



Notification Number: 2000/345/F

## **Order approving provisions supplementing and amending safety regulations to counter the outbreak of fire and panic in establishments open to the public.**

Date received : 12/07/2000

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Issue of comments by : Sweden

### Message

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Message 002



Communication from the Commission - SG(2000) D/51484  
Directive 98/34/EC  
Translation of the message 001  
Notification: 2000/345/F

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**1. Structured Information Line**

MSG 002 IND 2000 0345 F EN 13-10-2000 12-07-2000 F NOTIF 13-10-2000

**2. Member State**

France

**3. Department Responsible**

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**3. Originating Department**

Ministère de l'Intérieur - DDSC - Place Beauvau - 75800 PARIS

**4. Notification Number**

2000/345/F

**5. Title**

Order approving provisions supplementing and amending safety regulations to counter the outbreak of fire and panic in establishments open to the public.

**6. Products Concerned**

- Lifts
- Cold production devices and boilers
- Steps and stands
- Electric sockets
- Plans and instructions in the event of fire
- Manual switches for alarms
- Waste compactors for selective sorting.

**7. Notification Under Another Act**

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**8. Main Content**

- measures applicable to lifts with no machine room;
- installation of combustion equipment greater than 70 kW;



- test conditions for smoke extraction ventilators;
- requirement for space between the walking surfaces of movable and retractable steps;
- height of manual switches for alarms;
- height of electric sockets;
- conformance with standards for plans and safety instructions;
- simplification of smoke extraction in small sports establishments;
- measures applicable to waste compactors for selective sorting;
- measures applicable to premises intended for smokers;
- fire safety services in marquees, tents and similar structures.

### 9. Brief Statement of Grounds

Lift installations - Amendment of articles CO 53, AS 1, AS 3, AS 4, AS 9, AS 11, PE 9, PE 11 and PE 25.

A new generation of lifts has come on the market which no longer need a machine room insofar as the motor is located inside the shaft.

Therefore, the safety regulations lay down the conditions for lift installations with no machine room.

Amendment of articles AM 17 and X 18

The application of article AM 17 to stands that can be dismantled and retractable stands is counter to the use of these.

This provision is intended to resolve the restrictions on usage for moving and retractable steps (requirement for space between walking surfaces).

Installation of external boilers: amendment of articles CH 5 and CH 40

The current article CH 5 authorises combustion equipment over 70 kW, both inside and outside establishments open to the public.

Now, cold production absorption machines which use ammonia as a refrigerant and gas as a fuel may not, by their very nature, be installed internally as they need large amounts of fresh air in order to work, which a boiler room cannot provide. Furthermore, it is difficult to install these machines outside. This is why the draft article CH 5 will extend their installation outside to a distance of 10 metres from the building or to their firm attachment to a two-hour fire wall.

Given that the paragraph numbers of article CH 5 have changed, article CH 40 which refers to CH 5 must therefore be amended.

Amendment of article CH 43

Article CH 43 of the Order of 4 February 2000 (Official Gazette of 21 March 2000) amending the safety regulations to counter the outbreak of fire and panic in establishments open to the public, refers to Annex VII of the Order of 21 April 1983 on the determination of the level of fire resistance and special test conditions for smoke extraction ventilators.

Given that the Order of 21 April 1983 has been repealed and replaced by the Order of 3 August 1999, article CH 43 must therefore be amended.

Plans and instructions - Amendment of articles MS 41, MS 47 and O 24.



The safety regulations require, in general, compliance with the standards for safety instructions (article MS 47) and lay down the placing of plans of establishments in each building without specifying their characteristics (article MS 41).

Standard NF S 60-30 on plans and instructions to protect against fire, clearly lays down their characteristics.

Consequently, it is desirable for the safety regulations to require conformance with standard NF S 60-303 on the characteristics of plans and safety instructions with the goal of having clearer and more legible information while ensuring standardisation and a guarantee of operational effectiveness.

Moreover, since the provisions applicable to hotels lay down that safety instructions must be affixed in each room (article 0 24) without associating them with a plan showing how to get to the stairs, it appears even more appropriate to rectify this omission because these plans are already provided for elsewhere in the safety regulations.

#### Article MS 65

Article MS 65 lays down that manual switches must be placed at a height of around 1.50 metres above the floor.

However, in accordance with the regulations on the accessibility for disabled people laid down in article R 111-19-1 of the code covering construction and residential buildings and that laid down in implementing circular No 94-55 of 7 July 1994 of the Ministry on equipment, buttons and switches, various command and service devices for use by the public must be at a maximum height of 1.30 metres above the floor and a minimum height of 0.4 metres.

Therefore, in order to ensure consistency between fire safety regulations and regulations on the accessibility for disabled people, it is proposed to amend paragraph 1 of article MS 65 by replacing 1.50 metres with 1.30 metres.

Amendment of article M 48 of the Order of 22 December 1981, amended, on the positioning of compactors for selective sorting of packaging waste in storerooms in M type establishments open to the public.

The setting-up of selective sorting increasingly requires the operators of small and medium-sized sales areas to equip themselves with packaging waste compaction equipment.

Until now, cardboard, plastic and crates left after unpacking sales goods were sent to and then stored in containers collected by cleaning services.

The selective collection of packaging waste calls for prior sorting and compaction.

At a regulatory level, storage and packaging material processing facilities, as well as packaging waste dumps are the subject of clarification made to articles M 47 and M 48 of the safety regulations.

In a large number of small businesses, there is no specific room to store waste packaging. Therefore, in order to avoid cardboard, crates, paper and plastic left after unpacking products piling up in storerooms in anticipation of general collection, it appears necessary to make it possible for suitable small hydraulic and electrical compactors to be installed in the storerooms. Moreover, compaction of waste packaging, carried out as and when it is produced, reduces the risk of fire breaking out.

Article M 48 regulates these new compaction devices.

#### Article R 24

This article lays down a minimum height for sockets of 1.50 m in nursery schools. This requirement bears no



relation to fire safety. Moreover, the requirement for socket covers overcomes the danger of electric shocks or electrocution. It has therefore been decided to repeal this article.

#### Article U 48

In accordance with the Decree of 29 May 1992, some premises are specially designed for smokers. This measure is intended to meet fire protection requirements in the event of fire in premises intended for this purpose.

#### Article PX 1

This measure is intended to simplify the smoke extraction restrictions in small sports establishments.

#### Article CTS 27

This amendment is intended to:

- specify the tasks and qualifications of the safety service;
- avoid an organiser having to require the presence of firefighters.

### 10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

Reference documents: Order of 25 June 1980, amended, on the approval of the general provisions of the safety regulations to counter the outbreak of fire and panic in establishments open to the public (already forwarded to the Commission under Notification 94/0053/F).

### 11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

### 12. Grounds for the Emergency

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### 13. Confidentiality

No

### 14. Fiscal measures

No

David O'Sullivan  
General Secretary  
European Commission