

1969 No. 310

CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Electrical Appliances (Colour Code) Regulations 1969

<i>Made</i>	- - -	10th March 1969
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		17th March 1969
<i>Coming into Operation</i>		1st July 1969

In pursuance of sections 1 and 2 of the Consumer Protection Act 1961(a) and of the Schedule to that Act as amended by the London Government Act 1963(b), and after consulting with such persons and bodies of persons as appear to me to be requisite, I hereby make the following Regulations :—

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Electrical Appliances (Colour Code) Regulations 1969.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(c) applies for the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(3) In these Regulations, the expression—

“the Act” means the Consumer Protection Act 1961 as amended by the London Government Act 1963 ;

“earth-continuity conductor” has the meaning assigned to it by Regulation 3 of these Regulations ;

“mains lead” has the meaning assigned to it by Regulation 2 of these Regulations ; and

“working conductors” has the meaning assigned to it by Regulation 3 of these Regulations.

(4) These Regulations shall come into operation on 1st July 1969.

2. These Regulations apply to any electrical appliance (including any electrical apparatus or device) designed or suitable for domestic use (whether indoors or out-of-doors) which—

(a) requires for its operation a supply, from an external source, of electricity at a voltage of 100 volts or more ; and

(b) has a flexible cord or cable (in these Regulations referred to as a “mains lead”) containing three electricity conductors of which two are for connecting the appliance to such a supply of electricity, and one is for connecting it to earth.

(a) 1961 c. 40.

(b) 1963 c. 33.

(c) 1889 c. 63.

3. The conductors in the mains lead of an appliance to which these Regulations apply shall be connected, or adapted for connection, to the appliance in such a way that one, and only one, of the conductors (in these Regulations referred to as the "earth-continuity conductor") is connected, or adapted for connection, to a part of the appliance not intended to be electrified while the appliance is working properly, and the other conductors (in these Regulations referred to as "working conductors") are connected, or adapted for connection, to parts of the appliance intended to conduct electricity.

4.—(1) Each of the conductors in the mains lead of an appliance to which these Regulations apply shall have an outer covering (not common to that and any other conductor) which is coloured on all its surface in accordance, subject to the provisions of Regulation 6 of these Regulations, with the following provisions of this Regulation.

(2) The covering of the earth-continuity conductor shall be coloured green and yellow, and in such a way that the covering (on any length of the conductor measuring 15 mm or more) has not more than 70 per cent. (nor less than 30 per cent.) of its surface coloured one of those colours, and has the remainder of its surface coloured the other.

(3) The covering of one of the working conductors shall be coloured brown, and that of the other shall be coloured blue.

(4) Where (because of the use of a single-pole switch or for some other reason) the electrical plan of the appliance is such that one of the working conductors is more suitable in the interests of safety than the other for connection to the phase or live pole of the electricity supply, the covering to be coloured brown shall be that of the first-mentioned conductor and the covering to be coloured blue shall be that of the other.

5.—(1) Subject to the provisions of Regulation 6 of these Regulations, the mains lead of an appliance to which these Regulations apply shall have attached to it a label bearing the following words set out in legible characters :—

"IMPORTANT

The wires in this mains lead are coloured in accordance with the following code :

Green and Yellow—Earth	
Blue	—Neutral
Brown	—Live".

(2) This Regulation shall cease to have effect on 1st July 1977.

6. Until 1st July 1970, the covering of one of a pair of working conductors in the mains lead of an appliance may for the purposes of Regulation 4 of these Regulations be coloured black instead of blue if, but only if, the covering of the other working conductor is coloured red instead of brown, and in such a case—

(a) references in that Regulation to the colours brown and blue shall be treated as references to the colours red and black respectively ; and

(b) the covering of the earth-continuity conductor in that mains lead may be coloured green instead of green and yellow ; and if it is so coloured paragraph (2) of that Regulation shall have effect as if the words after the word "green" were omitted ; and

(c) Regulation 5 of these Regulations shall not have effect.

7. As respects the requirements of these Regulations, subsections (1) and (2) of section 2 of the Act (which prohibit sales and possession for sale of goods and component parts not complying with regulations) shall apply in relation to goods and component parts manufactured before the imposition of these requirements notwithstanding anything in subsection (4) of that section (which exempts such goods and parts unless regulations otherwise provide).

8. Subsections (1) to (3) (other than paragraphs (d) and (e) of subsection (3)) of section 2 of the Act (which relate to sales and possession for sale of goods and component parts not complying with regulations) shall, except as provided by the proviso to subsection (6) of that section, apply in relation to goods to which these Regulations apply as if references to selling or to a sale included references to letting under a hire-purchase agreement or on hire, and the reference to a sale under a credit-sale agreement were a reference to a letting under a hire-purchase agreement.

9.—(1) The Schedule to the Act shall have effect in relation to goods to which these Regulations apply.

(2) In relation to goods to which these Regulations apply, “local authority” in the Schedule to the Act shall mean the council of a county borough, the council of a London borough or the Common Council of the City of London ; as respects any non-county borough or urban district which has according to the last published census for the time being a population of 60,000 or upwards, the council of the borough or urban district ; as respects any other area in England and Wales, the council of the county ; and, in Scotland, the council of any county or any town.

James Callaghan,
One of Her Majesty’s Principal
Secretaries of State.

Home Office,
Whitehall.
10th March 1969.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

The Consumer Protection Act 1961 gives the Secretary of State power to make regulations imposing requirements, in respect of any class of goods, to prevent or reduce risk of death or personal injury. These Regulations impose such requirements in relation to domestic electrical appliances, and accordingly under the Act, subject to certain exceptions, no person may sell or have in his possession for sale an appliance not complying with the Regulations. By virtue of Regulation 8, letting on hire or hire-purchase is similarly prohibited.

The Regulations apply to any domestic electrical appliance, apparatus or device, which has a mains lead with three wires. Regulation 4 requires the “earth” wire to be coloured green and yellow, the “live” wire brown and the “neutral” wire blue.

Regulation 5 requires (until 1st July 1977) a label to be attached explaining this code.

The colour code of green (or green and yellow), red and black which has been in common use in the past may be used until 1st July 1970 (Regulation 6).

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1969 No. 310

CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Electrical Appliances (Colour Code) Regulations 1969

Printed in England by McCorquodale & Co. Ltd., London
and published by
Her Majesty's Stationery Office: 1969