SPIRITS

1954 No. 1611

The Strength of Spirits Ascertainment Regulations, 1954

Made - - - -	*3rd December,* 1954
Laid before Parliament	*6th December,* 1954
Coming into Operation	*8th December,* 1954

The Commissioners of Customs and Excise, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by section one hundred and seventy-two of the Customs and Excise Act, 1952(a), hereby make the following Regulations:—

1. The strength of spirits may be ascertained by the following means (as well as by the means set out in Part IV of the Spirits Regulations, 1952(b)), that is to say:—

(*a*) the specific gravity at $\frac{20°}{20°}$ centigrade of the spirits shall be determined, and the strength of the spirits shall be taken to be the percentage of proof spirit corresponding in Table 1 of the deposited Tables (Series Four);

(*b*) if for the purpose of determining the specific gravity at $\frac{20°}{20°}$ centigrade of any spirits the spirits are subjected to dilution with distilled water, Table 2, Table 3 or Table 4 of the deposited Tables (Series Four) shall be substituted for Table 1, according as the dilution is to two, three, or four times the original volume of the spirits.

(*c*) where the specific gravity at $\frac{20°}{20°}$ centigrade of any spirits determined as aforesaid falls between any two consecutive numbers appearing in column 1 of the deposited Tables (Series Four), an amount bearing the same proportion to the difference between the two numbers in column 2 corresponding to the two said numbers in column 1, as the difference between the said specific gravity so determined and the lesser of the said two numbers in column 1 bears to the difference between the said two numbers in column 1 shall be deducted from the greater of the said two numbers in column 2, and the amount so determined shall be deemed to be the strength of the spirits.

2. Where the spirits contain any substance other than ethyl alcohol and water the Commissioners may, if they see fit, either—

(*a*) remove from the spirits any such substance to the extent which they consider necessary by distillation or such other process as they direct, and may, after the addition of water to replace the quantity so removed, ascertain the strength of the spirits by any means authorised by Regulation 1 of these Regulations, or

(*b*) treat the spirits as though they contained ethyl alcohol and water only.

3. These Regulations shall apply to methylated spirits and to any fermented liquor as they apply to spirits.

4.—(1) In these Regulations—

" deposited Tables (Series Four) " means certain tables entitled " Tables showing the relation between the specific gravity of spirits at $\frac{20°}{20°}$ centigrade and the percentage of ethyl alcohol by weight and by volume with the

(a) 15 & 16 Geo. 6 & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 44. (b) S.I. 1952/2229 (1952 III, p. 2979).

corresponding percentage of proof spirit", signed by the Chairman of the Commissioners and deposited in the Office of the Queen's Remembrancer at the Royal Courts of Justice;

"specific gravity at $\frac{20°}{20°}$ centigrade" means the ratio of the weight of a volume of spirits to the weight of an equal volume of distilled water, the volume of each liquid being computed as at twenty degrees centigrade (sixty-eight degrees Fahrenheit);

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

5. These Regulations may be cited as the Strength of Spirits Ascertainment Regulations, 1954, and shall come into operation on the eighth day of December, 1954.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 1954.

A. W. Taylor,
Commissioner of Customs and Excise.

King's Beam House,
London, E.C.3.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations provide for the ascertainment of the strength of spirits, methylated spirits and fermented liquor by reference to their specific gravity at $\frac{20°}{20°}$ centigrade. This is in effect an addition to the various alternative methods of ascertaining the strength of such products authorized in Part IV of the Spirits Regulations, 1952, S.I. 1952/2229 (1952 III, p. 2979).

STATISTICS OF TRADE

1954 No. 1412

The Census of Production (1955) (Returns and Exempted Persons) Order, 1954

Made - - - -	*26th October,* 1954
Laid before Parliament	*1st November,* 1954
Coming into Operation	*31st December,* 1954

The Board of Trade, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by Section 2 of the Statistics of Trade Act, 1947(b), (hereinafter referred to as

(a) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63. (b) 10 & 11 Geo. 6. c. 39.