

## 1976 No. 1208

## CONSUMER PROTECTION

**The Electrical Equipment (Safety) (Amendment)  
Regulations 1976**

<i>Made</i> - - - -	30th July 1976
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>	6th August 1976
<i>Coming into Operation</i>	1st September 1976

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 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) (Amendment) Regulations 1976 and shall come into operation on 1st September 1976.

2. The Interpretation Act 1889(b) shall apply for the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament, and as if these Regulations and the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1975(c) (hereinafter called “the principal Regulations”) were Acts of Parliament.

3. The principal Regulations shall have effect subject to the following amendments:—

- (a) in Regulation 3(1) the words “which requires for its operation a supply of electricity” shall be omitted;
- (b) in Regulation 5(1), after the word “apply” there shall be inserted the words “(other than filament, discharge and tubular fluorescent lamps)”;
- (c) Regulation 6 shall cease to apply to lampholders and accordingly in that Regulation—
  - (i) in paragraph (1), the reference to paragraph (3) and the words “In determining” to the end of the paragraph shall be omitted;
  - (ii) for paragraph (2)(e) there shall be substituted—  
“(e) lampholders.”;
  - (iii) paragraph (3) shall be omitted; and
  - (iv) for paragraph (4) there shall be substituted—  
“(4) In the case of B.C. adaptors conforming to British

(a) 1961 c. 40.

(b) 1889 c. 63.

(c) S.I. 1975/1366 (1975 II, p. 4642)

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.”;

(d) after Regulation 7 there shall be inserted the three following Regulations:—

“7A—(1) Lampholders and “pear” switches shall be so designed and constructed that—

- (i) parts intended to be electrified (other than parts of a lampholder intended to come into contact with the lamp) are not capable of being touched by hand or with a finger when the lampholder or switch is properly assembled and installed for use;
- (ii) in the case of a switch, it does not, in the course of normal use, come apart inadvertently (whether by becoming unscrewed or otherwise);
- (iii) in the case of a lampholder, it is possible, when using a reasonable degree of force, to remove and replace a lamp (being a lamp suitable for use in that lampholder) or a shade ring without inadvertently removing those parts providing protection against contact with parts intended to be electrified.

(2) This Regulation shall not have effect until 1st January 1977 in the case of 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 July 1977.

7B—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) below, a lampholder or the fitting in which it is incorporated shall be so designed and constructed that when a lamp is to any extent inserted in the lampholder no part of the lampholder or the lamp can be electrified so as to be capable of causing an electric shock to a person touching it, while it is capable of being touched by hand or with a finger.

(2) Paragraph (1) above shall not apply to—

- (a) Edison screw lampholders with an internal diameter exceeding 27mm;
- (b) lampholders for double-ended filament discharge lamps for permanent installation out-of-doors;
- (c) other lampholders for double-ended filament discharge lamps or lampholders for double-ended filament lamps, if the lampholder or the fitting in which it is incorporated bears a warning which is clearly visible when there is no lamp in the lampholder, and is durable and is to the effect that the mains electricity supply should be disconnected before a lamp is inserted.

(3) This Regulation shall, as respects lampholders for single-ended lamps, not have effect until 1st January 1977 in the case of 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 in any other case until 1st July 1977; and as

respects lampholders for double-ended lamps, this Regulation shall not have effect until 1st July 1977 in the case of goods sold or in possession as aforesaid, and in any other case until 1st January 1978.

7C—(1) Equipment having terminals to which is connected or intended to be connected a flexible cable or cord which may in use become subject to tension shall incorporate a device or be so designed and constructed that no such tension on the cable or cord is transmitted to the terminals.

(2) In the case of a 3-pin plug this Regulation shall be deemed to be complied with if it is complied with when the plug is used in conjunction with a cable or cord of a diameter of not less than 5mm and not more than the diameter of the largest cable or cord having a current rating equal to that of the plug.

(3) This Regulation shall not have effect—

(a) as respects goods other than electric clocks, until 1st January 1977 in the case of 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 July 1977; and

(b) as respects electric clocks, until 1st January 1978 in the case of goods sold or in possession as aforesaid, and in any other case until 1st July 1978.”.

4.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) below, lighting fittings which fail to comply with Regulation 5 of the principal Regulations by reason only that the fittings incorporate a cover which can be moved without something first being done to the fittings which requires the use of tools and movement of which permits access to the basic insulation of parts intended to be electrified, shall be deemed to comply with that Regulation if, when the cover is in the closed position, every metal part (including the cover, if of metal) which can be touched by hand or with a finger is adequately earthed.

(2) Paragraph (1) above shall not apply to portable lighting fittings—

(a) which are sold, or in possession of any person for the purpose of being sold, by the manufacturer or importer into Great Britain after 1st October 1977;

(b) which are sold, or in possession for the purpose of being sold, by any other person after 1st October 1978.

5.—(1) Regulation 6 of the principal Regulations shall cease to have effect or, as the case may be, shall not have effect in relation to 15 amp 3-pin plugs which comply with British Standard 546, until 1st April 1978 in the case of 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 April 1979.

In this paragraph British Standard 546 means the British Standard Specification for two-pole and earthing-pin plugs, socket-outlets and socket-outlet adaptors for circuits up to 250 volts British Standard 546:1950, published on 16th March 1950, as amended by Amendments Slips Nos. 1, 2 and 3 published, respectively, in December 1953, November 1961 and May 1969.

(2) Where an electricity meter fails to comply with the said Regulation 6 by

reason only that the terminals cover can be removed without something first being done to the meter which requires the use of tools, the meter shall be deemed to comply with that Regulation if provision is made for the sealing of that cover in such manner that when the seal is in position the cover will not be able to be removed without breaking the seal.

.6.—(1) Regulation 10 of the principal Regulations shall cease to have effect or, as the case may be, shall not have effect in relation to radiant electric fires until 1st January 1977 in the case of 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 October 1977; and after 1st January 1977 or, as the case may be, 1st October 1977 a radiant fire with a rated voltage of 200 volts or over shall not have to comply with Regulation 10 if the temperature rise above ambient temperature does not exceed 85°C when the mains supply is 240 volts.

(2) The said Regulation 10 shall cease to have effect or, as the case may be, shall not have effect in relation to any part of an electric cooker which is more than 750mm above the level of the floor, until 1st July 1978 in the case of 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.

7. The principal Regulations shall cease to apply, or as the case may be, shall not apply to equipment which is sold, or in possession for the purpose of being sold—

- (a) to an Electricity Board and which is suitable for installation by the Board in connection with the provision of a supply of electricity by the Board to domestic premises;
- (b) to the Crown, or to any body or person on whom a notice has been served under section 4 of the Electric Lighting Act 1888(a) and which is suitable for installation by that body or person in connection with the provision of a supply of electricity by that body or person to domestic premises.

In this Regulation “Electricity Board” has the same meaning as it has in section 1(3) of the Electricity Act 1947(b), as amended by the Electricity Reorganisation (Scotland) Act 1954(c) and the Electricity Act 1957(d).

*John Fraser,*  
Minister of State,  
Department of Prices and  
Consumer Protection.

30th July 1976.

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(a) 1888 c. 12.  
(c) 1954 c. 60.

(b) 1947 c. 54.  
(d) 1957 c. 48.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations amend the Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1975.

Regulation 3 exempts lamps and lampholders from Regulation 5 (insulation and earthing) and Regulation 6 (accessibility of live parts) of the principal Regulations respectively and specifies requirements relating to the electrical safety of lampholders, lighting fittings and “pear” switches. In addition, Regulation 3 includes a requirement concerning the prevention of tension in flexible cords being transmitted to the terminals of electrical equipment.

Regulation 4 amends Regulation 5 of the principal Regulations in its application to lighting fittings.

Regulation 5 exempts 15-amp 3-pin plugs from Regulation 6 of the principal Regulations for a specified period and also amends the application of this Regulation to electricity meters.

Regulation 6 temporarily exempts radiant electric fires and, to a limited extent, surfaces of electric cookers from Regulation 10 (enclosure or guarding of parts which get hot) of the principal Regulations.

Regulation 7 exempts entirely from the principal Regulations equipment sold or possessed for sale to the Crown, and to Electricity Boards and certain other bodies for use in connection with the provision of a supply of electricity to domestic premises.

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