1960 No. 514

The Nuclear Installations (Dangerous Occurrences) Regulations, 1960

Made - - - -	21*st March*, 1960
Laid before Parliament	30*th March*, 1960
Coming into Operation	1*st April*, 1960

The Minister of Power and the Secretary of State in exercise of the powers conferred upon them by subsections (1) and (2) of section six and by section ten of the Nuclear Installations (Licensing and Insurance) Act, 1959(a), and of all other powers them enabling hereby jointly make the following regulations:—

Commencement and citation

1. These regulations shall come into operation on the first day of April, nineteen hundred and sixty, and may be cited as the Nuclear Installations (Dangerous Occurrences) Regulations, 1960.

Interpretation

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

"the Act" means the Nuclear Installations (Licensing and Insurance) Act, 1959;

"licensed site", "licensee" and "plant" have the meanings assigned to them respectively by section ten of the Act;

"local authority" means—

(*a*) as respects England and Wales, the council of a county borough, borough (including a metropolitan borough) or urban or rural district, or the Common Council of the City of London;

(*b*) as respects Scotland, a town or county council;

"the Minister" means—

(*a*) in the application of these regulations to England and Wales, the Minister of Power;

(*b*) in the application of these regulations to Scotland, the Secretary of State.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889(b), shall apply to the interpretation of these regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Dangerous occurrences

3.—(1) The Minister of Power and the Secretary of State hereby prescribe for the purposes of subsection (1) of section six of the Act occurrences of each of the following classes or descriptions, that is to say—

(*a*) any occurrence on, or in connection with the use of, a licensed site involving the emission of ionising radiations or the release of radioactive or toxic substances in such quantities as to cause or be likely to cause—

(i) the death of, or serious injury to the health of, persons outside the site at the time of the occurrence, whether or not persons on the site are also affected thereby; or

(a) 7 & 8 Eliz. 2. c. 46. (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

(ii) the death of, or serious injury to the health of, persons on the site at the time of the occurrence;

(*b*) any accident in the course of the carriage of irradiated nuclear fuel on behalf of a licensee within, or between places within, the United Kingdom, being an accident which results in the breaking open of any container in which such fuel is being carried;

(*c*) any explosion or outbreak of fire on a licensed site, being—

either (i) an explosion or outbreak affecting or likely to affect the safe working of any plant or other installation falling within paragraph (*a*) or (*b*) of subsection (1) of section one of the Act;

or (ii) an explosion or outbreak in any place where there is fissile, radioactive or toxic material;

(*d*) any occurrence in connection with fissile material which results in an uncontrolled chain reaction;

(*e*) any occurrence involving a failure or defect in any part of the plant referred to in sub-paragraph (*c*) (i) of this paragraph, being a failure or defect which results in the operation of the plant being stopped forthwith and which prevents such operation being resumed within one hour.

(2) The requirements of sub-paragraphs (*b*) to (*e*) of the last preceding paragraph shall be without prejudice to the generality of the requirements of paragraph (*a*) thereof.

Manner in which and persons to whom occurrences are to be reported

4.—(1) Reports of occurrences required to be made under subsection (2) of section six of the Act shall be made—

(*a*) in the case of occurrences of a class or description specified in sub-paragraph (*a*) (i) or (*b*) of paragraph (1) of the last preceding regulation, by the quickest means available,—

(i) to the Minister; and

(ii) to the local authority in whose area the occurrence happened; and

(iii) to the chief officer of police for the police area in which the occurrence happened,

and confirmed thereafter in writing to the Minister;

(*b*) in the case of occurrences of any other class or description specified in the said paragraph (1), to the Minister by the quickest means available, and confirmed to him in writing thereafter.

(2) In the application of the last preceding paragraph to Scotland the reference to the local authority in whose area the occurrence happened shall be construed as a reference to every local authority in whose area the occurrence happened.

(3) Any report required by paragraph (1) of this regulation to be confirmed in writing shall contain the information (or such part thereof as may be applicable to the occurrence concerned) specified in the Schedule hereto.

Richard Wood,
Minister of Power.

21st March, 1960.

John S. Maclay,
One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

21st March, 1960.

SCHEDULE

Reg. 4.

1. State the licensee's full name and address and the site licence number.

2. State the location on the site at which the occurrence took place.

3. State the date and time of the occurrence.

4. Give a brief description of the occurrence together with particulars of the state of the plant (e.g. normal operation, under maintenance) and other relevant matters at the time of the occurrence.

5. State, so far as is known, whether injury has been caused to persons or to property or to both, and, if so, whether such injury has been suffered on or off the site or both.

6. Where an occurrence has resulted in contamination give particulars of—

(*a*) the nature of the contaminant;

(*b*) the area affected thereby;

(*c*) the weather conditions and wind direction at the time of the occurrence;

(*d*) persons contaminated and the extent of such contamination;

(*e*) any area on the site which was evacuated or to which access was restricted.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These regulations, made by the Minister of Power and the Secretary of State for Scotland acting jointly, prescribe for the purpose of subsection (1) of section six of the Nuclear Installations (Licensing and Insurance) Act, 1959, the classes and descriptions of occurrences happening on, or in connection with the use of, a licensed site, which by virtue of subsection (2) of that section must be reported forthwith to the Minister. The manner in which such occurrences are to be reported is prescribed (reg. 4).

Regulation 4 also provides that certain classes of occurrence have to be reported to the chief officer of police and the local authority concerned as well as to the Minister.