

2007 No. 3106

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Persistent Organic Pollutants Regulations 2007

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The Secretary of State—

- (a) to whom it appears that it is expedient for the references to Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on persistent organic pollutants(a) to be construed as references to that Regulation as amended from time to time, and
- (b) who is a Minister designated(b) for the purposes of section 2(2) of, as read with paragraph 1A of Schedule 2 to, the European Communities Act 1972(c) in relation to measures relating to persistent organic pollutants,

makes these Regulations under that section.

(a) OJ No. L 158, 30.4.2004, p. 7. A corrected version of this Regulation was published in OJ No. L 229, 29.6.2004, p. 5. At the time these Regulations were made the latest amendment was Commission Regulation (EC) No. 323/2007, OJ No. L 85, 27.3.2007, p. 3.
(b) S. I. 2006/608.
(c) 1972 c. 68.

Title and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Persistent Organic Pollutants Regulations 2007 and come into force on 3rd December 2007.

References to Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004

2. References in these Regulations to Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004 are references to that Regulation as amended from time to time.

The competent authority and the enforcement authority

3.—(1) The competent authorities for the purposes of Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004 are—

- (a) in England and Wales, the Environment Agency;
- (b) in Northern Ireland, the Department of the Environment; and
- (c) in Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency.

(2) They are also the enforcement authorities for the purposes of these Regulations.

Duties on the member State

4. All duties placed on the member State in Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004 must be executed by the Secretary of State, other than—

- (a) Article 5(3) of that Regulation, where they must be executed by the relevant enforcement authority; and
- (b) Article 6(3), which must be complied with by any person considering an application for a permit or a significant modification to a permit under the Pollution Prevention and Control (England and Wales) Regulations 2000(a), the Pollution Prevention and Control (Scotland) Regulations 2000(b) or the Pollution Prevention and Control Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003(c).

Production, placing on the market and use

5. Any person who produces, places on the market or uses a substance in contravention of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004 (control of production, placing on the market and use of specified substances) is guilty of an offence.

Stockpiles

6.—(1) Any person who contravenes Article 5(1) of Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004 (management of a stockpile consisting of or containing specified substances as waste) is guilty of an offence.

(2) Any person who contravenes the first paragraph of Article 5(2) of that Regulation (provision of information) is guilty of an offence.

(3) Any person who contravenes the second paragraph of Article 5(2) of that Regulation (management of a stockpile consisting of or containing specified substances in a safe, efficient and environmentally sound manner) is guilty of an offence.

Waste management

7.—(1) Any person who contravenes Article 7(1) of Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004 (contamination of waste) is guilty of an offence.

(a) S. I. 2000/1973 as last amended by S. I. 2007/2325.

(b) S. S. I. 2000/323 as last amended by S. I. 2007/2325.

(c) S.R. (NI) 2003 No. 46 as last amended by S. I. 2007/2325.

(2) Any producer or holder of waste that is specified in paragraph 2 of Article 7 of that Regulation who fails to dispose of it or recover it in accordance with that paragraph is guilty of an offence.

(3) Any person who contravenes Article 7(3) of that Regulation (prohibition of specified disposal and recovery operations) is guilty of an offence.

Derogation

8.—(1) In accordance with Article 7(4)(b) of Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004, a holder of waste may apply to the competent authority for it to be dealt with in accordance with a method listed in Part 2 of Annex V to that Regulation.

(2) If an application is refused, or is granted subject to conditions, the applicant may within 28 days give written notice to the Secretary of State that the applicant wishes to make representations on the decision.

(3) The Secretary of State must appoint a person to receive those representations.

(4) The appointed person must consider the representations and report in writing to the Secretary of State.

(5) The Secretary of State must make a final determination and must give the applicant written notification of that determination and the reasons for it.

Fees

9.—(1) Section 41(1) of the Environment Act 1995 (power to make schemes imposing charges)(a) is amended as follows—

(a) omit the word “and” at the end of Paragraph (c); and

(b) after Paragraph (d), insert—

“and

(e) as a means of recovering costs incurred by it in performing functions conferred by Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on persistent organic pollutants and amending Directive 79/117/EEC as amended from time to time, each of the new Agencies may require the payment to it of such charges as may from time to time be prescribed;”.

(2) As a means of recovering costs incurred by it in performing functions conferred by Article 7(4)(b) of Regulation (EC) No 850/2004—

(a) the Environment Agency and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency may charge the fee of £2,000 until a charging scheme under section 41 of the Environment Act 1995 to recover such costs takes effect, or until 1st April 2011, whichever is earlier; and

(b) in Northern Ireland the Department of the Environment may charge the fee of £2,000.

(3) Fees must be paid by the applicant with the application.

Notices

10.—(1) A person authorised by the enforcement authority may serve a notice on any person who contravenes, or who the authorised person has reasonable grounds to suspect may contravene, Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004—

(a) requiring that person to act in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 850/2004, or

(b) prohibiting that person from acting in breach of it.

(2) The notice must—

(a) give reasons for serving it;

(a) 1995 c. 25.

- (b) specify what action must be taken and give any necessary time limits; and
 - (c) explain the right of appeal and the period in which an appeal may be brought.
- (3) Any person who is aggrieved by a notice may appeal to a magistrates' court or, in Scotland, to the sheriff.
- (4) The procedure on an appeal to a magistrates' court is by way of complaint, and the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980(a) or, in the case of Northern Ireland, the Magistrates' Courts (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(b) applies to the proceedings.
- (5) An appeal to the sheriff is by summary application.
- (6) An appeal must be brought within 28 days of service of the notice or the period specified in the notice, whichever ends earlier.
- (7) A court may suspend a notice pending an appeal.

Penalties

11.—(1) A person guilty of an offence under these Regulations is liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or both; or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or both.

(2) Where a body corporate is guilty of an offence under these Regulations, and that offence is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to have been attributable to any neglect on the part of—

- (a) any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or
- (b) any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity,

that person, as well as the body corporate, is guilty of the offence and is liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(3) For the purposes of this regulation, “director”, in relation to a body corporate whose affairs are managed by its members, means a member of the body corporate.

(4) Where an offence that has been committed by a Scottish partnership is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, a partner, that partner as well as the partnership is guilty of the offence.

Phil Woolas
Minister of State

30th October 2007

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

(a) 1980 c. 43; sections 51 and 52 have been substituted by the Courts Act 2003 (c. 39), section 47.
(b) S.I. 1981/1675 (N.I. 26).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations enforce Regulation (EC) No. 850/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on persistent organic pollutants and amending Directive 79/117/EEC (OJ No. L158. 30.4.2004, p. 7. A corrected version of this Regulation was published in OJ No. L 229, 29.6.2004, p. 5).

They designate competent authorities and enforcement authorities (regulation 3) and specify who carries out the duties of the member State (regulation 4).

They enforce provisions relating to production, placing on the market and use of specified substances (regulation 5), stockpiles of specified substances (regulation 6) and waste management (regulation 7).

They provide for applications for a derogation to use different methods of disposal of waste (regulation 8).

They make provision for fees (regulation 9).

Under regulation 11 a person guilty of an offence under these Regulations is liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or both, or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or both.

An impact assessment has been prepared and placed in the library of each House of Parliament. It is available on the Defra website.

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