or at the beginning and end of a shift by not less than 10 persons for the purpose of walking to or from their working places in the mine, it is the duty of the manager to fix a period or periods for the purpose of enabling them to do so in safety and that during such a period no person may cause or permit a vehicle to move otherwise than by those means in such a length of road.

The subsection enables regulations to be made exempting from this requirement lengths of road to which the regulations apply and these regulations exempt for a period of 5 years beginning with the commencement of the Act lengths of road in which the gradients and the maximum speed of vehicles (specified in transport rules made under section 37 of the Act) do not exceed those specified in regulation 2.

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(4) SUPPORT

1956 No. 1763

The Coal and Other Mines (Support) 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 (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)—

(*a*) provisions of any regulation having effect by virtue of section eighty-six of the Coal Mines Act, 1911(**b**);

(*b*) provisions of any enactment repealed by section one hundred and eighty-nine of the Act in so far as that enactment is not re-enacted in the Act;

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 first schedule hereto, being provisions of regulations and enactments specified in the second schedule hereto subject to such modifications as aforesaid, are hereby re-enacted and shall

(**a**) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 70. (**b**) 1 & 2 Geo. 5. c. 50.

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 first schedule hereto may be cited as the Coal and Other Mines (Support) Regulations, 1956.

2. Any exemption or authority granted for the purpose of a provision specified in the second schedule hereto, shall, if in force at the commencement of the Act and so far as it could have been granted for the purposes of the Coal and Other Mines (Support) Regulations, 1956, have effect as if it had been so granted.

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

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

Aubrey Jones,
Minister of Fuel and Power.

FIRST SCHEDULE

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

Arrangement of Regulations

PART I.	Application	Reg. 1
PART II.	General provisions relating to erection of supports	Regs. 2 to 5
PART III.	Provisions relating to systematic support at faces and roadheads	Regs 6 to 11
PART IV.	Miscellaneous provisions	Regs. 12 to 17

PART I

Application

1. These regulations shall apply to every mine of coal, shale or fireclay, and in these regulations " mine " means such a mine.

PART II

General provisions relating to erection of supports

Props

2.—(1) Any person setting a prop to support the roof or side of any place in a mine shall set it securely and on a proper foundation.

(2) If it appears to any person whose duties include the setting of props in any part of the mine that any prop in that part of the mine has become broken or unstable, he shall forthwith replace or make stable that prop or, if he is unable so to do, shall report the condition thereof forthwith to the person for the time being in charge of that part of the mine.

(3) It shall be the duty of the person for the time being in charge of any part of a mine to take all reasonable steps to ensure that any prop therein which becomes broken or unstable is forthwith replaced or made stable.

3.—(1) Any person setting a prop in a face working or roadhead in a mine shall insert between the top of the prop and the roof or bar above it a suitable wooden lid of adequate thickness and of sufficient size to cover the whole top of the prop.

(2) Nothing in the last preceding paragraph shall require the use of a lid above—

(*a*) a prop set under a wooden bar, unless the support rules relating thereto otherwise provide ; or

(*b*) a prop set under any other bar, being a prop so constructed as to yield to pressure to the appropriate extent and provided with means to prevent the prop slipping from the bar ; or

(*c*) a prop set for the purpose of inducing a roof break.

(3) An inspector may by notice served on the manager of a mine exempt that mine or a part thereof from the application of this regulation if he is satisfied that the use of such lids therein is unnecessary.

Chocks

4.—(1) Any person building a chock which is to form part of a system of support in a mine shall build it on the natural floor and make it tight to the roof.

(2) No person shall include as a main member in such a chock timber other than timber which has flat bearing surfaces where it is in contact with any other main member, otherwise than in a chock which is intended to be left in a pack or in the waste.

Packs

5. Any person building a pack which is to form part of a system of support in a mine shall so far as is practicable make it tight to the roof over its whole area and, wherever a pack is being built by hand or by hand tools, shall build the walls thereof on the natural floor and fill it with debris.

PART III

Provisions relating to systematic support at faces and roadheads

Bars at faces

6.—(1) At every working face in a mine where machinery is used for cutting, conveying or loading mineral the system of support of the roof shall include the use of bars throughout the length of the face and over the whole width of the face working. Support rules in relation thereto shall require such bars to be so set that the interval between adjacent bars in the same row does not exceed four feet and that each such bar shall be supported at all times as effectively as practicable by at least two supports.

(2) An inspector may by notice served on the manager of a mine exempt that mine or a part thereof from the application of this regulation if he is satisfied that either the natural conditions of the workings or the method of work in use make the use of such bars inexpedient or ineffective, or he may by such a notice authorise provision in the support rules for a greater interval between adjacent bars in the same row, or for the support of bars by one support.

Bars at roadheads

7.—(1) At every roadhead in a mine the system of support of the roof shall include the use of rows of bars over the whole width thereof and throughout the following distance from the face in that roadhead or, where the road passes beyond a face to which it leads, from that face, that is to say—

(*a*) in the case of a roadhead at an advancing face in which the roof is ripped within thirty feet outbye from the face, throughout the distance between the face and such ripping or, if there is more than one, such ripping farthest from the face ; or

(*b*) in the case of such a roadhead in which the roof is not so ripped, throughout the distance of thirty feet outbye from the face ; or

(*c*) in the case of a roadhead at a retreating face, throughout the width of the face working.

(2) Support rules with respect to every roadhead shall specify the intervals between the bars in each row and, if crossbars are used, between the crossbars in each row. Except in accordance with an authority given by an inspector by notice served on the manager of the mine, the intervals specified in relation to adjacent bars shall not exceed four feet unless crossbars are used and the intervals specified in relation to them do not exceed four feet.

(3) In a case in which the roof of a roadhead is ripped the support rules shall provide—

(*a*) for the setting of one or more bars extending over the whole width of the ripping and as near as practicable to the ripping lip;

(*b*) for the faces of the ripping to be effectively supported; and

(*c*) for the setting forthwith of temporary supports for the roof newly exposed by such ripping.

(4) Every such bar and crossbar shall be of adequate strength having regard to its length and the span between points at which it is supported and shall be supported in such manner as to ensure its stability.

Distances between supports at face workings and roadheads

8.—(1) Support rules made with respect to every face working and roadhead in a mine shall specify the intervals normally to be allowed and not to be exceeded between props, chocks or other supports set systematically, including the intervals between rows of any such supports, between adjacent supports in the same row, and between the front row of supports and the face.

(2) Such intervals shall not in the following cases exceed those specified in relation thereto, except in accordance with an authority given by an inspector by notice served on the manager of the mine, that is to say—

(*a*) the interval between adjacent rows of props shall not exceed four feet, or, in a case in which bars are used and the interval between adjacent bars in that row does not exceed four feet, six feet;

(*b*) the interval between adjacent props in the same row shall not exceed four feet; and

(*c*) the interval between the front row of props and the face at any place at which filling has been completed shall not exceed three feet:

Provided that the provisions of this paragraph as regards the intervals between adjacent rows of props, and adjacent props in the same row shall not apply to the support rules relating to a roadhead at a face other than a longwall face.

9. Where in accordance with the system of work at any working face (including the face in any roadhead) the interval between the face and the front row of props exceeds three feet at any time during the process of filling, support rules in relation thereto shall require the setting of temporary supports in advance of the front row of props at intervals which, except in accordance with an authority given by an inspector by notice served on the manager of the mine, shall not exceed three feet.

Holing props and sprags

10.—(1) During holing at any working face (including the face in any roadhead) holing props, sprags or other suitable supports shall be set forthwith at such intervals not exceeding six feet as may be specified in the support rules relating thereto and such props, sprags or other supports shall not be removed until the mineral holed is about to be taken down.

(2) An inspector may by notice served on the manager of a mine exempt that mine or any part thereof from the application of this regulation.

Temporary removal of supports

11.—(1) Nothing in the foregoing regulations shall prevent provision being made in support rules for the removal of—

(*a*) any prop or other support, in so far as the maintenance thereof would prevent the operation of machinery used for cutting or loading, or the advancing or turning of any machine or the making of room for it;

(*b*) any bar which cannot be maintained in the path of travel of an over-cutting machine.

Any support or bar so removed shall be replaced forthwith after the passage of the machine.

(2) Where provision is made in pursuance of the last preceding paragraph for the removal of supports in order to advance or turn a machine or to make room for it, provision shall be made for the continued support of the roof which shall wherever practicable comprise the use of bars long enough to be effectively supported at all times by not less than two props or other supports.

(3) Nothing in the foregoing regulations shall prevent provision being made in support rules for the postponement of the setting in any face working of any bar which would be in the intended path of travel of an over-cutting machine and which would have to be removed to enable the machine to operate, but where such provision is made the rules shall provide for the setting of props or other supports instead of those bars and the maintenance thereof until it is necessary to remove them to permit the passage of the machine.

PART IV

Miscellaneous provisions

12. If any fall of roof or side involving the displacement or breakage of any support has occurred at a place where any person has to work or pass, it shall be the duty of the person for the time being in charge of that part of the mine forthwith to ensure that any roof or side exposed thereby is, if necessary, dressed and is secured by supports, and that any such dressing and securing is done before any work of clearing debris is begun, other than such work of clearing debris as is necessary for the setting of the supports.

13. In any case in which the roof of any advancing place, other than a place in a road or roadhead, is ripped, it shall be the duty of the manager to ensure—

(*a*) the setting of one or more bars extending over the whole width of the ripping as near as practicable to each ripping lip and supported as efficiently as possible by at least two supports ;

(*b*) the effective support of the faces of the ripping ; and

(*c*) the setting forthwith of temporary supports for the roof newly exposed by such ripping.

14. Where in accordance with the system of work at any face working supports are withdrawn from the waste or from under the roof adjoining the waste, support rules shall provide for the setting and maintenance of supports at intervals specified therein for the purpose of preventing the breaking of the roof overriding the supports at that face working, and occurring otherwise than in the waste.

Form of support rules

15. Support rules with respect to every mine shall comprise such plans and sections or diagrams of every system of support to be provided as to make the particulars of each system readily understood by all persons who are to be engaged in carrying out that system.

Exemptions

16. The Chief Inspector of Mines may by notice served on the manager of a mine exempt that mine or any part thereof from the application of any provision of these regulations other than a provision in relation to which an express power of exemption is contained in these regulations.

Interpretation

17.—(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 ;

" bar " includes girder ;

" face working " in relation to a working face at which supports are systematically withdrawn means all that part of the mine between the face and the front line of the packs, if any, or the last row of supports for the time being maintained whichever is farther from the face and in relation to a working face at which supports are not systematically withdrawn means all that part of the mine between the face and a line parallel to it and twelve feet distant from it ;

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

" working face " does not include a place at which the work consists only of ripping or work of repair.

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

SECOND SCHEDULE

REGULATIONS AND ENACTMENTS CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF WHICH ARE RE-ENACTED WITH MODIFICATIONS IN THE COAL AND OTHER MINES (SUPPORT) REGULATIONS, 1956.

Coal Mines Act, 1911, section 50 (as amended by the Coal Mines (Support of Roof and Sides) General Regulations, 1947(b), and the Coal Mines (Miscellaneous) General Regulations, 1953(c))

Coal Mines (Support of Roof and Sides) General Regulations, 1947

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

The provisions set out as regulations in the first schedule to this order relate to the provision and maintenance of support for the roofs and sides of places below ground in mines of coal, shale and fireclay. Part II of the regulations specifies the duties of persons setting props or building chocks or packs, Part III lays down certain requirements relating to the provision of systematic support at faces and roadheads, and Part IV contains miscellaneous provisions. These regulations comprise, and will at the commencement of the Act replace, provisions of the regulations and enactments specified in the second schedule to the order.

(a) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63. (b) S.R. & O. 1947/973 (Rev. IV, p. 405: 1947 I, p. 331).
(c) S.I. 1953/1098 (1953 I, p. 298).