STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1978 No. 1546

PUBLIC HEALTH, ENGLAND AND WALES

PUBLIC HEALTH, SCOTLAND

PUBLIC HEALTH, NORTHERN IRELAND

The Detergents (Composition) (Amendment) Regulations 1978

Made - - - -	24*th October* 1978
Laid before Parliament	8*th November* 1978
Coming into Operation	1*st January* 1979

The Secretary of State for the Environment, as respects England, the Secretary of State for Wales, as respects Wales, the Secretary of State for Scotland, as respects Scotland, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, as respects Northern Ireland, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(**a**) and by the European Communities (Designation) Order 1972(**b**), hereby make the following regulations:—

Citation, commencement and extent

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Detergents (Composition) (Amendment) Regulations 1978 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1979.

(2) These regulations shall apply to the United Kingdom.

Interpretation

2.—(1) The Interpretation Act 1889(**c**) shall apply for the interpretation of these regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(2) In these regulations, "the principal regulations" means the Detergents (Composition) Regulations 1978(**d**).

Amendment of principal regulations

3. Paragraph (1) of regulation 2 (interpretation) of the principal regulations is hereby amended by the omission, from the definition of "detergent" contained therein, of the words "and where any question arises whether a substance is a detergent for the purposes of these regulations, regard shall be

(**a**) 1972 c. 68. (**b**) S.I. 1972/1811. (**c**) 1889 c. 63. (**d**) S.I. 1978/564.

had to the definition of 'detergent' in Council Directive No. 73/404/EEC on the approximation of laws relating to detergents".

16th October 1978. *Peter Shore,* Secretary of State for the Environment.

19th October 1978. *John Morris,* Secretary of State for Wales.

17th October 1978. *Bruce Millan,* Secretary of State for Scotland.

24th October 1978. *Roy Mason,* Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

The Detergents (Composition) Regulations 1978 (which were made on 11th April 1978 and come into operation throughout the United Kingdom on 1st January 1979) give effect to certain provisions of Community Legislation, namely Council Directives 73/404/EEC and 73/405/EEC relating to the biodegradability of surface active agents in detergents. Those Regulations, among other things, prohibit the sale or use in the United Kingdom of detergents containing an anionic surface active agent of which the level of biodegradability is less than 80 per cent.

These Regulations amend the definition of "detergent" in those Regulations, so that the definition now reads—

" 'detergent' means a substance, other than soap, which contains one or more surface active agents and which is used, or intended to be used, for the purpose of cleaning articles, surfaces or other things."

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