

1973. No. 414

[C]

FIRE SERVICES**Appointments and Promotion**

REGULATIONS, DATED 27TH SEPTEMBER 1973, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS UNDER SECTIONS 16(2) AND 40(1)(b) OF THE FIRE SERVICES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1969.

The Ministry of Home Affairs on behalf of the Secretary of State in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 16(2) and 40(1)(b) of the Fire Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1969(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Fire Service (Appointments and Promotion) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973 and shall come into operation on 1st October 1973.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“the authority” means the Fire Authority for Northern Ireland;

“Fire Services Central Examination Board” means the body of persons specified in Regulation 8 of the Fire Services (Appointments and Promotion) Regulations 1965(b);

“control room duties” means duties in connection with the reception, transmission and recording of calls for the assistance of a fire brigade; and with the transmission of instructions regarding the provision of such assistance by a fire brigade as may be required in any case;

“Institution of Fire Engineers” means the limited company incorporated by that name on 25th July 1924, and the expression “graduate of the Institution of Fire Engineers” means a person who, under the Articles of Association of the said company and the byelaws set out in the Schedule to those Articles, has been duly elected a graduate thereof;

“Ministry” means the Ministry of Home Affairs;

“operational service”, in relation to any person, means whole-time service as a member of a fire brigade maintained by the authority or by a fire authority established under the Fire Services (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 1950(c) or by a fire authority in Great Britain under the Fire Services Act 1947(d) holding a rank higher than that of junior fireman, during any period in which that person in the course of his duty as a member of such a fire brigade was under an obligation to attend at fires and provided that such service need not be confined solely to any one fire authority but may be an aggregate of such service in the employment of two or more such fire authorities;

“promotion” does not include promotion which is expressed to be temporary only;

“rank” does not include the rank of chief fire officer.

Revocations

3. The Fire Services (Qualifications of Fire Officers) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1966(e) are hereby revoked.

(a) 1969. c. 13 (N.I.).

(b) S.I. 1965, No. 577 (1965, I, p. 1817).

(c) 1950. c. 4.

(d) 10 & 11 Geo 6 c. 41.

(e) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1966, No. 85.

Appointment in the rank of junior fireman

4.—(1) The qualifications for appointment in the rank of junior fireman, in the case of a male person, shall be as follows, that is to say, the person concerned at the time of his appointment—

- (a) shall be of good character;
- (b) shall have attained the age of 16 years and, subject to paragraph (2), shall not have attained the age of 17 years;
- (c) shall have satisfied the chief fire officer that he is likely, on attaining the age of 18 years, to be able to satisfy the qualifications for promotion to the rank of fireman mentioned in Regulation 5(1)(c), (d), (e) and (f).

(2) A person who has attained the age of 17 years but has not attained the age of 17 years and 3 months may be appointed in the rank of junior fireman if, after considering the circumstances of his case, the authority decide that this paragraph shall have effect in his case.

Promotion to, or appointment in, the rank of fireman

5.—(1) The qualifications for promotion to, or, subject to paragraph (2), appointment in the rank of fireman, in the case of a male person who is to serve whole-time therein on terms under which he is or may be required to engage in fire-fighting, shall be as follows, that is to say, such person at the time of his promotion or appointment—

- (a) shall be of good character;
- (b) shall have attained the age of 18 years and shall not have attained the age of 31 years, or, in the case of a person who, having undertaken a fixed period of voluntary service in the regular armed forces of the Crown, has completed that period of service, 35 years;
- (c) subject to paragraph (3), shall be not less than 5 feet 6 inches in height and have a chest measurement of not less than 36 inches when unexpanded with an expansion of not less than 2 inches;
- (d) shall have satisfied a duly qualified medical practitioner selected by the authority that he is fit to undertake fire-fighting duties and that he has not any physical abnormality, and is not suffering from any disease, which in either case would be likely to incapacitate him temporarily or permanently for the performance of the said duties;
- (e) shall have satisfied the chief fire officer of his ability to pass the following test of strength, that is to say, a test of his ability to carry a man weighing between 10 and 12 stone a distance of 100 yards in a time not exceeding 60 seconds; and
- (f) shall have passed such examination in educational subjects as the authority may require, being such an examination as necessitates a reasonable standard of proficiency in reading, writing and arithmetic and such other subjects, if any, as the authority may require, or be, to the satisfaction of the authority, of such educational standard that it is unnecessary for him to take any such examination.

(2) Nothing in this Regulation shall apply in relation to—

- (a) the appointment of a person who, at the time when it is decided to appoint him, is serving as a whole-time member of another fire brigade or of a fire brigade maintained by a fire authority in Great Britain under the provisions of the Fire Services Act 1947 in a rank higher than that of a junior fireman, and is so serving on terms under which he is or may be required to engage in fire-fighting and whose engagement as such a member or person is not expressed to be temporary only; or

(b) the appointment of a person who has previously served as a whole-time member of the same or another fire brigade maintained by a fire authority under the provisions of the Fire Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 or of a fire brigade maintained by a fire authority in Great Britain under the provisions of the Fire Services Act 1947 in a rank higher than that of junior fireman, and was, immediately before he ceased so to serve, serving on terms under which he was or might be required to engage in fire-fighting and whose engagement as such a member or person was not expressed to be temporary only.

(3) A junior fireman may be promoted to the rank of fireman notwithstanding that he does not possess the qualifications mentioned in paragraph (1)(c) if, after considering the circumstances of his case, the authority—

- (a) decide that this paragraph shall have effect in his case; and
- (b) draw the attention of the medical practitioner selected for the purposes of paragraph (1)(d) to the fact that he does not possess the said qualifications.

Promotion to a rank higher than that of fireman

6.—(1) The qualifications for promotion to a rank higher than that of fireman, in the case of a male person who is not a part-time member nor is serving on terms under which he is solely engaged on control room duties, shall be as hereafter provided:

Provided that a person may with approval of the Ministry be promoted to such a rank to perform in that rank particular duties for which special qualifications are required if he possesses those qualifications notwithstanding that he does not possess the qualifications required under this Regulation for promotion to that rank.

(2) For promotion to the rank of leading fireman the qualifications of a member of a fire brigade shall be as follows, that is to say, he shall—

- (a) have passed the educational examination specified in Part I of Schedule 1, or be, to the satisfaction of the authority, of an educational standard at least as high as that required to pass the said examination; and
- (b) after having had 2 years' operational service, have passed the test of technical attainments specified in Part II of the said Schedule 1.

(3) For promotion to the rank of sub-officer the qualifications of a member of a fire brigade shall be as follows, that is to say, he shall have had not less than 4 years' operational service, and shall—

- (a) unless he is already a leading fireman, have passed a test of technical attainments specified in Part II of Schedule 1;
- (b) unless he is or has been a graduate of the Institution of Fire Engineers having passed the graduateship examination of the said Institution before the end of the year 1962, have passed the written examination specified in Part I of Schedule 2; and
- (c) have passed, to the satisfaction of the authority, the practical examination specified in Part II of Schedule 2.

(4) For promotion to the rank of station officer the qualifications of a member of a fire brigade shall be as follows, that is to say, he shall have had not less than 5 years' operational service and—

- (a) have passed a written technical examination on a syllabus of study prepared by the Fire Services Central Examination Board; or

(b) have passed, since the end of the year 1961, the graduateship examination, or the examination for associate membership, of the Institution of Fire Engineers having been eligible to enter for the examination referred to in the preceding sub-paragraph immediately before he took the examination in question of the said Institution; or

(c) have passed an examination of a standard approved by the Ministry.

(5) For promotion to a rank higher than that of station officer the qualifications of a member of a fire brigade shall be that he is of a rank not lower than that of station officer.

(6) A member of a fire brigade shall be deemed to have passed so much of the test specified in Part II of Schedule 1 as relates to knowledge of first-aid if at the time he takes the remainder of the test he is the holder of any of the following certificates in first-aid issued in the immediately preceding period of three years, that is to say—

the Standard (Adult) Certificate or any higher first-aid certificate issued by the St. John's Ambulance Association;

the Initial Certificate or any higher first-aid certificate issued by the British Red Cross Society;

the Elementary First-Aid Certificate issued by the London County Council, or, as the case may be, the Greater London Council.

(7) A member of a fire brigade shall not be eligible—

(a) to enter for the examination specified in Part I of Schedule 2 unless he has passed, or is exempted from having to pass, the educational examination and the test of technical attainments specified in Part I and Part II of Schedule 1;

(b) to enter for the examination specified in Part II of Schedule 2 unless he has passed, or is exempted from having to pass, the examination specified in Part I of Schedule 2.

(8) A member of a fire brigade shall not be eligible to enter for the written technical examination referred to in paragraph (4)(a) unless he has passed, or is exempted from having to pass, the examinations specified in Part I and Part II of Schedule 2.

Appointment in a rank higher than that of fireman

7.—(1) The qualifications for appointment in a rank higher than that of fireman, in the case of a male person who is to serve as a whole-time member of a fire brigade on terms under which he will not be solely engaged on control room duties, shall be as follows, that is to say, such person at the time when it is decided to appoint him—

(a) shall be serving or have previously served as mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) or, as the case may be, in sub-paragraph (b) of Regulation 5(2); and

(b) shall be qualified for the rank in question as mentioned in paragraph (2):

Provided that a person may with the approval of the Ministry be appointed in a rank higher than that of fireman to perform in that rank particular duties for which special qualifications are required if he possesses those qualifications notwithstanding that he does not possess the qualification specified in this Regulation for appointment in that rank.

(2) A person shall be qualified for a rank for the purposes of paragraph (1)(b)—

- (a) where he is serving in a fire brigade maintained by the authority or has previously served in a fire brigade maintained by the authority or, as the case may be, an authority established under the Fire Services Act (Northern Ireland) 1950, if he is, or immediately before he ceased so to serve was, qualified for promotion to that rank as provided in Regulation 6;
- (b) where he is serving or has previously served as a person employed as a member of a fire brigade maintained by a fire authority in Great Britain under the Fire Services Act 1947, if he is, or immediately before he ceased so to serve was, qualified for promotion to that rank as provided in the provisions made in that behalf under the said Act and in force at the time it is decided to appoint him:

Provided that he is, or was, so qualified for promotion to the authority (or other equivalent in Great Britain) rank or Northern Ireland Fire Authority rank set opposite to that rank in the following table:

TABLE

<i>Northern Ireland Fire Authority ranks</i>	<i>Authority ranks</i>
(1)	(2)
Leading Fireman	Leading Fireman
Section Leader	Sub-Officer
Company Officer	Station Officer or any higher rank

Conduct of examinations

8.—(1) The authority shall—

- (a) conduct each examination and test specified in Schedules 1 and 2; and
- (b) secure that each such examination and test is conducted for members of the fire brigade desiring and eligible to enter therefor at least once in every year unless no such member has made application to enter by such time before the examination or test would otherwise be held as may be determined by the authority.

(2) The authority shall, in the manner and subject to the conditions specified by the Fire Services Central Examinations Board, make arrangements for members of the fire brigade desiring and eligible to take the written technical examination referred to in Regulation 6(4)(a).

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Home Affairs for Northern Ireland this 27th day of September 1973.

(L.S.)

E. N. Barry,
Assistant Secretary.

SCHEDULE 1

Regulations 6 and 8

EXAMINATIONS FOR PROMOTION TO LEADING FIREMAN

PART I

Educational examination

A written examination in the following subjects, that is to say:—

- (a) mathematics, comprising the first four rules, weights and measures, decimals and vulgar fractions, simple squares and square roots, construction and interpretation of simple graphs and tables, areas and volumes and approximations;
- (b) English, comprising spelling, punctuation and handwriting; ability to write concise and factual English in letters and reports; comprehension and the composition of simple arguments based on given situations; and
- (c) general knowledge.

PART II

Tests of technical attainments

An oral and practical test of knowledge of:—

- (a) standard appliances and equipment;
- (b) watch room work;
- (c) standard drills;
- (d) first-aid; and
- (e) the topography of the fire ground area of the station where the candidate is stationed.

SCHEDULE 2

Regulations 6 and 8

EXAMINATIONS FOR PROMOTION TO SUB-OFFICER

PART I

Written examination

A written examination in the following subjects, that is to say:—

- (a) general technical knowledge of appliances and equipment;
- (b) fire ground procedure;
- (c) elementary fire prevention; and
- (d) elementary hydraulics.

PART II

Practical examination

1. A practical test of ability to conduct the following drills, that is to say:—

- (a) pump drill;
- (b) ladder drill;
- (c) knots and lines;
- (d) standard tests;
- (e) pump operation; and
- (f) breathing apparatus.

2. An oral test of knowledge of:

- (a) the topography of the fire ground area of the station where the candidate is stationed; and
- (b) station administration and management.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations describe the qualifications which are required for appointment and promotion in the rank of fireman and fire officer in the service of the Fire Authority for Northern Ireland.