
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2010 No. 332

The Merchant Shipping and Fishing Vessels (Health and Safety at Work) (Work at Height) Regulations 2010

PART 5

OFFENCES, PENALTIES, INSPECTIONS AND DETENTIONS

Offences and penalties

17.—(1) A person who fails to comply with regulation 7, 8 or 9 is guilty of an offence and liable—

- (a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or a fine (or both).

(2) A person who fails to comply with regulation 6, 10, 12, 13, 14 or 15 is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 4 on the standard scale.

(3) A worker who fails to comply with regulation 16(2) is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 2 on the standard scale.

(4) Section 146(1) of the Act (enforcement of fines) applies to any fine imposed for an offence under paragraphs (1) and (2) as if the reference to proceedings against the owner or master of a ship for an offence under Chapter 2 were a reference to proceedings against any person for an offence under those paragraphs.

Offences by bodies corporate and partnerships

18.—(1) Where a body corporate is guilty of an offence under these Regulations and that offence is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate or a person purporting to act in such a capacity, that person as well as the body corporate is guilty of that offence and is liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(2) Where the affairs of a body corporate are managed by its members, paragraph (1) applies in relation to the acts and defaults of a member in connection with that member's functions of management as if that member were a director of the body corporate.

(3) Where an offence under these Regulations committed by a Scottish partnership is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, a partner, that partner as well as the partnership is guilty of that offence and liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Onus of proving what is reasonably practicable

19. In any proceedings for an offence under these Regulations consisting of a failure to comply with a duty or a requirement to do something so far as is reasonably practicable, it shall be for the

defendant to prove that it was not reasonably practicable to do more than was in fact done to satisfy that duty or requirement.

Detention of a United Kingdom ship

20.—(1) Where a surveyor of ships is satisfied that there is or has been a failure by an employer or other person referred to in regulation 16(1) to comply in relation to any United Kingdom ship with the preceding requirements of these Regulations, that ship is liable to be detained until a surveyor of ships is satisfied that those requirements are complied with.

(2) A surveyor of ships may permit a ship which is liable to be detained under paragraph (1) to proceed to sea for the purposes of proceeding to the nearest appropriate repair yard.

(3) A ship shall not under this regulation be delayed or detained unreasonably.

(4) Where a ship is detained because in relation to it there has been a failure to comply with the requirements of these Regulations, and that failure has ceased, a person having power to detain the ship shall, at the request of the owner or master, immediately release the ship—

- (a) if no proceedings for an offence arising from the failure in question are instituted within the period of seven days beginning with the day on which the ship is detained;
- (b) if proceedings for an offence arising from the failure in question, having been instituted within that period, are concluded without the employer or other person having control of the matter in question being convicted;
- (c) if either—
 - (i) the sum of £30,000 is paid to the Secretary of State by way of security, or
 - (ii) security which, in the opinion of the Secretary of State, is satisfactory and is for an amount not less than £30,000 is given to the Secretary of State,by or on behalf of the employer or other person having control of the matter in question;
- (d) where the employer or other person having control of the matter in question is convicted of an offence arising from the failure in question, if any costs or expenses ordered to be paid by that person, and any fine imposed on that person, have been paid; or
- (e) the release is ordered by a court or tribunal referred to in article 292 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982(1), and any bond or other financial security ordered by such court or tribunal is posted.

(5) The Secretary of State shall repay any sum paid in pursuance of paragraph (4)(c) or release any security so given—

- (a) if no proceedings for an offence arising from the failure in question are instituted within the period of seven days beginning with the day on which the sum is paid; or
- (b) if proceedings for an offence arising from the failure in question, having been instituted within that period, are concluded without the employer or other person having control of the matter in question being convicted.

(6) Where a sum has been paid, or security has been given, by any person in pursuance of paragraph (4)(c) and the employer or other person having control of the matter in question is convicted of an offence arising from the failure in question, the sum so paid or the amount made available under the security shall be applied as follows—

- (a) first in payment of any costs or expenses ordered by the court to be paid by the employer or other person having control of the matter in question; and
- (b) next in payment of any fine imposed by the court;

and any balance shall be repaid to the first-mentioned person.

(7) Section 145 of the Act (interpretation of section 144) applies for the purposes of paragraphs (4) to (6) as if—

- (a) references to the master or owner of the ship were references to the employer or other person having control of the matter in question; and
- (b) references to an offence under section 131 were references to an offence arising from the failure in question.

Inspection and other measures in respect of ships registered outside the United Kingdom

21.—(1) When a ship which is not a United Kingdom ship is in United Kingdom waters, a relevant inspector may inspect that ship to ascertain whether the standards required in relation to United Kingdom ships by these Regulations are met in relation to that ship.

(2) Where a surveyor of ships is satisfied that the standards required in relation to United Kingdom ships by these Regulations are not met in relation to a ship which is not a United Kingdom ship but is in United Kingdom waters, that surveyor of ships may—

- (a) send a report to the government of the State whose flag the ship is entitled to fly, and a copy to the Director General of the International Labour Office; and
- (b) where conditions on board are clearly hazardous to health or safety, take such measures as are necessary to ensure those conditions are rectified.

(3) A ship to which paragraph (2)(b) applies is liable to be detained until a surveyor of ships is satisfied that those conditions are rectified.

(4) A surveyor of ships may permit a ship which is liable to be detained under paragraph (3) to proceed to sea for the purposes of proceeding to the nearest appropriate repair yard.

(5) If any of the measures specified in paragraph (2)(b) or (3) are taken, the surveyor of ships shall immediately notify the nearest maritime, consular or diplomatic representative of the State whose flag the ship is entitled to fly.

(6) A ship shall not in the exercise of the power under this regulation be delayed or detained unreasonably.

(7) In paragraph (1), “relevant inspector” means a person mentioned in paragraph (a), (b) or (c) of section 258(1) of the Act(2).

Application of powers of inspectors in relation to Government ships

22. Sections 258 to 266 of the Act(3) apply to these Regulations as if they were for all purposes made under section 85 (safety and health on ships) of the Act and accordingly those sections apply in relation to Government ships.

Enforcement of detention

23.—(1) Section 284 of the Act(4) (enforcing detention of ship) applies where a ship is liable to be detained under these Regulations as if—

- (a) references to detention of a ship under the Act were references to detention of a ship in question under these Regulations; and

(2) Section 258(1) was amended by the Merchant Shipping and Maritime Security Act 1997 (c.28), sections 9 and 29(2), Schedule 1 paragraph 4 and Schedule 9 Part I.

(3) These sections provide powers to inspect ships and their equipment, powers of inspectors in relation to premises and ships, for the service of improvement notices and prohibition notices and their reference to arbitration, compensation for invalid prohibition notices and offences.

(4) Section 284 was amended by the Merchant Shipping and Maritime Security Act 1997, section 9 and Schedule 1 paragraph 5.

(b) subsection (7) were omitted.

(2) Where a ship is liable to be detained under these Regulations, the person detaining the ship shall serve on the master of the ship a detention notice which shall—

- (a) state that a surveyor of ships is of the opinion that in relation to that ship there is a failure to comply with the requirements of these Regulations;
- (b) specify the matters which, in the opinion of the surveyor of ships, have the effect that in relation to that ship those requirements are not met; and
- (c) require the terms of the notice to be complied with until the ship is released by any person mentioned in section 284(1) of the Act.

Right of appeal and compensation

24. Regulations 11 and 12 (right of appeal and compensation) of the Merchant Shipping (Port State Control) Regulations 1995⁽⁵⁾ (which, by virtue of regulation 19 of these regulations, apply in relation to the exercise of powers of detention contained in safety regulations) apply in relation to a detention notice served on a Government ship under these Regulations as if these Regulations were for all purposes made under section 85 of the Act.

Prohibition on charging of workers

25. No charge in respect of anything done or provided in accordance with any requirement of these Regulations may be made or permitted to be made on any worker.

(5) [S.I. 1995/3128](#), as amended by [S.I. 2003/1636](#) and other amendments not relevant to these Regulations.