



THE MICROWAVE OVENS REGULATIONS 1982

DAVID BEATTIE, Governor-General

ORDER IN COUNCIL

At the Government Buildings at Wellington this 27th day of September
1982

Present:

THE RIGHT HON. R. D. MULDOON PRESIDING IN COUNCIL

PURSUANT to section 119 (d) of the Health Act 1956, His Excellency the Governor-General, acting by and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, hereby makes the following regulations.

REGULATIONS

1. Title and commencement—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Microwave Ovens Regulations 1982.

(2) These regulations shall come into force on the 1st day of April 1983.

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

“Cavity”, in relation to a microwave oven, means that area of the oven in which the microwave field is enclosed and confined:

“Interlock”, in relation to a microwave oven, means a component or set of components that prevents the generation of microwave power when access to the cavity of the oven is possible:

“Microwave” means an electromagnetic wave with a frequency in the range of 3×10^2 to 1×10^5 megahertz:

“Microwave oven” means an appliance that—

(a) Is designed to supply microwave energy to material within a cavity; and

(b) Is or is likely to be commonly used for the cooking or heating of food for immediate consumption:

“Sell” includes hire, lease, lend, and give:

“Use” means operate for any purpose other than the carrying out of any test required by these regulations.

3. Restrictions on sale and use of microwave ovens by manufacturers and importers—(1) This regulation applies to every person who manufactures or imports a fully assembled microwave oven, or who completes the assembly of such an oven.

(2) No person to whom this regulation applies shall sell any microwave oven nor, while he is in possession of such an oven, permit any person to use it, unless—

(a) The oven is so constructed that—

(i) It does not, when new and containing a centrally positioned test load of 0.275 ± 0.015 litres of water at an initial temperature of $20 \pm 10^\circ\text{C}$, emit microwave radiation at a power density exceeding 10 Wm^{-2} (averaged over an area of $2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ m}^2$) at any distance of 50 or more millimetres from the external surface of the oven; and

(ii) It will not thereafter emit radiation at a power density exceeding 50 Wm^{-2} for the test conditions, and at any distance, described in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph; and

(b) The oven incorporates at least 2 electrically and mechanically independent interlocks in such a manner that—

(i) At least one is concealed from the view of, and protected from ready access by, any person using the oven; and

(ii) The door will not open while the power supply is connected to the microwave generator; and

(iii) The microwave generator cannot be switched on while the door is open; and

(c) There is permanently attached to the oven a notice which—

(i) Is in the form set out in the Schedule to these regulations; and

(ii) Is readily visible to any person using the oven; and

(d) The covering or baffle arrangement over any viewing screen, vent, or access port in the cavity wall will prevent insertion of any object into the cavity while the microwave generator is operating.

(3) Without limiting subclause (2) of this regulation, no person to whom this regulation applies shall sell any microwave oven unless—

(a) A person who is competent to do so has inspected the oven and verified, by measurement where appropriate, that the microwave oven complies with the requirements of subclause (2) of this regulation; and

(b) He supplies to the purchaser a certificate, signed by the person who conducted the inspection under paragraph (a) of this subclause, stating that the oven complies with the requirements of subclause (2) of this regulation; and

(c) He is satisfied that the services of a person who is competent to repair and maintain the oven are, and are likely to continue to be, available to the purchaser.

4. Servicing of microwave ovens—(1) Every person who accepts any microwave oven for the purpose of repair or maintenance shall use his best endeavours (including verification by measurement where appropriate) to ensure that on completion of the repair or maintenance work the oven complies with the requirements of regulation 3 (2) of these regulations.

(2) If any person to whom subclause (1) of this regulation applies is unable to bring the oven up to the standard required by regulation 3 (2) of

these regulations, he shall, on returning the oven to the owner, issue to the owner a written warning to the effect that the oven does not comply with the requirement or requirements of that regulation specified in the warning.

5. Offences—(1) Every person commits an offence against these regulations who—

- (a) Acts in contravention of or fails in any respect to comply with any provision of regulation 3 or regulation 4 or regulation 6 (2) of these regulations; or
- (b) Makes any statement (whether in a certificate or not and whether in writing or not) to any person for the purposes of these regulations which he knows to be false at the time of making the statement.

(2) Every person who commits an offence against these regulations is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$500 and, if the offence is a continuing one, to a further fine not exceeding \$50 for every day on which the offence has continued.

6. Existing microwave ovens—(1) In this regulation “existing microwave oven” means a microwave oven—

- (a) That was manufactured in, or imported into, New Zealand before the 1st day of April 1983; or
- (b) All the components of which were manufactured in, or imported into, New Zealand before that date.

(2) No person who manufactured or imported an existing microwave oven shall sell the oven nor, while he is in possession of it, permit any person to use it unless it is so constructed that it will not emit radiation at a power density exceeding 50 Wm^{-2} for the test conditions, and at any distance, described in regulation 3 (2) (a) (i) of these regulations.

(3) Subject to subclause (2) of this regulation, regulation 3 of these regulations does not apply in respect of existing microwave ovens.

(4) Except as provided in subclause (3) of this regulation, these regulations apply to existing microwave ovens.

Reg. 3 (2) (c) (i)

SCHEDULE

CAUTION MICROWAVES

DO NOT operate this oven if the door is bent, warped or otherwise damaged and does not close firmly.

DO NOT tamper with the door safety interlocks.

MAINTENANCE should be carried out only by a qualified serviceman.*

*If this wording is inappropriate it may be suitably varied, but a clear warning against modifying the appliance to eliminate safety devices must be conveyed.

Note: Lettering shown in capitals shall be not less than 3 mm in height. Lettering shown in lower case shall be not less than 1.5 mm in height.

P. G. MILLEN,
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 are made pursuant to section 119 (d) of the Health Act 1956, and impose certain controls on the sale and use of microwave ovens.

Regulation 1 relates to the Title and commencement of the regulations. The regulations come into force on 1 April 1983.

Regulation 2 defines certain terms used in the regulations.

Regulation 3 prescribes certain technical standards in respect of microwave ovens, and prohibits the manufacturer or importer of such an oven from selling it or permitting any person to use it unless it complies with those standards.

Regulation 4 relates to the servicing of microwave ovens. If the person doing the servicing is unable to bring the oven up to the prescribed standard, he must give a written warning to the owner of each respect in which the oven does not comply with the standard.

Regulation 5 prescribes certain offences against the regulations.

Regulation 6 specifies the requirements that relate to existing microwave ovens. Generally, such ovens are exempt from the standards prescribed by regulation 3, except that relating to the maximum power density at which radiation may be emitted under the prescribed test conditions and at the prescribed distances.

Issued under the authority of the Regulations Act 1936.

Date of notification in *Gazette*: 30 September 1982.

These regulations are administered in the Department of Health.