



Notification Number: 2005/389/UK

The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity (Amendment) Regulations 2005

Date received : 01/08/2005

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Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - SG(2005) D/51746

Directive 98/34/EC

Notificaci3n - Ozn3men3 - Notifikasjon - Notifizierung - Teavitamine - Γνωστοποίηση - Notification - Notification - Notifica - Pieteikums - Pranešimas - Bejelentés - Notifika - Kennisgeving - Zawiadomienie - Notificac3o - Hl3senie-Obvestilo - Ilmoitus - Anmälan : 2005/0389/UK.

No abre el plazo - Nezaahjuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Καμμία 3ναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de d3lais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Neietekm3 atlikšanu - Atid3jimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a k3s3seket - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera op3znień - Nao inicia o prazo - Neotvor3 oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - M33r3aika ei ala t3st3 - Inleder ingen frist.

(MSG: 200501746.EN)

1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2005 0389 UK EN 02-11-2005 01-08-2005 UK NOTIF 02-11-2005

2. Member State

United Kingdom

3. Department Responsible

Department of Trade and Industry: Standards and Technical Regulations Directorate

3. Originating Department

Department of Trade and Industry: Energy – Engineering Inspectorate

4. Notification Number

2005/0389/UK – N20E

5. Title



The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity (Amendment) Regulations 2005

6. Products Concerned

These Regulations impose duties on electricity companies (involved in the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity) relate to public safety and supply continuity.

7. Notification Under Another Act

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8. Main Content

The aims of the amendments are:

- a. To improve electricity network resilience to adverse weather conditions (through improving vegetation control),
- b. To ensure that the public safety requirements apply to offshore as well as onshore generating installations,
- c. To reflect the latest amendment to BS7671 following the harmonisation of cable core colours across the EU, and
- d. To ensure that tramways and trolley vehicle systems are afforded the same exemptions as for railways.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations 2002 (ESQCR) came into force on 31 January 2003 to improve safety and supply reliability standards of electricity networks. However, since these Regulations came into force, important issues have arisen that necessitate amendments.

- The UK storms in October 2002, which resulted in circa 2 million domestic consumers losing supplies for up to 10 days, highlighted the need to improve electricity network resilience in adverse weather conditions.

Subsequent investigations have shown that the proximity of trees and branches to overhead lines is the one overriding factor that needs to be addressed to improve network resilience. Trees coming into contact with overhead power lines were also a key factor in the major blackouts affecting circa 50 million consumers on the east coast of the USA and Canada in August 2003, and a similar number of consumers in Italy in September 2003.

- The introduction of the ESQCR and the new requirement to harmonise cable core colours across the EU have resulted in an amendment to BS7671 (also known as the IEE Wiring Regulations 16th Edition).

- The special nature of overhead traction supplies was recognised in the drafting of the original ESQCR since railway networks were exempted. However, further clarification is required to ensure that tramways and trolley vehicle systems are afforded the same exemption as for railways.

- The push for increased renewable energy generation has resulted in offshore generating stations becoming a reality, and this is expected to expand considerably in the coming years. It is important that regulations to ensure public safety and address the risks of supply interruption apply equally offshore as well as onshore.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

c) 2001/0442/UK

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency



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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

No

15. Impact assessment

The impact assessment is attached.

16. TBT and SPS aspects

TBT Aspect

No.

The draft does not have a significant effect on international trade.

SPS Aspect

No

The draft is not a sanitary or phytosanitary measure in the sense of Annex A of the SPS Agreement.

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