



Clean Air Act 1993

1993 CHAPTER 11

PART III

SMOKE CONTROL AREAS

Creation of smoke control areas

18 Declaration of smoke control area by local authority

- (1) A local authority may by order declare the whole or any part of the district of the authority to be a smoke control area; and any order made under this section is referred to in this Act as a “smoke control order”.
- (2) A smoke control order—
 - (a) may make different provision for different parts of the smoke control area;
 - (b) may limit the operation of section 20 (prohibition of emissions of smoke) to specified classes of building in the area; and
 - (c) may exempt specified buildings or classes of building or specified fireplaces or classes of fireplace in the area from the operation of that section, upon such conditions as may be specified in the order;and the reference in paragraph (c) to specified buildings or classes of building include a reference to any specified, or to any specified classes of, fixed boiler or industrial plant.
- (3) A smoke control order may be revoked or varied by a subsequent order.
- (4) The provisions of Schedule 1 apply to the coming into operation of smoke control orders.

19 Power of Secretary of State to require creation of smoke control areas

- (1) If, after consultation with a local authority, the Secretary of State is satisfied—

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- (a) that it is expedient to abate the pollution of the air by smoke in the district or part of the district of the authority; and
- (b) that the authority have not exercised, or have not sufficiently exercised, their powers under section 18 (power to declare smoke control area) to abate the pollution,

he may direct the authority to prepare and submit to him for his approval, within such period not being less than six months from the direction as may be specified in the direction, proposals for making and bringing into operation one or more smoke control orders within such period or periods as the authority think fit.

- (2) Any proposals submitted by a local authority in pursuance of a direction under subsection (1) may be varied by further proposals submitted by the authority within the period specified for the making of the original proposals or such longer period as the Secretary of State may allow.
- (3) The Secretary of State may reject any proposals submitted to him under this section or may approve them in whole or in part, with or without modifications.
- (4) Where a local authority to whom a direction under subsection (1) has been given—
 - (a) fail to submit proposals to the Secretary of State within the period specified in the direction; or
 - (b) submit proposals which are rejected in whole or in part,
 the Secretary of State may make an order declaring them to be in default and directing them for the purposes of removing the default to exercise their powers under section 18 in such manner and within such period as may be specified in the order.
- (5) An order made under subsection (4) may be varied or revoked by a subsequent order so made.
- (6) While proposals submitted by a local authority and approved by the Secretary of State under this section are in force, it shall be the duty of the authority to make such order or orders under section 18 as are necessary to carry out the proposals.

Prohibition on emission of smoke in smoke control area

20 Prohibition on emission of smoke in smoke control area

- (1) If, on any day, smoke is emitted from a chimney of any building within a smoke control area, the occupier of the building shall be guilty of an offence.
- (2) If, on any day, smoke is emitted from a chimney (not being a chimney of a building) which serves the furnace of any fixed boiler or industrial plant within a smoke control area, the person having possession of the boiler or plant shall be guilty of an offence.
- (3) Subsections (1) and (2) have effect—
 - (a) subject to any exemptions for the time being in force under section 18, 21 or 22;
 - (b) subject to section 51 (duty to notify offences to occupier or other person liable).
- (4) In proceedings for an offence under this section it shall be a defence to prove that the alleged emission was not caused by the use of any fuel other than an authorised fuel.

- (5) A person guilty of an offence under this section shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (6) In this Part “authorised fuel” means a fuel declared by regulations of the Secretary of State to be an authorised fuel for the purposes of this Part.

21 Power by order to exempt certain fireplaces

The Secretary of State may by order exempt any class of fireplace, upon such conditions as may be specified in the order, from the provisions of section 20 (prohibition of smoke emissions in smoke control area), if he is satisfied that such fireplaces can be used for burning fuel other than authorised fuels without producing any smoke or a substantial quantity of smoke.

22 Exemptions relating to particular areas

- (1) The Secretary of State may, if it appears to him to be necessary or expedient so to do, by order suspend or relax the operation of section 20 (prohibition of smoke emissions in smoke control area) in relation to the whole or any part of a smoke control area.
- (2) Before making an order under subsection (1) the Secretary of State shall consult with the local authority unless he is satisfied that, on account of urgency, such consultation is impracticable.
- (3) As soon as practicable after the making of such an order the local authority shall take such steps as appear to them suitable for bringing the effect of the order to the notice of persons affected.

Dealings with unauthorised fuel

23 Acquisition and sale of unauthorised fuel in a smoke control area

- (1) Any person who—
 - (a) acquires any solid fuel for use in a building in a smoke control area otherwise than in a building or fireplace exempted from the operation of section 20 (prohibition of smoke emissions in smoke control area);
 - (b) acquires any solid fuel for use in any fixed boiler or industrial plant in a smoke control area, not being a boiler or plant so exempted; or
 - (c) sells by retail any solid fuel for delivery by him or on his behalf to—
 - (i) a building in a smoke control area; or
 - (ii) premises in such an area in which there is any fixed boiler or industrial plant,shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.
- (2) In subsection (1), “solid fuel” means any solid fuel other than an authorised fuel.
- (3) Subsection (1) shall, in its application to a smoke control area in which the operation of section 20 is limited by a smoke control order to specified classes of buildings, boilers or plant, have effect as if references to a building, boiler or plant were references to a building, boiler or plant of a class specified in the order.

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- (4) The power of the Secretary of State under section 22 (exemptions relating to particular areas) to suspend or relax the operation of section 20 in relation to the whole or any part of a smoke control area includes power to suspend or relax the operation of subsection (1) in relation to the whole or any part of such an area.
- (5) In proceedings for an offence under this section consisting of the sale of fuel for delivery to a building or premises, it shall be a defence for the person accused to prove that he believed and had reasonable grounds for believing—
 - (a) that the building was exempted from the operation of section 20 or, in a case where the operation of that section is limited to specified classes of building, was not of a specified class; or
 - (b) that the fuel was acquired for use in a fireplace, boiler or plant so exempted or, in a case where the operation of that section is limited to specified classes of boilers or plant, in a boiler or plant not of a specified class.

Adaptation of fireplaces

24 Power of local authority to require adaptation of fireplaces in private dwellings

- (1) The local authority may, by notice in writing served on the occupier or owner of a private dwelling which is, or when a smoke control order comes into operation will be, within a smoke control area, require the carrying out of adaptations in or in connection with the dwelling to avoid contraventions of section 20 (prohibition of smoke emissions in smoke control area).
- (2) The provisions of Part XII of the Public Health Act 1936 with respect to appeals against, and the enforcement of, notices requiring the execution of works shall apply in relation to any notice under subsection (1).
- (3) Any reference in those provisions to the expenses reasonably incurred in executing the works shall, in relation to a notice under subsection (1), be read as a reference to three-tenths of those expenses or such smaller fraction of those expenses as the local authority may in any particular case determine.
- (4) In the application of this section to Scotland—
 - (a) subsections (2) and (3) shall be omitted;
 - (b) section 111 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (which provides for an appeal to the sheriff against certain notices, demands and orders under that Act) shall apply in relation to a notice under subsection (1) of this section as it applies in relation to a repair notice under that Act; and
 - (c) subject to any such right of appeal as is mentioned in paragraph (b), if any person on whom a notice under subsection (1) is served fails to execute the works required by the notice within the time limited by the notice, the local authority may themselves execute the works and may recover from that person three-tenths, or such smaller fraction as the local authority may in any particular case determine, of the expenses reasonably incurred by them in so doing.

25 Expenditure incurred in relation to adaptations in private dwellings

- (1) Schedule 2 to this Act shall have effect with respect to certain expenditure incurred in adapting old private dwellings in smoke control areas.

- (2) In this Part “old private dwelling” means any private dwelling other than one which either—
- (a) was erected after 15th August 1964 (which was the date immediately preceding the time when the enactment replaced by this subsection came into force), or
 - (b) was produced by the conversion, after that date, of other premises, with or without the addition of premises erected after that date;
- and for the purposes of this subsection a dwelling or premises shall not be treated as erected or converted after that date unless the erection or conversion was begun after it.

26 Power of local authority to make grants towards adaptations to fireplaces in churches, chapels, buildings used by charities etc

- (1) If, after the making of a smoke control order, the owner or occupier of any premises or part of any premises to which this section applies and which will be within a smoke control area as the result of the order incurs expenditure on adaptations in or in connection with the premises or part to avoid contraventions of section 20 (prohibition of smoke emissions in smoke control area), the local authority may, if they think fit, repay to him the whole or any part of that expenditure.
- (2) This section applies to any premises or part of any premises which fall within one or more of the following paragraphs, that is to say—
- (a) any place of public religious worship, being, in the case of a place in England or Wales, a place which belongs to the Church of England or to the Church in Wales (within the meaning of the Welsh Church Act 1914) or which is for the time being certified as required by law as a place of religious worship;
 - (b) any church hall, chapel hall or similar premises used in connection with any such place of public religious worship, and so used for the purposes of the organisation responsible for the conduct of public religious worship in that place;
 - (c) any premises or part of any premises occupied for the purposes of an organisation (whether corporate or unincorporated) which is not established or conducted for profit and whose main objects are charitable or are otherwise concerned with the advancement of religion, education or social welfare.

Supplementary provisions

27 References to adaptations for avoiding contraventions of section 20

- (1) References in this Part to adaptations in or in connection with a dwelling to avoid contraventions of section 20 (prohibition of smoke emissions from smoke control area) shall be read as references to the execution of any of the following works (whether in or outside the dwelling), that is to say—
- (a) adapting or converting any fireplace;
 - (b) replacing any fireplace by another fireplace or by some other means of heating or cooking;
 - (c) altering any chimney which serves any fireplace;
 - (d) providing gas ignition, electric ignition or any other special means of ignition;
- or

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(e) carrying out any operation incidental to any of the operations mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (d);

being works which are reasonably necessary in order to make what is in all the circumstances suitable provision for heating and cooking without contraventions of section 20.

- (2) For the purposes of this section the provision of any igniting apparatus or appliance (whether fixed or not) operating by means of gas, electricity or other special means shall be treated as the execution of works.
- (3) Except for the purposes of section 24 (power of local authority to require certain adaptations), works which make such suitable provision as is mentioned in subsection (1) shall not be treated as not being adaptations to avoid contraventions of section 20 of this Act by reason that they go beyond what is reasonably necessary for that purpose, but any expenditure incurred in executing them in excess of the expenditure which would have been reasonably incurred in doing what was reasonably necessary shall be left out of account.
- (4) References in this section to a dwelling include references to any premises or part of any premises to which section 26 (grants towards certain adaptations in churches and other buildings) applies.

28 Cases where expenditure is taken to be incurred on execution of works

- (1) References in this Part to expenses incurred in the execution of works include references to the cost of any fixed cooking or heating appliance installed by means of the execution of the works, notwithstanding that the appliance can be readily removed from the dwelling without injury to itself or the fabric of the dwelling.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part a person who enters into either—
 - (a) a conditional sale agreement for the sale to him, or
 - (b) a hire-purchase agreement for the bailment or (in Scotland) hiring to him,
 of a cooking or heating appliance shall be treated as having incurred on the date of the agreement expenditure of an amount equal to the price which would have been payable for the appliance if he had purchased it for cash on that date.
- (3) References in this section to a dwelling include references to any premises or part of any premises to which section 26 (grants towards certain adaptations in churches and other buildings) applies.

29 Interpretation of Part III

In this Part, except so far as the context otherwise requires—

“authorised fuel” has the meaning given in section 20(6);

“conditional sale agreement” means an agreement for the sale of goods under which—

- (a) the purchase price or part of it is payable by instalments; and
- (b) the property in the goods is to remain in the seller (notwithstanding that the buyer is to be in possession of the goods) until such conditions as to the payment of instalments or otherwise as may be specified in the agreement are fulfilled;

“heating”, in relation to a dwelling, includes the heating of water;

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“hire-purchase agreement” means an agreement, other than a conditional sale agreement, under which—

- (a) goods are bailed or (in Scotland) hired in return for periodical payments by the person to whom they are bailed or hired; and
- (b) the property in the goods will pass to that person if the terms of the agreement are complied with and one or more of the following occurs—
- (c) the exercise of an option to purchase by that person;
- (ii) the doing of any other specified act by any party to the agreement; and
- (iii) the happening of any other specified event;

“old private dwelling” has the meaning given in section 25; and

“smoke control order” means an order made by a local authority under section 18.