STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1961 No. 794

MINES AND QUARRIES

The Coal and Other Mines (Mechanics and Electricians) (Variation) Regulations, 1961

Made - - - -	*24th April*, 1961
Laid before Parliament	*27th April*, 1961
Coming into Operation	*1st May*, 1961

The Minister of Power, in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by section one hundred and forty-one and subsection (1) of section one hundred and forty-three of the Mines and Quarries Act, 1954(a), and of all other powers him enabling, hereby makes the following regulations:—

1. These regulations shall come into operation on the first day of May, nineteen hundred and sixty-one, and may be cited as the Coal and Other Mines (Mechanics and Electricians) (Variation) Regulations, 1961.

2. The Coal and other Mines (Mechanics and Electricians) (Variation) (No. 2) Regulations, 1958(b), are hereby revoked.

3. The Coal and Other Mines (Mechanics and Electricians) Regulations, 1956(c), as varied(d), (hereinafter referred to as "the principal regulations") shall be further varied in accordance with the two next following regulations.

4. For paragraph (3) of regulation eight of the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following paragraph:—

"(3) No person shall commence or do any work upon any conductor, or in proximity to an exposed conductor, being in either case a conductor in a circuit in which the voltage exceeds twenty-five, unless an electrician of the mine has ensured that the conductor has been made dead and has taken any necessary steps by earthing or otherwise to ensure that it will remain dead whilst the work in question is being carried out:

Provided that the provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to—

(*a*) the cleaning of a commutator or slip-rings, if the electrical engineer or electrician in charge has taken any necessary steps to ensure that the voltage between no two brushes of the apparatus being cleaned will exceed six hundred and fifty whilst the cleaning is in progress;

(a) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 70.
(b) S.I. 1958/2222 (1958 I, p. 1511).
(c) S.I. 1956/1759 (1956 I, p. 1223).
(d) S.I. 1958/1597 (1958 I, p. 1507).

(*b*) work on, or in proximity to, telephone and signalling apparatus or a conductor in or connected to apparatus which is such that, by reason of the inherent nature of the apparatus, it is impracticable for the conductor to be made dead whilst the work in question is being carried out;

(*c*) the use of any electrical instrument, other than a test lamp, for testing a circuit on the surface of the mine where the test is being made in a workshop or on a circuit which forms part of an electric winding apparatus;

(*d*) the use of any electrical instrument for testing insulation resistance or conductance."

5. For paragraph (2) of regulation thirteen of the principal regulations there shall be substituted the following paragraph:—

"(2) No mechanic for a mine of coal, shale or fireclay or electrician for a mine of coal, shale or fireclay shall be qualified to take charge at such a mine when the mechanical engineer or mechanic in charge or the electrical engineer or electrician in charge, as the case may be, is not on duty unless—

(*a*) he is at least twenty-three years of age and is the holder of such a certificate as is described in paragraph (1) of regulation twelve, being a certificate prescribed by that paragraph as a qualification for appointment as the mechanical engineer or mechanic in charge or the electrical engineer or electrician in charge, as the case may be, for a mine to which that paragraph relates; or

(*b*) he is the holder of a service certificate, signed by the manager of the relevant mine not later than the thirty-first day of July, nineteen hundred and sixty-one, showing that on at least ninety working days between the first day of January, nineteen hundred and fifty-six and the thirtieth day of April, nineteen hundred and sixty-one, he took charge at such a mine, being a mine at which the total number of prime movers or electric motors, as the case may be, exceeded seventy-five, when the mechanical engineer or the mechanic in charge or the electrical engineer or electrician in charge, as the case may be, was not on duty."

6. The Coal and Other Mines (Mechanics and Electricians) (Variation) Regulations, 1958(a), shall be varied by the deletion of paragraph (2) of regulation five thereof.

Dated this twenty-fourth day of April, nineteen hundred and sixty-one.

Richard Wood,
Minister of Power.

(a) S.I. 1958/1597 (1958 I, p. 1507).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These regulations which are made under s. 141 and s. 143 (1) of the Mines and Quarries Act, 1954, vary the Coal and Other Mines (Mechanics and Electricians) Regulations, 1956, as varied, in two respects. Para. (3) of reg. 8 of the 1956 Regulations provides that no person shall commence work upon certain conductors or in proximity to certain conductors at mines of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay, unless certain precautions are taken. Certain types of work are excepted from the paragraph. Reg. 4 of these regulations substitutes for that paragraph a provision creating further exceptions. Para. (2) of reg. 13 of the 1956 Regulations, as varied, prescribes the qualifications required by mechanics or electricians for mines of coal, shale or fireclay who after the 30th June, 1960, take charge at such mines when the mechanical engineer or mechanic in charge or electrical engineer or electrician in charge is not on duty. Reg. 5 of these regulations substitutes a provision prescribing alternative qualifications for such mechanics or electricians who take charge in such circumstances.