

1975 No. 203

FACTORIES

Chromium Plating Special Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975

Made 18th July 1975

Coming into operation 20th October 1975

The Department(a) of Manpower Services—

- (a) in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 61, 75, 179(3) and (4) of the Factories Act (Northern Ireland) 1965(b) and now vested in it(c) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf; and
- (b) after publishing, pursuant to Schedule 4 to the said Act of 1965, notice of the proposal to make these regulations and not having received any objection to the draft in regard to which it is required by the said Schedule to direct an inquiry to be held,

hereby makes the following special regulations:

PART I

GENERAL

Citation, commencement and revocation

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Chromium Plating Special Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975 and shall come into operation on 20th October 1975.

(2) The Chromium Plating Special Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1946(d) so far as unrevoked are hereby revoked from the date these regulations come into operation.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations unless the context otherwise requires the following expressions have the meanings hereby assigned to them respectively:

“electrolytic chromium process” means the electrolytic plating or oxidation of metal articles by the use of an electrolyte containing chromic acid or other chromium compounds;

“bath” means any vessel used for an electrolytic chromium process or for any process consequent thereon;

“employed” means employed in any process involving contact with liquid from a bath;

“approved” means approved for the time being for the purposes of these Regulations by certificate of the Chief Inspector of Factories.

(a) Formerly Ministry: see 1973 c. 36 section 40 and Schedule 5

(b) 1965 c. 20 (N.I.)

(c) By S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 504 (II, p. 2992) Article 6(1) and Schedule 3

(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1946 No. 160 (p. 240)

Application of regulations

3. These regulations shall, subject to the provisions of regulation 4, apply to all factories in which is carried on the electrolytic plating or oxidation of metal articles by the use of an electrolyte containing chromic acid or other chromium compounds.

Exemption certificates

4. The Chief Inspector may by certificate in writing (which he may in his discretion revoke at any time) subject to such conditions as may be specified therein exempt from all or any of the requirements of these regulations any factory or part of a factory subject to these regulations if he is satisfied that the requirements in respect of which such exemption is granted are not necessary for the protection of the persons employed therein.

PART II

DUTIES OF OCCUPIERS

5. It shall be the duty of the occupier of every factory to which these regulations apply to observe the requirements imposed by regulations 6 to 12.

6.—(1) At every vessel in which an electrolytic chromium process is carried on either—

- (a) an efficient exhaust shall be provided by mechanical means and shall operate as near as practicable at the point of origin on the vapour or spray given off, so as to prevent it entering into any room in which persons work, or
- (b) the liquids in the vessel shall be treated with a material for the suppression of spray, and the temperature of the liquids and the densities of the currents used shall be so controlled that there is no emission of spray from the liquids in the vessel.

(2) At every vessel at which an electrolytic chromium process is carried on, a test of the efficiency of the measures taken in pursuance of this regulation shall be carried out by an approved method at least once in every 14 days or at such other intervals as may be approved.

(3) Every such test shall be carried out by a responsible person who is for the time being appointed by the occupier for the purpose.

(4) Every such appointment and every revocation of any such appointment shall be made by a signed and dated entry in the register mentioned in paragraph (5).

(5) A register in an approved form shall be kept containing the approved particulars of every test carried out in pursuance of paragraph (2) and of the appointments and revocations referred to in paragraph (4). Such register shall be kept available for inspection by any person employed.

7. The floors of every room containing a bath shall be rendered even and impervious to water, maintained in sound condition, and shall be washed down daily.

8. The occupier shall provide and maintain in good condition—

- (a) for the use of all persons employed aprons with bibs of sufficient length and suitable material, which, in the case of persons working at a bath, shall be of rubber or some other impermeable material; and
- (b) for the use of persons working at a bath loose fitting gloves of suitable length of rubber or other suitable material and rubber boots or other waterproof footwear.

9. The occupier shall provide and maintain for the use of all persons employed suitable accommodation for the storage, and adequate arrangement for the drying, of the protective clothing required under regulation 8.

10.—(1) The washing facilities to be provided under section 57 of the said Act of 1965 shall in so far as they are for the use of persons employed be under cover and maintained in good and clean condition.

(2) The facilities as aforesaid shall not be deemed to be adequate and suitable unless they include—

- (a) a sufficient supply of clean towels renewed daily, and of soap and nail brushes, or other suitable means of cleaning or drying;
- (b) (i) a trough with a smooth impervious surface, fitted with a waste pipe without plug, and of such length as to allow at least two feet for every five employed persons and having a constant supply of warm water from taps or jets above the troughs at intervals of not more than two feet; or
- (ii) at least one wash basin (which shall be not less than twenty inches long by seven inches deep) for every five such persons, fitted with a waste pipe and plug or placed in a trough having a waste pipe, and having either a constant supply of hot and cold water or warm water laid on or (if a constant supply of heated water be not reasonably practicable) a constant supply of cold water laid on and a supply of hot water always at hand when required for use by persons employed.

(3) There shall also be provided at the wash place a supply of suitable ointment unless every person employed is kept constantly supplied with a collapsible tube containing such ointment.

(4) This regulation shall also extend to persons engaged in subsequent polishing or finishing by aid of mechanical power involving exposure to chromium oxide or other compounds of chromium.

11. A young person under the age of eighteen years shall not be allowed to work at a bath.

12. The occupier shall see that the official Cautionary Placard as to the effects of chrome on the skin is affixed in the works in such a position as to be easily read by the persons employed and shall arrange for the inspection of the hands and forearms of all persons employed to be made twice a week by a responsible person and for a record of such inspections to be kept in a register kept for the purposes of this regulation in an approved form and containing the approved particulars.

PART III

DUTIES OF PERSONS EMPLOYED

13. In a factory to which these regulations apply every person employed shall wear the protective clothing provided under regulation 8, and shall deposit the protective clothing when not being worn in the place provided under regulation 9.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Manpower Services for Northern Ireland on 18th July 1975.

(L.S.)

R. T. O'Connor

Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These regulations revoke and replace the Chromium Plating Special Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1946. Among other things they (a) provide for the use of a spray suppressant, as an alternative to mechanical exhaust ventilation, as a means of controlling the emission of spray from vessels in which an electrolytic chromium process is carried on; (b) require the carrying out of regular tests of the efficiency of the means of control provided; (c) remove the requirement that persons employed shall be medically examined at specified intervals.

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As this Order has been classified as local it is not printed at length in this volume. A summary is given in the List of Statutory Rules of a Local Character under the heading ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES.