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Health, Safety and Welfare

Chromium Plating

SPECIAL REGULATIONS, DATED 10th DAY OF OCTOBER, 1946, MADE BY THE
 MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND NATIONAL INSURANCE UNDER SECTIONS
 43, 47 AND 65 OF THE FACTORIES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND), 1938.

1946. No. 160

The Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland, in pursuance of the powers conferred on it by Sections 43, 47 and 65 of the Factories Act (Northern Ireland), 1938 (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Special Regulations :—

PART I

Preliminary

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Chromium Plating Special Regulations (Northern Ireland), 1946, and shall come into force on the 15th day of November, 1946.

2. These Regulations shall, subject to the provisions of Regulation 4 hereof, 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.

3. In these Regulations the following expressions * have the meanings hereby assigned to them, respectively, that is to say :—

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*.

Chief Inspector has the same meaning as in the Act.

* Terms to which defined meanings are given are printed in italics throughout.

Surgeon means the Examining Surgeon, appointed under Section 132 of the Act, for the district in which the factory is situated or a duly qualified medical practitioner appointed by written certificate of the *Chief Inspector*, which appointment shall be subject to such conditions as may be specified in that certificate.

Suspension means suspension, by written certificate in the Health Register, signed by the *Surgeon*, from employment in any process involving contact with liquid from any *bath*.

PART II

Exceptions

4. Where it is proved to the satisfaction of the *Chief Inspector* that by reason of exceptional circumstances in any works subject to these Regulations, or by reason of the infrequency of the process, or for other reasons, all or any of the requirements of the Regulations are not necessary in such works, he may by certificate in writing (which he may in his discretion revoke) exempt such works from all or any of the provisions of the Regulations, subject to such conditions as he may by such certificate prescribe.

PART III

Duties of Occupiers

5. It shall be the duty of the occupier of every factory to which these Regulations apply to observe this Part of these Regulations.

6. At every vessel in which an *electrolytic chromium process* is carried on, an efficient exhaust shall be provided by mechanical means and shall operate as near as may be 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.

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 ; and (b) for the use of those working at a *bath*, loose-fitting rubber gloves of suitable length, and rubber boots or other waterproof footwear.

The aprons and bibs shall be of sufficient length and suitable material, which, in the case of persons working at a *bath*, shall be rubber or some other impermeable material.

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

10.—(1) The washing facilities required by Section 43 of the Act to be provided and maintained 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. Each first-aid box or cupboard provided in pursuance of Section 46 of the Act shall contain, in addition to the standard of contents prescribed by the Factories (First Aid) Order (Northern Ireland), 1939, (a) a sufficient supply of ointment and impermeable waterproof plaster.

12.—(a) Every person *employed* shall be examined by the *Surgeon* once in every fourteen days (or at such other intervals as may be specified in writing by the *Chief Inspector*) on a day of which due notice shall be given to all concerned. Such examinations shall normally be made at the factory and the *Surgeon* shall have power of *suspension* as regards any person examined by him.

(a) S. R. & O. of N.I., 1939, No. 55 (p.199).

(b) A Health Register containing the names of all persons *employed* shall be kept in a form approved by the *Chief Inspector*.

(c) A person shall not be *employed* after *suspension* until written sanction is given by the *Surgeon* and entered in or attached to the Health Register.

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

14. 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 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 the Health Register.

PART IV

Duties of other Persons

15. In a factory to which these Regulations apply it shall be the duty of every person (other than the occupier) to observe this Part of these Regulations.

16. A person shall not wilfully misuse or, without the concurrence of the occupier or responsible person in charge, interfere with any means or appliance provided under these Regulations for securing health, safety or welfare.

17. 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.

18.—(a) Every person *employed* shall present himself at the appointed time for examination by the *Surgeon* in pursuance of Regulation 12 (a).

(b) A person after *suspension* shall not work in any process involving contact with liquid from any *bath* until written sanction has been given by the *Surgeon*, and entered in or attached to the Health Register.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance for Northern Ireland this 10th day of October, 1946, in the presence of

(L.S.)

F. C. S. Moore,

Assistant Secretary.