
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

1996 No. 119

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Health and Safety (Safety Signs and Signals)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996

Made - - - - - *26th March 1996*

Coming into operation *1st May 1996*

HEALTH AND SAFETY (SAFETY SIGNS AND
SIGNALS) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1996

1. Citation and commencement
 2. Interpretation
 3. Disapplications
 4. Provision and maintenance of safety signs
 5. Information, instruction and training
 6. Transitional provisions
 7. Enforcement
 8. Revocations and amendments
- Signature

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Part I — MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING SAFETY SIGNS AND
SIGNALS AT WORK

1. Preliminary remarks
- 1.1 Where safety signs are required by these Regulations, they must...
- 1.2 This Part introduces those requirements, describes the different uses of...
- 1.3 Safety signs must be used only to convey the message...
2. Types of signs
- 2.1 ***Permanent signs***
- 2.1.1 Permanent signboards must be used for signs relating to prohibitions,...
- 2.1.2 Signboards on containers and pipes must be placed as laid...
- 2.1.3 Places where there is a risk of colliding with obstacles...

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- 2.1.4 Traffic routes must be permanently marked with a safety colour...
- 2.2 **Occasional signs**
- 2.2.1 Illuminated signs, acoustic signals and/or verbal communication must be used...
- 2.2.2 Hand signals and/or verbal communication must be used where the...
- 3. Interchanging and combining signs
 - 3.1 Any one of the following may be used if equally...
 - 3.2 Some types of signs may be used together: illuminated signs...
 - 4. The instructions in the table below apply to all signs...
 - 5. The effectiveness of a sign must not be adversely affected...
 - 5.1 the presence of another emission source of the same type...
 - 5.1.1 the placing of too many signs too close together should...
 - 5.1.2 two illuminated signs which are likely to be confused are...
 - 5.1.3 an illuminated sign is not to be used in the...
 - 5.1.4 two acoustic signals are not to be used at the...
 - 5.1.5 an acoustic signal is not to be used if there...
 - 5.2 poor design, insufficient number, incorrect positioning, poor state of repair...
 - 6. Depending on requirements, signs and signalling devices must be cleaned,...
 - 7. The number and positioning of signs or signalling devices to...
 - 8. Signs requiring some form of power must be provided with...
 - 9. The triggering of an illuminated sign and/or acoustic signal indicates...
 - 10. Illuminated signs and acoustic signals must be checked to ensure...
 - 11. If the hearing or the sight of the workers concerned...
 - 12. Areas, rooms or enclosures used for the storage of significant...
- Part II — MINIMUM GENERAL REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING SIGNBOARDS
 - 1. Intrinsic features
 - 1.1 The shape and colours of signboards are set out in...
 - 1.2 Pictograms must be as simple as possible and should contain...
 - 1.3 The pictograms used may be slightly different from or more...
 - 1.4 Signboards are to be made of shock and weather-resistant material...
 - 1.5 The dimensions and colorimetric and photometric features of signboards must...
 - 2. Conditions of use
 - 2.1 Signboards are in principle to be installed at a suitable...
 - 2.2 The signboard must be removed when the situation to which...
 - 3. Signboards to be used
 - 3.1 Prohibitory signs Intrinsic features: round shape black pictogram on white...
 - 3.2 **Warning signs**
 - 3.3 **Mandatory signs**
 - 3.4 **Emergency escape or first-aid signs**
 - 3.5 **Fire-fighting signs**
- Part III — MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING SIGNS ON CONTAINERS AND PIPES
 - 1. Containers used at work for dangerous substances or preparations defined...
 - 2. Signs must be mounted as follows: on the visible side(s),...
 - 3. Where appropriate, the signs referred to in paragraph 1 of...
 - 4. Without prejudice to paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, the labels...
 - 5. Areas, rooms or enclosures used for the storage of significant...

Part IV — MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR THE IDENTIFICATION AND LOCATION OF FIRE-FIGHTING EQUIPMENT

1. Preliminary remark
2. Fire-fighting equipment must be identified by using a specific colour...
3. The colour for identifying this equipment is red. The red...
4. The signboards provided for in paragraph 3.5 of Part II...

Part V — MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING SIGNS USED FOR OBSTACLES AND DANGEROUS LOCATIONS, AND FOR MARKING TRAFFIC ROUTES

1. Signs for obstacles and dangerous locations
 - 1.1 Places where there is a risk of colliding with obstacles,...
 - 1.2 The dimensions of the markings must be commensurate with the...
 - 1.3 The yellow and black or red and white stripes must...
 - 1.4 Example:
 2. Marking of traffic routes
 - 2.1 Where the use and equipment of rooms so requires for...
 - 2.2 The stripes must be located so as to indicate the...
 - 2.3 Permanent traffic routes in built-up areas outdoors should, as far...

Part VI — MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ILLUMINATED SIGNS

1. Intrinsic features
 - 1.1 The light emitted by a sign must produce a luminous...
 - 1.2 The luminous area emitting a sign may be of a...
 - 1.3 The single colour must correspond to the table of colours...
 - 1.4 Likewise, when the sign contains a pictogram, the latter must...
2. Specific rules governing use
 - 2.1 If a device can emit both continuous and intermittent signs,...
 - 2.2 If a flashing sign is used instead of, or together...
 - 2.3 Devices for emitting flashing signs in the event of grave...

Part VII — MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR ACOUSTIC SIGNALS

1. Intrinsic features
 - 1.1 Acoustic signals must: (a) have a sound level which is...
 - 1.2 If a device can emit an acoustic signal at variable...
2. Code

Part VIII — MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR VERBAL COMMUNICATION

1. Intrinsic features
 - 1.1 Verbal communication between a speaker or emitter and one or...
 - 1.2 Spoken messages are to be as short, simple and clear...
 - 1.3 Verbal communication is direct (by means of the human voice)...
2. Specific rules governing use
 - 2.1 The persons involved must have a good knowledge of the...
 - 2.2 If verbal communication is used instead of, or together with,...

Part IX — MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR HAND SIGNALS

1. Features
 2. Specific rules governing use
 - 2.1 The person giving the signs, hereinafter referred to as the...
 - 2.2 The signman must be able to monitor all manoeuvres visually...
 - 2.3 The signman's duties must consist exclusively of directing manoeuvres and...
 - 2.4 If the conditions described in paragraph 2.2 are not fulfilled,...
 - 2.5 The operator must interrupt the ongoing manoeuvre in order to...
 - 2.6 Accessories
3. Coded signals to be used

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Preliminary remark:

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Documents specifying alternative hand signals

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1. The standards issued by the British Standards Institution with the...
2. Appendix C of the Fire Service Training Manual.

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Part I — REVOCATIONS

— PART II AMENDMENTS

1. In regulation 9 of the Noise at Work Regulations (Northern...
2. In the Dangerous Substances (Notification and Marking of Sites) Regulations...

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Premises and activities within territorial waters

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1. Any of the premises and activities mentioned in regulation 4(1)...
2. (a) The working of a mine, any premises and activities...
3. (a) The construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, maintenance, cleaning, demolition and...

Explanatory Note