

1956 No. 1765

**MINES AND QUARRIES**

**The Coal and Other Mines (Safety-Lamps and Lighting)  
Order, 1956**

*Made - - - - 7th November, 1956*

*Laid before Parliament 26th November, 1956*

*Coming into Operation 1st January, 1957*

Whereas by subsection (1) of section one hundred and ninety of the Mines and Quarries Act, 1954(a) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), the Minister of Fuel and Power (hereinafter referred to as "the Minister") is empowered to re-enact (to the extent to which they could by virtue of the Act be enacted in regulations made under section one hundred and forty-one thereof)—

(a) provisions of any regulation having effect by virtue of section eighty-six of the Coal Mines Act, 1911(b);

(b) provisions of any enactment repealed by section one hundred and eighty-nine of the Act in so far as that enactment is not re-enacted in the Act;

subject to such modifications (if any) as appear to him to be consequential on the passing of the Act or requisite for the purpose either of bringing those provisions into conformity with the Act or of expressly limiting their operation to mines of the class to which their operation is limited immediately before the commencement of the Act:

And Whereas by subsection (2) of that section it is provided amongst other things that an order under subsection (1) shall set out in a schedule to the order the provisions thereby re-enacted and may direct that those provisions shall have effect as if they were regulations made under section one hundred and forty-one of the Act:

Now, therefore, the Minister in pursuance of the powers conferred upon him by section one hundred and ninety of the Act, hereby orders as follows:—

1.—(1) The provisions set out in the first schedule hereto, being provisions of regulations and enactments specified in the second schedule hereto subject to such modifications as aforesaid, are hereby re-enacted and shall have effect as if they were regulations made under section one hundred and forty-one of the Act coming into operation at the commencement of the Act.

(2) The provisions set out in the first schedule hereto may be cited as the Coal and Other Mines (Safety-Lamps and Lighting) Regulations, 1956.

2. Any exemption, approval, authority or requirement granted or imposed for the purposes of a provision specified in the second schedule hereto shall, if in force at the commencement of the Act and so far as it could have been granted or imposed for the purposes of the Coal and Other Mines (Safety-Lamps and Lighting) Regulations, 1956, have effect as if it had been so granted or imposed.

3. This order shall come into operation at the commencement of the Act and may be cited as the Coal and Other Mines (Safety-Lamps and Lighting) Order, 1956.

Dated this seventh day of November, nineteen hundred and fifty-six.

*Aubrey Jones,*  
Minister of Fuel and Power.

#### FIRST SCHEDULE

THE COAL AND OTHER MINES (SAFETY-LAMPS AND LIGHTING) REGULATIONS, 1956,  
HAVING EFFECT AS IF MADE UNDER SECTION ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-ONE OF  
THE MINES AND QUARRIES ACT, 1954.

##### *Arrangement of Regulations*

PART I.	Application	...	...	...	...	Reg. 1
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#### PART I

##### *Application*

1. These regulations shall apply to every mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay, and in these regulations, unless otherwise expressly provided, "mine" means such a mine.

#### PART II

##### *Provision and maintenance of safety-lamps and firedamp detectors* *Arrangements for examination of safety-lamps and firedamp detectors before and after use*

2.—(1) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine in which or in part of which the use of lamps or lights, other than permitted lights, is unlawful to appoint competent persons and to make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure the examination of safety-lamps and appliances (whether or not safety-lamps) for detecting the presence of inflammable gas (hereinafter referred to as "detectors") in accordance with the provisions of this regulation.

(2) The manager shall make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure that no safety-lamp or detector is taken for use below ground in such a mine unless—

(a) since last in use it has been thoroughly examined above ground by a competent person appointed by him and has been found by that person to be in safe working order; and

(b) it is securely locked.

Such arrangements shall provide for the keeping of a record of the person by whom any safety-lamp or detector is so taken on any occasion.

(3) The manager shall make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure the examination by a competent person appointed by him of every safety-lamp or detector upon its return to the lamp room after use. If the competent person upon such an examination finds any lamp or detector to be damaged he shall forthwith record the nature of the damage in a book provided for that purpose by the owner of the mine.

(4) Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2), the examination thereunder of every flame safety-lamp with a self-contained re-lighting contrivance shall include the taking apart of the lamp, thorough cleaning of all parts and the testing of the re-lighting contrivance. After reassembly the re-lighting contrivance shall not be operated unnecessarily.

3.—(1) The manager of every safety-lamp mine shall make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure that every safety-lamp being taken below ground by a person employed at the mine (other than an official of the mine) is examined by a deputy or other competent person appointed by the manager before or as soon as practicable after it is taken into the mine to ascertain that it is in safe working order and properly locked.

(2) The manager of every mine in which there is a safety-lamp part shall make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure the like examination of every safety-lamp being taken into a safety-lamp part of the mine at a place appointed by him for the purposes of this paragraph.

#### *Bulbs for electric safety-lamps*

4. It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to ensure that every bulb used in an electric safety-lamp of a type for the time being approved by the Minister for general use by workmen is a bulb—

- (a) of a type approved by the Minister and marked in a manner specified by the Minister in or in relation to that approval;
- (b) where the safety-lamp is of a type the approval for which contains provisions relating to the characteristics of any bulb to be used therein, in conformity with those provisions.

#### *Cap lamps for persons employed in haulage*

5. Any safety-lamp provided for personal use by a person ordinarily employed in haulage operations shall be an electric cap lamp, and there shall be provided therewith a proper fitting for carrying that lamp.

#### *Maintenance of lighting performance*

6. It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure the maintenance of the lighting performance of safety-lamps used in the mine, being lamps of a type the approval for which specifies the lighting performance thereof, and in particular so that if an inspector selects from lamps of such types returned to the lamp room after use on any shift and not upon examination in pursuance of paragraph (3) of regulation two found to be damaged a sample comprising not less than fifty lamps or one half of the number of lamps returned after that shift (whichever is the less) and after external cleansing determines the mean spherical candle-power of any cap lamps and the maximum horizontal candle-power of other lamps in that sample it shall in the case of at least half of those lamps be not less than sixty per cent. of the performance specified in the relevant approval, or, if another percentage (not exceeding seventy-five per cent.) is specified in an order made by the Minister, that other percentage thereof.

#### *General duties of persons with safety-lamps*

7. Every person to whom a locked safety-lamp is issued for use in a mine shall before taking it below ground examine it externally and assure himself that it is locked and in safe working order and shall also examine it from time to time while in the mine to assure himself that it remains in safe working order.

8. No person shall unlock or open any safety-lamp or detector below ground in a safety-lamp mine or safety-lamp part of a mine or have in his possession below ground in any such mine or part of a mine any contrivance for unlocking or opening any safety-lamp or detector.

9. No person shall place a safety-lamp or detector on its bottom in a mine unless it is necessary to do so for the safe performance of any work in which that person is engaged or unless he is authorised to do so by the manager, and no person working in a mine with a pick, hammer or other such tool shall swing it within two feet of a safety-lamp or detector (other than a cap lamp which he is wearing).

10. If any safety-lamp is damaged in a mine the person using it shall forthwith carefully extinguish the light.

11. Every person to whom a safety-lamp or detector is issued for use in a mine shall on the completion of his shift return it to the lamp room.

### PART III

#### *Re-lighting safety-lamps underground*

12. The provisions of this Part of these regulations shall apply to safety-lamp mines and safety-lamp parts of mines.

13.—(1) No person, except a competent person appointed by the manager for the purpose at a place appointed by the manager as a lamp station, shall re-light below ground any flame safety-lamp other than a lamp with a self-contained re-lighting contrivance.

(2) No contrivance for re-lighting a flame safety-lamp (other than a contrivance contained in a lamp) shall be kept below ground otherwise than at such a lamp station, and no person shall have any such contrivance in his possession below ground, other than a contrivance at such a lamp station.

(3) Any such contrivance for re-lighting a flame safety-lamp shall be so constructed, maintained and used as to prevent the emission of flame or a spark.

14.—(1) The manager shall not appoint as a lamp station any place in a road which as regards any working face is a return airway, or any place in any part of the mine in which inflammable gas although not normally present is likely to occur in a quantity sufficient to indicate danger.

(2) It shall be the duty of the manager to secure that at or near every lamp station there is kept posted a notice indicating its position in such characters and in such a place as to be easily seen.

15.—(1) No person other than an inspector, a manager, an undermanager, a deputy, a shot firer, a person carrying out an inspection under Part VII of the Act or a person as to whom the manager is satisfied that he is capable of using a re-lighting contrivance safely and who is authorised by the manager in writing so to do, shall take any flame safety-lamp with a self-contained re-lighting contrivance into any mine or part of a mine to which this Part of these regulations applies.

(2) A person having a flame safety-lamp with a self-contained re-lighting contrivance shall at all times while he is below ground retain the key for operating the contrivance in his possession.

16.—(1) No person shall re-light any flame safety-lamp below ground (either at a lamp station or by means of a self-contained re-lighting contrivance) unless he has examined it and found it to be undamaged. Any person who has so re-lighted a safety-lamp shall forthwith again examine it and unless he finds it to be securely locked and in safe working order shall not allow it to be used or to remain lighted.

(2) A person having a flame safety-lamp with a self-contained re-lighting contrivance shall not attempt to re-light it at any place at which there is reason to suspect the presence of inflammable gas.

#### PART IV

##### *General lighting and permitted lights*

###### *Places at which general lighting is to be provided*

17.—(1) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to secure the provision and maintenance of suitable and sufficient lighting at the following places below ground at all times when any persons are working thereat or walking therethrough going to or from their working places at the beginning or end of a shift, that is to say—

- (a) such entrances to each shaft or outlet and such sidings provided in relation thereto as are regularly used ;
- (b) the top and bottom of every incline on which vehicles are moved by gravity operated rope haulage apparatus other than apparatus which is advanced with the working of a face ;
- (c) every siding, landing, passbye, junction and off-take, every place at which vehicles are regularly coupled or uncoupled or regularly attached to or detached from a haulage rope and every place at which vehicles are regularly filled mechanically ;
- (d) every room or place made to house and containing any engine or motor.

(2) Lighting provided in pursuance of this regulation shall be so arranged as to minimise glare or eyestrain.

(3) Nothing in the preceding provisions of this regulation shall require the provision of lighting at any place ventilated by air none of which has ventilated a working face and within one hundred and fifty feet of a working face, or at any other place within nine hundred feet of a working face being in either case a place accessible from the face in question :

Provided that an inspector may serve on the manager of a mine a notice requiring him to secure the provision and maintenance of suitable and sufficient lighting at any place specified in the notice at which such lighting would be required but for the preceding provisions of this paragraph and which is not within thirty feet of such a working face.

(4) Nothing in the preceding provisions of this regulation shall require the provision of lighting in a mine at which not more than ten persons are employed below ground and an inspector may by notice served on the manager exempt any mine at which not more than thirty persons are employed below ground from those requirements.

18.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this regulation and to the provisions of the Coal and Other Mines (Electricity) Regulations, 1956(c), electric lights supplied with electricity from a source of electric power external to the lighting unit are hereby authorised to be used at the following places in mines in which the use of lamps or lights, other than permitted lights, is unlawful (either throughout or in any part) that is to say—

- (a) in any length of road ventilated by air none of which has ventilated a working face except within one hundred and fifty feet of a working face accessible from that length of road ;
- (b) in any length of any other road except within nine hundred feet of a working face accessible from that length of road ;
- (c) where electric power is used at a working face, in any length of road which is an intake airway as regards that face except within thirty feet of a face and in any other length of road used in connection with that face except within three hundred feet of that face ;

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(c) S.I. 1956/1766.

(d) if authorised by a notice served by an inspector on the manager, in any length of road described in the notice except within thirty feet of a working face ;

and accordingly such electric lights so used are permitted lights in those mines.

(2) Where electric lights are installed at any place by virtue of sub-paragraph (c) of the last preceding paragraph, the manager shall forthwith give notice thereof to the inspector for the district.

(3) Electricity at a voltage exceeding two hundred and fifty shall not be applied to any such lights and if the system is polyphase the neutral point shall be connected to earth or if it is not polyphase the mid-voltage point shall be connected to earth :

Provided that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to any system of electric lighting by direct current installed in a seam in a mine before the first day of August, nineteen hundred and forty-seven.

(4) It shall be the duty of the manager to ensure that appropriate precautions are taken to prevent damage to any such electric lighting system from shot firing and that every lamp fitting is so constructed as to protect the lamp from accidental damage.

(5) In any part of a mine in which inflammable gas, although not normally present, is likely to occur in a quantity sufficient to indicate danger, no electrical apparatus, other than apparatus of a type approved by the Minister, shall be used as part of such a system in any length of road within nine hundred feet of a working face accessible from that road.

19.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of this regulation and to the provisions of the Coal and Other Mines (Electricity) Regulations, 1956, an electric lighting unit operated by a generator enclosed in the unit and driven by compressed air, being a unit of a type approved by the Minister, is hereby authorised to be used in mines in which the use of lamps or lights, other than permitted lights, is unlawful (either throughout or in any part), and accordingly such a unit is a permitted light in those mines.

(2) No person shall below ground in any such mine turn on the air pressure in such a unit unless the unit is fully assembled and closed, or open any such unit unless the air pressure has been turned off.

(3) No person shall attempt to use below ground in such a mine any such unit any part of which is defective.

(4) No person other than a person appointed in writing by the manager so to do shall dismantle, repair, alter or adjust any such unit below ground in such a mine.

(5) It shall be the duty of the manager to ensure that at intervals not exceeding three months every such unit is cleaned, thoroughly overhauled and tested in a workshop appointed by the manager for that purpose. The person by whom such a test is made shall forthwith make a full and accurate report thereon in a book provided for that purpose by the owner of the mine.

20.—(1) Electric lights which are fittings of or accessories to any machinery or electrical apparatus (including signalling apparatus) and which are of a type approved by the Minister are hereby authorised to be used in mines in which the use of lamps or lights, other than permitted lights, is unlawful (either throughout or in any part), and accordingly such lights are permitted lights in those mines.

(2) It shall be the duty of the manager to ensure that any such lights are maintained and tested in the manner (if any) specified in the relevant approval.

## PART V

### General

#### *Lamps at places with general lighting*

21. There shall be provided for every person who works at a place below ground in any mine, being a place at which there is general lighting, a portable lamp for use in emergency and every such person shall have that lamp with him whenever he is at such a place.

22. There shall be provided at every place below ground lighted by electric lights the failure of which would be likely to cause danger a safety-lamp or other proper light which shall be kept alight at all such times.

#### *Places which are to be whitened*

23. The manager of every mine shall make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure that the roof and sides of the following places below ground in that mine are kept whitened, that is to say—

- (a) such entrances to every shaft or outlet and such sidings provided in relation thereto as are regularly used ;
- (b) the top and bottom of every incline on which vehicles are moved by gravity operated rope haulage apparatus, other than apparatus which is advanced with the working of a face ;
- (c) every siding, landing, passbye, junction and off-take, every place at which vehicles are regularly coupled or uncoupled or regularly attached to or detached from a haulage rope and every place at which vehicles are regularly filled mechanically except in so far as any such place is within three hundred feet of a working face in connection with which that place is used ;
- (d) every room or place made to house and containing any engine, motor, electrical transformer or switchgear :

Provided that an inspector may by notice served on the manager exempt any place from the requirements of this regulation.

#### *Exemptions*

24. The Chief Inspector of Mines if he is satisfied that the application of any provision in regulation four, five, six, seventeen, twenty-one or twenty-three of these regulations is inappropriate in relation to any mine or part thereof may by notice served on the manager of that mine exempt it or a part thereof from the application of that provision.

#### *Interpretation*

25.—(1) In these regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say—

- “ the Act ” means the Mines and Quarries Act, 1954 ;
- “ deputy ” has the meaning assigned thereto in the Coal and Other Mines (Managers and Officials) Regulations, 1956(d) ;
- “ detector ” has the meaning assigned thereto in regulation two ;
- “ mine ” has the meaning assigned thereto in regulation one ;
- “ shot firer ” has the meaning assigned thereto (in the case of a mine of coal) in the Coal Mines (Explosives) Regulations, 1956(e), or (in the case of a mine of stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay) means a person appointed to be a shot firer by the manager of the mine ;
- “ working face ” does not include a place in a road at which the work consists of ripping or work of repair.

(2) Expressions to which meanings are assigned by the Act or by these regulations shall (unless the contrary intention appears) have the same meanings in any document issued under the provisions of these regulations.

(3) The Interpretation Act, 1889(f), shall apply to the interpretation of these regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(d) S.I. 1956/1758.

(e) S.I. 1956/1767.

(f) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

## SECOND SCHEDULE

REGULATIONS AND ENACTMENTS CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE RE-ENACTED WITH MODIFICATIONS IN THE COAL AND OTHER MINES (SAFETY-LAMPS AND LIGHTING) REGULATIONS, 1956.

Coal Mines Act, 1911, section 34 (as amended by the Coal Mines General Regulations (Safety Lamps), 1927)(g)

General Regulations dated July 10, 1913(h), Regulations 13, 14, 37, 122 and 135

Coal Mines General Regulations (Firedamp Detectors), 1939(i), Regulation 7

Coal Mines (Lighting) General Regulations, 1947(j)

Coal Mines (Officials and Inspections) General Regulations, 1951(k), Regulation 17

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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the order, but is intended to indicate its general purport.)*

This order is made under the Mines and Quarries Act, 1954, s. 190, which empowers the Minister of Fuel and Power to re-enact (to the extent to which they could be enacted in regulations made under the Act and subject to modifications of the kind specified in that section) the provisions of regulations and enactments which will cease to have effect at the commencement of the Act.

The provisions set out as regulations in the first schedule to this order relate to the provision, maintenance and use of safety-lamps, firedamp detectors, general lighting and other lamps and lights at mines of coal, stratified ironstone, shale and fireclay. These regulations comprise, and will at the commencement of the Act replace, provisions of the regulations and enactments specified in the second schedule to the order.

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- (g) S.R. & O. 1927/1155 (Rev. IV, p. 395 : 1927, p. 141).
  - (h) S.R. & O. 1913/748 (Rev. IV, p. 318 : 1913, p. 680).
  - (i) S.R. & O. 1939/322 (Rev. IV, p. 357 : 1939 I, p. 368).
  - (j) S.R. & O. 1947/972 (Rev. IV, p. 399 : 1947 I, p. 325).
  - (k) S.I. 1951/848 (1951 I, p. 308).

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