



# Medicines Act 1968

## 1968 CHAPTER 67

### PART III

#### FURTHER PROVISIONS RELATING TO DEALINGS WITH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

##### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C1 Part III (ss.51-68) modified (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3144](#), [reg. 9\(9\)](#)

#### *Provisions as to sale or supply of medicinal products*

#### 51 General sale lists.

- (1) The appropriate Ministers may by order specify descriptions or classes of medicinal products, as being products which in their opinion can with reasonable safety be sold or supplied otherwise than by, or under the supervision of, a pharmacist.
- (2) In this Act any reference to a medicinal product on a general sale list is a reference to a medicinal product of a description, or falling within a class, specified in an order under this section which is for the time being in force.
- (3) An order under this section may designate any description or class of medicinal products specified in the order as being medicinal products which, in the opinion of the appropriate Ministers, can with reasonable safety be sold by means of automatic machines; and any reference in this Act to a medicinal product in the automatic machines section of a general sale list is a reference to a medicinal product of a description, or falling within a class, so designated by any such order which is for the time being in force.

##### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

C2 [S. 51](#) extended by [S.I. 1984/187](#), [art. 2](#)  
[S. 51](#) applied (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3144](#), [reg. 18\(2\)](#)

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S. 51 applied (31.3.1997) by S.I. 1997/322, reg. 34, **Sch.5**

## 52 Sale or supply of medicinal products not on general sale list.

Subject to any exemption conferred by or under this Part of this Act, on and after such day as the Ministers may by order appoint for the purposes of this section (in this Part of this Act referred to as “the appointed day”) no person shall, in the course of a business carried on by him, sell by retail, offer or expose for sale by retail, or supply in circumstances corresponding to retail sale, any medicinal product which is not a medicinal product on a general sale list, unless—

- (a) that person is, in respect of that business, a person lawfully conducting a retail pharmacy business;
- (b) the product is sold, offered or exposed for sale, or supplied, on premises which are a registered pharmacy; and
- (c) that person, or, if the transaction is carried out on his behalf by another person, then that other person, is, or acts under the supervision of, a pharmacist.

### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** S. 52 excluded by S.I. 1978/1421  
S. 52 excluded by S.I. 1989/2318, **arts. 3(1)(3), 6(1)(3), 9(1)(3)(5), 11(1), 13(2), 14**  
S. 52 excluded (12.10.1994) by S.I. 1980/1924, **art. 2(3)** (as inserted by S.I. 1994/2409, **art. 2**) (which S.I. was revoked (19.10.1998) by S.I. 1998/2368, **art. 2(b)**)  
S. 52 excluded (19.10.1998) by S.I. 1980/1924, **art. 6A** (as inserted by S.I. 1998/2368, **art. 2(c)**)  
S. 52 excluded (9.8.2000) by S.I. 1980/1924, **arts. 4A, 4B** (as inserted by S.I. 2000/1919, **art. 2(c)**)  
S. 52 excluded (4.4.2003) by S.I. 1980/1924, **arts. 4C, 4D** (as inserted by S.I. 2003/697, **art. 3**)  
S. 52 excluded (31.1.2004) by S.I. 1980/1924, **art. 4AA** (as inserted by S.I. 2004/1, **art. 3**)
- C4** S. 52 extended by S.I. 1984/187, **art. 2**
- C5** S. 52 applied (1.1.1995) by S.I. 1994/3142, **reg. 18(2)**  
S. 52 applied (31.3.1997) by S.I. 1997/322, reg. 34, **Sch. 5**  
S. 52 amended (E.W.S.) (*prosp.*) by 1954 c. 61, s. **13I(1)(b)**, (as inserted (*prosp.*) by 1997 c. 19 ss. 1,2, Sch. para. 2)
- C6** S. 52(c) excluded by S.I. 1989/2318, **art. 13(1)**

## 53 Sale or supply of medicinal products on general sale list.

- (1) Subject to any exemption conferred by or under this Part of this Act, on and after the appointed day no person shall, in the course of a business carried on by him, sell by retail, or offer or expose for sale by retail, or supply in circumstances corresponding to retail sale, any medicinal product on a general sale list elsewhere than at a registered pharmacy, unless the conditions specified in the following provisions of this section are fulfilled.
- (2) The place at which the medicinal product is sold, offered, exposed or supplied as mentioned in the preceding subsection must be premises of which the person carrying on the business in question is the occupier and which he is able to close so as to exclude the public, unless either—
  - (a) the product is sold, offered, exposed for sale or supplied by means of an automatic machine and the product is a medicinal product in the automatic machines section of a general sale list, or
  - (b) the product is a veterinary drug.

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- (3) The medicinal product must have been made up for sale in a container elsewhere than at the place at which it is sold, offered, exposed for sale or supplied as mentioned in subsection (1) of this section and the container must not have been opened since the product was made up for sale in it.
- (4) The business, so far as concerns the sale or supply of medicinal products, must be carried on in accordance with such conditions (if any) as may be prescribed for the purposes of this section.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C7** S. 53 excluded by [S.I. 1978/1421](#)  
S. 53 excluded (19.10.1998) by [S.I. 1980/1924, art. 6A](#) (as inserted by [S.I. 1998/2368, art. 2\(c\)](#))  
S. 53 excluded (9.8.2000) by [S.I. 1980/1924, arts. 4A, 4B](#) (as inserted by [S.I. 2000/1919, art. 2\(c\)](#))  
S. 53 excluded (4.4.2003) by [S.I. 1980/1924, arts. 4C, 4D](#) (as inserted by [S.I. 2003/697, art. 3](#))  
S. 53 excluded (31.1.2004) by [S.I. 1980/1924, art. 4AA](#) (as inserted by [S.I. 2004/1, art. 3](#))
- C8** S. 53 applied (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3142, reg. 18\(2\)](#)  
S. 53 applied (31.3.1997) by [S.I. 1997/322, reg. 34, Sch. 5](#)

**54 Sale of medicinal products from automatic machines.**

- (1) On and after the appointed day no person shall sell, or offer or expose for sale, any medicinal product by means of an automatic machine unless it is a medicinal product in the automatic machines section of a general sale list.
- (2) The appropriate Ministers may by order provide that no person shall by means of an automatic machine sell, or offer or expose for sale, any medicinal product to which the order applies unless the container in which it is sold, or offered or exposed for sale, complies with such restrictions as to the quantity of the medicinal product, or the number of medicinal products, which it contains as may be specified in the order.
- (3) An order under subsection (2) of this section may be made either in respect of medicinal products generally or in respect of medicinal products of a particular description or falling within a particular class specified in the order.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C9** S. 54 applied (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3142, reg. 18\(2\)](#)  
S. 54 applied (31.3.1997) by [S.I. 1997/322, reg. 34, Sch.5](#)

*Exemptions from sections 52 and 53*

**55 Exemptions for doctors, dentists, veterinary surgeons and veterinary practitioners.**

- (1) The restrictions imposed by sections 52 and 53 of this Act do not apply to the sale, offer for sale, or supply of a medicinal product—
  - (a) by a doctor or dentist to a patient of his or to a person under whose care such a patient is, or

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- (b) in the course of the business of a hospital or health centre, where the product is sold, offered for sale or supplied for the purpose of being administered (whether in the hospital or health centre or elsewhere) in accordance with the directions of a doctor or dentist.
- (2) Those restrictions also do not apply—
- (a) to the sale or supply of a medicinal product of a description, or falling within a class, specified in an order made by the Health Ministers for the purposes of this paragraph, where the product is sold or supplied by a registered nurse in the course of her professional practice, or
  - (b) to the sale or supply of a medicinal product of a description, or falling within a class, specified in an order made by the Health Ministers for the purposes of this paragraph, where the product either is sold or supplied by a certified midwife (or, in relation to England and Wales, by a certified midwife or exempted midwife) in the course of her professional practice or is delivered or administered by such a midwife on being supplied in pursuance of arrangements made by [<sup>F1</sup>the Secretary of State or the Ministry of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland].
- (3) The restrictions imposed by those sections do not apply to the sale, offer for sale, or supply of a medicinal product by a veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner for administration by him or under his direction to an animal or herd which is under his care.
- (4) Expressions to which a meaning is assigned by subsection (2) of section 11 of this Act have the same meanings in this section as in that section.

#### Textual Amendments

**F1** Words substituted by [National Health Service Reorganisation Act 1973 \(c. 32\), Sch. 4 para. 128\(1\)](#)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C10** S. 55 applied (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3142, reg. 18\(2\)](#)

S. 55 applied (31.3.1997) by [S.I. 1997/322, reg. 34, Sch.5](#)

**C11** [S. 55\(1\)](#) extended by [S.I. 1984/187, art. 2](#)

## 56 Exemptions in respect of herbal remedies.

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, the restrictions imposed by sections 52 and 53 of this Act do not apply to anything done at premises of which the person carrying on the business in question is the occupier and which he is able to close so as to exclude the public, and which consists of the sale, or offer or exposure for sale, or the supply in circumstances corresponding to retail sale, of a herbal remedy where the processes to which the plant or plants are subjected consist of drying, crushing or comminuting, with or without any subsequent process of tableting, pill-making, compressing or diluting with water, but not any other process.
- (2) Without prejudice to the preceding subsection, but subject to subsection (3) of this section, those restrictions do not apply to the sale or supply of a herbal remedy where the person selling or supplying the remedy sells or supplies it for administration to a particular person after being requested by or on behalf of that person and in that person's presence to use his own judgment as to the treatment required.

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- (3) The appropriate Ministers may by order provide that subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall not have effect in relation to herbal remedies of a description, of falling within a class, specified in the order.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C12** S. 56 applied (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3142, reg. 18\(2\)](#)  
S. 56 applied (31.3.1997) by [S.I. 1997/322, reg. 34, Sch.5](#)

**57 Power to extend or modify exemptions.**

- (1) The appropriate Ministers may by order provide that section 52 or section 53 of this Act, or both of those sections, shall have effect subject to such exemptions (other than those for the time being having effect by virtue of sections 55 and 56 of this Act) as may be specified in the order.
- (2) Any exemption conferred by an order under the preceding subsection may be conferred subject to such conditions or limitations as may be specified in the order.
- [<sup>F2</sup>(2A) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (2) of this section, an order under subsection (1) of this section providing for the exemption from section 52 of this Act of the sale, or offer or exposure for sale, by retail or the supply in circumstances corresponding to retail sale of veterinary drugs by any persons—
- (a) may, as a condition of the exemption, require those persons to be entered for the time being in a register of merchants in veterinary drugs kept by the registrar or the Northern Ireland enforcement authority, and
  - (b) may impose such conditions as the appropriate Ministers think fit in respect of the inclusion or retention of persons in the register, including conditions requiring the payment to the registrar or the Northern Ireland enforcement authority of fees of such amounts as the appropriate Ministers may with the consent of the Treasury determine.
- (2B) In determining any such fees, the appropriate Ministers may have regard to—
- (a) any costs incurred or to be incurred by the Pharmaceutical Society or the Northern Ireland enforcement authority in connection with any power or duty to enforce any provisions of section 52 or of regulations under section 66 of this Act, so far as those powers or duties relate to veterinary drugs, and
  - (b) any costs incurred or to be incurred by any other person for the purpose of maintaining or improving standards among those engaged in the sale by retail of veterinary drugs or the supply of such drugs in circumstances corresponding to retail sale.
- (2C) Any fees received by virtue of this section for the inclusion or retention of any person in a register of merchants in veterinary drugs shall, if the appropriate Ministers so determine, be applied to such extent and in such manner as they may determine towards meeting any costs falling within subsection (2B)(b) of this section; subject to that, any such fees received by the registrar shall be applicable for the purposes of the Pharmaceutical Society.
- (2D) In the preceding provisions of this section— “the Northern Ireland enforcement authority” means any Northern Ireland department having a duty to enforce any of the provisions referred to in subsection (2B)(a) of this section, being a duty relating to

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veterinary drugs; and “the registrar” means the person appointed under section 1 of the Pharmacy Act <sup>M1</sup>1954 as registrar for the purposes of that Act.]

- (3) The appropriate Ministers may by order provide that subsection (1)(b) or subsection (2) of section 55 of this Act shall cease to have effect, or shall have effect subject to such exceptions or modifications as may be specified in the order.
- (4) No order shall be made under subsection (3) of this section unless a draft of the order has been laid before Parliament and approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.

#### Textual Amendments

**F2** S. 57(2A)–(2D) inserted by [Animal Health and Welfare Act 1984 \(c. 40, SIF 2:8\)](#), s. 14

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C13** Ss. 57, 58, 61 extended by [S.I. 1984/187](#), art. 2

**C14** S. 57 applied (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3142](#), reg. 18(2)

S. 57 applied (31.3.1997) by [S.I. 1997/322](#), reg. 34, [Sch.5](#)

#### Marginal Citations

**M1** [1954 c.61 \(83:1\)](#).

### *Additional provisions*

## 58 Medicinal products on prescription only.

- (1) The appropriate Ministers may by order specify descriptions or classes of medicinal products for the purposes of this section; and, in relation to any description or class so specified, the order shall state which of the following, that is to say—
  - (a) doctors,
  - (b) dentists, and
  - (c) veterinary surgeons and veterinary practitioners,
 are to be appropriate practitioners for the purposes of this section.
- (2) Subject to the following provisions of this section—
  - (a) no person shall sell by retail, or supply in circumstances corresponding to retail sale, a medicinal product of a description, or falling within a class, specified in an order under this section except in accordance with a prescription given by an appropriate practitioner; and
  - (b) no person shall administer (otherwise than to himself) any such medicinal product unless he is an appropriate practitioner or a person acting in accordance with the directions of an appropriate practitioner.
- (3) Subsection (2)(a) of this section shall not apply—
  - (a) to the sale or supply of a medicinal product to a patient of his by a doctor or dentist who is an appropriate practitioner, or
  - (b) to the sale or supply of a medicinal product, for administration to an animal or herd under his care, by a veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner who is an appropriate practitioner.

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- (4) Without prejudice to the last preceding subsection, any order made by the appropriate Ministers for the purposes of this section may provide—
- (a) that paragraph (a) or paragraph (b) of subsection (2) of this section, or both those paragraphs, shall have effect subject to such exemptions as may be specified in the order;
  - (b) that, for the purpose of paragraph (a) of that subsection, a medicinal product shall not be taken to be sold or supplied in accordance with a prescription given by an appropriate practitioner unless such conditions as are prescribed by the order are fulfilled.
- (5) Any exemption conferred by an order in accordance with subsection (4)(a) of this section may be conferred subject to such conditions or limitations as may be specified in the order.
- (6) Before making an order under this section the appropriate Ministers shall consult the appropriate committee, or, if for the time being there is no such committee, shall consult the Commission.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C15** Ss. 57, 58, 61 extended by S.I. 1984/187, art. 2

VALID FROM 01/01/1993

**[<sup>F3</sup>58A Requirement to specify certain products for human use as prescription-only products.**

- (1) The appropriate Ministers shall, subject to subsection (4) of this section, so exercise their powers under section 58(1) of this Act as to secure that every product—
- (a) in respect of which a product licence is granted;
  - (b) to which Chapters II to V of the 1965 Directive apply; and
  - (c) to which subsection (2) of this section applies;
- falls within one of the descriptions or classes specified for the purposes of section 58.
- (2) This subsection applies to any product which—
- (a) is likely to present a direct or indirect danger to human health, even when used correctly, if used without the supervision of a doctor or dentist; or
  - (b) is frequently and to a very wide extent used incorrectly, and as a result is likely to present a direct or indirect danger to human health; or
  - (c) contains substances or preparations of substances of which the activity requires, or the side-effects require, further investigation; or
  - (d) is normally prescribed by a doctor or dentist for parenteral administration.
- (3) In considering whether subsection (2) of this section applies to a product the appropriate Ministers shall take into account whether the product—
- (a) contains a substance which is listed in any of Schedules I, II or IV to the Narcotic Drugs Convention (where the product is not a preparation listed in Schedule III to that Convention); or

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- (b) contains a substance which is listed in any of Schedules I to IV of the Psychotropic Substances Convention (where the product is not a preparation which may be exempted from measures of control in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3 of article 3 of that Convention); or
  - (c) is likely, if incorrectly used—
    - (i) to present a substantial risk of medicinal abuse, or
    - (ii) to lead to addiction, or
    - (iii) to be used for illegal purposes; or
  - (d) contains a substance which, by reason of its novelty or properties, might fall within paragraph (c) above, but as to which there is insufficient information available to determine whether it does so fall; or
  - (e) by reason of its pharmaceutical characteristics or novelty, or in the interests of public health, is reserved for treatments which can only be followed in a hospital; or
  - (f) is used in the treatment of conditions which must be diagnosed in a hospital or in an institution with special diagnostic facilities (although administration and subsequent supervision may be carried out elsewhere); or
  - (g) is intended for outpatients but may produce very serious sideeffects which would require a prescription drawn up as required by a specialist and special supervision throughout the treatment.
- (4) Subsection (1) of this section shall not apply in relation to any product if the appropriate Ministers so determine having regard to—
- (a) the maximum single dose;
  - (b) the maximum daily dose;
  - (c) the strength of the product;
  - (d) its pharmaceutical form;
  - (e) its packaging; or
  - (f) such other circumstances relating to its use as may be specified in the determination.
- (5) In this section and section 58B of this Act—

“the Narcotic Drugs Convention” means the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs signed by the United Kingdom on 30th March 1961 as amended by the Protocol Amending the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs signed by the United Kingdom on 25th March 1972 <sup>X1</sup>; and

“the Psychotropic Substances Convention” means the Convention on Psychotropic Substances signed by the United Kingdom on 21st February 1971 <sup>X2</sup>.]

#### **Editorial Information**

**X1** The Convention, as amended by the Protocol, is published as Cmnd. 7466.

**X2** Cmnd. 7330.

#### **Textual Amendments**

**F3** [S. 58A](#) inserted (1.1.1993) by [S.I. 1992/3271](#), [regs. 1\(1\),2](#)

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C16** [S. 58A](#) extended (with modifications) (14.2.1994) by [S.I. 1994/105](#), [reg. 19](#), [Sch.4](#)



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- C17** S. 58A modified (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3144, reg.9\(4\)\(10\)](#)  
S. 58A applied (1.1.1995) by 1994/3142, reg. 18

VALID FROM 01/01/1993

**<sup>F4</sup>58B Requirement to specify certain products for veterinary use as prescription-only products.**

- (1) The appropriate Ministers shall so exercise their powers under section 58(1) of this Act as to secure that every product—
  - (a) in respect of which a product licence is granted;
  - (b) to which the 1981 Directive applies; and
  - (c) to which subsection (2) or (3) of this section applies;falls within one of the descriptions or classes specified for the purposes of section 58.
- (2) This subsection applies to any product which—
  - (a) is subject to restrictions on supply or use resulting from the Narcotic Drugs Convention, the Psychotropic Substances Convention or any Community obligation (other than an obligation under the 1981 Directive); or
  - (b) is likely to cause unnecessary risk to the target species, humans or the environment unless special precautions are taken by a veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner; or
  - (c) is intended for a treatment or condition which requires a precise prior diagnosis; or
  - (d) may cause effects which impede or interfere with subsequent diagnosis or treatment.
- (3) This subsection applies to any new product containing an active ingredient where a product licence for veterinary use was granted in respect of the ingredient less than five years prior to the relevant date in relation to the product unless, having regard to—
  - (a) the information and particulars provided by the applicant for the licence; or
  - (b) experience acquired in the use of the product;the appropriate Ministers are satisfied that subsection (2) of this section does not apply to the product.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3) of this section the relevant date in relation to a product is the date on which it falls to be determined by the appropriate Ministers whether subsection (3) applies to the product.
- (5) Section 58A(5) of this Act applies for the purposes of this section.

**Textual Amendments**

- F4** S. 58B inserted (1.1.1993) by [S.I. 1992/3271, regs. 1\(1\),2](#)

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C18** S. 58B applied (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3142, reg. 18](#)

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## **59 Special provisions in relation to new medicinal products.**

- (1) The following provisions of this section shall have effect where an order under section 58 of this Act is made so as to apply to all medicinal products which fall within a class specified in the order and are of a description in respect of which the following conditions are fulfilled, that is to say, that—
  - (a) medicinal products of that description were not effectively on the market in the United Kingdom immediately before the first appointed day;
  - (b) a product licence granted under Part II of this Act (whether before, on or after the date on which the order comes into operation) applies to medicinal products of that description (whether it also applies to medicinal products of any other description or not); and
  - (c) before the grant of that licence, no product licence had been granted which was applicable to medicinal products of that description.
- (2) Where such an order is made in accordance with the preceding subsection—
  - (a) the restrictions imposed by section 58(2) of this Act shall not apply by virtue of the order to medicinal products of any description except during a period beginning with the date which, in relation to medicinal products of that description, is the relevant date and of such duration from that date as may be specified in the order;
  - (b) in section 58(4)(a) of this Act the reference to exemptions specified in the order shall, in relation to that order, be construed as including a reference to any exemption specified in a direction given by the appropriate Ministers and relating to medicinal products of a particular description specified in that direction.
- (3) In subsection (2)(a) of this section “the relevant date”, in relation to medicinal products of any description to which an order made in accordance with subsection (1) of this section applies, means the date on which the order comes into operation, or the date on which the product licence applicable to medicinal products of that description (as mentioned in subsection (1)(b) of this section) comes into operation, whichever is the later.

## **60 Restricted sale, supply and administration of certain medicinal products.**

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, regulations made by the appropriate Ministers may provide that no person shall sell by retail, or supply in circumstances corresponding to retail sale, a medicinal product of a description specified in the regulations, or falling within a class so specified, unless—
  - (a) he is a practitioner holding a certificate issued for the purposes of this section by the appropriate Ministers in respect of medicinal products of that description or falling within that class, or a person acting in accordance with the directions of such a practitioner, and the product is so sold or supplied for the purpose of being administered in accordance with the directions of that practitioner, or
  - (b) he is a person lawfully conducting a retail pharmacy business and the product is so sold or supplied in accordance with a prescription given by such a practitioner.
- (2) Any regulations made under this section may provide that no person shall administer (otherwise than to himself) a medicinal product of a description specified in the regulations, or falling within a class so specified, unless he is such a practitioner as is

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mentioned in subsection (1)(a) of this section or a person acting in accordance with the directions of such a practitioner.

- (3) The powers conferred by the preceding subsections shall not be exercisable in respect of medicinal products of a particular description, or falling within a particular class, except where it appears to the appropriate Ministers that the sale by retail, or supply in circumstances corresponding to retail sale, or the administration, of such products requires specialised knowledge on the part of the practitioner by whom or under whose directions they are sold, supplied or administered.
- (4) Any regulations made under this section in respect of a particular description or class of medicinal products may specify the qualifications and experience which an applicant for a certificate in respect of that description or class of medicinal products must have, and may provide for the appointment of a committee to advise the appropriate Ministers, in such cases as may be prescribed by or determined in accordance with the regulations, with respect to the grant, renewal, suspension and revocation of such certificates.
- (5) Any such regulations shall include provision as to the grant, duration, renewal, suspension and revocation of certificates for the purposes of this section, including provision for affording—
  - (a) to an applicant for the grant or renewal of such a certificate, where the appropriate Ministers propose to refuse to grant or renew it, and
  - (b) to the holder of such a certificate, where the appropriate Ministers propose to suspend or revoke it,an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, a person appointed for the purpose by the appropriate Ministers or of making representations in writing to those Ministers with respect to that proposal.
- (6) Regulations made under this section may provide that, for the purposes of paragraph (b) of subsection (1) of this section, a medicinal product shall not be taken to be sold or supplied in accordance with a prescription as mentioned in that paragraph unless such conditions as are prescribed by the regulations are fulfilled.
- (7) Before making any regulations under this section the appropriate Ministers shall consult the appropriate committee, or, if for the time being there is no such committee, shall consult the Commission.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C19** S. 60 applied (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3142](#), [reg. 18\(2\)](#)  
S. 60 applied (31.3.1997) by [S.I. 1997/322](#), [reg. 34](#), [Sch.5](#)
- C20** S. 60 restricted (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3144](#), [reg. 8\(4\)](#)  
S. 60 modified (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3144](#), [reg. 9\(10\)](#)

**61 Special restrictions on persons to be supplied with medicinal products.**

The appropriate Ministers may by regulations provide, either in respect of medicinal products generally or in respect of medicinal products of a description or falling within a class specified in the regulations, that, subject to such exceptions as may be so specified, no person—

- (a) being the holder of a product licence, or

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- (b) in the course of business carried on by him and consisting (wholly or partly) of manufacturing medicinal products or of selling medicinal products by way of wholesale dealing,

shall sell or supply any medicinal product to which the regulations apply to any person who does not fall within a class specified in the regulations.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C21** Ss. 57, 58, 61 extended by S.I. 1984/187, art. 2

**C22** S. 61 applied (1.1.1995) by S.I. 1994/3142, reg. 18(2)

S. 61 modified (1.1.1995) by S.I. 1994/3144, reg.9(6)

S. 61 applied (31.3.1997) by S.I. 1997/322, reg. 54, Sch.5

**62 Prohibition of sale or supply, or importation, of medicinal products of specified description, or of animal feeding stuffs incorporating such products.**

- (1) Subject to the following provisions of this section, the appropriate Ministers, where it appears to them to be necessary to do so in the interests of safety, may by order—
- (a) prohibit the sale or supply, or the importation, of medicinal products of any description, or falling within any class, specified in the order, or (in such manner as may appear to them to be sufficient to identify the products in question) designate particular medicinal products and prohibit the sale or supply, or the importation, of those particular products;
- (b) prohibit the sale or supply, or the importation, of animal feeding stuffs in which medicinal products of any description, or falling within any class, specified in the order have been incorporated, or (in such manner as may appear to them to be sufficient to identify the feeding stuffs in question) designate particular animal feeding stuffs in which medicinal products have been incorporated and prohibit the sale or supply, or the importation, of those particular feeding stuffs.
- (2) A prohibition imposed by order under this section may be a total prohibition or may be imposed subject to such exceptions as may be specified in the order.
- (3) Before making an order under this section the appropriate Ministers, unless in their opinion it is essential to make the order with immediate effect to avoid serious danger to health, whether of human beings or of animals, shall consult the appropriate committee, or if for the time being there is no such committee, shall consult the Commission.
- (4) Where an order is made under this section without prior consultation with the appropriate committee or the Commission in accordance with subsection (3) of this section, the prohibition imposed by the order shall not have effect after the end of such period, not exceeding three months from the date on which it comes into operation, as may be specified in the order, but without prejudice to the making of any further order in accordance with the provisions of this section (including this subsection).
- (5) If any organisation consulted in pursuance of section 129(6) of this Act with respect to a proposal to make an order under this section have given notice to the appropriate Ministers of their desire to be heard under this subsection, or have made representations in writing to those Ministers with respect to that proposal, then before making the order—

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- (a) if the organisation have given notice of their desire to be heard, the appropriate Ministers shall arrange for them to have an opportunity of appearing before, and being heard by, the Commission, or
  - (b) if they have made representations in writing, the appropriate Ministers shall refer those representations to the Commission,
- and, where the organisation have availed themselves of the opportunity of being heard, or after considering the representations, as the case may be, the Commission shall report their findings and conclusions to the appropriate Ministers and those Ministers shall take that report into account in determining whether to make the order.
- (6) Subsection (5) of this section shall not have effect where in the opinion of the appropriate Ministers it is essential to make the order with immediate effect as mentioned in subsection (3) of this section.
- (7) If an order is made under this section in circumstances where either—
- (a) neither the appropriate committee (if any) nor the Commission have considered the proposal to make the order (whether on being consulted under subsection (3) of this section or, in the case of the Commission, in pursuance of subsection (5) of this section), or
  - (b) the order is made contrary to the advice of the Commission or, in a case where the Commission have not, but the appropriate committee have, considered the proposal to make the order, is made contrary to the advice of that committee,
- the order shall include a statement of the fact that it has been so made.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C23** S. 62 extended by [S.I. 1984/187, art. 2](#)
- C24** S. 62 extended with modifications by [S.I. 1985/1403, art. 3\(1\)](#)  
S. 62 applied (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3142, reg. 18\(2\)](#)
- C25** S. 62 (1)(a), (2)–(7) extended by S.I.s 1982/425, art. 3, 1984/187, art. 2 and extended with modifications by [S.I. 1985/1403, art. 3\(1\)](#)

**63 Adulteration of medicinal products.**

No person shall—

- (a) add any substance to, or abstract any substance from, a medicinal product so as to affect injuriously the composition of the product, with intent that the product shall be sold or supplied in that state, or
- (b) sell or supply, or offer or expose for sale or supply, or have in his possession for the purpose of sale or supply, any medicinal product whose composition has been injuriously affected by the addition or abstraction of any substance.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

- C26** Ss. 63–65 extended by [S.I. 1984/187, art. 2](#)
- C27** S. 63 applied (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3142, reg. 18\(2\)](#)

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## **64 Protection of purchasers of medicinal products.**

- (1) No person shall, to the prejudice of the purchaser, sell any medicinal product which is not of the nature or quality demanded by the purchaser.
- (2) For the purposes of this section the sale of a medicinal product shall not be taken to be otherwise than to the prejudice of the purchaser by reason only that the purchaser buys the product for the purpose of analysis or examination.
- (3) Subsection (1) of this section shall not be taken to be contravened by reason only that a medicinal product contains some extraneous matter, if it is proved that the presence of that matter was an inevitable consequence of the process of manufacture of the product.
- (4) Subsection (1) of this section shall not be taken to be contravened by reason only that a substance has been added to, or abstracted from, the medicinal product, if it is proved that—
  - (a) the addition or abstraction was not carried out fraudulently, and did not injuriously affect the composition of the product, and
  - (b) the product was sold having attached to it, or to a container or package in which it was sold, a conspicuous notice of adequate size and legibly printed, specifying the substance added or abstracted.
- (5) Where a medicinal product is sold or supplied in pursuance of a prescription given by a practitioner, the preceding provisions of this section shall have effect as if—
  - (a) in those provisions any reference to sale included a reference to supply and (except as provided by the following paragraph) any reference to the purchaser included a reference to the person (if any) for whom the product was prescribed by the practitioner, and
  - (b) in subsection (1) of this section, for the words “demanded by the purchaser”, there were substituted the words “specified in the prescription”.

### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C28** Ss. 63–65 extended by [S.I. 1984/187](#), [art. 2](#)

## **65 Compliance with standards specified in monographs in certain publications.**

- (1) No person shall, in the course of a business carried on by him,—
  - (a) sell a medicinal product which has been demanded by the purchaser by, or by express reference to, a particular name, or
  - (b) sell or supply a medicinal product in pursuance of a prescription given by a practitioner in which the product required is described by, or by express reference, to a particular name,
 if that name is a name at the head of the relevant monograph and the product does not comply with the standard specified in that monograph.
- (2) No person shall, in the course of a business carried on by him, sell or supply a medicinal product which, in the course of that business, has been offered or exposed for sale and has been so offered or exposed for sale by, or by express reference to, a particular name, if that name is a name at the head of the relevant monograph and the product does not comply with the standard specified in that monograph.

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**Changes to legislation:** Medicines Act 1968, Part III is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 27 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

- (3) Where a medicinal product is sold or supplied in the circumstances specified in subsection (1) or subsection (2) of this section, and the name in question is the name, not of the product itself, but of an active ingredient of the product, then for the purposes of the subsection in question the product shall be taken not to comply with the standard specified in the relevant monograph if, in so far as it consists of that ingredient, it does not comply with the standard so specified.
- (4) Subject to subsection (7) of this section, in this section “publication” means one of the following, that is to say, the British Pharmacopoeia, the British Pharmaceutical Codex, the British Veterinary Codex and any compendium published under Part VII of this Act; “the relevant monograph”, in relation to the sale or supply of a medicinal product which has been demanded, described in a prescription, or offered or exposed for sale, by or by express reference to a particular name,—
- (a) if, together with that name, there was specified a particular edition of a particular publication, means the monograph (if any) headed by that name in that edition of that publication, or, if there is no such monograph in that edition, means the appropriate current monograph (if any) headed by that name;
  - (b) if, together with that name, there was specified a particular publication, but not a particular edition of that publication, means the monograph (if any) headed by that name in the current edition of that publication, or, if there is no such monograph in that edition, means the appropriate current monograph (if any) headed by that name, or, in default of such a monograph, means the monograph headed by that name in the latest edition of the specified publication which contained a monograph so headed;
  - (c) if no publication was specified together with that name, means the appropriate current monograph (if any);
- and “current” means current at the time when the medicinal product in question is demanded, described in a prescription, or offered or exposed for sale, as mentioned in subsection (1) or subsection (2) of this section.
- (5) In this section “the appropriate current monograph”, in relation to a particular name, means—
- (a) the monograph (if any) headed by that name in the current edition of the British Pharmacopoeia, or
  - (b) if there is no such monograph, then the monograph (if any) headed by that name in the current edition of a compendium published under Part VII of this Act, or
  - (c) if there is no such monograph, then the monograph (if any) headed by that name in the current edition of the British Pharmaceutical Codex or the British Veterinary Codex.
- (6) Subject to subsection (8) of this section, for the purposes of this section an edition of a publication—
- (a) if it is the current edition of that publication, shall be taken as it is for the time being in force (that is to say, together with any amendments, additions and deletions made to it up to the time referred to in subsection (4) of this section), or
  - (b) if it is an edition previous to the current edition of that publication, shall be taken as it was immediately before the time when it was superseded by a subsequent edition of that publication (that is to say, together with any amendments, additions and deletions made to it up to that time),

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and any monograph in an edition of a publication shall be construed in accordance with any general monograph or notice or any appendix, note or other explanatory material which is contained in that edition and is applicable to that monograph, and any reference in this section to compliance with the standard specified in a monograph shall be construed accordingly.

- (7) In relation to any time on or after the date on which, by notice published in the Gazette by or on behalf of the Health Ministers, it is declared that the European Pharmacopoeia prepared in pursuance of the Convention in that behalf done at Strasbourg on 22nd July 1964 is to have effect for the purposes of this section, subsections (1) and (2) of this section shall have effect as if, after the words “that name is”, in each place where those words occur, there were inserted the words “or is an approved synonym for,” subsection (4) of this section shall have effect as if, before the words “the British Pharmacopoeia”, there were inserted the words “the European Pharmacopoeia”, and after the words “headed by that name”, in each place where those words occur, there were inserted the words “or by a name for which it is an approved synonym”, and subsection (5) of this section shall have effect as if for paragraph (a) of that subsection there were substituted the following paragraphs:—

- “(a) the monograph (if any) headed by that name, or by a name for which it is an approved synonym, in the current edition of the European Pharmacopoeia, or
- (aa) if there is no such monograph, then the monograph (if any) headed by that name in the current edition of the British Pharmacopoeia, or”.

- (8) For the purposes of this section, an edition of the European Pharmacopoeia—
- (a) if it is the current edition of that Pharmacopoeia at the time in question, shall be taken as it is for the time being in force in the United Kingdom (that is to say, together with any amendments, additions and deletions made to it which, by notice published as mentioned in subsection (7) of this section before the time referred to in subsection (4) of this section, have been declared to have effect for the purposes of this section), and
  - (b) if it is an edition previous to the current edition of that Pharmacopoeia, shall be taken as it was immediately before the time when it was superseded by a subsequent edition of that Pharmacopoeia in force in the United Kingdom (that is to say, together with any amendments, additions and deletions made to it which, by notice so published before that time, had been declared so to have effect),

and a name shall be taken to be an approved synonym for a name at the head of a monograph in the European Pharmacopoeia if, by a notice so published and not withdrawn by any subsequent notice so published, it has been declared to be approved by the Medicines Commission as a synonym for that name.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C29** Ss. 63–65 extended by [S.I. 1984/187](#), [art. 2](#)

**66 Further powers to regulate dealings with medicinal products.**

- (1) The appropriate Ministers may by regulations prescribe such requirements as they may consider necessary or expedient with respect to any of the following matters, that is to say—



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- (a) the manner in which, or persons under whose supervision, medicinal products may be prepared or may be dispensed;
  - (b) the amount of space to be provided in any premises for persons preparing or dispensing medicinal products, the separation of any such space from the remainder of the premises, and the facilities to be provided in any premises for such persons;
  - (c) the amount of space to be provided in any premises for the sale or supply of medicinal products;
  - (d) the accommodation (including the amount of space) to be provided in any premises for members of the public to whom medicinal products are sold or supplied or for whom medicinal products are being prepared or assembled;
  - (e) the amount of space to be provided in any premises for the storage of medicinal products;
  - (f) the safekeeping of medicinal products;
  - (g) the disposal of medicinal products which have become unusable or otherwise unwanted;
  - (h) precautions to be observed before medicinal products are sold or supplied;
  - (i) the keeping of records relating to the sale or supply of medicinal products;
  - (j) the supply of medicinal products distributed as samples;
  - (k) sanitation, cleanliness, temperature, humidity or other factors relating to the risks of deterioration or contamination in connection with the manufacture, storage, transportation, sale or supply of medicinal products;
  - (l) the construction, location and use of automatic machines for the sale of medicinal products.
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of the preceding subsection, regulations made under subsection (1) of this section may prescribe requirements in respect of—
- (a) the construction, lay-out, drainage, equipment, maintenance, ventilation, lighting and water supply of premises at or from which medicinal products are manufactured, stored, transported, sold or supplied;
  - (b) the disposal of refuse at or from any such premises; and
  - (c) any apparatus, equipment, furnishings or utensils used at any such premises.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C30** S. 67 extended by S.I.s 1982/425, art. 3, 1984/187, art. 2 and extended with modifications by S.I. 1985/1403, **art. 3(1)**

*Offences, and provision for disqualification*

**67 Offences under Part III.**

- (1) The following provisions of this section shall have effect subject to sections 121 and 122 of this Act.
- (2) Any person who contravenes any of the following provisions of this Part of this Act, that is to say, sections 52, 58, 63, 64 and 65, or who contravenes any regulations made under section 60 or section 61 or any order made under section 62 of this Act, shall be guilty of an offence.

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- (3) Where a medicinal product is sold, supplied or imported in contravention of an order made under section 62 of this Act, any person who, otherwise than for the purpose of performing or exercising a duty or power imposed or conferred by or under this Act or any other enactment, is in possession of the medicinal product, knowing or having reasonable cause to suspect that it was sold, supplied or imported in contravention of the order, shall be guilty of an offence.
- (4) Any person guilty of an offence under subsection (2) or subsection (3) of this section shall be liable—
  - (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £400;
  - (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both.
- (5) Any person who contravenes section 53 or section 54(1) or an order made under section 54(2) of this Act shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F5</sup>level 3 on the standard scale].
- (6) Any regulations made under section 66 of this Act may provide that any person who contravenes the regulations shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F6</sup>level 5 on the standard scale] or such lesser sum as may be specified in the regulations.

#### Textual Amendments

- F5** Words substituted by virtue of (E.W.) [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c.48, SIF 39:1\)](#), **ss. 38, 46**, (S.) [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c.21, SIF 39:1\)](#), **ss. 289F, 289G** and (N.I.) [S.I. 1984/703 \(N.I. 3\)](#), **arts. 5, 6**
- F6** Words substituted by virtue of (E.W.) [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c.48, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 46**, (S.) [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c.21, SIF 39:1\)](#), **s. 289G** and (N.I.) [S.I. 1984/703 \(N.I. 3\)](#), **arts. 5, 6**

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C31** [S. 67](#) extended by [S.I.s 1982/425](#), art. 3, [1984/187](#), art. 2 and extended with modifications by [S.I. 1985/1403](#), **art. 3(1)**  
[S. 67](#) applied (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3142](#), **reg.18(2)**  
[S. 67](#) applied (31.3.1997) by [S.I. 1997/322](#), **reg. 34**, **Sch.5**

## 68 Disqualification on conviction of certain offences.

- (1) Where in proceedings brought by an enforcement authority a person is convicted of an offence under section 67(6) of this Act in respect of any premises used for carrying on a retail pharmacy business, then on the application of that authority the court by or before which he was convicted may (subject to the following provisions of this section) make an order disqualifying him from using those premises for the purposes of such a business for such period, not exceeding two years, as may be specified in the order.
- (2) The court shall not make an order under this section disqualifying a person in respect of any premises unless the court thinks it expedient to do so having regard—
  - (a) to the gravity of the offence of which he has been convicted as mentioned in the preceding subsection, or
  - (b) to the unsatisfactory nature of the premises, or

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- (c) to any offences under section 67(6) of this Act of which he has previously been convicted.
- (3) No order under this section shall be made against a person on the application of an enforcement authority unless the authority have, not less than fourteen days before the date of the hearing, given him notice in writing of their intention to apply for such an order to be made against him.
- (4) If, while an order under this section disqualifying a person in respect of any premises is in force, the premises are used for the purposes of a retail pharmacy business carried on by him, he shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding [<sup>F7</sup>level 5 on the standard scale].
- (5) Subject to the next following subsection, at any time after the end of the period of six months from the date on which an order under this section comes into force, the person to whom the order relates may apply to the court by which the order was made to revoke the order or to vary it by reducing the period of disqualification.
- (6) On any application made under subsection (5) of this section the court may revoke or vary the order as mentioned in that subsection if it thinks it proper to do so having regard to all the circumstances of the case, including in particular the conduct of the applicant and any improvement in the state of the premises to which the order relates; but, if on any such application the court refuses to revoke or vary the order, no further application made by the applicant under that subsection shall be entertained if it is made within three months from the date of the refusal.
- (7) The court to which an application under subsection (5) of this section is made shall have power to order the applicant to pay the whole or any part of the costs of the application.
- (8) In the application of this section to Scotland, for references to an enforcement authority and to costs there shall be substituted respectively references to the procurator fiscal and to expenses.

#### Textual Amendments

**F7** Words substituted by virtue of (E.W.) [Criminal Justice Act 1982 \(c.48, SIF 39:1\)](#), **ss. 38, 46**, (S.) [Criminal Procedure \(Scotland\) Act 1975 \(c.21, SIF 39:1\)](#), **ss. 289F, 289G** and (N.I.) [S.I. 1984/703 \(N.I. 3\)](#), **arts. 5, 6**

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

**C32** S. 68 applied (1.1.1995) by [S.I. 1994/3142](#), **reg. 18(2)**

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/02/1991. This version of this part contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:**

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