

## 1991 No. 371

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

## MINES

**Miscellaneous Mines (Metrication) Regulations  
(Northern Ireland) 1991**

*Made* . . . . . 13th August 1991

*Coming into operation* . . . . . 7th October 1991

The Department of Economic Development, being the Department concerned(a), in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 45 and 55(2) of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978(b), and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, after consultation in accordance with Article 46(1) of that Order with the Health and Safety Agency for Northern Ireland and such other bodies as appeared to it to be appropriate, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

*Citation, commencement and interpretation*

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Miscellaneous Mines (Metrication) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991 and shall come into operation on 7th October 1991.

(2) In these Regulations “the principal Regulations” means the Miscellaneous Mines (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970(c).

*Amendments to regulations to substitute metric measurements for imperial measurements*

2. The provisions of the principal Regulations specified in column 1 of the Schedule shall be amended by substituting for the measurements set out opposite thereto in column 3 the measurements set out in the corresponding entry in column 4.

*Amendments to the principal Regulations*

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

(a) in regulation 49(a) for the words “570° Fahr or 299° Cent” there shall be substituted “300°C” and for the words “685° Fahr or 363° Cent” there shall be substituted “365°C”, and

(b) in regulation 49(c) the words “212° Fahr or” shall be deleted.

(a) See Article 2(2) of S.I. 1978/1039 (N.I. 9)

(b) 1978/1039 (N.I. 9)

(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1970 No. 104

*Application to existing premises and plant or premises and plant under construction*

4.—(1) Where any premises or plant in existence or under construction immediately before the coming into operation of these Regulations complied with the requirements of the principal Regulations as then in force, then those premises or that plant shall be deemed to comply with the principal Regulations as amended by these Regulations.

(2) Notwithstanding regulation 2, regulation 26(5)(a) of the principal Regulations as in force immediately before the date of coming into operation of these Regulations shall continue to apply in relation to any haulage road in existence at that date.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Economic Development on 13th August 1991.

(L.S.)

*A. W. Hamilton*

Assistant Secretary

## Amendments to Principal Regulations

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Health and Safety

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Column 1 <i>Regulations to be amended</i>	Column 2 <i>Subject-matter of measurement(s)</i>	Column 3 <i>Present measurement</i>	Column 4 <i>Substituted measurement</i>
1. Regulation 5(2)	Scale of plans of abandoned workings	Forty inches to the mile	1:1584
2. Regulation 11	(a) Maximum distance between top of and lowest entrance to a shaft or staple pit before guides need be provided  (b) Maximum depth of shaft or staple pit in course of being sunk before guides need be provided	(a) One hundred and fifty feet  (b) Three hundred feet	(a) 45 metres  (b) 90 metres
3. Regulation 16(2)	Speed of winding apparatus above which an automatic contrivance to prevent overwinding must be fitted	Twelve feet per second	4 metres per second
4. Regulation 25(a)	Maximum permitted speed of vehicles in haulage roads, where persons may pass on foot	Six miles per hour	2.7 metres per second
5. Regulation 25(b)	Minimum permitted clearance in haulage roads, where persons may pass on foot while vehicles are moving	Two feet	600 millimetres
6. Regulation 26(1)(a)	(a) Maximum speed of vehicle in a haulage road  (b) Maximum permitted distance between refuge holes in certain circumstances	(a) Four miles per hour  (b) Three hundred feet	(a) 1.8 metres per second  (b) 90 metres

Column 1 <i>Regulations to be amended</i>	Column 2 <i>Subject-matter of measurement(s)</i>	Column 3 <i>Present measurement</i>	Column 4 <i>Substituted measurement</i>
7. Regulation 26(1)(b)	Maximum permitted distance between refuge holes in circumstances other than those described in regulation 26(1)(a)	Sixty feet	20 metres
8. Regulation 26(2)(a)	Prescribed width of refuge holes	Three feet	1 metre
9. Regulation 26(2)(b)	Minimum prescribed depth of refuge holes	Three feet	1 metre
10. Regulation 26(2)(c)	Minimum prescribed height of refuge holes	Six feet	1.8 metres
11. Regulation 26(3)	In relation to the provision of refuge holes minimum width of clear space between vehicles in a road and one side of that road on which side of the road refuge holes shall be situated	Two feet	600 millimetres
12. Regulation 26(5)(a)	Maximum amount of mineral to be carried per hour in a haulage road, if refuge holes are not to be provided	Ten tons	10 tonnes
13. Regulation 26(5)(b)	Minimum clearance permitted between vehicles and one side of haulage road, if refuge holes are not to be provided	Two feet	600 millimetres

14. Regulation 34	Maximum aggregate amount of oil in which electrical apparatus may be immersed without the provision of suitable and sufficient means for localising and extinguishing any fire resulting from ignition of the oil	One hundred gallons	450 litres
15. Regulation 37	Maximum distance of mine working from water or other liquid matter or noxious gas where certain conditions apply	One hundred and twenty feet	37 metres
16. Regulation 37(a)	(a) Maximum width of working (b) Maximum height of working	Eight feet Eight feet	2.5 metres 2.5 metres
17. Regulation 37(b)	(a) Minimum length of bore hole in igneous rock (b) Minimum length of bore hole in other strata	Ten feet Fifteen feet	3 metres 4.5 metres
18. Regulation 44(2)	Maximum intervals of length at which winding ropes must be cleaned and examined for wear	Three hundred feet	90 metres
19. Regulation 48(1)	(a) Minimum length of rope to be cut when that rope re-capped if used in certain haulage apparatus (b)(c)(d) Maximum lengths of rope to be cut if re-capping done within certain periods	(a) Six feet  (b) Three feet (c) Four feet (d) Five feet	(a) 2 metres  (b) 1 metre (c) 1.2 metres (d) 1.5 metres

Column 1 <i>Regulations to be amended</i>	Column 2 <i>Subject-matter of measurement(s)</i>	Column 3 <i>Present measurement</i>	Column 4 <i>Substituted measurement</i>
20. Regulation 62	Minimum gauge of railway lines which may not be installed at a mine unless either owned by a railway company or provided for in special regulations	Four feet eight and a half inches	1.432 metres
21. Regulation 69	Height of a ledge or other place which is not fenced at which a person may not work unless he has been provided with a rope or other suitable protective device	Six feet six inches	2 metres
22. Regulation 74(2)	<p>(a) Length of ladders at or below which platforms not required</p> <p>(b) Intervals at which platforms required if a ladder exceeds a certain length</p> <p>(c) Minimum distance above platforms which ladder shall project</p>	<p>(a) and (b) Thirty feet</p> <p>(c) Three feet</p>	<p>(a) and (b) 10 metres</p> <p>(c) 1 metre</p>
23. Regulation 76	Minimum height of continuous skirting board required on the open side of any gantry or platform	Nine inches	230 millimetres

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations amend the Miscellaneous Mines (General) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970 by substituting measurements expressed in metric units for measurements not so expressed. The substituted measurements preserve the effect of the original provisions except to the extent necessary to obtain amounts expressed in convenient and suitable terms.

Regulation 3 changes the prescribed specifications relating to the capping of a rope used in winding or haulage apparatus and regulation 4 provides that the amendments do not relate to premises or plant in existence or under construction immediately before the coming into operation of these Regulations if those premises or that plant complied with the then existing Regulations.