
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2006 No. 1010

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Railway Safety Levy Regulations 2006

Made - - - - 30th March 2006

Coming into force in accordance with regulation 1

A draft of this instrument was laid before Parliament in accordance with section 82(4) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974(1) and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

Accordingly, the Secretary of State for Transport, in exercise of the powers conferred by section 43A(1) and (5) to (8) and section 82(3)(a) of that Act makes the following Regulations.

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Railway Safety Levy Regulations 2006 and shall come into force on the second day after the day on which they are made.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“the 1974 Act” means the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974;

“the 1985 Act” means the Companies Act 1985(2);

“annual accounts” means annual accounts as defined in section 262(1) of the 1985 Act and any like accounts prepared in accordance with section 700(1) of that Act;

“auditor” means an auditor who is eligible for appointment as a company auditor under section 25 of the Companies Act 1989(3);

“company” means a company as defined in section 735(1)(a) of the 1985 Act or an overseas company as defined in section 744 of that Act;

“financial year” means a period of twelve months beginning on 1st April;

“railway safety levy” means the levy imposed by regulation 7;

(1) 1974 c. 37. Section 43A was inserted by the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 (c. 20), section 105(1) and was amended by the Railways Act 2005 (c. 14), section 2 and Schedule 3, paragraph 12.

(2) 1985 c. 6. Section 256 was substituted by section 19 of the Companies Act 1989 (c. 40); section 262 was amended by section 22 of the Companies Act 1989 and S.I.2004/2947; section 700(1) was amended by section 23 and Schedule 10 of the Companies Act 1989.

(3) 1989 c. 40.

“railway service provider” means a person described in section 43A(9) of the 1974 Act as a person who provides railway services;

“relevant services” means services provided in the course of managing or controlling, or participating in the management or control of, a transport system falling within paragraph 1(3) of Schedule 3 to the Railways Act 2005; and

“relevant turnover” means the turnover of the railway service provider derived from the provision of relevant services in Great Britain during a financial year after deduction of trade discounts, value added tax, and any other taxes directly related to turnover, and where the railway service provider provided railway services for a period of less than 12 months during the financial year, the relevant turnover shall be the amount which bears the same proportion to the relevant turnover during that period of time as 12 months does to the period of time for which relevant services were provided.

(2) In these Regulations—

- (a) a reference to “accounting standards” or “international accounting standards” is a reference to that term as defined in section 256(1) and section 262(1) of the 1985 Act respectively; and
- (b) turnover derived from the provision of relevant services includes, in particular, amounts derived from—
 - (i) aid granted to the railway service provider by a public sector operator as defined in section 25 of the Railways Act 1993, if the aid facilitates or promotes the provision of relevant services by the railway service provider;
 - (ii) fares paid in respect of relevant services for the carriage of passengers; and
 - (iii) fees paid in respect of relevant services for the carriage of goods.

Determination of matters by the Office of Rail Regulation

3.—(1) The Office of Rail Regulation may, in respect of each financial year, determine—

- (a) the total amount of the railway safety levy to be imposed;
- (b) the railway service providers by whom the levy is to be paid;
- (c) the criteria for assessing the proportion of the levy to be paid by a particular railway service provider (which may, in particular, refer to the size of a railway service provider’s income or provide for an amount to be reduced or waived in specified circumstances); and
- (d) when the levy is to be paid.

(2) The Office of Rail Regulation may revise the determination of any matter specified in paragraph (1), whether before, during or after the financial year to which the determination relates.

(3) In respect of each financial year, the Office of Rail Regulation may calculate the amount of railway safety levy payable by each railway service provider by whom a levy is to be paid and any such calculation shall be made in accordance with the relevant determinations made under paragraph (1)(a) to (c) and those determinations as they may be revised from time to time.

(4) The Office of Rail Regulation shall as soon as reasonably practicable publish each—

- (a) determination made in accordance with paragraph (1); and
- (b) revision of a determination made in accordance with paragraph (2);

in any manner which it considers appropriate.

Requests for information

4.—(1) A railway service provider shall provide the Office of Rail Regulation with such information as it reasonably requests for the purpose of determining or revising a determination of any matter specified in regulation 3(1) or calculating the amount of railway safety levy payable by each railway service provider in accordance with regulation 3(3).

(2) Subject to paragraph (4), if the information requested under paragraph (1) constitutes or includes financial information and the relevant turnover of the railway service provider in the relevant financial year is—

- (a) less than £10,000,000, the railway service provider shall comply, at its discretion, with either regulation 5(1) or regulation 5(2); and
- (b) £10,000,000 or more, the railway service provider shall comply with regulation 5(2).

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (2) the relevant financial year is the financial year preceding the financial year in which the information is requested in accordance with paragraph (1).

(4) A railway service provider shall provide the Office of Rail Regulation with such audited accounts as requested if the railway service provider has elected, in accordance with paragraph (2) (a), to comply with regulation 5(1).

(5) A request for information referred to in paragraph (1) or (4) shall—

- (a) be in writing; and
- (b) specify the date by which the information must be provided, which shall be a date not less than two months from the date of the request.

Certification of financial information

5.—(1) Where a request has been made under regulation 4(1) and this paragraph applies, any financial information supplied in accordance with that request shall be accompanied by a written statement that is signed by the railway service provider or a person authorised to sign on behalf of the railway service provider.

(2) Where a request has been made under regulation 4(1) and this paragraph applies, any financial information supplied in accordance with that request shall be accompanied by a statement signed by an auditor.

(3) The statement referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall, in the case of a railway service provider that is—

- (a) a company, state that the financial information is calculated accurately in accordance with the accounting standards or the international accounting standards, as the case may be, that apply to the preparation of the railway service provider's annual accounts; and
- (b) not a company, state that the financial information is calculated accurately in accordance with either the accounting standards or the international accounting standards.

Assumptions

6.—(1) Where a railway service provider—

- (a) receives a request for information under regulation 4(1) or 4(4); and
- (b) fails to provide the information requested by the date specified in that request;

the Office of Rail Regulation may make such assumptions concerning the information as are reasonable in all the circumstances.

(2) The Office of Rail Regulation shall notify a railway service provider in writing as soon as reasonably practicable—

- (a) that it intends to make an assumption in accordance with paragraph (1);
- (b) details of the assumption; and
- (c) the reasons for making the assumption.

(3) A railway service provider may make representations in writing to the Office of Rail Regulation regarding the assumption within a period of 21 days from the date of the notice sent in accordance with paragraph (2).

(4) If a period of 21 days has elapsed since the date of the notice sent in accordance with paragraph (2) the Office of Rail Regulation may apply the assumption, with any modification made as a result of taking into account any representation received from the railway service provider in accordance with paragraph (3), for the purpose of—

- (a) determining any matter in accordance with regulation 3(1);
- (b) revising any determination in accordance with regulation 3(2); or
- (c) calculating the amount of railway safety levy payable by each railway service provider in accordance with regulation 3(3).

Payment of the railway safety levy

7.—(1) Each railway service provider shall, on receipt of a request in writing, pay to the Office of Rail Regulation the amount of railway safety levy calculated in relation to that provider in accordance with regulation 3(3).

(2) The Office of Rail Regulation may recover from a railway service provider, as a civil debt due to the Office of Rail Regulation, any amount payable under a request sent in accordance with paragraph (1) which remains outstanding after the date determined in accordance with regulation 3(1)(d) or 3(2), as the case may be.

Refunds

8.—(1) The Office of Rail Regulation may refund any payment, or part of a payment, made to it in accordance with regulation 7 where paragraph (2) or (3) applies.

(2) This paragraph applies where the Office of Rail Regulation accepts that, due to an error in its calculation or change in circumstances, a railway service provider has paid a greater amount of railway safety levy than the amount due by way of a correct calculation made under regulation 3(3).

(3) This paragraph applies where—

- (a) a determination (in this paragraph called the “original determination”) is revised in accordance with regulation 3(2);
- (b) the railway service provider has paid the railway safety levy in accordance with regulation 7; and
- (c) the amount of railway safety levy that railway service provider is liable to pay under the revised determination is less than the amount that the railway service provider paid in accordance with the original determination.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Transport

30th March 2006

Derek Twigg
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Transport

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations place an obligation on railway service providers to pay a levy to the Office of Rail Regulation to meet the expenses it incurs in performing activities relating to railway safety.

Regulation 3 enables the Office of Rail Regulation to determine, in respect of each financial year, the total amount of the levy, the railway service providers that are liable to pay the levy, when the levy is to be paid and the criteria for determining the proportion of the levy to be paid by each railway service provider. The Office of Rail Regulation may revise a determination of any of these matters and must publish each determination or revision of a determination. The Office of Rail Regulation may calculate the amount of levy payable by each railway service provider that is liable.

Regulation 4 enables the Office of Rail Regulation to obtain the information necessary to determine or calculate any matter under regulation 3. Where information requested is financial information, the information must be accompanied by a certificate signed by an auditor attesting to its accuracy. If the railway service provider has a relevant turnover of less than £10,000,000, the railway service provider may provide a statement regarding the accuracy of the information signed by or on behalf of the railway service provider rather than by an auditor.

Regulation 6 provides that where information is requested but is not supplied the Office of Rail Regulation may make assumptions. The Office of Rail Regulation must provide the railway service provider with written notice of any assumption it intends to make and the reasons for making that assumption. The railway service provider may make representations to the Office of Rail Regulation regarding that assumption within 21 days of the date of the notice, after which the Office of Rail Regulation may apply the assumption with or without modifications.

Regulation 7 provides for the payment of the levy to the Office of Rail Regulation, and the recovery of levy that is not paid in accordance with the Regulations.

Regulation 8 enables the Office of Rail Regulation to refund levy paid to it under these Regulations.

A full regulatory impact assessment of the effect that this instrument will have on the costs of business is available from the Rail Standards and Safety Division of the Department for Transport, Zone 4/32 Great Minster House, 76 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DR.