

## 1981 No. 16

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

## The Chemical Works (Metrication) Regulations 1981

*Made* - - - - - 7th January 1981

*Laid before Parliament* 19th January 1981

*Coming into Operation* 20th February 1981

The Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 49(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974(a) ("the 1974 Act") and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf and for the purpose of giving effect without modifications to proposals submitted to him by the Health and Safety Commission under section 11(2)(d) of the 1974 Act after the carrying out by the said Commission of consultations in accordance with section 50(3) of that Act, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

*Citation, commencement and interpretation*

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Chemical Works (Metrication) Regulations 1981 and shall come into operation on 20th February 1981.

(2) In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires, "the principal Regulations" means the Chemical Works Regulations 1922(b).

*Amendments to Regulations to substitute metric measurements for imperial measurements*

2. The provisions of the Regulations specified in column (1) of the Schedule to these Regulations shall be amended by substituting for the measurements set out opposite thereto in column (3) of that Schedule the measurements set out in the corresponding entry in column (4) of that Schedule.

*Application to existing plant, buildings or other structures*

3. Where the dimensions of any plant, buildings or other structure in existence immediately before the coming into operation of these Regulations complied with the provisions of the principal Regulations as then in force, in so far as they related to the dimensions of that plant, building or other structure, then those dimensions shall be deemed to comply with the requirements of the principal Regulations as amended by these Regulations.

Signed by order of the Secretary of State.  
7th January 1981.

*David Waddington,*  
Joint Parliamentary Under Secretary of State,  
Department of Employment.

(a) 1974 c. 37, section 49(1), was amended by the Employment Protection Act 1975 (c. 71), section 116 and Schedule 15 paragraph 15.  
(b) S.R. & O. 1922/731, as amended by S.I. 1961/2435.

## Regulation 2

## SCHEDULE

## AMENDMENT TO REGULATIONS

(1) Regulation to be amended	(2) Subject matter of measurement	(3) Present measurement	(4) Measurement to be substituted
The Chemical Works Regulations 1922(a) Regulation 1(a)	Minimum height of edge of vessel above ground or platform	3 feet	920 millimetres
	Minimum height to which vessel is to be fenced	3 feet	920 millimetres
Regulation 1(b) (i)	Minimum width of plank or gangway to be placed inside or across such vessels	18 inches	460 millimetres
(ii)	Minimum height of secure fencing	3 feet	920 millimetres
Regulation 1(c) (i)	Distance between vessels	18 inches	460 millimetres
(ii)	Distance between vessels	18 or more inches	460 millimetres or more
(iii)	Height of secure fencing	3 feet	920 millimetres
Regulation 4(c)	Space between wall and steampipes or radiators	2 inches	50 millimetres

(a) S.R. &amp; O. 1922/731, as amended by S.I. 1961/2435.

## SCHEDULE—continued

(1) Regulation to be amended	(2) Subject matter of measurement	(3) Present measurement	(4) Measurement to be substituted
Regulation 12	Minimum floor area for Ambulance room	100 square feet	9 square metres
Regulation 18	Minimum height of edge of caustic pot, constructed, rebuilt or replaced after date Regulations came into force, above adjoining ground or platform	3 feet	920 millimetres
Regulation 20 (ii)	Maximum concentration of free chlorine gas in air in bleaching powder chamber, before chamber may be entered	2.5 grains of free chlorine gas per cubic foot	5.7 grams of free chlorine gas per cubic metre
Regulation 21(e)	Minimum height above ground or working platform at which steam or vapour from a vessel containing nitro or amido derivatives of phenol or of benzene or its homologues shall be discharged	25 feet	7.6 metres
Regulation 28(a)	Washing facilities (a) Minimum length of washing trough per 5 persons (b) Minimum distance between taps or jets supplying washing water to trough	2 feet	600 millimetres
		2 feet	600 millimetres

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations amend the Chemical Works Regulations 1922 by substituting measurements expressed in metric units for measurements not so expressed. The substituted measurements preserve the effect of the original provisions except to the extent necessary to obtain amounts expressed in convenient and suitable terms.

Regulation 3 provides that the amendments do not relate to plant, buildings or structures which were in existence immediately before the coming into operation of these Regulations if their dimensions complied with the then existing Regulations.

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