STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1961 No. 1932

FACTORIES

The Work in Compressed Air (Prescribed Leaflet) Order, 1961

Made - - - - 9*th October*, 1961
Coming into Operation 23*rd October*, 1961

The Minister of Labour in pursuance of Regulation 16 of the Work in Compressed Air Special Regulations, 1958(a), hereby prescribes for the purposes of the said Regulation the leaflet containing advice as to precautions to be taken in connection with work in compressed air.

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Work in Compressed Air (Prescribed Leaflet) Order, 1961, and shall come into operation on the 23rd day of October, 1961.

(2) The Order dated the 12th March, 1958, made by the Minister of Labour in pursuance of the said Regulation 16 prescribing the leaflet containing advice as to precautions to be taken in connection with work in compressed air, shall cease to have effect.

2. The Interpretation Act, 1889(b), shall apply to the interpretation of this Order as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament, and as if this Order and the Order hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

3. The leaflet for the purposes of the said Regulation 16 shall be in the form set out in the Schedule to this Order.

Dated this ninth day of October, 1961.

John Hare,
Minister of Labour.

SCHEDULE Article 3

Form 754

THE WORK IN COMPRESSED AIR SPECIAL REGULATIONS 1958 S.I. 1958 No. 61

Leaflet prescribed by the Minister of Labour for issue to

WORKERS IN COMPRESSED AIR

for the purpose of Regulation 16

READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY
MAKE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND THEM
FOR YOUR OWN SAKE—FOLLOW THEM

Compressed air workers sometimes get pains in their joints soon after leaving the workings. These pains are called "the bends," "caisson sickness," or just "pains." They may occur in muscles and other parts of the body. **They can be almost always avoided.** Pain is sometimes felt in the ears or head during compression. **This can be avoided too.**

(a) S.I. 1958/61 (1958 I, p. 1115). (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

YOU MUST NOT WORK IN COMPRESSED AIR UNTIL YOU HAVE BEEN PASSED AS FIT BY THE DOCTOR

Do not try to work in compressed air if you have a cold, earache or a sore throat. If you have had any of these complaints, or if you have been off sick through illness or accident for more than three days, you must be re-examined by the Doctor **before you go back** into compressed air.

If the working pressure is over 18 lbs. per square inch, you must be examined by the Doctor at least **once every four weeks.**

The outside lock attendant has to keep a record of all men who enter and leave the lock, and also has to control all decompressions. **Always obey his instructions.**

You must **always wear the label** you have been given. The information on it will be needed if you get an attack of "bends" while you are away from the site.

If you get an attack of "bends" get back to the site as quickly as you can, and report to the ambulance man who will arrange for treatment in the medical lock.

You must never drink alcohol in compressed air, and smoking may have to be forbidden.

If you have not worked in compressed air before you must not enter the lock unless an experienced compressed air worker is with you.

If the rate of compression is not controlled by the outside lock attendant, the employer may tell the leading man to take charge of the valves which let in the compressed air. **If you feel pain or discomfort, warn the leading man or outside lock attendant at once,** and compression will be stopped. If the pain does not go, pressure will be reduced slowly and you will be let out of the lock.

TO AVOID THE "BENDS" DECOMPRESSION MUST BE CARRIED OUT STRICTLY ACCORDING TO THE RULES

Decompression is usually in two stages, the first quick and the second very slow, though other methods can be allowed under the Regulations.

The outside lock attendant must control all decompressions. **Do not try to interfere with his control.** You can get in touch with him by means of the speaking tube, the telephone or the observation window.

Have a hot drink as soon as possible after you leave the lock.

Attacks of "bends" usually start within 1½ hours of decompression. If the working pressure is over 40 lbs. per square inch you should stay near the medical lock for at least 1½ hours. If it is less than this you should stay near the medical lock for at least an hour.

IF YOU OBEY THESE RULES YOU WILL SAFEGUARD YOUR HEALTH
IF YOU DO NOT—YOU MAY BECOME SERIOUSLY ILL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

This Order prescribes the leaflet containing advice as to precautions to be taken in connection with work in compressed air which leaflet is to be supplied, in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Work in Compressed Air Special Regulations, 1958, by an employer to any person in his employment when he commences to employ that person in compressed air for the first time in that employer's employment. The leaflet prescribed by this Order is in substitution for that prescribed by the Order of the Minister, dated the 12th March, 1958, which is revoked.