
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1995 No. 1804

The Units of Measurement Regulations 1995

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Units of Measurement Regulations 1995 and shall come into force on 1st October 1995.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“Act” includes a local and personal or private Act, an Act of the Parliament of Northern Ireland and a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly;

“the commencement date”, subject to regulation 4 below, means 1st October 1995;

“corresponding metric unit”, in relation to a relevant imperial unit, means the unit of measurement specified in relation to the relevant imperial unit in the second column of the Schedule to these Regulations;

“existing provision” means any of the following, namely—

- (a) a provision of any Act passed, or of any subordinate legislation made, before the commencement date;
- (b) a provision of any contract, agreement, licence, authority, undertaking or statement made or given before that date; and
- (c) a provision of any deed, instrument or document made before that date;

“relevant imperial unit” means a unit of measurement specified in the first column of the Schedule to these Regulations;

“subordinate legislation” means Orders in Council, orders, rules, regulations, schemes, warrants, byelaws and other instruments made under any Act; and

“the Units of Measurement Directive” means the Directive of the Council of the European Communities dated 20th December 1979 (No.80/181/EEC) on the approximation of the laws of member States relating to units of measurement.(1)

Conversion of imperial units of measurement

3.—(1) Subject to the following provisions of these Regulations, where—

- (a) an existing provision authorises or requires a measurement to be made, or an indication of quantity to be expressed, in a relevant imperial unit,
- (b) the provision has effect for economic, public health, public safety or administrative purposes, and
- (c) the provision has legal effect on or after the commencement date,

(1) OJ No. L39, 15.2.80, p.40; the Directive has been amended by Council Directives 85/1/EEC and 89/617/EEC.

the provision shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be construed on or after that date as authorising or requiring the measurement to be made, or the indication of quantity to be expressed, in the corresponding metric unit.

- (2) Subject to the following provisions of these Regulations, where—
- (a) an existing provision contains a reference to an indication of quantity expressed in a relevant imperial unit,
 - (b) the provision has effect for economic, public health, public safety or administrative purposes, and
 - (c) the provision has legal effect on or after the commencement date,

the provision shall, unless the context otherwise requires, be construed on or after that date as if the indication of quantity concerned were expressed in the corresponding metric unit.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4) below, any conversion of an indication of quantity expressed in a relevant imperial unit which is required to be made by virtue of paragraph (2) above shall be made by using the metric equivalent specified in relation to the relevant imperial unit in the third column of the Schedule to these Regulations.

(4) Any conversion of an indication of quantity expressed in degrees Fahrenheit which is required to be made by virtue of paragraph (2) above shall be made by subtracting thirty-two and multiplying the result by five-ninths.

Later application of regulation 3 in relation to certain uses of imperial units

4. In relation to any of the following uses of relevant imperial units which are permitted by Article 1(d) of the Units of Measurement Directive, that is to say—

- (a) the use of the fathom for marine navigation,
- (b) the use of the pint or fluid ounce for beer, cider, water, lemonade and fruit juice in returnable containers,
- (c) the use of the pound or ounce (avoirdupois) for goods sold loose from bulk, and
- (d) the use of the therm for the supply of gas,

regulation 3 above shall be treated as coming into force on 1st January 2000 and that date shall be treated as the commencement date for the purposes of these Regulations.

Exceptions

5.—(1) Nothing in these Regulations shall apply in relation to any supplementary indication; and in this paragraph “supplementary indication” has the same meaning as it has in section 8(5A) of the Weights and Measures Act 1985.(2)

(2) Nothing in these Regulations shall apply in relation to any of the uses of relevant imperial units which are permitted by Article 1(b) of the Units of Measurement Directive, that is to say—

- (a) the use of the mile, yard, foot or inch for road traffic signs, distance and speed measurement;
- (b) the use of the pint for dispensing draught beer and cider;
- (c) the use of the pint for milk in returnable containers;
- (d) the use of the acre for land registration; and
- (e) the use of the troy ounce for transactions in precious metals.

(2) 1985 c. 72; section 8(5A) was added by regulation 5(2) of the Units of Measurement Regulations 1994.

(3) Nothing in these Regulations shall apply in relation to any use of a relevant imperial unit which is permitted by Article 2(b) of the Units of Measurement Directive (use in the field of air and sea transport and rail traffic of units laid down in international conventions or agreements).

(4) Nothing in these Regulations shall apply in relation to any contract to which regulation 11(1) of the Units of Measurement Regulations 1986⁽³⁾ applies.

Revocation

6. Regulation 4(3) of the Units of Measurement Regulations 1994,⁽⁴⁾ and the paragraphs added by it to regulation 11 of the Units of Measurement Regulations 1986, are hereby revoked.

13th July 1995

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⁽³⁾ S.I. 1986/1082.
⁽⁴⁾ S.I. 1994/2867.