

1980 No. 1851

GAS

The Gas (Metrication) Regulations 1980

Made - - - - 1st December 1980

Laid before Parliament 4th December 1980

Coming into Operation 1st April 1981

The Secretary of State being a Minister designated(a) for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(b) in relation to units of measurement to be used for economic, health, safety or administrative purposes, in exercise of the powers conferred by that section, and in exercise of the powers conferred on him by sections 25(1), 26(1), 30(2) and (6)(d), 31(1) and 41(2) of the Gas Act 1972(c) and of all other powers in that behalf enabling him, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Gas (Metrication) Regulations 1980 and shall come into operation on 1st April 1981.

Amendment of the Gas Act 1972

2.—(1) There shall be substituted for the definition of “calorific value” in section 25(1) of the Gas Act 1972 the following definition:—

“‘calorific value’ means the number of megajoules (gross), expressed to 1 decimal place by ignoring any amount less than 0.05 and treating any amounts between 0.05 and 0.1 as 0.1, produced by the combustion of one cubic metre of gas measured at 15°C under a pressure of 1013.25 millibars and, if the Secretary of State so determines in relation to gas supplied to any area, containing such an amount of water vapour as is specified in the determination”.

(2) There shall be substituted for the definition of “therm” in section 48(1) of the Gas Act 1972 the following definition:—

“‘therm’ means 105.5 megajoules.”

(3) After paragraph 10(2) of Schedule 4 to the Gas Act 1972 the following sub-paragraph shall be added:—

“(3) Where gas is supplied through a meter measuring in cubic feet to which Regulation 10(3) of the Units of Measurement Regulations 1980(d) (use for trade of measuring equipment measuring in cubic feet etc. on and after 1st December 1980) applies, any indication by that meter of a quantity of gas in cubic feet shall be treated for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) above as an indication of that quantity in cubic metres by reference to the relevant value (that is to say 1 cu. ft. = 0.0283m³) set out in Schedule 3 to those Regulations.”

(a) S.I. 1976/897.

(b) 1972 c. 68.

(c) 1972 c. 60.

(d) S.I. 1980/1070.

(b) In Schedule 1—

- (i) for the words “450 cubic feet”, in both places where they appear, there shall be substituted the words “13 cubic metres”,
- (ii) for the words “650 cubic feet”, in both places where they appear, there shall be substituted the words “19 cubic metres”,
- (iii) for the words “1850 cubic feet”, in both places where they appear, there shall be substituted the words “53 cubic metres”,
- (iv) for the words “8050 cubic feet”, in both places where they appear, there shall be substituted the words “228 cubic metres”.

1st December 1980.

David Howell,
Secretary of State for Energy.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations amend provisions of the Gas Act 1972 (the Act of 1972) and Regulations made, or having effect as if made, thereunder in consequence of the implementation by the Units of Measurement Regulations 1980 of Council Directive No. 71/354/EEC (O.J. No. L243, 29.10.1971, p. 29) as amended by Council Directive No. 76/770/EEC (O.J. No. L262, 27.9.1976, p. 204), in so far as it had not been implemented, and of Council Directive No. 80/181/EEC (O.J. No. L39, 15.2.1980, p. 40) which amends the former Directive and replaces it from 1st October 1981.

Section 25(1) of the Act of 1972 is amended by substituting for the definition of “calorific value” a definition expressed in terms of metric units. Section 48(1) of the Act of 1972 is amended by substituting for the definition of “therm” expressed in terms of British thermal units which are no longer authorised for use a definition expressed in terms of megajoules. A sub-paragraph is added to paragraph 10 of Schedule 4 to the Act of 1972 to provide for indications of quantities of gas by meters still in use registering in cubic feet to be treated as indications of those quantities in cubic metres.

Provisions of the Gas Safety Regulations 1972, the Gas Quality Regulations 1972, the Gas (Declaration of Calorific Value) Regulations 1972 and the Gas (Meter) Regulations 1974 are amended by substituting for quantities expressed in imperial units quantities expressed in metric units.

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