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STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2015 No. 966**

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

**The Control of Poisons and Explosives  
Precursors Regulations 2015**

*Made* - - - - 27th March 2015  
*Laid before Parliament* 27th March 2015  
*Coming into force with accordance with regulation 1(2)  
and (3)*

The Secretary of State makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 3A(8), 4A(10), 7(1), 9B(1) and 10(1) of the Poisons Act 1972 <sup>M1</sup>.

**Marginal Citations**

**M1** 1972 c.66. Sections 3A, 4A and 9B are inserted and sections 7 and 10 are substituted by Schedule 21 to the [Deregulation Act 2015 \(c. 20\)](#).

**PART 1**

PRELIMINARY

**Citation, commencement and interpretation**

**1.**—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Control of Poisons and Explosives Precursors Regulations 2015.

(2) Part 1 of these Regulations and regulations 3 and 4 come into force on 20th April 2015.

(3) Except as provided in paragraph (2), these Regulations come into force on 26th May 2015.

(4) In these Regulations, “the Act” means the Poisons Act 1972.

## PART 2

### GENERAL PROVISIONS ABOUT REGULATED SUBSTANCES

#### Supplies of substances involving despatch to Northern Ireland or export from the UK: modification of section 3A of the Act

2.—(1) Section 3A of the Act, so far as it applies to the supply of a regulated substance involving despatch to Northern Ireland or export from the United Kingdom, is modified in accordance with this regulation.

(2) In the case of a person's supply of a regulated explosives precursor that involves despatch to Northern Ireland, references in section 3A of the Act to a licence, or to a recognised non-GB licence, are to be read as references to a licence issued or recognised under relevant Northern Ireland legislation (as defined by section 4B(4) of the Act).

<sup>F1</sup>(3) .....

(4) [<sup>F2</sup>Nothing] in section 3A of the Act applies to the supply of a regulated substance involving export from the United Kingdom.

<sup>F3</sup>(5) .....

<b>F1</b>	Reg. 2(3) omitted (1.10.2023) by virtue of <a href="#">The Control of Explosives Precursors and Poisons Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/63)</a> , regs. 1(1), <b>9(a)</b>
<b>F2</b>	Word in reg. 2(4) substituted (1.10.2023) by <a href="#">The Control of Explosives Precursors and Poisons Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/63)</a> , regs. 1(1), <b>9(b)</b>
<b>F3</b>	Reg. 2(5) omitted (1.10.2023) by virtue of <a href="#">The Control of Explosives Precursors and Poisons Regulations 2023 (S.I. 2023/63)</a> , regs. 1(1), <b>9(c)</b>

#### Applications in relation to licences under section 4A of the Act

3.—(1) An application under section 4A of the Act for the grant or amendment of a licence is valid only if it complies with this regulation.

(2) The application must—

- (a) be made in a form and in a manner approved for that purpose by the Secretary of State,
- (b) contain the information required by that form, and
- (c) be accompanied by whatever further information or documentation the Secretary of State requires.

(3) The power of the Secretary of State to approve the manner in which applications may be made includes power to require all applications to be made, and all further information or documentation to be submitted, by electronic means.

(4) The Secretary of State must publish details of the forms and other matters approved or required from time to time for the purposes of paragraph (2).

(5) The applicant must—

- (a) provide any additional information or documentation that the Secretary of State requests in order to decide the applicant's application,
- (b) assist and co-operate as far as reasonably practicable with any investigations or checks that the Secretary of State thinks appropriate to carry out for that purpose, and
- (c) do such other things as the Secretary of State may request for that purpose.

(6) The investigations and checks that the Secretary of State may carry out includes investigations and checks about (for example)—

- (a) the applicant's physical or mental health, and
- (b) the commission or alleged commission by the applicant of any offence (including cautions, or convictions, that are spent).

(7) The applicant, in making the application, is deemed to have consented to—

- (a) the carrying out of any investigation or checks that the Secretary of State thinks it appropriate to carry out in order to decide the application<sup>F4</sup>...

<sup>F4</sup>(b) .....

<sup>F5</sup>(8) .....

(9) The Secretary of State must notify the applicant of the Secretary of State's decision to grant or refuse the application as soon as reasonably practicable after the decision is taken.

(10) The notice under paragraph (9) must also inform the applicant of the right under regulation 4 to ask the Secretary of State to reconsider the decision.

(11) The Secretary of State may charge applicants a fee of the following amount—

- (a) for applications for the grant of a licence, a fee of £39.50, and
- (b) for applications to replace any lost, damaged or stolen licence, a fee of £25.

**F4** Reg. 3(7)(b) and word omitted (25.5.2018) by virtue of [Data Protection Act 2018 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 212(1), [Sch. 19 para. 383\(a\)](#) (with ss. 117, 209, 210); S.I. 2018/625, reg. 2(1)(g)

**F5** Reg. 3(8) omitted (25.5.2018) by virtue of [Data Protection Act 2018 \(c. 12\)](#), s. 212(1), [Sch. 19 para. 383\(b\)](#) (with ss. 117, 209, 210); S.I. 2018/625, reg. 2(1)(g)

#### **Internal review of decisions with regard to licences under section 4A of the Act**

4.—(1) This regulation applies if—

- (a) the Secretary of State makes a relevant decision, and
- (b) within 28 days beginning with the day on which the affected person is notified of the decision, the affected person asks the Secretary of State to reconsider the decision.

(2) The Secretary of State must carry out a review of the decision.

(3) Paragraphs (1) to (8) of regulation 3 apply to a request under this regulation as to an application under that regulation.

(4) On conclusion of the review, the Secretary of State must—

- (a) confirm the relevant decision (whether on the same or different grounds),
- (b) make whatever changes to the relevant decision the Secretary of State thinks fit, or
- (c) revoke the relevant decision.

(5) Subsections (6) to (9) of section 4A of the Act (which make provision about decisions to grant or amend a licence under that section) apply to a decision under paragraph (4) above so far as relating to the grant or amendment of a licence as to a decision under that section.

(6) A “relevant” decision is a decision—

- (a) to refuse an application for a licence,
- (b) to grant an application for a licence subject to any terms or conditions,
- (c) to refuse an application to amend a licence,

- (d) to grant an application to amend a licence subject to any terms or conditions, or
- (e) to vary, suspend or revoke a licence.

(7) The “affected person” is the applicant or, for a decision within paragraph (6)(e), the licence-holder.

## **PART 3**

### **PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO POISONS**

#### **Complete exemption for certain substances or articles**

5. Nothing in the Act or in these Regulations applies to a regulated or reportable poison—
- (a) so far as contained in a substance or article specified in Part 1 of the Schedule, or
  - (b) of a kind specified in the first column of the Table in Part 2 of the Schedule, so far as contained in, or used for a purpose described in, the corresponding entry in the second column of that Table.

#### **Record-keeping requirements**

- 6.—(1) A person who supplies a regulated poison to a trade, business or profession must comply with the record-keeping requirements before delivering the poison.
- (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply where the supply is by way of wholesale dealing.
- (3) For the purposes of paragraph (2), a person supplies a poison by way of wholesale dealing if the person sells the substance to a person who buys for the purpose of selling it again.
- (4) The “record keeping requirements” are that the person must—
- (a) make an entry (or cause an entry to be made) in a record to be kept by the person for the purposes of this regulation stating—
    - (i) the date of the supply,
    - (ii) the name and address of the trade, business or profession,
    - (iii) the name and quantity of the regulated poison supplied, and
    - (iv) the purposes for which it is stated by the trade, business or profession to be required, and
  - (b) ensure that the entry is signed by a person authorised on behalf of the trade, business or profession.

#### **Sale of poisons to retailers**

- 7.—(1) A regulated poison may be supplied by way of wholesale dealing to a retailer only if—
- (a) the supplier has reasonable grounds for believing that the retailer is lawfully conducting a retail pharmacy business, or
  - (b) the supplier has received a statement signed by the retailer, or by a person authorised on behalf of the retailer, stating that the retailer does not intend to sell the poison on any premises used for, or in connection with, the retailer's business.
- (2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), a person supplies a poison by way of wholesale dealing if the person sells the substance to a person who buys for the purpose of selling it again.
- (3) In paragraph (1), “retailer” means a person who carries on a retail business.

### **Storage of poisons in retail premises etc.**

8.—(1) A regulated poison or reportable poison may be stored in a retail shop, or in premises used in connection with a retail shop, only if—

- (a) it is stored in a cupboard or drawer reserved solely for the storage of poisons,
- (b) it is stored in a part of the premises that is partitioned off, or is otherwise separated from, the remainder of the premises and to which customers are not permitted to have access, or
- (c) it is stored on a shelf reserved solely for the storage of poisons and no food or drink is kept directly under the shelf.

(2) Paragraph (1) is subject to paragraph (3) in the case of a poison to be used in agriculture, horticulture or forestry.

(3) The poison—

- (a) may be stored in a cupboard or drawer only if reserved solely for the storage of poisons to be used in agriculture, horticulture or forestry;
- (b) may not be stored in any part of premises in which food or drink is kept;
- (c) may not be stored on any shelf.

### **Hydrogen cyanide: special precautions**

9.—(1) Compressed hydrogen cyanide may only be supplied in a container that is labelled with the words: “Warning. This container holds poisonous gas and should only be opened and used by persons having expert knowledge of the precautions to be taken in its use”.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to the supply of compressed hydrogen cyanide for export from the United Kingdom.

### **Preservation of records**

10. Any record kept for the purposes of the Act, or of these Regulations, must be retained for a period of three years from the date of the last entry made in the record.

Home Office

*James Brokenshire*  
Minister of State

SCHEDULE

Regulation 5

EXEMPT SUBSTANCES OR ARTICLES

**PART 1**

GENERAL EXEMPTIONS

Adhesives; anti-fouling compositions; builders' materials; ceramics; cosmetic products; distempers; electrical valves; enamels; explosives; fillers; fireworks; fluorescent lamps; flux in any form for use in soldering; glazes; glue; inks; lacquer solvents; loading materials; matches; medicated animal feeding stuffs; motor fuels and lubricants; paints; photographic paper; pigments; plastics; propellants; rubber; varnishes; vascular plants and their seeds.

For this purpose—

“cosmetic products” has the same meaning as in the Cosmetic Products Enforcement Regulations 2013 <sup>M2</sup>;

“medicated animal feeding stuff” means an animal feeding stuff in which a medicinal product has been incorporated or in which a substance other than a medicinal product has been incorporated for a medicinal purpose (and the terms “medicinal product”, “animal” and “medicinal purpose” have the same meanings as in Part 1 of the Human Medicines Regulations 2012 <sup>M3</sup>).

**Marginal Citations**

**M2** [S.I. 2013/1478](#).

**M3** [S.I. 2012/1916](#)

**Marginal Citations**

**M2** [S.I. 2013/1478](#).

**M3** [S.I. 2012/1916](#)

**PART 2**

SPECIAL EXEMPTIONS

**Table 1**

<i>Poison</i>	<i>Substance or article in which exempted</i>
Ammonia	Substances not being solutions of ammonia or preparations containing solutions of ammonia; substances containing less than 10%, weight in weight, of ammonia (NH); refrigerators

Arsenic; its compounds	Pyrites ores or sulphuric acid containing arsenic or compounds of arsenic as natural impurities; in reagent kits or reagent devices, supplied for medical or veterinary purposes, substances containing less than 0.1%, weight in weight, of arsanilic acid
Barium, salts of	Witherite other than finely ground witherite; barium carbonate bonded to charcoal for case hardening; fire extinguishers containing barium chloride; sealed smoke generators containing not more than 25%, weight in weight, of barium carbonate
Bromomethane	Fire extinguishers
Formaldehyde	Substances containing less than 5%, weight in weight, of formaldehyde (H.CHO); photographic glazing or hardening solutions
Formic acid	Substances containing less than 25%, weight in weight, of formic acid (H.COOH)
Hydrochloric acid	Substances containing less than 10%, weight in weight, of hydrochloric acid (HCl)
Hydrogen cyanide	Preparations of wild cherry; in reagent kits supplied for medical or veterinary purposes, substances containing less than the equivalent of 0.1%, weight in weight, of hydrogen cyanide (HCN)
Methomyl	Solid substances containing not more than 1%, weight in weight, of methomyl
Nicotine; its salts; its quaternary compounds	Tobacco; in cigarettes, the paper of a cigarette (excluding any part of that paper forming part of or surrounding a filter), where that paper in each cigarette does not have more than the equivalent of 10 milligrams of nicotine; preparations in aerosol dispensers containing not more than 0.2% of nicotine, weight in weight; other liquid preparations, and solid preparations with a soap base, containing not more than 7.5% of nicotine, weight in weight
Oxamyl	Granular preparations
Oxydemeton-methyl	Aerosol dispensers containing not more than 0.25%, weight in weight, of oxydemeton-methyl
Phenols	Liquid disinfectants and antiseptics containing less than 0.5% phenol and containing less than 5% of other phenols;  motor fuel treatments not containing phenol and containing less than 2.5% of other phenols; in

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Control of Poisons and Explosives Precursors Regulations 2015. (See end of Document for details)

	reagent kits supplied for medical or veterinary purposes;
	solid substances containing less than 60% of phenols;
	in tar oil distillation fractions containing not more than 5% of phenols;
Phosphoric acid	Substances containing phosphoric acid, not being descaling preparations containing more than 50%, weight in weight, of ortho-phosphoric acid
Potassium hydroxide	Substances containing the equivalent of less than 17% of total caustic alkalinity expressed as potassium hydroxide; accumulators; batteries
Sodium fluoride	Substances containing less than 3% of sodium fluoride as a preservative
Sodium hydroxide	Substances containing the equivalent of less than 12% of total caustic alkalinity expressed as sodium hydroxide
Sodium silicofluoride	Substances containing less than 3% of sodium silicofluoride as a preservative

1. A reference in this Part of this Schedule to the percentage of a poison contained in a substance or preparation is (unless otherwise provided) to be read in the way mentioned in paragraph (2).

2. If the reference is (for example) to a substance or preparation containing 1% of a poison, it means—

- (a) in the case of a solid, that one gram of the poison is contained in every 100 grams of the substance or preparation;
- (b) in the case of a liquid, that one millilitre of the poison or, if the poison is itself a solid, one gram of the poison, is contained in every 100 millilitres of the substance or preparation,

and this paragraph applies likewise in proportion for any greater or lesser percentage.

### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations make provision that supplements amendments made to the Poisons Act 1972 (c.66) (the 1972 Act) by section 90 of, and Schedule 21 to, the Deregulation Act 2015 (c. 20).

Regulation 2 modifies section 3A of the 1972 Act by making specific provision about the licence verification requirements with respect to the export of regulated substances (as defined in the 1972 Act) to another Member State or despatch of the same to Northern Ireland. It states that other



than provided for by this regulation nothing in section 3A applies to any export of a regulated substance from the United Kingdom.

Regulation 3 makes further provision about the licensing application process. A licence is required by individuals seeking to carry out an activity prohibited by section 3(2) of the 1972 Act. These provisions supplement section 4A of the 1972 Act.

Regulation 4 makes provision about internal reviews of decisions made in connection with the licensing application process.

Regulation 5 and the Schedule contain exemptions from the requirements of the 1972 Act and these Regulations in relation to certain substances or articles as specified in the Schedule.

Regulation 6 imposes certain record keeping requirements in relation to the supply of regulated poisons to a trade, business or profession.

Regulation 7 makes provision about the supply of regulated poisons to retailers by way of wholesale dealing.

Regulation 8 provides for storage requirements applicable to both regulated and reportable poisons. In essence, these may be stored in a retail shop or in premises used in connection with a retail shop only if the conditions set out in that regulation are satisfied.

Regulation 9 requires the inclusion of a warning label on a container comprising compressed hydrogen cyanide in the circumstances specified.

Regulation 10 contains provision about the minimum period for which records made for the purposes of complying with the requirements of the 1972 Act or these Regulations must be kept.

A full regulatory impact assessment of the effect of the changes introduced by the 1972 Act and these Regulations, on the costs of business and the voluntary sector is available from the Home Office, and is annexed to the Explanatory Memorandum which is available alongside the instrument on [www.legislation.gov.uk](http://www.legislation.gov.uk).

**Changes to legislation:**

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