampholders (whether incorporating a switch or not) incorporated in lighting equipment; and
- (b) bayonet lampholders incorporating a switch but not incorporated in lighting equipment;

being in either case lampholders conforming to British Standard 52, this Regulation shall not have effect until 1st January 1978, in the case of such goods sold, or in possession of any person for the purpose of being sold, by the manufacturer or importer into Great Britain of those goods, and in any other case until 1st January 1979.

(4) In the case of B.C. adaptors conforming to British Standard 52 this Regulation shall not have effect until the dates specified in paragraph (3) above in the case of bayonet lampholders.

7. In the case of equipment which has a mass exceeding 40kg and which when in use normally stands on the floor, a part shall be treated for the purposes of Regulations 5 and 6 as not being capable of being touched by hand, or with a finger, without something first being done which requires the use of tools, if that part can only be so touched from underneath the equipment and by tilting it.

8.—(1) In this Regulation “open heater” means equipment to which these Regulations apply being an electric fire, electric toaster or other equipment intended to generate radiant heat which incorporates a heating element which—

- (a) is intended to be electrified;
- (b) is capable of causing an electric shock to any person touching it; and
- (c) is capable, when the equipment is in use, of being touched by hand or with a finger or, in the case of an electric fire of which the heating element is protected by a guard, would be capable of being so touched if the guard were removed.

(2) Where a switch is incorporated in an open heater for the purpose of turning a heating element on or off (whether or not the switch has other functions also), that switch shall be an all-pole switch; provided that where an open heater incorporates more than one heating element, controlled by separate switches, nothing in this paragraph shall require any switch which cannot turn on a heating element until an all-pole switch has been operated to be an all-pole switch.

(3) An open heater which is not of a portable kind but is intended to be installed so that it is permanently connected to the electricity supply shall incorporate an all-pole switch the operation of which shall be necessary before any heating element can be electrified.

9. Any part of equipment to which these Regulations apply which is intended to be driven by mechanical power generated by the equipment, and which would otherwise be liable to cause personal injury when the equipment is in use, shall be enclosed or otherwise sufficiently guarded.

10. Any part of equipment to which these Regulations apply which is liable when the equipment is in use to get so hot as to be liable to cause personal injury if touched, and which is liable to be touched when the equipment is in use, shall, if the nature of the equipment permits, be enclosed or otherwise sufficiently guarded.

11. Equipment to which these Regulations apply shall be so designed and constructed that, when in use—

- (a) it does not generate excessive heat or emit any kind of radiation, in either case, so as to be dangerous;
- (b) it does not emit toxic gases to such an extent as to be dangerous or harmful to health.

12.—(1) Where it is necessary for the safe operation of any equipment to which these Regulations apply that the user should be aware of any particular characteristic of the equipment, the necessary information shall be given by markings on the equipment itself or, where this is not practicable, in a notice accompanying the equipment.

(2) It shall not be a sufficient compliance with this Regulation to give information in a language other than English.

13. There shall be exempted, from the operation of section 2(2) of the Act component parts intended for the replacement of parts in the course of repair of any equipment to which these Regulations apply which previously to the imposition of the relevant requirements contained in these Regulations has been disposed of by retail.

14. As respects the requirements of these Regulations, subsections (1) and (2) of section 2 of the Act (which prohibits sale 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 those requirements notwithstanding anything in subsection (4) of that section (which exempts such goods and parts unless regulations otherwise provide).

15. Section 2(1) to (3) of the Act (except subsection (3)(d) and (e)) (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.

16. Any test of equipment to which these Regulations apply, being a test such as is referred to in paragraph 2 of the Schedule to the Act (purchase of goods by a local authority for 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 a test.

17. The Schedule to the Act (which relates to enforcement by local authorities) shall have effect in relation to goods to which these Regulations apply.

Alan Williams,

Minister of State,

Department of Prices and Consumer Protection.

12th August 1975.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations impose requirements relating to the safety of domestic electrical equipment. The requirements are concerned with:

- (a) insulation and earthing (Regulations 4 and 5);
- (b) accessibility of live parts (Regulation 6);
- (c) the fitting of all-pole switches on appliances with accessible heating elements (Regulation 8);
- (d) the enclosure or guarding of moving parts (Regulation 9);
- (e) the enclosure or guarding of parts which get hot (Regulation 10);
- (f) the generation of excessive heat and the dangerous emission of radiation of any kind and the emission of toxic gases (Regulation 11);
- (g) the provision of information on safe operation (Regulation 12).

These requirements are consistent with the general safety provision specified in Article 2 and Annex I of Council Directive No. 73/23/EEC, (O.J. No. L77, 26.3.1973, p. 29) adopted by the Council of the European Communities on 19th February 1973, on the harmonisation of the laws of Member States relating to electrical equipment designed for use within certain voltage limits.

The British Standards referred to in the Regulations may be obtained from the British Standards Institution, 2 Park Street, London W1Y 4AA.

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