

## Serial Number 1950/173

## THE ELECTRO-PLATING REGULATIONS 1950

B. C. FREYBERG, Governor-General

## ORDER IN COUNCIL

At the Government House at Wellington, this 4th day of  
October, 1950

Present :

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL

PURSUANT to the Health Act, 1920, and the Factories Act, 1946, His Excellency the Governor-General, acting by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, doth hereby make the following regulations.

## REGULATIONS

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Electro-plating Regulations 1950.

(2) These regulations shall come into force on the thirtieth day after the date of their notification in the *Gazette*.

2. In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,—

“ Approved ” means approved by a Medical Officer or an Inspector of Health or of Factories or by an officer of the Department of Health holding written authority from the Director-General of Health under section 78 of the Factories Act, 1946 :

“ Electro-depositing process ” means any process of applying a metallic deposit on objects by means of electricity, and includes every process carried on in connection therewith :

“ Electro-plating workshop ” means any factory in which an electro-depositing process is carried on, and references to an electro-plating room shall be construed accordingly :

“ Electrolytic chromium process ” means the electrolytic plating or oxidation of metal articles by the use of an electrolyte containing chromic acid or other chromium compounds :

“ Medical Officer ” means a Medical Officer of Health or any Medical Practitioner authorized by the Director-General of Health to exercise the powers and perform the duties of a Medical Officer under these regulations :

3. (1) Subject to the provisions of this regulation, these regulations shall apply to all electro-plating workshops.

(2) Where a Medical Officer is satisfied that, by reason of exceptional circumstances or the infrequency of the process, all or any of the provisions of these regulations are not necessary for safeguarding the safety, health, or welfare of persons engaged in an electro-plating workshop or in any part thereof, he may, by certificate in writing and subject to such conditions as may be specified therein, exempt that workshop or part thereof from those provisions or that provision, as the case may be.

(3) Any person failing to comply with any condition specified in a certificate of exemption shall be guilty of an offence against the Factories Act, 1946.

(4) Any certificate of exemption may be varied or revoked by a Medical Officer on giving not less than seven days' notice in writing of the proposed variation or revocation to the occupier of the workshop to which the certificate relates.

(5) A copy of any certificate or notice given under this regulation shall be exhibited and maintained in some conspicuous place at or near the entrance to every electro-plating room to which the certificate or notice relates.

#### STRUCTURE OF PREMISES

4. The floor of every room which contains a bath used for the purpose of any electro-depositing process shall be made of concrete, asphalt, or other approved impermeable material, and shall be graded to a channel made to discharge over the grating of a gully trap.

5. In every electro-plating room there shall be not less than 500 cubic feet of cubic space for each person working in the room; and in calculating for the purposes of this regulation the amount of cubic space in any room no space more than 14 ft. from the floor shall be taken into account.

#### EQUIPMENT

6. Poisonous substances in bulk shall be kept in a locked room, cupboard, or box, which shall be properly maintained and exclusively set aside for the purpose and shall have the word "POISON" clearly marked on the outside.

7. Approved means shall be provided for the removal by mechanical exhaust of nitrous fumes arising from baths containing nitric acid.

8. (1) At every bath in which an electrolytic chromium process is carried on an efficient exhaust draught shall be provided by mechanical means so as to provide an air movement away from the face of the operator.

(2) The draught shall operate on the vapour or spray given off so as to provide a movement of not less than 200 ft. per minute over the surface of the fluid.

(3) Where the exhaust is of the lip type the level of fluid shall be 7 in. below the lip of the exhaust.

9. (1) Every bath containing any strong acid, strong alkali, degreasing fluid, or chromium or cyanide solution and every container in which any poisonous substance is placed shall be prominently marked "DANGER" or "POISON," or both, as the case may require.

(2) An approved cautionary placard shall be displayed in every room in which there is a bath containing any chromium or cyanide solution.

10. The occupier shall provide, maintain, display, and make readily available an approved antidote for cyanide poisoning together with explicit instructions as to its use.

11. The top of every bath containing any strong acid, strong alkali, degreasing fluid, or chromium or cyanide solution shall be completely covered when no work is in progress thereat.

## CLEANING

12. The floor of every room in which there is a bath containing any strong acid, strong alkali, degreasing fluid, or chromium or cyanide solution shall be washed or hosed down at least once in every day.

## AMENITIES

13. (1) The washing facilities required to be provided in an electro-plating workshop for persons engaged in any electro-depositing process by section 62 of the Factories Act, 1946, shall include—

- (a) For every five persons so engaged, either one washhand basin or a section of trough not less than 2 ft. long ;
  - (b) For every seven persons so engaged, one shower bath ; and
  - (c) A piped supply, of hot and cold water to each basin, section of trough, or shower bath which shall be constantly maintained during working hours and for half an hour thereafter.
- (2) Any trough provided in pursuance of this regulation shall have a smooth, impervious surface and also a waste pipe without a plug.
- (3) For the purposes of this regulation, any residual fraction of five or seven shall be treated as a complete five or seven, as the case may be.

(4) Nothing in this regulation shall be construed as requiring the washing facilities provided for persons engaged in an electro-depositing process to be kept separate from those provided for other persons working in the workshop.

14. A dressing room shall be provided and maintained containing not less than one locker for each person engaged in an electro-depositing process, being a full length locker of an approved pattern, having a door and being ventilated top and bottom.

15. (1) Subsections (4) and (5) of section 69 of the Factories Act, 1946 (which require the provision and furnishing of a suitable room in which persons employed in a factory may have their meals), shall apply in relation to every electro-plating workshop, notwithstanding that the number of persons employed therein does not exceed six.

- (2) Every room provided in an electro-plating workshop in pursuance of the said section 69 shall—
- (a) Have a floor area of not less than 12 square feet for each person who is employed in the workshop (whether or not he is engaged in an electro-depositing process) and who has his meals in the room ;
  - (b) Be separate from any dressing room provided in pursuance of regulation 14 hereof ; and
  - (c) Be provided with adequate means for warming food and boiling water, with a sink and an adequate supply of hot and cold water for washing eating utensils and with a cupboard for storing eating utensils.

## PROTECTIVE CLOTHING

16. (1) Protective clothing shall be provided in accordance with the next following subclause for the use of persons engaged in an electro-depositing process, and shall be maintained in good condition.

(2) The clothing to be provided shall consist of the following items, that is to say—

- (a) For each person so engaged, overalls of suitable length and material :
- (b) For each person working at a bath used for the purpose of any electro-depositing process, waterproof boots and an apron made of impermeable material and of suitable length :
- (c) For each person engaged in an electrolytic chromium process or any process involving the use of a corrosive liquid or strong degreaser, loose fitting gloves of rubber or such other material as may be approved and of suitable length :
- (d) For each person engaged in decanting or otherwise handling a strong acid or strong alkali, protective goggles.

#### DUTIES OF PERSONS WORKING IN AN ELECTRO-PLATING WORKSHOP

17. Without prejudice to section 74 of the Factories Act, 1946, every person shall while actually working at an electro-depositing process wear the protective clothing provided for him in pursuance of these regulations, and when not wearing it shall deposit it in the locker provided.

18. (1) No person shall have, prepare, or partake of food or drink in any room containing a bath used for an electro-depositing process or any room where a buffing, polishing, or grinding process is carried out.

(2) Every person engaged in an electro-depositing process shall before eating a meal (other than light refreshment) or before leaving the electro-plating workshop remove his protective clothing and wash his hands and forearms, and before taking any light refreshment or any drink shall wash his hands and forearms.

19. No person shall smoke within 10 ft. of any uncovered bath containing trichlorethylene, tetrachlorethylene or any other chlorinated hydrocarbon degreaser.

#### RESTRICTIONS ON EMPLOYMENT OF YOUNG PERSONS

20. No boy or girl under sixteen years of age, except an apprentice serving under a valid contract of apprenticeship, shall be employed in any electro-plating room.

#### MEDICAL EXAMINATION

21. (1) A Medical Officer or an officer of the Department of Health authorized to do so by the Director-General of Health may examine the hands, forearms, and noses of every person engaged in working in any room while an electro-depositing process is carried on therein, and the occupier of the workshop shall on being notified of the proposal facilitate the examination.

(2) Where any occupier or any Inspector of Health or Factories has reason to believe that any person engaged in an electro-depositing process is suffering from any condition arising out of his employment or showing symptoms which may reasonably be suspected to be the result of his employment, he shall forthwith notify the Medical Officer of the fact, together with the address of that person and the description and address of the electro-plating workshop in question.

(3) Where a Medical Officer considers that any person engaged in an electro-depositing process is or may be suffering from any condition arising out of his employment he may, by notice in writing under his hand, require that person to undergo a medical examination by a registered medical practitioner at a time and place specified in the notice and to provide a certificate from the medical practitioner as to his fitness for work :

Provided that the Medical Officer may himself conduct the examination and issue a certificate.

(4) No person shall without reasonable cause fail to attend for examination in pursuance of this regulation or to comply with the requirements of a notice thereunder.

(5) No person shall continue to employ in an electro-depositing process any person who, without reasonable cause, fails to attend for examination as aforesaid.

**22.** (1) If after examination a Medical Officer considers that a person engaged in an electro-depositing process is suffering from a condition arising out of his employment he may, by notice in writing given to that person and to his employer, if any, suspend that person from engaging in any electro-depositing process specified in the notice.

(2) The Medical Officer shall by like notice remove the suspension when he is satisfied that the health of the person so warrants.

(3) No person shall employ another person, or himself engage, in an electro-depositing process in contravention of a notice of suspension under this regulation.

#### SUPPLY AND EXHIBITION OF COPIES OF THESE REGULATIONS

**23.** (1) The occupier of an electro-plating workshop shall supply a summary of these regulations to each person engaged in an electro-depositing process therein, and shall at all times cause a summary and a copy of the regulations to be exhibited and maintained in some conspicuous place at or near the entrance to every electro-plating room and in such other parts of the workshop as an Inspector of Health or of Factories may direct.

(2) Every such summary shall be one prepared and provided by the Director-General of Health, and every such copy shall be one so provided.

#### OFFENCES

**24.** Any person who contravenes or in any way fails to comply with these regulations shall be guilty of an offence against the Factories Act, 1946.

T. J. SHERRARD,  
Clerk of the Executive Council.

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*[This note is not part of the regulations, but is intended to indicate their general effect.]*

These regulations contain provisions controlling the conduct of processes of electro-plating carried on in a factory or workshop and safeguarding the safety, health, and welfare of persons working at any such process when carried on in a factory or workshop.

Failure to comply with the regulations is punishable under the Factories Act, 1946.

Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act, 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette* : 5th day of October, 1950.

These regulations are administered in the Department of Health.

(H.H. 50/10.)