



Electricity Act 1989

1989 CHAPTER 29

PART I

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Provisions with respect to supply generally

29 Regulations relating to supply and safety.

- (1) The Secretary of State may make such regulations as he thinks fit for the purpose of—
- (a) securing that supplies of electricity are regular and efficient;
 - (b) protecting the public from dangers arising from the generation, transmission^[F1], distribution^[F2] or supply of electricity, [from the use of electricity interconnectors,] from the use of electricity supplied or from the installation, maintenance or use of any electric line or electrical plant; and
 - (c) without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (b) above, eliminating or reducing the risks of personal injury, or damage to property or interference with its use, arising as mentioned in that paragraph.
- ^[F3](1A) Regulations under this section may include provision for securing the purposes mentioned in subsection (1) in relation to the territorial sea adjacent to Great Britain or any Renewable Energy Zone.]
- (2) Without prejudice to the generality of subsection (1) above, regulations under this section may—
- (a) prohibit the ^[F4]distribution or transmission of electricity except by means of a system approved by the Secretary of State;
 - (b) make provision requiring notice in the prescribed form to be given to the Secretary of State, in such cases as may be specified in the regulations, of accidents and of failures ^[F5]in the distribution or transmission of electricity ^[F6]or in the use of electricity interconnectors];
 - (c) make provision as to the keeping, by persons authorised by a licence or exemption to ^[F7]distribute or ^[F8]participate in the transmission of] electricity

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- [^{F9}or to participate in the operation of an electricity interconnector], of maps, plans and sections and as to their production (on payment, if so required, of a reasonable fee) for inspection or copying;
- (d) make provision for relieving [^{F10}electricity distributors from any duty under section 16 or authorising them to disconnect any premises or distribution system] in such cases as may be prescribed;
- (e) make provision requiring compliance with notices given by the Secretary of State specifying action to be taken in relation to any electric line or electrical plant, or any electrical appliance under the control of a consumer, for the purpose of—
- (i) preventing or ending a breach of regulations under this section; or
 - (ii) eliminating or reducing a risk of personal injury or damage to property or interference with its use;
- (f) provide for particular requirements of the regulations to be deemed to be complied with in the case of any electric line or electrical plant complying with specified standards or requirements;
- (g) provide for the granting of exemptions from any requirement of the regulations for such periods as may be determined by or under the regulations.
- (3) Regulations under this section may provide that any person—
- (a) who contravenes any specified provision of the regulations; or
 - (b) who does so in specified circumstances,
- shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale; but nothing in this subsection shall affect any liability of any such person to pay compensation in respect of any damage or injury which may have been caused by the contravention.
- (4) No proceedings shall be instituted in England and Wales in respect of an offence under this section except by or on behalf of the Secretary of State or the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 29(1)(b) inserted (1.10.2001) by 2000 c. 27, s. 108, **Sch. 6 Pt. II para. 30(2)**; S.I. 2001/3266, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions in arts. 3-20)
- F2** Words in s. 29(1)(b) inserted (1.12.2004) by Energy Act 2004 (c. 20), **ss. 147(3)(a)**, 198(2); S.I. 2004/2575, art. 2(2), **Sch. 2**
- F3** S. 29(1A) inserted (5.10.2004) by Energy Act 2004 (c. 20), **ss. 94(1)**, 198(2); S.I. 2004/2575, art. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- F4** Words in s. 29(2)(a) substituted (1.10.2001) by 2000 c. 27, s. 108, **Sch. 6 Pt. II para. 30(3)(a)**; S.I. 2001/3266, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions in arts. 3-20)
- F5** Words in s. 29(2)(b) substituted (1.10.2001) by 2000 c. 27, s. 108, **Sch. 6 Pt. II para. 30(3)(b)**; S.I. 2001/3266, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions in arts. 3-20)
- F6** Words in s. 29(2)(b) inserted (1.12.2004) by Energy Act 2004 (c. 20), **ss. 147(3)(b)**, 198(2); S.I. 2004/2575, art. 2(2), **Sch. 2**
- F7** Words in s. 29(2)(c) substituted (1.10.2001) by 2000 c. 27, s. 108, **Sch. 6 Pt. II para. 30(3)(c)**; S.I. 2001/3266, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions in arts. 3-20)
- F8** Words in s. 29(2)(c) substituted (1.9.2004) by Energy Act 2004 (c. 20), s. 198(2), **Sch. 19 para. 10**; S.I. 2004/2184, art. 2(2), **Sch. 2**
- F9** Words in s. 29(2)(c) inserted (1.12.2004) by Energy Act 2004 (c. 20), **ss. 147(3)(c)**, 198(2); S.I. 2004/2575, art. 2(2), **Sch. 2**

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F10 Words in s. 29(2)(d) substituted (1.10.2001) by 2000 c. 27, s. 108, **Sch. 6 Pt. II para. 30(3)(d)**; S.I. 2001/3266, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions in arts. 3-20)

30 Electrical inspectors.

- (1) The Secretary of State may appoint competent and impartial persons to be electrical inspectors under this Part.
- (2) The duties of an electrical inspector under this Part shall be as follows—
 - (a) to inspect and test, periodically and in special cases, electric lines and electrical plant belonging to persons authorised by a licence or exemption to generate, ^{F11}distribute or participate in the transmission of] electricity ^{F12}or to participate in the operation of electricity interconnectors];
 - (b) to examine, periodically and in special cases, the generation, transmission^{F13}, distribution] or supply of electricity by such persons;
 - (c) to inspect and test, if and when required by any consumer, any such lines and plant on the consumer's premises, for the purpose of determining whether any requirement imposed by or under this Part in respect of the lines or plant or the ^{F14}conveyance of electricity through] them has been complied with; and
 - (d) such other duties as may be imposed by regulations under this section or as the Secretary of State may determine.
- (3) The Secretary of State may by regulations—
 - (a) prescribe the manner in which and the times at which any duties are to be performed by electrical inspectors;
 - (b) require persons authorised by a licence or exemption to ^{F15}carry on licensable activities]—
 - (i) to furnish electrical inspectors with records or other information; and
 - (ii) to allow such inspectors access to premises and the use of electrical plant and other facilities;
 - (c) make provision for relieving ^{F16}electricity distributors from any duty under section 16 or authorising them to disconnect any premises or distribution system] in such cases as may be prescribed; and
 - (d) prescribe the amount of the fees which are to be payable to such inspectors.
- ^{F17}(3A) The regulations that may be made under this section include regulations—
 - (a) imposing duties on electrical inspectors in relation to anything in the territorial sea adjacent to Great Britain or a Renewable Energy Zone; or
 - (b) making any other provision authorised by this section in relation to activities carried on there.]
- (4) Any fees received by electrical inspectors shall be paid to the Secretary of State; and any sums received by him under this subsection shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Textual Amendments

F11 Words in s. 30(2)(a) substituted (1.9.2004) by Energy Act 2004 (c. 20), s. 198(2), **Sch. 19 para. 11**; S.I. 2004/2184, art. 2(2), Sch. 2

F12 Words in s. 30(2)(a) inserted (1.12.2004) by Energy Act 2004 (c. 20), ss. 147(4), 198(2); S.I. 2004/2575, art. 2(2), Sch. 2

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- F13** Words in s. 30(2)(b) inserted (1.10.2001) by 2000 c. 27, s. 108, **Sch. 6 Pt. II para. 31(2)(b)**; S.I. 2001/3266, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions in arts. 3-20)
- F14** Words in s. 30(2)(c) substituted (1.10.2001) by 2000 c. 27, s. 108, **Sch. 6 Pt. II para. 31(2)(c)**; S.I. 2001/3266, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions in arts. 3-20)
- F15** Words in s. 30(3)(b) substituted (1.10.2001) by 2000 c. 27, s. 108, **Sch. 6 Pt. II para. 31(3)(a)**; S.I. 2001/3266, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions in arts. 3-20)
- F16** Words in s. 30(3)(c) substituted (1.10.2001) by 2000 c. 27, s. 108, **Sch. 6 Pt. II para. 31(3)(b)**; S.I. 2001/3266, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions in arts. 3-20)
- F17** S. 30(3A) inserted (5.10.2004) by Energy Act 2004 (c. 20), **ss. 94(2)**, 198(2); S.I. 2004/2575, art. 2(1), Sch. 1

31 Use etc. of meters.

The provisions of Schedule 7 to this Act (which relate to the use, certification, testing and maintenance of electricity meters) shall have effect.

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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. 4(1)(f) and word inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 186\(3\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 4(1)(ca) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 166\(2\)](#)
- s. 4(1)(da) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 205\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 4(3H)(3I) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 186\(4\)](#)
- s. 4(3CA) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 205\(3\)](#)
- s. 4(3EA) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 205\(5\)](#)
- s. 6(1)(g) and word inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 186\(7\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 6(1)(ea) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 205\(8\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 6(2C) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 186\(8\)](#)
- s. 6(2AA) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 205\(9\)](#)
- s. 6(6E) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 205\(10\)](#)
- s. 7(3GA) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 186\(17\)](#)
- s. 7A(11B) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 186\(18\)](#)
- s. 8A(1C) inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 206\(6\)](#)
- s. 10NA inserted by [2023 c. 52 s. 207\(2\)](#)
- s. 11E(2)(d) and word inserted by [2013 c. 32 s. 138\(5\)\(b\)\(iii\)](#)
- s. 11AA inserted by [2018 c. 14 s. 13\(3\)](#)
- s. 15(2)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2019/93, Sch. 1 para. 3(2)(b) (as substituted) by [S.I. 2019/1245 reg. 19](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The affecting statutory instrument has no legal effect. It was made under a procedure which meant that it ceased to have effect 28 days after signing unless it was debated and approved in Parliament within that time. It was not debated and approved within 28 days, so it has expired with no effect.)
- s. 25(8A) inserted by [2023 c. 52 Sch. 14 para. 7\(3\)](#)
- s. 44A inserted by [1992 c. 43 s. 23](#)
- s. 44A(6)(b)(i) words substituted by [2013 c. 22 Sch. 9 para. 52](#)
- s. 44B(1)(a)(iiia) inserted by [2023 c. 52 Sch. 17 para. 8](#)
- s. 56C(6)(d) and word inserted by [2013 c. 32 s. 138\(5\)\(d\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 5A para. 2(1A) inserted by [2018 c. 14 s. 13\(4\)](#)
- Sch. 6A para. 9ZA and cross-heading inserted by [2023 c. 52 Sch. 14 para. 8](#)