1970. No. 137 **[C]**

COAL AND OTHER MINES

Steam Boilers

REGULATIONS, DATED 1ST JUNE 1970, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE UNDER SECTIONS 13(2), 81(2), 83, 84(2) AND 120 OF THE MINES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1969.

WHEREAS in pursuance of Part I of Schedule 2 to the Mines Act (Northern Ireland) 1969(**a**) the Ministry of Commerce has published notice of its intention to make the following regulations and has not received any objection to the draft thereof in respect to which it is required to refer the draft regulations for inquiry and report:

NOW, THEREFORE, the Ministry of Commerce in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 13(2), 81(2), 83, 84(2) and 120 of the Mines Act (Northern Ireland) 1969 and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

Citation

1. These regulations may be cited as the Coal and Other Mines (Steam Boilers) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970.

Application

2. These regulations shall apply to every mine of coal, stratified ironstone, shale or fireclay, and in these regulations "mine" means such a mine.

Interpretation

3.—(1) In these regulations the following expressions have the meanings hereby respectively assigned to them, that is to say—

"the Act" means the Mines Act (Northern Ireland) 1969;

"boiler minder" has the meaning assigned thereto in regulation 8;

"mine" has the meaning assigned thereto in regulation 2.

(2) Nothing in these regulations shall apply to any steam boiler forming part of a locomotive belonging to and used by a railway company.

(3) Expressions to which meanings are assigned by the Act or by these regulations shall (unless the contrary intention appears) have the same meanings in any document issued under the provisions of these regulations.

Safety valves, steam gauges and water gauges

4. Every steam boiler, whether separate or one of a range, at a mine shall be provided with—

(*a*) a suitable safety valve; and

(*b*) a suitable steam gauge and a suitable water gauge to show respectively the pressure of steam and the height of water in that boiler.

5. Every water gauge attached to any steam boiler at a mine shall be provided with a suitable covering or guard unless it is so constructed as to be as safe to persons working or passing near-by as it would be if so protected.

(a) 1969. c. 6 (N.I.).

6. No person shall alter the setting of any safety valve attached to any steam boiler at a mine except with the authority of the official under whose immediate charge the boiler minder works, and no weight shall be used on a safety valve which works with weights other than a weight constructed for that purpose.

Determination and indication of maximum steam pressure

7. The manager of every mine shall, in relation to each steam boiler for the time being in use, or intended to be used, at the mine, determine the maximum pressure to which steam may be generated at pressure in that boiler and have that pressure marked upon the steam gauge in a distinctive colour.

Appointment and duties of boiler minders

8. The manager of every mine shall make and secure the efficient carrying out of arrangements whereby every steam boiler for the time bing in use at the mine is in the charge of a competent person appointed by him for that purpose (in these regulations referred to as a 'boiler minder').

9. Every boiler minder shall, with respect to every steam boiler for the time being in use at the mine and in his charge,—

(*a*) from time to time during the course of each day inspect externally that boiler and all its fittings and attachments, and forthwith report to the official under whose immediate charge he works any patent defect of that boiler or of those fittings or attachments;

(*b*) maintain the level of water in that boiler as nearly as practicable at the proper working level;

(*c*) if the level of water in that boiler falls below, and he is unable to raise that level to the proper working level, forthwith—

(i) lower the dampers;

(ii) damp down the fire;

(iii) (if it is necessary further to reduce the consumption of water) draw the fire; and

forthwith thereafter report to the official under whose immediate charge he works the facts and the nature of the action taken by him in pursuance of sub-paragraphs (i), (ii) and (iii) of this paragraph; and

(*d*) ensure that the pressure to which steam is generated in that boiler does not exceed the maximum pressure determined by the manager in pursuance of regulation 7.

Cleaning of boilers

10. The manager of every mine shall make and secure the efficient carrying out of arrangements whereby every steam boiler for the time being in use at the mine is cleaned out at intervals not exceeding three months by a competent person appointed for that purpose by the manager.

11.—(1) Without prejudice to the generality of regulations 8 and 9 of the Coal and Other Mines (Mechanics and Electricians) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970(**b**), it shall be the duty of the manager of every mine to ensure that a scheme for the systematic examination of plant at that mine made in pursuance of the said regulation 9 provides that every steam boiler at a mine shall—

(**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1970, No. 139.

(*a*) be examined internally, as far as the construction thereof will permit, by a competent person appointed for that purpose by the manager, forthwith after every cleaning of that boiler carried out in pursuance of the last preceding regulation; and

(*b*) be examined thoroughly at intervals not exceeding fourteen months by a competent person so appointed.

(2) In every case in which a boiler inspection company or association has been appointed by the manager of a mine to make an examination of a steam boiler in pursuance of provisions of a scheme for the systematic examination of plant at that mine, being provisions included in that scheme in pursuance of sub-paragraph (*b*) of the last preceding paragraph, there shall, within fourteen days of the completion of the examination, be made in, or attached to, a book provided for the purpose by the owner of the mine a report signed by the person who made the examination and countersigned by the chief engineer or other officer of similar status of the company or association.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Commerce for Northern Ireland this 1st day of June 1970 in the presence of

(L.S.) *J. H. Armstrong,*
Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(*This note is not part of the regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.*)

These regulations specify safety requirements for use of steam boilers at mines of coal, stratified ironstone, shale and fireclay and provide for the appointment and duties of boiler minders.