(13) MEDICAL AND GENERAL WELFARE

1956 No. 1774

The Coal and Other Mines (First Aid) 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 amongst other things (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) provisions of any regulation having effect by virtue of section eighty-six of the Coal Mines Act, 1911(b), 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 schedule hereto, being provisions of the Coal Mines General Regulations (First Aid), 1930(c), and the Coal Mines (First Aid) Amending Regulations, 1937(d), 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 schedule hereto may be cited as the Coal and Other Mines (First Aid) Regulations, 1956.

2. Any sanction or notice given for the purposes of a provision of the said regulations of 1930 shall, if in force at the commencement of the Act and so far as it could have been given for the purposes of the Coal and Other Mines (First Aid) Regulations, 1956 (whether by that instrument or an instrument to the like effect), have effect as if it had been so given.

(a) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 70. (b) 1 & 2 Geo. 5. c. 50.
(c) S.R. & O. 1930/91 (Rev. IV, p. 376: 1930, p. 168).
(d) S.R. & O. 1937/548 (Rev. IV, p. 381: 1937, p. 394).

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

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

Aubrey Jones,
Minister of Fuel and Power.

SCHEDULE

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

Arrangement of Regulations

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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 "mine" means such a mine.

PART II

Surface organisation

2.—(1) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine at which at any one time there are more than one hundred persons at work to secure provision on the surface thereat of a suitable first aid room of easy approach and complying with the following provisions of this regulation.

(2) Every such first aid room shall—

(*a*) be near to a shaft or outlet normally used by persons employed below ground;

(*b*) be used only for first aid and ambulance work and be separated from accommodation used for any other purpose;

(*c*) have a floor area not less than one hundred square feet;

(*d*) be adequately heated and lighted and kept clean and properly maintained; and

(*e*) be clearly distinguished by the words "First Aid" on the door.

(3) Every such first aid room shall contain—

(*a*) a stretcher with blankets and hot-water bottles and a table of convenient height large enough to stand the stretcher on;

(*b*) a bench or chairs;

(*c*) a glazed sink with hot and cold water readily available;

(*d*) soap, towels and a nail brush;

(*e*) sterilized dressings, bandages and adhesive plaster ;

(*f*) suitable antiseptic and eyedrops ;

(*g*) splints (four and a half feet, three feet and one foot), the appropriate triangular bandages therefor and splint padding ;

(*h*) a tourniquet, scissors, camel-hair brushes and safety-pins ;

(*i*) drinking water and a bottle of meat extract, coffee extract or other stimulant and a drinking vessel.

3.—(1) The manager of every mine at which a first aid room is required to be provided shall appoint persons to be in charge thereof, each of whom shall be a registered medical practitioner, registered nurse or the holder of a certificate of proficiency in first aid granted by a society or body approved by the Minister for the purpose, so that such a person is readily available at all times at which any person is working at the mine.

(2) Every person appointed to be in charge of a first aid room shall record particulars of each case treated thereat while he is on duty specifying the time and date, the name of the person treated, the nature of the injury or sickness and the name of the person administering the treatment.

4.—(1) It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine at which a first aid room complying with regulation two is not required to be provided to secure that there is constantly available under shelter suitable accommodation on the surface at which first aid can be rendered to persons who while employed at the mine suffer bodily injury or become ill and where such persons can be protected from exposure.

(2) At such accommodation or in some other suitable place there shall be provided—

(*a*) a stretcher with blankets and hot-water bottles ;

(*b*) splints (four and a half feet, three feet and one foot), the appropriate triangular bandages therefor and splint padding ;

(*c*) a first aid box distinctively marked " First Aid " and containing a copy of any first aid leaflet approved or designated for the purpose by the Minister but otherwise containing nothing except first aid requisites or appliances.

(3) Each such first aid box shall contain—

(*a*) sterilized dressings of large and small sizes including non-medicated burn dressings ;

(*b*) sterilized cotton wool in half ounce packets and adhesive plaster ;

(*c*) roller bandages ;

(*d*) suitable antiseptic and eyedrops ;

(*e*) a tourniquet, scissors and safety-pins ;

(*f*) a bottle of meat extract, coffee extract or other stimulant and a drinking vessel.

(4) The manager shall appoint responsible persons to be in charge of such accommodation and equipment so that such a person is readily available at all times at which any person is working at the mine.

PART III

Underground organisation

5.—(1) Subject to the provisions of regulation eight, it shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to appoint persons, who hold certificates of proficiency in first aid granted by a society or body approved by the Minister for the purpose, and to make arrangements to secure that—

(*a*) there is in each deputy's district on each shift one such person for each fifty persons, and one such person for any person or persons not thus taken into account, in the total number of persons wholly or mainly employed in that district on that shift ; and

(*b*) there is in the remainder of the mine below ground on each shift one such person for each thirty persons, and one such person for any person or persons not thus taken into account, in the total number of persons wholly or mainly employed therein on that shift.

(2) In any prosecution for a contravention of the last preceding paragraph, it shall be a defence to prove that the manager has made the necessary arrangements for the training of a sufficient number of persons and made reasonable efforts to induce appropriate persons to be trained and that the failure to comply fully was due to an insufficiency of persons able and willing to acquire the requisite qualification.

(3) There shall be provided in the covered accommodation provided in accordance with section one hundred and thirty-five of the Act and in the first aid room (if any) a notice stating the names of the persons for the time being appointed in pursuance of paragraph (1) of this regulation.

6.—(1) Subject to the provisions of regulation eight, it shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements whereby dressings and antiseptic for use therewith provided by the owner of the mine are available for use below ground in one or both of the following ways, that is to say—

(*a*) every person employed below ground has with him a first aid outfit securely packed to protect it against damage, dirt and wet and consisting of one large sterilized dressing, one small sterilized dressing and an ampoule of suitable antiseptic;

(*b*) every person designated to secure compliance with paragraph (1) of the last preceding regulation on that shift has readily available to him a first aid box marked with the words "First Aid" and containing nothing except first aid requisites or appliances.

(2) Each such first aid outfit or first aid box shall be taken to the surface by the person in charge of it at the end of his shift, and the manager shall make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure that before re-issue it is examined, and where necessary replenished, by a competent person appointed by him.

(3) Each such first aid box shall contain—

(*a*) not less than four large sterilized dressings including not less than one non-medicated burn dressing;

(*b*) not less than six small sterilized dressings; and

(*c*) not less than three ampoules of suitable antiseptic.

7.—(1) Subject to the provisions of regulation eight, it shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to secure the provision at suitable places below ground throughout the mine of—

(*a*) suitable stretchers;

(*b*) splints (four and a half feet, three feet and one foot), the appropriate triangular bandages therefor and splint padding;

(*c*) a tourniquet; and

(*d*) except where first aid boxes are available in pursuance of the last preceding regulation, non-medicated burn dressings.

(2) Any stretcher kept in a wet or damp place shall be constructed of rot-proof or rust-proof material, and any other article provided in pursuance of the last preceding paragraph shall be kept in a suitable box marked with the words "First Aid".

8. The preceding provisions of this Part of these regulations shall not apply to—

(*a*) a mine consisting of a shaft or unwalkable outlet in the course of being sunk or driven; or

(*b*) a mine at which less than thirty persons are employed below ground other than a mine with respect to which there is for the time being in force a direction given by an inspector by notice served on the manager, on the ground that the surface organisation and equipment thereat are not sufficient to ensure prompt first aid treatment below ground, that the preceding provisions of this Part of these regulations shall apply thereto.

PART IV

Ambulances

9.—(1) The owner of every mine shall make such arrangements as will provide an effective motor ambulance service for the conveyance, where necessary, to hospitals or their homes of persons who while employed at the mine suffer bodily injury or become ill.

(2) Arrangements shall be deemed not to comply with the provisions of the last preceding paragraph unless a sufficient number of motor ambulances are (when not in actual use)—

(*a*) in constant readiness for use with a driver readily available ;

(*b*) stationed at a base not more than ten miles by road from the entrance to the mine ; and

(*c*) in the case of a mine at which more than ten persons are employed below ground, stationed at a base in telephonic communication with the mine :

Provided that if an inspector is of opinion that it is impracticable in the case of any mine for the owner to make such arrangements he may by notice served on the owner authorise—

(i) arrangements in which the ambulances are stationed at a base which is more than ten miles from the mine or which is not in telephonic communication with the mine ; or

(ii) such other not less effective arrangements as the owner may be able to make.

PART V

General

Means of conveyance through shafts and unwalkable outlets

10. It shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to secure the provision thereat of a suitable appliance to minimise discomfort and prevent aggravation of any injury at—

(*a*) every shaft or unwalkable outlet through which injured persons are raised and in which the cage or carriage is not large enough to permit of a stretcher being laid flat therein ;

(*b*) every shaft or unwalkable outlet through which persons are raised otherwise than in a cage or carriage in pursuance of an exemption given by an inspector ; and

(*c*) every shaft or unwalkable outlet in the course of being sunk or driven.

Maintenance of accommodation and equipment

11. It shall be the duty of the manager to make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements whereby all accommodation and equipment provided in pursuance of these regulations is inspected by competent persons appointed by him at such intervals as to secure that any defect or deficiency is promptly brought to his notice and remedied, and such arrangements shall in particular ensure prompt replacement of any materials which have been used.

Standard of dressings

12. Every dressing provided in pursuance of these regulations and in respect of which a standard is specified in the British Pharmaceutical Codex shall comply in all respects with that standard.

13. The provisions of these regulations with regard to the provision of facilities and equipment for the purpose of rendering first aid shall be without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) of section ninety-one of the Act.

Interpretation

14.—(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's district " has the meaning assigned thereto in the Coal and Other Mines (Managers and Officials) Regulations, 1956(a) ;

" mine " has the meaning assigned thereto in regulation one.

(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(b), shall apply to the interpretation of these regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

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 which will cease to have effect at the commencement of the Act.

The provisions set out as regulations in the schedule to this order apply to mines of coal, stratified ironstone, shale and fireclay. These regulations require the provision on the surface, at all such mines at which at any one time there are more than 100 persons at work, of a suitable first aid room, equipped as specified in the regulations, and the appointment of suitably qualified persons to be in charge thereof (regs. 2 and 3). At other such mines suitable covered accommodation at which first aid can be rendered must be provided at the surface, with equipment available as specified, and responsible persons must be appointed to be in charge thereof (reg. 4). The regulations also require the appointment of certificated persons for rendering first aid below ground (reg. 5) ; the provision of individual first aid outfits, first aid boxes, stretchers, and other first aid equipment, for use below ground (regs. 6 and 7) ; the provision of a motor ambulance service (reg. 9) and of an appliance for carrying injured persons through certain shafts and unwalkable outlets (reg. 10) ; and the inspection and maintenance of all the accommodation and equipment provided for the purpose of first aid (reg. 11). The regulations comprise, and will at the commencement of the Act replace, provisions of the Coal Mines General Regulations (First Aid), 1930, and the Coal Mines (First Aid) Amending Regulations, 1937.

(a) S.I. 1956/1758 (p. 1212 above). (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.