STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1962 No. 884

CONSUMER PROTECTION

The Oil Heaters Regulations, 1962

Made - - - -	*27th April*, 1962
Laid before Parliament	*4th May*, 1962
Coming into Operation	*1st June*, 1962

In pursuance of section 1 and paragraph (*b*) of subsection (3) of section 6 of, and paragraph 3 of the Schedule to, the Consumer Protection Act, 1961(a), I hereby make the following Regulations :—

Warning notice

1.—(1) An oil heater shall bear a warning—

(*a*) against using petrol as a fuel therein ;

(*b*) against carrying the heater when alight ;

(*c*) against using the heater in unventilated places ;

(*d*) against using the heater where it may be exposed to draughts ; and

(*e*) against placing the heater where it may be knocked over.

(2) The warnings required by this Regulation shall be set out in legible and durable characters, and displayed either upon the heater itself or upon a durable label stoutly affixed to it.

Flame regulator

2. Any device for regulating the flame of an oil heater shall be readily accessible, and capable of easy adjustment when the heater is alight.

Standard of performance

3.—(1) An oil heater shall be such that if it is filled up to its full fuel level, properly lighted, and allowed to burn under normal conditions until the fuel is exhausted, it will not produce visible smoke, any explosion or any uncontrolled or unguarded flame, or allow any fuel to escape unburnt from the fuel system.

(2) An oil heater having any mechanical device to regulate the supply of fuel automatically shall be such that it will comply with the foregoing provisions of this Regulation notwithstanding any failure liable to occur in the automatic operation of that device.

(3) An oil heater designed to stand on a floor shall be such that if it is set upon a level floor but so that a leg or any part of the periphery of the heater normally in contact with the floor is propped up a quarter of an inch above floor level and it is then allowed to burn under otherwise normal conditions, it will not produce visible smoke, any explosion, or any uncontrolled flame or allow any fuel to escape unburnt from the fuel system.

(4) An oil heater which depends upon atmospheric pressure to retain the fuel in the fuel container shall be such that it will not produce visible smoke, any explosion or any uncontrolled flame notwithstanding that,

(a) 9 & 10 Eliz. 2. c. 40.

while it is burning normally, its flame regulator is turned up sharply from the lowest position of normal burning to the highest position of which the regulator is capable.

(5) The references in paragraph (1) of this Regulation to a heater being allowed to burn under normal conditions and in paragraph (3) to it being allowed to burn under conditions normal except as there stated shall be construed as including references to a requirement that where the flame of the heater is adjustable it shall be adjusted from time to time as may be necessary during the first thirty minutes of burning, but not thereafter.

Fuel temperature

4. An oil heater, other than a pressure heater, shall be such that if it is filled up to its full fuel level and allowed to burn under normal conditions in a room temperature not exceeding sixty degrees Fahrenheit, the temperature of any part of the fuel in the fuel container will not, while more than a twentieth part of that fuel remains in the fuel container, rise above one hundred degrees Fahrenheit.

Stability of heaters

5.—(1) An oil heater designed to stand on a floor shall be such that when standing unsecured on a floor, and whether full or empty of fuel, it can be tilted to an angle of fifteen degrees from the vertical in any direction without overturning.

(2) Such a heater shall have screw-holes, a hook and chain or other means conveniently placed and sufficient for securing it so as to prevent it being overturned.

Spilling of fuel

6. An oil heater which depends upon atmospheric pressure to retain the fuel in the fuel container, and which is designed to stand on a floor, shall be such that if the heater, when alight, is overturned so that it falls forward, backwards or sideways so as to rest on the floor, any fuel escaping from the heater either will not be ignited, or, in the first fifteen seconds after the heater is overturned, will not exceed fifty-five millilitres in quantity.

Flame flashback

7. An oil heater designed to use an adjustable wick shall be such that, when a suitable wick which has been well worn by adjustment and readjustment in the heater is used, the flame of the heater will not pass down the channel carrying the wick so as to ignite the fuel in the fuel container.

Fire risk to walls and floor

8. An oil heater shall be such that, if tested in accordance with the provisions of the Schedule to these Regulations, no part of the base mentioned in paragraph 1 of that Schedule, or the board mentioned in paragraph 2 thereof, will during the test exceed in temperature one hundred and fifty degrees Fahrenheit in the case of a heater which radiates heat principally in one direction, or two hundred and twelve degrees Fahrenheit in any other case.

Draught resistance

9.—(1) An oil heater shall be such that if, when burning normally, it is subjected for the prescribed period or until the flame is sooner extinguished to a steady, frontal and horizontal draught of any velocity not exceeding

twenty-six feet per second, the heater will not produce any explosion or any unguarded flame (otherwise than in momentary flashes) either while the draught continues or within fifteen minutes after it ceases.

(2) The prescribed period for the purpose of this Regulation shall be a period of five minutes, except that if during that period the flame travels back so that the heater burns with an abnormal flame and at a point nearer to the supply of fuel than that of normal burning the prescribed period shall be thirty minutes.

Drawn-brass parts

10. Where a crack in or distortion of a part of an oil heater might affect the proper working of the heater, that part shall not be of drawn-brass unless any stress caused by the process of drawing and capable of causing such a crack or distortion has been obviated.

Fuel system

11.—(1) The structure of any fuel pipe or fuel valve of an oil heater shall be of metal.

(2) Any joint in the fuel system of an oil heater shall be fuel tight, and shall either be of a mechanical type, or be soundly welded, brazed or soldered, as may be appropriate to the metal used.

Fuel containers

12.—(1) Any join in the materials of the fuel container of an oil heater below the full fuel level shall be air tight and fuel tight, and shall have been thoroughly sweated with solder where this is appropriate to the material used, or be otherwise efficiently and robustly made.

(2) The inside of the fuel container of an oil heater which depends upon atmospheric pressure to retain the fuel in the fuel container shall be resistant to corrosion by the fuel, water, the vapour of the fuel and water vapour.

Pressure heaters

13.—(1) The fuel container of a pressure heater shall be fitted with a suitable valve for quickly releasing the pressure in the fuel container, and the valve shall be readily operable.

(2) A pressure heater shall be such that, when the heater is level, its fuel container cannot be filled beyond ninety-four per cent. of its capacity.

(3) The fuel container of a pressure heater shall be such that, with all outlets sealed, it will withstand—

(*a*) an internal pressure which exceeds the outside pressure by thirty pounds to the square inch; and

(*b*) any pressure capable of being produced by pumping any pump connected to the container sixty times in one minute with the container full to the full fuel level.

(4) The burner of a pressure heater shall be such that, with all outlets sealed, it will withstand—

(*a*) an internal pressure which exceeds the outside pressure by sixty pounds to the square inch; and

(*b*) a pressure equal to any capable of being produced in the fuel container of the heater in the manner described in paragraph (3) of this Regulation.

(5) Any joint in the burner of a pressure heater shall be soundly brazed.

Authorised testers

14. Any test of an oil heater or a component part of an oil heater, being a test such as is referred to in paragraph 2 of the Schedule to the Consumer Protection Act, 1961 (which empowers a local authority to purchase goods for the purpose of a test), shall be carried out, at the expense of the local authority, by any such person or body as may be authorised by the Secretary of State under this Regulation to carry out such tests.

Interpretation

15.—(1) In these Regulations—

"floor" includes a hearth or other horizontal surface;

"full fuel level", in relation to an oil heater, means the level marked on the heater as the maximum to which it may properly be filled or, where no such level is marked, the highest level to which the heater can be filled without overflowing when it is level;

"oil heater" means an appliance suitable for use in a dwelling house or other residential premises and designed for the heating of space by means of the burning of kerosene within the meaning of Part VI of the Customs and Excise Act, 1952(a), not being an appliance designed for use with a flue for the removal into the open air, either directly or by connection with another flue or flues, of gases produced by the burning of kerosene;

"pressure heater" means an oil heater requiring for its proper operation a pressure in its fuel container greater than atmospheric pressure;

"uncontrolled flame" means a flame which increases of its own accord to a size substantially greater than that of normal burning.

(2) For the purposes of these Regulations it shall be assumed that the fuel used in an oil heater is kerosene within the meaning of Part VI of the Customs and Excise Act, 1952, which does not give off inflammable vapour at a temperature of less than one hundred degrees Fahrenheit when tested in the manner described in Part II of the Second Schedule to the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act, 1928(b), and accordingly, in the conduct of any test to determine whether a heater complies with these Regulations, no fuel other than such kerosene as aforesaid shall be used.

(3) The Interpretation Act, 1889(c), shall apply for the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

Title, commencement and extent

16. These Regulations may be cited as the Oil Heaters Regulations, 1962, and shall come into operation on 1st June, 1962.

R. A. Butler,
One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

Home Office,
Whitehall.
27th April, 1962.

(a) 15 & 16 Geo. 6 & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 44. (b) 18 & 19 Geo. 5. c. 32.
(c) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

SCHEDULE

Regulation 8

TEST OF FIRE RISK TO WALLS AND FLOOR

1. The heater shall be set upon a base made of two wooden boards each one inch thick and separated by a sheet of paper coated with bitumen sufficient to prevent the passage of water vapour, of which the upper shall be of seasoned oak and the lower of seasoned pine. The oak shall not be stained or otherwise coloured but shall be varnished with clear varnish on its upper surface.

2. A board of seasoned pine, one inch thick and painted dull black, shall be set vertically on the base as close as possible to the heater and on any side of it, except that, in the case of a heater which radiates or emits heat or heated air principally in one direction, the board shall be set at an angle of forty-five degrees (in the horizontal plane) to that direction as if to form one side of a corner in which the heater had been placed so as to radiate or emit outwards.

3. The heater shall be made to burn for four hours in a room temperature not exceeding sixty degrees Fahrenheit and at the highest rate at which the heater will burn normally.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

By the Consumer Protection Act, 1961, the Secretary of State is empowered to make regulations imposing, in respect of any prescribed class of goods, requirements to prevent or reduce risk of death or personal injury. These Regulations impose such requirements in relation to domestic space heaters which burn kerosene (paraffin oil) and are not designed for use with a flue, and accordingly, under sections 2, 3 and 6 (3) (*a*) of the Act, but subject to certain exceptions, in particular those set out in section 2 (3), no person may sell, or let on hire or hire purchase, or have in his possession for sale or such letting, an oil heater or a component part of an oil heater not complying with the Regulations.

Regulation 1 relates to warning notices to be borne by heaters, Regulations 2 to 13 relate to their construction, design and performance generally, and Regulation 8 and the Schedule provide for a test of risk of fire to walls and floors and Regulation 9 for a test of resistance to draughts. Regulation 14 provides, in pursuance of paragraph 3 of the Schedule to the Act, that tests of goods purchased for the purpose by a local authority under paragraph 2 of the Schedule shall be carried out, at the expense of the local authority, by any such person or body as may be authorised for the purpose by the Secretary of State.