1970. No. 131 **[C]**

COAL AND OTHER MINES

First-Aid

REGULATIONS, DATED 1ST JUNE 1970, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE UNDER SECTIONS 91(2) AND 120 OF THE MINES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1969.

WHEREAS in pursuance of Part I of Schedule 2 to the Mines Act (Northern Ireland) 1969(a) the Ministry of Commerce has published notice of its intention to make the following regulations and has not received any objection to the draft thereof in respect to which it is required to refer the draft regulations for inquiry and report:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Ministry of Commerce in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 91(2) and 120 of the Mines Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

PART I

GENERAL

Citation

1. These regulations may be cited as the Coal and Other Mines (First-Aid) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970.

Application

2. These regulations shall apply (except where the contrary is provided) to every mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay and in these regulations "mine" means such a mine.

Interpretation

3.—(1) In these regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say—

"the Act" means the Mines Act (Northern Ireland) 1969;

"deputy's district" has the meaning assigned thereto in the Coal and Other Mines (Managers and Officials) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970(b);

"enrolled nurse" means a person enrolled in the roll of nurses maintained for Northern Ireland under section 2(1)(*b*) of the Nurses and Midwives Act (Northern Ireland) 1959(c) or in either the roll of nurses maintained for England and Wales under section 2(1)(*b*) of the Nurses Act 1957(d) or the roll of nurses maintained for Scotland under section 3(1) of the Nurses (Scotland) Act 1951(e);

"mine" has the meaning assigned thereto in regulation 2;

"the Ministry" means the Ministry of Commerce;

(a) 1969. c. 6 (N.I.).
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1970, No. 128.
(c) 1959. c. 19.
(d) 5 & 6 El. 2. c. 15.
(e) 14 & 15 Geo. 6. c. 55.

"registered medical practitioner" has the same meaning as is assigned to the expression "fully registered person" in section 54 of the Medical Act 1956(f);

"registered nurse" means a person registered in the general part of the register maintained for Northern Ireland under section 2(1)(*a*) of the Nurses and Midwives Act (Northern Ireland) 1959, or in either the general part of the register maintained for England and Wales under section 2(1)(*a*) of the Nurses Act 1957, or the general part of the register maintained for Scotland under section 2 of the Nurses (Scotland) Act 1951;

"training organisation" means a society or body within the meaning of the First-Aid (Standard of Training) Order (Northern Ireland) 1960(g).

(2) For the purposes of regulations 5(3), 7(4), 10(1) and 17, "approved" means approved for the time being for the purposes of the First-Aid Boxes in Factories Order (Northern Ireland) 1960(h).

(3) 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.

Exemptions

4. The Ministry may by notice served on the manager of any mine exempt that mine, or any part thereof from the application of any provision of these regulations if an inspector is satisfied that the comfort and health of any person who, while employed at the mine, suffers bodily injury or becomes ill, will not be prejudiced by the granting of the exemption.

PART II

SURFACE ORGANISATION

First-aid room

5.—(1) The manager of every mine at which at any one time there are more than fifty persons at work shall secure the provision on the surface thereat of—

(*a*) a first-aid room which shall—

(i) be so situated that it is near to, and there is easy access thereto from, a shaft or outlet normally used by persons employed below ground thereat, and that ambulances may approach it without difficulty, and that it does not communicate with any sanitary conveniences except through a ventilated space;

(ii) have a floor area of not less than one hundred and fifty square feet;

(iii) have interior surfaces which may easily be kept in a clean and dust free condition;

(iv) be fitted with a glazed, stainless steel or other suitable sink and suitable drainage therefor, and a telephone connected to the telephone system of the mine; and

(v) be easily identifiable from the outside by the prominent display of the words "First-Aid" or "Medical Centre";

(f) 4 & 5 El. 2. c. 76.
(g) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1960, No. 180.
(h) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1960, No. 86.

(*b*) waiting accommodation which shall—

(i) be so situated that there is convenient access to the first-aid room therefrom;

(ii) be indoors; and

(iii) be furnished with seats; and

(*c*) sanitary conveniences which shall be situated near the first-aid room unless there is easy access to constantly available sanitary conveniences therefrom.

(2) The manager of every mine at which a first-aid room is provided pursuant to paragraph (1) of this regulation shall make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure that—

(*a*) the first-aid room—

(i) is used exclusively for first-aid or medical work;

(ii) is provided with adequate means for its heating and lighting and is kept ventilated by clean and fresh air;

(iii) is kept clean and properly maintained; and

(iv) has readily available hot and cold running water;

(*b*) the waiting accommodation provided pursuant to sub-paragraph (*b*) of the preceding paragraph—

(i) is provided with adequate means for its heating and lighting and is kept ventilated by clean and fresh air; and

(ii) is kept clean and properly maintained;

(*c*) any sanitary conveniences provided pursuant to sub-paragraph (*c*) of the preceding paragraph—

(i) are provided with adequate means for their lighting; and

(ii) are kept clean and properly maintained.

(3) In every such first-aid room there shall be provided—

(*a*) a stretcher and separate facilities for its support at carrying level when loaded, blankets and hot-water bottles;

(*b*) a couch and either a bench or at least two chairs;

(*c*) splints suitable for the immobilisation of any injured limb and appropriate bandages and padding therefor;

(*d*) suitably filled sandbags in waterproof coverings, being sandbags designed to prevent the movement of broken bones;

(*e*) an adequate supply of wholesome drinking water;

(*f*) plain wound dressings and roller bandages;

(*g*) sterilized cotton wool in half ounce packets and adhesive wound dressings of an approved type;

(*h*) approved eye ointment in a container of an approved type and size, sterilized eye pads in separate sealed packets and a bottle suitable for washing eyes;

(*i*) a rubber bandage or pressure bandage, scissors and safety pins;

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

(*k*) clean white aprons, coats or overalls suitable for use by persons rendering first-aid.

6. The manager of every mine at which a first-aid room is provided pursuant to regulation 5(1) shall appoint persons to be in charge thereof, each of whom shall be a registered medical practitioner, a registered nurse, an enrolled nurse, or subject to regulation 19 a holder of a qualification in first-aid issued by a training organisation, and shall make arrangements to secure that one such person is on duty in the first-aid room while the main body of workmen is entering or leaving the mine and is readily available while any person is working at the mine.

First-aid accommodation at smaller mines

7.—(1) The manager of every mine other than a mine referred to in regulation 5(1) shall ensure that there is constantly available on the surface thereat or adjacent thereto a room where first-aid may be rendered to persons who while employed at the mine suffer bodily injury or become ill, which room shall—

(*a*) be provided with adequate means for its heating and lighting;

(*b*) have interior surfaces which may easily be kept in a clean and dust free condition; and

(*c*) have readily available hot and cold water.

(2) The manager of every such mine shall make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure that the room is kept clean and properly maintained, and ventilated by clean and fresh air.

(3) In every such room or in some other suitable place there shall be provided—

(*a*) a stretcher and separate facilities for its support at carrying level when loaded, blankets and hot-water bottles;

(*b*) a couch and either a bench or at least two chairs;

(*c*) splints suitable for the immobilisation of any injured limb and appropriate bandages and padding therefor;

(*d*) suitably filled sandbags in waterproof coverings, being sandbags designed to prevent the movement of broken bones;

(*e*) an adequate supply of wholesome drinking water;

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

(*g*) a first-aid box clearly marked "First-Aid" and containing only first-aid materials including the materials specified in the next following paragraph and one copy of the current leaflet giving advice on first-aid treatment issued by the Ministry of Health and Social Services for purposes of Factories legislation.

(4) Each such first-aid box shall contain—

(*a*) plain wound dressings of large, medium and small sizes, and roller bandages;

(*b*) sterilized cotton wool in half ounce packets and adhesive wound dressings, of an approved type;

(*c*) approved eye ointment in a container of an approved type and size, sterilized eye pads in separate sealed packets and a bottle suitable for washing eyes; and

(*d*) a rubber bandage or pressure bandage, scissors and safety pins.

(5) The manager of every such mine shall appoint persons to be in charge of the room and equipment therein each of whom shall be, subject to regulation 19, a holder of a qualification in first-aid issued by a training organisation, and shall make arrangements to secure that one such person is readily available while any person is working at the mine.

PART III

UNDERGROUND ORGANISATION

8. This Part of these regulations shall not apply to—

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

(*b*) a mine, other than such a mine as is described in paragraph (*a*), at which the total number of persons employed below ground is less than thirty:

Provided that the Ministry, if an inspector is of the opinion that the organisation of first-aid or first-aid equipment provided on the surface of any such mine as is mentioned in paragraph (*b*) of this regulation is inadequate to ensure prompt first-aid treatment below ground, may by notice served on the manager thereof, require him to comply with the provisions of this Part of these regulations, and this Part of these regulations shall apply to that mine until that notice is withdrawn.

9.—(1) The manager of every mine to which this Part of these regulations applies shall appoint persons for the purposes of this regulation, being persons who, subject to regulation 19, hold a qualification in first-aid issued by a training organisation, and shall make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure that—

(*a*) there is in each deputy's district on each shift one person so appointed 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 person so appointed for each thirty persons, and one person so appointed 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) The arrangements mentioned in the preceding paragraph shall include in any case where the manager of a mine is unable to appoint a sufficient number of persons to enable him to comply with the provisions of sub-paragraphs (*a*) and (*b*) of that paragraph—

(*a*) the provision of facilities for the training in first-aid of a sufficient number of persons and the making of reasonable efforts to induce appropriate persons to be so trained; and

(*b*) the making of reasonable efforts to induce persons with the requisite qualifications to accept the appointment, where such persons are available.

(3) In any prosecution for a contravention of the provisions of paragraph (1) of this regulation it shall be a defence to prove that the failure to comply with the provisions was due to either—

(*a*) an insufficiency of persons with the requisite qualifications; or

(*b*) an insufficiency of persons with the requisite qualifications willing to accept the appointment;

and that the manager of the mine has made and ensured the efficient carrying out of the arrangements specified in the last preceding paragraph.

(4) There shall be provided in the covered accommodation provided in pursuance of section 114 of the Act and in the first-aid room provided in pursuance of regulation 5(1) or the room provided in pursuance of regulation 7(1) (as the case may be) a notice stating the names of the persons for the time being appointed in pursuance of paragraph (1) of this regulation.

10.—(1) The manager of every mine to which this Part of these regulations applies shall make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure that each person required to be in any deputy's district or in the remainder of the mine below ground by regulation 9(1), is in charge of and has readily available to him a first-aid container which shall—

(*a*) be marked with the words "First-Aid"; and

(*b*) contain only first-aid materials including not less than—

(i) two large plain wound dressings;

(ii) two small plain wound dressings; and

(iii) six adhesive wound dressings of an approved type and of assorted sizes.

(2) Each person in charge of a first-aid container in pursuance of the preceding paragraph shall at the end of his shift deliver it to a place appointed by the manager, and the manager shall appoint a suitable place for the purpose and shall make arrangements to secure that each first-aid container so delivered at the end of a shift to such place is examined by a competent person and, where necessary, replenished by that person, before it is reissued.

First-aid stations

11.—(1) The manager of every mine to which this Part of these regulations applies shall ensure that there shall be at all times in force a scheme specifying positions in the mine suitable to be used as places for the storage of first-aid materials (hereinafter referred to as "first-aid stations"), and he shall ensure that first-aid stations are provided at each position so specified.

(2) Each such scheme shall provide for the provision of first-aid stations at appropriate positions in relation to—

(*a*) each working face and other parts of each deputy's district;

(*b*) each road in which persons travel or work, otherwise than occasionally or for short periods; and

(*c*) the pit bottom.

(3) Each such scheme or a copy thereof shall be kept at the office of the mine or at such other place as the Ministry may approve.

(4) If an inspector is of the opinion that it is desirable that the scheme should be amended, the Ministry may serve on the manager a notice requiring him to make such amendment to the scheme as may be specified in the notice.

(5) The provisions of Part XIII of the Act with respect to references upon notices served by the Ministry shall apply to a notice served under the last preceding paragraph, and the relevant grounds of objection shall be that compliance with any requirement sought to be imposed by, or by virtue of the notice, is wholly, or to a particular extent, unnecessary, inadvisable for reasons of safety or impracticable.

12.—(1) The manager shall make arrangements to secure that there are provided and maintained in good order and ready for immediate use at each first-aid station—

(*a*) a suitable stretcher and blankets adequately protected against dust and dampness;

(*b*) splints suitable for the immobilisation of any injured limb;

(*c*) a suitable container, marked with the words "First-Aid" and containing appropriate bandages and padding for use with the splints, not less than six large plain wound dressings, and a rubber bandage or pressure bandage; and

(*d*) two small clean sandbags for use when suitably filled in cases of head and neck injuries.

(2) The manager shall make and ensure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure that—

(*a*) a notice, clearly inscribed with the words "First-Aid Station" and prominently placed in the road in which the first-aid station is situated, or from which the first-aid station is accessible, indicates the position of each first-aid station; and

(*b*) the position of each first-aid station is marked on—

(i) the sketch of the mine provided pursuant to regulation 12 of the Coal and Other Mines (Surveyors and Plans) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970(**i**); and

(ii) the appropriate plan provided pursuant to regulation 19 of the Coal and Other Mines (Fire and Rescue) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970(**j**).

PART IV

CONVEYANCE OF INJURED OR SICK PERSONS

13. The manager of every mine to which Part III of these regulations applies shall make arrangements to secure the provision below ground thereat of a wheeled carriage, suitable for underground conditions and methods of transport and for conveying an injured or sick person to the bottom of the shaft or unwalkable outlet through which such a person is to be raised to the surface or where such a person is to be conveyed through a walkable outlet, to the surface.

14. The manager of every mine shall make arrangements to secure the provision of a suitable appliance for the safe conveyance of injured or sick persons—

(*a*) at every shaft, staple-pit or unwalkable outlet through which injured or sick persons may be carried and in which the cage or carriage is not large enough to permit of a stretcher being laid flat therein;

(*b*) at every shaft, staple-pit or unwalkable outlet through which persons are carried otherwise than in a cage or carriage;

(*c*) at every shaft, staple-pit or unwalkable outlet in the course of being sunk or driven; and

(*d*) in every mine containing workings of a gradient 1:5 or more.

Ambulances

15. The owner of every mine shall make such arrangements as will secure that—

(*a*) an effective motor ambulance service is available for the conveyance, where necessary, to hospitals or their homes of persons who while employed at the mine suffer bodily injury or become ill;

(*b*) there is always readily available at the mine, while any person is working thereat, a competent person whose duty it is to summon an ambulance if needed in cases of injury or illness.

(**i**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1970, No. 135. (**j**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1970, No. 129.

PART V

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Maintenance of accommodation and equipment

16. The manager of every mine shall make and secure the efficient carrying out of arrangements to secure that all accommodation, equipment, materials and appliances provided in pursuance of any provision of these regulations, other than any first-aid container in a person's charge in pursuance of regulation 10(1), are inspected by a competent person appointed by him for the purpose at suitable intervals, which, in the case of any equipment, materials and appliances provided below ground in the mine, shall not exceed seven days, and which, in any other case, shall not exceed such intervals as the manager may appoint, and such competent person shall forthwith cause any defect which he discovers in any equipment or appliance to be remedied, and any materials, equipment or appliances which he discovers are missing or have been used, to be replaced.

Standard of dressings

17. Every dressing provided in pursuance of these regulations and in respect of which a standard is specified in the British Pharmaceutical Codex, including any supplement thereto, being a supplement current at the date of these regulations or approved for the purposes of this regulation, shall be of a grade or quality not lower than that standard.

Facilities and equipment

18. 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 section 91(1) of the Act.

First-aid qualifications

19.—(1) After the 31st May 1972, no person who is qualified to be appointed for the purposes of regulation 6 or of regulation 7(5) or of regulation 9(1) solely by reason of a qualification in first-aid issued by a training organisation shall be appointed for any of such purposes unless he has held such qualification for not more than three years.

(2) After the 31st May 1972, any person so qualified and appointed for any of such purposes shall cease to hold such an appointment when he has held his most recent qualification for a period of three years:

Provided that where it is not practicable for a person so appointed to be examined with a view to obtaining a fresh qualification from a training organisation within three months next preceding the expiration of that period, he may continue to hold that appointment until the expiration of a further period of three months or until he has been so examined whichever is the sooner.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Commerce for Northern Ireland this 1st day of June 1970 in the presence of

(L.S.)

J. H. Armstrong,
Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These regulations prescribe arrangements to be made and facilities and equipment to be provided at mines of coal, stratified ironstone, shale and fireclay in regard to first-aid and in particular deal with surface and underground organisation relating to first-aid treatment and with the conveyance of injured or sick persons at such mines.