STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1973 No. 2119

CONTROL OF FUEL AND ELECTRICITY

The Motor Fuel (Maximum Retail Prices) Order 1973

Made - - -	14*th December* 1973
Laid before Parliament	14*th December* 1973
Coming into operation	15*th December* 1973

The Secretary of State, in exercise of his powers under Section 2(1)(b) of The Fuel and Electricity (Control) Act 1973(a)and Section 7 of the Emergency Laws (Re-enactments and Repeals) Act 1964(b) as having effect by virtue of Section 5 of the Fuel and Electricity (Control) Act 1973 hereby orders as follows:—

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Motor Fuel (Maximum Retail Prices) Order 1973 and shall come into operation on 15th December 1973.

Interpretation

2. (1) In this Order—

"by retail" means, in relation to the supply of any controlled motor fuel, supply to any person acquiring that fuel otherwise than for the purpose of resale;

"diesel fuel" means oil being heavy oil within the meaning of Section 1 of the Hydrocarbon Oil (Customs & Excise) Act 1971(c) derived from petroleum of a kind intended for use as fuel for propelling a motor vehicle, other than heavy oil in respect of which rebate of duty has been allowed under Section 9 of that Act;

"controlled motor fuel" means motor spirit of 5 star grade, 4 star grade, 3 star grade or 2 star grade or diesel fuel of Class A1 or Class A2;

"motor spirit" means oil being light oil within the meaning of Section 1 of the Hydrocarbon Oil (Customs & Excise) Act 1971 derived from petroleum of a kind intended for use as fuel for propelling a motor vehicle;

"motor vehicle" means a mechanically propelled vehicle intended or adapted for use on roads.

(2) In this Order—

(*a*) any reference to motor spirit of 5 star grade, 4 star grade, 3 star grade or 2 star grade shall be deemed to be a reference to motor spirit which complies with the requirements of British Standard Specification for Petrol (Gasoline) for Motor Vehicles (BS 4040 : 1971) published by the British Standards Institution on 31st March 1971 (as amended by Amendment Slip No. 1 published on 13th October 1972) for 5 star grade

(a) 1973 c. 67. (b) 1964 c. 60. (c) 1971 c. 12.

petrol, 4 star grade petrol, 3 star grade petrol or 2 star grade petrol respectively;

(*b*) any reference to diesel fuel of Class A1 or Class A2 shall be deemed to be a reference to diesel fuel which complies with the requirements of British Standard Specification for Petroleum Fuels for Oil Engines and Burners (BS 2869 : 1970) published by the British Standards Institution on 30th September 1970 (as amended by Amendment Slip No. 1 published on 9th June 1972) for Class A1 engine fuel and Class A2 engine fuel respectively;

(*c*) in relation to subdivisions of a grade of motor spirit, any reference to a minimum RON value shall be deemed to be a reference to the minimum value of the Research Octane Number of the motor spirit determined by the method referred to in Clause 4.2 of the British Standard Specification mentioned in subparagraph (a) of this paragraph.

Maximum retail prices

3. No person shall supply by retail motor spirit of a grade or subdivision of a grade or diesel fuel of a class specified in Column 1 of Schedule 1 to this Order at a price which exceeds: —

(*a*) the amount per gallon specified in Column 2 of that Schedule with respect to that grade, subdivision of a grade, or class; and

(*b*) where that motor spirit or diesel fuel is supplied by retail at or from premises situated in a zone or place specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order the amount per gallon specified in Column 2 of that Schedule with respect to that zone or place in respect of the grade or subdivision of a grade of that motor spirit or the class of that diesel fuel mentioned in Column 3 of that Schedule.

Zones

4. For the purposes of this Order—

(*a*) premises shall be deemed to be situated in a zone named in Column 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order if those premises have, before the date of the making of this Order, been treated by a person supplying controlled motor fuel to those premises in the ordinary course of the wholesale business of that person as being situated in the zone so named; and

(*b*) where premises (not being premises situated in a place mentioned in Column 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order)—

(i) have not, before the date of the making of this Order, been treated by any person supplying controlled motor fuel to those premises in the ordinary course of the wholesale business of that person as being situated in a zone named in that Column; or

(ii) have, before the date of the making of this Order, been treated by different persons supplying controlled motor fuel to those premises in the ordinary course of the wholesale business of those persons as being situated in different zones so named.

the premises shall be deemed to be situated in the same zone as that in which the nearest to those premises of any premises to which paragraph (a) of this Article applies are deemed to be situated by virtue of that paragraph.

Notices

5. Every person who supplies by retail controlled motor fuel at or from premises at which controlled motor fuel is supplied by retail for use in motor vehicles shall keep displayed on those premises in a conspicuous position and so as to be clearly legible by all customers throughout the whole time during which any controlled motor fuel is offered for sale at those premises a notice stating:—

(*a*) the zone or place specified in Column 1 of Schedule 2 to this Order in which those premises are situated; and

(*b*) the grades or subdivisions of a grade of motor spirit and classes of diesel fuel specified in Column 1 of Schedule 1 to this Order; and

(*c*) with respect to those grades, subdivisions or classes, the maximum prices at which they may be sold at those premises in accordance with this Order.

Artificial transactions and unreasonable charges

6. No person shall, in connection with the supply by retail of any controlled motor fuel, enter or offer to enter into any artificial transaction or make or demand any unreasonable charge.

Directions

7. Nothing in this Order shall prevent the supply by retail of any controlled motor fuel required to be supplied by a direction under Section 2(2)(*b*) of the Fuel and Electricity (Control) Act 1973 at a price specified in the direction with respect to that fuel.

Licences

8.–(1) Nothing in this Order shall prevent the supply by retail of controlled motor fuel under the authority of a licence granted by the Secretary of State under this Order.

(2) Any licence granted under this Order may be subject to conditions and may be revoked without prior notice.

(3) Every licence granted under this Order shall be the property of the Secretary of State and any person being in possession of any such licence, shall, if requested to do so by the Secretary of State, produce or deliver it to such person or to a person of such class or description, and within such time, as may be specified in or at the time of the request.

Application to Northern Ireland

9. This Order shall not extend to Northern Ireland.

Geoffrey Howe,
Minister for Trade and Consumer Affairs,
Department of Trade and Industry.

14th December 1973.

Article 3

SCHEDULE 1

Column 1 Grades, subdivisions of a grade of motor spirit and classes of diesel fuel	Column 2 Amount in pence
Motor Spirit	
5 star grade	43.00
4 star grade	42.00
3 star grade of not less than 96 minimum RON value	41.50
Other 3 star grade	41.00
2 star grade of not less than 92 minimum RON value	40.50
Other 2 star grade	40.00
Diesel Fuel	
Class A1	41.50
Class A2	41.50

SCHEDULE 2

Article 3

Column 1 Zone or place	Column 2 Amount in pence	Column 3 Grades, subdivisions of a grade of motor spirit and classes of diesel fuel
Zones		
Inner zone	Nil	—
Outer zone	0.50	4 star grade
General zone	0.50	All grades, subdivisions of a grade of motor spirit and classes of diesel fuel
North Scotland (mainland only) zone	1.00	All grades, subdivisions of a grade of motor spirit
	2.50	Both classes of diesel fuel
Places		
Orkney Islands and West Cowal	1.00	All grades, subdivisions of a grade of motor spirit
	2.50	Both classes of diesel fuel
Lewis and Harris	0.50	Both classes of diesel fuel
Shetland Isles (mainland)	1.00	4 star grade and 2 star grade
	3.50	Both classes of diesel fuel
Other Shetland Isles	2.00	4 star grade and 2 star grade
Islay	3.00	4 star grade
	1.50	Both classes of diesel fuel
Mull	2.00	4 star grade
	0.50	Both classes of diesel fuel

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Order.)

This Order imposes maximum retail prices in respect of the supply of 5 star, 4 star, 3 star and 2 star grades of motor spirit and Classes A1 and A2 of diesel fuel according to the zone or place at which it is supplied by retail.

It requires notices stating the maximum retail prices to be displayed at retail premises and prohibits artificial transactions and unreasonable charges. The Order does not extend to Northern Ireland.

Copies of the British Standard Specifications and Amendments referred to in this Order may be obtained from British Standards Institution, British Standards House, 2 Park Street, London W1A 2BS.

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