



Prescription and Limitation (Scotland) Act 1973

1973 CHAPTER 52

[^{F1}PART IIA

PREScription OF OBLIGATIONS AND LIMITATION OF ACTIONS
UNDER PART I OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 1987

Textual Amendments

F1 Part 2A (ss. 22A–22D) inserted by [Consumer Protection Act 1987](#) (c. 43, SIF 109:1), ss. 6, 41(2), 47(1)(2), [Sch. 1 para. 10](#)

Prescription of Obligations

22A Ten years'prescription of obligations.

- (1) An obligation arising from liability under section 2 of the 1987 Act (to make reparation for damage caused wholly or partly by a defect in a product) shall be extinguished if a period of 10 years has expired from the relevant time, unless a relevant claim was made within that period and has not been finally disposed of, and no such obligation shall come into existence after the expiration of the said period.
- (2) If, at the expiration of the period of 10 years mentioned in subsection (1) above, a relevant claim has been made but has not been finally disposed of, the obligation to which the claim relates shall be extinguished when the claim is finally disposed of.
- (3) In this section—
a claim is finally disposed of when—
 - (a) a decision disposing of the claim has been made against which no appeal is competent;

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- (b) an appeal against such a decision is competent with leave, and the time limit for leave has expired and no application has been made or leave has been refused;
- (c) leave to appeal against such a decision is granted or is not required, and no appeal is made within the time limit for appeal; or
- (d) the claim is abandoned;
 - “ relevant claim ” in relation to an obligation means a claim made by or on behalf of the creditor for implement or part implement of the obligation, being a claim made—
- (a) in appropriate proceedings within the meaning of section 4(2) of this Act; or
- (b) by the presentation of, or the concurring in, a petition for sequestration or by the submission of a claim under section [F2 46 or 122 of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 2016]; or
- (c) by the presentation of, or the concurring in, a petition for the winding up of a company or by the submission of a claim in a liquidation in accordance with the rules made under section 411 of the Insolvency Act M1 1986;
 - “ relevant time ” has the meaning given in section 4(2) of the 1987 Act.

- (4) Where a relevant claim is made in an arbitration, [F3 the date when the arbitration begins (within the meaning of section 4(4) of this Act)] shall be taken for those purposes to be the date of the making of the claim.

- F4 (5)
 F4 (6)
 F4 (7)
 F4 (8)

Textual Amendments

- F2** Words in s. 22A(3) substituted (30.11.2016) by [Bankruptcy \(Scotland\) Act 2016 \(asp 21\), s. 237\(2\), sch. 8 para. 6\(3\)](#) (with ss. 232, 234(3), 235, 236); S.S.I. 2016/294, reg. 2
- F3** Words in s. 22A(4) substituted (7.6.2010 for specified purposes) by [Arbitration \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 1\), ss. 23\(5\), 35\(2\)](#) (with ss. 30, 34, 36); S.S.I. 2010/195, art. 2 (with art. 3)
- F4** S. 22A(5)-(8) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Cross-Border Mediation \(EU Directive\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/469\), reg. 1\(1\), Sch. 1 para. 4\(2\)](#) (with reg. 5) (as amended by S.I. 2020/1493, regs. 1(1), 4(5)(6)); 2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1(1)

Marginal Citations

- M1** [1986 c. 45 \(66\)](#).

Limitation of actions

22B 3 year limitation of actions.

- (1) This section shall apply to an action to enforce an obligation arising from liability under section 2 of the 1987 Act (to make reparation for damage caused wholly or partly by a defect in a product), except where section 22C of this Act applies.

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- (2) Subject to subsection (4) below, an action to which this section applies shall not be competent unless it is commenced within the period of 3 years after the earliest date on which the person seeking to bring (or a person who could at an earlier date have brought) the action was aware, or on which, in the opinion of the court, it was reasonably practicable for him in all the circumstances to become aware, of all the facts mentioned in subsection (3) below.
- (3) The facts referred to in subsection (2) above are—
 - (a) that there was a defect in a product;
 - (b) that the damage was caused or partly caused by the defect;
 - (c) that the damage was sufficiently serious to justify the pursuer (or other person referred to in subsection (2) above) in bringing an action to which this section applies on the assumption that the defender did not dispute liability and was able to satisfy a decree;
 - (d) that the defender was a person liable for the damage under the said section 2.
- (4) In the computation of the period of 3 years mentioned in subsection (2) above, there shall be disregarded any period during which the person seeking to bring the action was under legal disability by reason of nonage or unsoundness of mind.
- (5) The facts mentioned in subsection (3) above do not include knowledge of whether particular facts and circumstances would or would not, as a matter of law, result in liability for damage under the said section 2.
- (6) Where a person would be entitled, but for this section, to bring an action for reparation other than one in which the damages claimed are confined to damages for loss of or damage to property, the court may, if it seems to it equitable to do so, allow him to bring the action notwithstanding this section.

22C Actions under the 1987 Act where death has resulted from personal injuries.

- (1) This section shall apply to an action to enforce an obligation arising from liability under section 2 of the 1987 Act (to make reparation for damage caused wholly or partly by a defect in a product) where a person has died from personal injuries and the damages claimed include damages for those personal injuries or that death.
- (2) Subject to subsection (4) below, an action to which this section applies shall not be competent unless it is commenced within the period of 3 years after the later of—
 - (a) the date of death of the injured person;
 - (b) the earliest date on which the person seeking to make (or a person who could at an earlier date have made) the claim was aware, or on which, in the opinion of the court, it was reasonably practicable for him in all the circumstances to become aware—
 - (i) that there was a defect in the product;
 - (ii) that the injuries of the deceased were caused (or partly caused) by the defect; and
 - (iii) that the defender was a person liable for the damage under the said section 2.
- (3) Where the person seeking to make the claim is a relative of the deceased, there shall be disregarded in the computation of the period mentioned in subsection (2) above

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any period during which that relative was under legal disability by reason of nonage or unsoundness of mind.

- (4) Where an action to which section 22B of this Act applies has not been brought within the period mentioned in subsection (2) of that section and the person subsequently dies in consequence of his injuries, an action to which this section applies shall not be competent in respect of those injuries or that death.
- (5) Where a person would be entitled, but for this section, to bring an action for reparation other than one in which the damages claimed are confined to damages for loss of or damage to property, the court may, if it seems to it equitable to do so, allow him to bring the action notwithstanding this section.
- (6) In this section “ relative ” has the same meaning as in the [Damages (Scotland) Act 2011].
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b) above there shall be disregarded knowledge of whether particular facts and circumstances would or would not, as a matter of law, result in liability for damage under the said section 2.

[^{F5}22CA] Interruption of limitation period for 1987 Act actions: arbitration

- (1) Any period during which an arbitration is ongoing in relation to a matter is to be disregarded in any computation of the period specified in section 22B(2) or 22C(2) of this Act in relation to that matter.
- (2) In this section, “ arbitration ” means—
 - (a) any arbitration in Scotland,
 - (b) any arbitration in a country other than Scotland, being an arbitration an award in which would be enforceable in Scotland.]

Textual Amendments

- F5** S. 22CA inserted (7.6.2010 for specified purposes) by [Arbitration \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 1\)](#), **ss. 23(6), 35(2)** (with [ss. 30, 34, 36](#)); [S.S.I. 2010/195](#), **art. 2** (with [art. 3](#))

[^{F6}22CB] Extension of limitation periods for 1987 Act actions: mediation

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Textual Amendments

- F6** S. 22CB omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Cross-Border Mediation \(EU Directive\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations 2019 \(S.I. 2019/469\)](#), **reg. 1(1), Sch. 1 para. 4(3)** (with [reg. 5](#)) (as amended by [S.I. 2020/1493](#), **regs. 1(1), 4(5)(6)**); [2020 c. 1, Sch. 5 para. 1\(1\)](#)

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Supplementary

22D Interpretation of this Part.

- (1) Expressions used in this Part and in Part I of the 1987 Act shall have the same meanings in this Part as in the said Part I.
- (2) For the purposes of section 1(1) of the 1987 Act, this Part shall have effect and be construed as if it were contained in Part I of that Act.
- (3) In this Part, “ the 1987 Act ” means the ^{M2} Consumer Protection Act 1987.]

Marginal Citations

M2 1987 c. 43 (109:1).

23 F7

Textual Amendments

F7 S. 23 repealed (with saving) by [Consumer Protection Act 1987 \(c. 43, SIF 109:1\)](#), ss. 6, 41(2), 47(1) (2), 48(3), [Sch. 1 para. 11](#), [Sch. 5](#)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 6(4A) inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 4\(3\)](#)
- s. 7(3)-(5) inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 6\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 7A inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 9\(2\)](#)
- s. 8(1A)-(1C) inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 7\(3\)](#)
- s. 9(1)(e)-(h) inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 10\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 9(2A) inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 11\(2\)](#)
- s. 9A inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 12](#)
- s. 13A inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 14\(2\)](#)
- s. 22A(3)(d)-(g) inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 10\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 22A(7A) inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 14\(3\)](#)
- s. 32(2) applied (with modifications) by [2021 asp 9 s. 69\(8\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 1(fa)(fb) inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 2\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 1(h) inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 3\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 2(fa)-(fd) inserted by [2018 asp 15 s. 3\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 1(d)(da) substituted for Sch. 1 para. 1(d) by [2018 asp 15 s. 1\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 2(e)(ea) substituted for Sch. 1 para. 2(e) by [2018 asp 15 s. 3\(3\)\(a\)](#)