
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2004 No. 1473

**The Goods Infringing Intellectual Property
Rights (Customs) Regulations 2004**

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Goods Infringing Intellectual Property Rights (Customs) Regulations 2004 and shall come into force on 1st July 2004.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“the 1979 Act” means the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979(1);

“application” means an application under Article 5 of the Council Regulation;

“the Commissioners” means the Commissioners of Customs and Excise;

“Community design” has the meaning given in Article 1(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No 6/2002 on Community designs(2);

“Community plant variety right” means a right of the kind provided for in Council Regulation (EC) No 2100/1994 on Community plant variety rights(3);

“the Council Regulation” means Council Regulation (EC) No 1383/2003 concerning customs action against goods suspected of infringing certain intellectual property rights and the measures to be taken against goods found to have infringed such rights(4);

“the customs and excise Acts” has the meaning given in section 1(1) of the 1979 Act;

“database rights” has the meaning given in regulation 13 of the Copyright and Rights in Databases Regulations 1997(5);

“decision” means a decision granting an application in accordance with Article 8 of the Council Regulation;

“declarant” has the meaning given in Article 4(18) of Council Regulation (EEC) No 2913/1992 establishing the Community Customs Code(6);

“design right” has the meaning given in section 213(1) of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988(7);

“designation of origin” has the same meaning as in Article 2(1)(c)(iv) of the Council Regulation;

“European patent (UK)” has the meaning given in section 130(1) of the Patents Act 1977(8);

(1) 1979 c. 2.

(2) OJ No L 003, 5.1.02, p 1.

(3) OJ No L 227, 1.9.94, p 1.

(4) OJ No L 196, 2.8.03, p 7.

(5) S.I.1997/3032.

(6) OJ No L 302, 19.10.92, p 1.

(7) 1988 c. 48.

(8) 1977 c. 37.

“geographical designation” has the same meaning as in Article 2(1)(c)(v) of the Council Regulation;

“geographical indication” has the same meaning as in Article 2(1)(c)(iv) of the Council Regulation;

“goods infringing an intellectual property right” has the meaning given in Article 2(1) of the Council Regulation and related expressions shall be construed accordingly;

“patent” means a patent under the Patents Act 1977, or a European patent (UK) which is treated for the purposes of Parts 1 and 3 of the Patents Act 1977 as if it were a patent under that Act;

“plant breeders' right” means a right of the kind provided for in the Plant Varieties Act 1997⁽⁹⁾;

“publication rights” has the meaning given in regulation 16 of the Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 1996⁽¹⁰⁾;

“registered design” shall be construed in accordance with the Registered Designs Act 1949⁽¹¹⁾;

“right-holder” has the meaning given in Article 2(2) of the Council Regulation;

“supplementary protection certificate” has the same meaning as in Article 2(1)(c)(ii) of the Council Regulation;

“working days” has the meaning given in Article 3(1) of Council Regulation (EEC, Euratom) No 1182/1971 determining the rules applicable to periods, dates and time limits⁽¹²⁾.

(2) For the purposes of these Regulations, any reference in the Council Regulation to “copyright or related right” is to be construed as a reference to “copyright, rights in performances, publication rights or database rights”.

(3) These Regulations shall apply to goods which fall to be treated by virtue of Article 2(3) of the Council Regulation as being goods infringing an intellectual property right; but these Regulations shall not apply to any goods in relation to which the Council Regulation does not apply by virtue of Article 3(1) thereof.

Infringing goods liable to forfeiture

3. Subject to paragraph (2) of regulation 4, goods infringing an intellectual property right which correspond to the description of goods contained in a decision shall, during the period specified in the decision, be liable to forfeiture in any of the situations mentioned in Article 1(1) of the Council Regulation.

Application for action

4.—(1) If, in the course of checks carried out in relation to goods in one of the situations referred to in Article 1(1) of the Council Regulation, and before an application has been lodged by a right-holder or, if lodged, before it has been granted, the Commissioners have sufficient grounds for suspecting that goods infringe an intellectual property right, the Commissioners may, in accordance with Article 4 of the Council Regulation—

- (a) notify a right-holder of the nature of the items and of the actual or supposed number of items and ask a right-holder to provide any information they may need to confirm their suspicions;
- (b) notify a right-holder and a declarant of the possible infringement of the right;
- (c) suspend the release of, or detain, those goods; and

⁽⁹⁾ 1997 c. 66.

⁽¹⁰⁾ S.I. 1996/2967, amended by S.I. 2003/2498.

⁽¹¹⁾ 1949 c. 88.

⁽¹²⁾ OJ No L 124, 8.6.71, p 1.

- (d) if they do so suspend or detain, invite the right-holder, in the absence of an existing application, to make an application within three working days of the notification of the suspension or detention.

(2) If at any time during the period of suspension or detention under paragraph (1) an application is granted covering the goods, the decision shall, for the purposes of regulation 3, be taken to have applied at the time the goods entered any of the situations mentioned in Article 1(1) of the Council Regulation.

Decision to cease to have effect

5. A decision shall have no further effect where—
- (a) any change, following the making of the application, which takes place in the ownership or authorised use of the intellectual property right specified in the application, is not communicated in writing to the Commissioners; or
 - (b) the intellectual property right specified in the application expires.

Samples of goods

6. When examining goods in accordance with Article 9(3) of the Council Regulation the Commissioners may make samples of the goods available to the right-holder at his request for the purposes of analysis and of facilitating subsequent procedures under the Council Regulation or these Regulations.

Detention, seizure, condemnation and forfeiture

7.—(1) Subject to regulation 8, section 139(13) of, and Schedule 3 to, the 1979 Act (provisions as to detention, seizure and condemnation of goods, etc; forfeiture) shall apply in respect of any goods liable to forfeiture by virtue of regulation 3 as they apply in respect of goods liable to forfeiture under the customs and excise Acts; and, accordingly—

- (a) section 144 of the 1979 Act (protection of officers, etc in relation to seizure and detention of goods, etc) shall apply in respect of seizure or detention effected by virtue of this regulation; and
- (b) sections 145, 146 and 152 to 155 of the 1979 Act(14) (general provisions as to legal proceedings) shall apply in respect of condemnation proceedings brought by virtue of this regulation.

(2) Where in any condemnation proceedings brought by virtue of paragraph (1) any question arises as to whether or not any goods are or were liable to forfeiture under regulation 3, the burden of proof shall lie upon the party alleging that they are not, or were not, so liable.

Detention and seizure of goods infringing specified intellectual property rights

8.—(1) Regulation 7 shall not apply in relation to goods as regards which the decision specifies as subsisting in those goods any one or more of the following intellectual property rights (whether or not they also appear to infringe any other intellectual property right)—

- (a) a patent;

(13) Section 139(4)(c) was amended, in relation to Northern Ireland, by the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998 (c. 32), Schedule 4, paragraph 14.

(14) Section 153(4) was added by paragraph 9 of Part I of Schedule 8 to the Finance Act 1981 (c. 35); section 155(1) had been amended by paragraph 29(3) of Part 2 of Schedule 4 to the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (c. 33) from a date to be appointed but, by virtue of section 44 of the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 (c. 25), that amendment, inter alia, is treated as never having been enacted.

- (b) a supplementary protection certificate;
- (c) a registered design;
- (d) a design right;
- (e) a Community design;
- (f) a plant breeders' right;
- (g) a Community plant variety right;
- (h) a designation of origin;
- (i) a geographical indication; or
- (j) a geographical designation.

(2) A right-holder may, within 10 working days of his having been notified by the Commissioners of the suspension of release of such goods, or of such goods being detained, give notice in writing to the Commissioners waiving, for the purpose of both the Council Regulation and these Regulations, any intellectual property right of his in the goods, being a right mentioned in sub-paragraphs (a) to (j) in paragraph (1).

(3) The period referred to in paragraph (2) shall be 3 working days in cases where the Commissioners have suspended the release of, or detained, perishable goods.

(4) Where notice has been given in accordance with paragraph (2)—

- (a) any right so waived shall be disregarded, as regards that right-holder, in determining whether the goods fall within paragraph (1); and
- (b) the goods shall be treated for the purposes of these Regulations as if that person did not have the right concerned in those goods.

(5) The following provisions of the 1979 Act shall apply to any goods falling within paragraph (1) as they apply in respect of goods liable to forfeiture under the customs and excise Acts—

- (a) section 139, except subsections (5) and (6) (things seized or detained to be dealt with or disposed of as Commissioners direct; Schedule 3 to have effect); and
- (b) section 144.

(6) Any thing seized or detained by virtue of this regulation shall be dealt with in such manner as the Commissioners may direct; but this paragraph shall apply subject to section 139(3) and (4) of the 1979 Act (detention or seizure by a constable; things retained in the custody of the police) in the cases there mentioned.

Initiation of proceedings

9.—(1) In the case of goods falling within paragraph (1) of regulation 8, the commencement of the proceedings described in paragraph (2) below, and only such proceedings, shall constitute the initiation of proceedings to determine whether an intellectual property right has been infringed for the purposes of the Council Regulation.

(2) The proceedings mentioned in paragraph (1) above are proceedings commenced in the relevant court by a right-holder alleging that the goods infringe an intellectual property right of his and seeking relief which that court has the power to grant after a finding of such infringement.

(3) Without prejudice to any provision of the Council Regulation, the suspension of the release of the goods, or their detention, shall cease if at any time the Commissioners—

- (a) are not satisfied, or cease to be satisfied, that the proceedings described in paragraph (2) have been commenced; or
- (b) are satisfied that such proceedings have been withdrawn or otherwise terminated without other such proceedings having been commenced.

- (4) For the purposes of this regulation proceedings shall not be taken to have been commenced before—
- (a) an originating process has been issued or, in the case of the Court of Session, signeted by the relevant court; and
 - (b) that process has been served on the other party or, if more than one, all the other parties to the proceedings, in accordance with the rules of the court concerned.
- (5) In paragraph (4), the reference to an originating process is a reference to—
- (a) in England and Wales, a claim form;
 - (b) in Scotland, a summons; or
 - (c) in Northern Ireland, a writ.
- (6) For the purposes of this regulation the relevant court is—
- (a) in England and Wales, the High Court or any patents county court having jurisdiction by virtue of an order under section 287 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988;
 - (b) in Scotland, the Court of Session; or
 - (c) in Northern Ireland, the High Court.

Relationship with other powers

- 10.** Nothing in these Regulations shall be taken to affect—
- (a) any power of the Commissioners conferred otherwise than by any provision of these Regulations to suspend the release of, or detain, any goods; or
 - (b) the power of any court to grant any relief, including any power to make an order by way of interim relief.

Misuse of information by a right-holder

11.—(1) Where the Commissioners have reasonable grounds for believing that there has been a misuse of information by a right-holder the Commissioners may suspend the decision in force at the time of the misuse of information, in relation to a relevant intellectual property right, for the remainder of its period of validity.

(2) Where the Commissioners have reasonable grounds for believing that there has been a further misuse of information within three years of a previous misuse of information by that right-holder the Commissioners may—

- (a) suspend the decision in force at the time of the further misuse of information, in relation to a relevant intellectual property right, for the remainder of its period of validity; and
- (b) for a period of up to one year from its expiry, refuse to renew the decision in force at the time of the further misuse of information, or to accept a new application, in relation to a relevant intellectual property right.

(3) In this regulation—

- (a) “misuse of information” means the use of information supplied to a right-holder pursuant to the first sub-paragraph of Article 9(3) of the Council Regulation other than for the purposes specified in Articles 10, 11 and 13(1) of the Council Regulation, or pursuant to an enactment or order of a court, and related expressions shall be construed accordingly;
- (b) “relevant intellectual property right” means any intellectual property right in relation to a suspected infringement of which information was supplied to a right-holder pursuant to the first sub-paragraph of Article 9(3) of the Council Regulation, and in relation to which

the Commissioners have reasonable grounds for believing that there has been a misuse of that information.

Amendment of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988

12. For subsection (3B) of section 111 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988⁽¹⁵⁾ there shall be substituted—

“(3B) This section does not apply to goods placed in, or expected to be placed in, one of the situations referred to in Article 1(1), in respect of which an application may be made under Article 5(1), of Council Regulation (EC) No 1383/2003 concerning customs action against goods suspected of infringing certain intellectual property rights and the measures to be taken against goods found to have infringed such rights⁽¹⁶⁾.”.

Amendment of the Trade Marks Act 1994

13. For subsection (3) of section 89 of the Trade Marks Act 1994⁽¹⁷⁾ there shall be substituted—

“(3) This section does not apply to goods placed in, or expected to be placed in, one of the situations referred to in Article 1(1), in respect of which an application may be made under Article 5(1), of Council Regulation (EC) No 1383/2003 concerning customs action against goods suspected of infringing certain intellectual property rights and the measures to be taken against goods found to have infringed such rights⁽¹⁸⁾.”.

Revocations

14. The Regulations listed in the Schedule are hereby revoked.

New King’s Beam House, 22 Upper Ground,
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4th June 2004

M J Hanson
Commissioner of Customs and Excise

⁽¹⁵⁾ 1988 c. 48; subsection (3B) was inserted by S.I. 1995/1445.

⁽¹⁶⁾ OJ No L 196, 2.8.03, p 7.

⁽¹⁷⁾ 1994 c. 26; subsection (3) was substituted by S.I. 1995/1444.

⁽¹⁸⁾ OJ No L 196, 2.8.03, p 7.