

Draft Regulations laid before Parliament under section [41] of the Employment Relations Act 2004, for approval by resolution of each House of Parliament.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2004 No.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT

The Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations 2004

Made... *200[X]*

Coming into force *6 April 2005*

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Whereas a draft of these Regulations was laid before Parliament in accordance with section [41] of the Employment Relations Act 2004^c and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament:

Now, therefore, the Secretary of State, in exercise of the powers conferred on her by section [41] of that Act, hereby makes the following Regulations:

PART I GENERAL

Citation, commencement and extent

1. (1) These Regulations may be cited as the Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations 2004 and shall come into force on 6th April 2005.

(2) These Regulations extend to Great Britain only.

^a 1972 c. 68.

^b S.I. 1999/2788.

^c 2004 c. [].

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations –

“the 1996 Act” means the Employment Rights Act 1996^a;

“ACAS” means the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service;

“Appeal Tribunal” means the Employment Appeal Tribunal;

“CAC” means the Central Arbitration Committee;

“consultation” means the exchange of views and establishment of a dialogue between –

- (a) information and consultation representatives and the employer; or
- (b) in the case of a negotiated agreement which contains a provision referred to in regulation 16(1)(g)(ii), the employer and the employees;

“contract of employment” means a contract of service or apprenticeship, whether express or implied, and (if it is express) whether oral or in writing;

“employee” means an individual who has entered into or works under a contract of employment and in Part VIII and regulation 38 includes, where the employment has ceased, an individual who worked under a contract of employment;

“employee request” means a request by employees under regulation 7 for the employer to initiate negotiations to reach an agreement under these Regulations;

“employer notification” means a notification by an employer under regulation 11 that he wishes to initiate negotiations to reach an agreement under these Regulations;

“information” means data transmitted by the employer –

- (a) to the information and consultation representatives; or
- (b) in the case of a negotiated agreement which contains a provision referred to in regulation 16(1)(g)(ii), directly to the employees,

in order to enable those representatives or those employees to examine and to acquaint themselves with the subject matter of the data;

“Information and Consultation Directive” means European Parliament and Council Directive 2002/14/EC of 11 March 2002^b establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the European Community;

^a 1996 c. 18.

^b OJ L 80, 23.3.2002, p29.

“information and consultation representative” means –

- (a) in the case of a negotiated agreement which contains a provision referred to in regulation 16(1)(g)(i), a person appointed or elected in accordance with that agreement; or
- (b) a person elected in accordance with regulation 19;

“negotiated agreement” means –

- (a) an agreement between the employer and the negotiating representatives referred to in regulation 16; or
- (b) an agreement between the employer and the information and consultation representatives referred to in regulation 18(2).

“negotiating representative” means a person elected or appointed under regulation 14(1)(a);

“parties” means the employer and the negotiating representatives or the information and consultation representatives, as the case may be;

“pre-existing agreement” means one or more agreements between an employer and his employees or their representatives which satisfy the conditions set out in regulation 8(1)(a) to (d) but does not include an agreement concluded in accordance with regulations 17 and 42 to 45 of the Transnational Information and Consultation Regulations 1999^a;

“standard information and consultation provisions” means the provisions set out in regulation 20; and

“undertaking” means a public or private undertaking carrying out an economic activity, whether or not operating for gain.

Application

3. (1) These Regulations apply to undertakings –

- (a) employing in the United Kingdom the number of employees in column 1 of the table in Schedule 1 to these Regulations from the corresponding date in column 2; and
- (b) subject to paragraph (2), whose registered office, head office or principal place of business is situated in Great Britain.

(2) Where the registered office is situated in Great Britain and the head office or principal place of business is situated in Northern Ireland or *vice versa*, these Regulations shall only apply where the majority of employees are employed to work in Great Britain.

^a S.I. 1999/3323.

(3) In these Regulations, an undertaking to which these Regulations apply is referred to, in relation to its employees, as the “employer”.

PART II EMPLOYEE NUMBERS AND ENTITLEMENT TO DATA

Calculation of numbers of employees

4. (1) Subject to paragraph (3), the number of employees for the purposes of regulation 3(1) shall be determined by ascertaining the average number of employees employed in the previous twelve months, calculated in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b), the average number of employees is to be ascertained by determining the number of employees employed in each month in the previous twelve months (whether they were employed throughout the month or not), adding together those monthly figures and dividing the number by 12;

(b) For the purposes of the calculation in sub-paragraph (a) if for the whole of a month within the twelve month period an employee works under a contract by virtue of which he would have worked for 75 hours or less in that month -

- (i) were the month to have contained 21 working days;
- (ii) were the employee to have had no absences from work; and
- (iii) were the employee to have worked no overtime,

the employee may be counted as representing half of a full-time employee for the month in question, if the employer so decides.

(3) If the undertaking has been in existence for less than twelve months, the references to twelve months in paragraphs (1) and (2) shall be replaced by the number of months the undertaking has been in existence.

Entitlement to data

5. (1) An employee or an employees’ representative may request data from the employer for the purpose of determining the number of people employed by that undertaking in the United Kingdom.

(2) Any request for data made under paragraph (1) must be in writing and be dated.

(3) The employer must provide the employee or the employees’ representative who made the request with data to enable him to make the calculation of the numbers of employees referred to in regulations 4 and 7(2).

Complaint of failure to provide data

6. (1) An employee or an employees’ representative who has requested data under regulation 5 may present a complaint to the CAC that -

- (a) the employer has failed to provide the data referred to in regulation 5(3); or
 - (b) the data which has been provided by the employer is false or incomplete in a material particular.
- (2) Where the CAC finds the complaint to be well-founded it shall make an order requiring the employer to disclose data to the complainant which order shall specify -
- (a) the data in respect of which the CAC finds that the complaint is well-founded and which is to be disclosed to the complainant;
 - (b) the date (or if more than one, the earliest date) on which the employer refused or failed to disclose data, or disclosed false or incomplete information;
 - (c) a date (not being less than one week from the date of the order) by which the employer must disclose the data specified in the order.
- (3) The CAC shall not consider a complaint presented under this regulation unless it is made after the expiry of a period of one month beginning on the date on which the complainant made his request for data under regulation 5.

PART III NEGOTIATED AGREEMENTS

Employee request to negotiate an agreement

7. (1) (a) Subject to paragraph (8) and to regulation 14(3), the employer shall initiate negotiations to reach an agreement under these Regulations.

(b) The reference to initiating negotiations in sub-paragraph (a) is to taking the steps set out in regulation 14(1).

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), a valid employee request may consist of –

(a) a single request made by at least 10% of employees in the undertaking; or

(b) a number of separate requests made on the same or different days by employees which when taken together mean that at least 10% of employees in that undertaking have made requests provided that the requests are made within a period of six months.

(3) Where the figure of 10% in paragraph (2) would result in less than 15 or more than 2,500 employees being required to make a valid employee requests, those figures shall constitute the minimum and maximum number of employees required to make a valid request instead of the figure of 10%.

(4) To amount to a valid employee request the single request referred to in paragraph (2)(a) or each separate request referred to in paragraph (2)(b) must –

(a) be in writing;

(b) be sent to –

(i) the registered office, head office or principal place of business of the employer; or

(ii) the CAC; and

(c) specify the date on which it was sent.

(5) Where the request is sent to the CAC under paragraph (4)(b)(ii), the CAC shall –

(a) notify the employer that a request has been made as soon as reasonably practicable; and

(b) request from the employer such information as it needs to verify the number and names of the employees who have made the request; and

(c) inform the employee and the employees who have made the request how many employees have made the request, on the basis of the information provided by the employees and the employer.

(6) Where the CAC requests information from the employer under paragraph (5)(b), the employer shall provide the information requested as soon as reasonably practicable.

(7) The date on which a valid request is made is –

(a) where the request consists of a single request satisfying paragraph (2)(a) or of separate requests made on the same day satisfying paragraph (2)(b), the date on which the request is or requests are sent to the employer by the employees or the date on which the CAC notifies the employer that a request has been made ; and

(b) where the request consists of separate requests made on different days satisfying paragraph (2)(b), the date on which -

(i) the request is sent to the employer by the employees which results in that paragraph being satisfied; or

(ii) the CAC notifies the employer that a request has been made,

which results in that paragraph being satisfied.

- (8) (a) If the employer decides to hold a ballot under regulation 8, the duty in paragraph (1) to initiate negotiations shall only commence if the outcome of the ballot is that in regulation 8(5)(b).
- (b) If an application is made to the CAC under regulation 13, the duty in paragraph (1) to initiate negotiations shall only commence if the CAC's declaration is that the employee request or employer's notification was valid or that the obligation under paragraph (1) did apply to the employer.

Pre-existing agreements: ballot for employee endorsement of employee request

8. (1) Subject to regulation 9, this regulation applies where a valid employee request has been made under regulation 7 by fewer than 40% of employees employed in the undertaking on the date the request was made and where there exists a pre-existing agreement which –

- (a) is in writing;
- (b) covers all the employees of the undertaking;
- (c) has been approved by the employees; and
- (d) sets out how the employer is to give information to the employees or their representatives and to seek their views on such information.

(2) Where this regulation applies, the employer may, instead of initiating negotiations in accordance with regulation 7, hold a ballot to seek the endorsement of the employees of the undertaking for the employee request in accordance with paragraphs (3) and (4).

(3) The employer must –

- (a) inform the employees in writing as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within one month of the date of the employee request that he intends to hold a ballot under this regulation; and
- (b) must arrange for the ballot to be held as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter provided that the ballot does not take place before a period of 21 days has passed after the employer has informed the employees under sub-paragraph (a).

(4) A ballot must satisfy the following requirements –

- (a) the employer shall make such arrangements as are reasonably practicable to ensure that the ballot is fair;
- (b) all employees of the undertaking on the date of the ballot must be entitled to vote in the ballot;

^a S.I. 2000/1306.

- (c) the ballot must be conducted so as to secure that –
 - (i) so far as is reasonably practicable, those voting do so in secret; and
 - (ii) the votes given at the ballot are accurately counted.

(5) Where the employer holds a ballot under this regulation –

- (a) he must as soon as reasonably practicable after the holding of the ballot inform the employees of the result; and
- (b) if the employees endorse the employee request, the employer is under the obligation in regulation 7(1) to initiate negotiations; and
- (c) if the employees do not endorse the employee request, the employer is no longer under the obligation in regulation 7(1) to initiate negotiations.

(6) In paragraph (5), the employees are deemed to endorse the employee request if:

- (i) at least 40% of the employees employed in the undertaking; and
- (ii) the majority of the employees who vote in the ballot,

endorse the request.

(7) Where an employer, acting pursuant to paragraph (3)(a), has informed the employees that he intends to hold a ballot, any employee or employees' representative who believes that the employer has not complied with sub-paragraph (b) of that paragraph may present a complaint to the CAC.

(8) Where the CAC finds a complaint under paragraph (7) well-founded it shall make an order requiring the employer to hold the ballot within such period as the order may specify.

Pre-existing agreements covering groups of undertakings

9. (1) This regulation shall apply where the pre-existing agreement referred to in regulation 8(1) covers employees in more than one undertaking and a valid employee request is made in accordance with regulation 7.

(2) Where this regulation applies and where the request referred to in paragraph (1), either alone or when aggregated with any requests made by employees in other undertakings covered by the agreement within a six month period of the request referred to in paragraph (1) (whether or not those requests satisfy regulation 7(2)) is made by fewer than 40% of employees covered by that agreement, the employer or, where there is more than one, the employers may hold a ballot for employee endorsement of the employee request.

(3) Where the employer chooses to hold a ballot in accordance with paragraph (2), regulation 8 applies to that ballot with the following modifications-

- (a) references to employees of the undertaking shall refer to employees covered by the agreement; and
- (b) references to employees refer to all employees covered by the pre-existing agreement.

Complaint about ballot for endorsement of employee request

10. (1) Any employee or employees' representative who believes that an agreement which satisfies the requirements set out in sub-paragraphs (a) to (d) of regulation 8(1) does not exist may, within 21 days of the employer informing the employees under regulation 8(3)(a), present a complaint to the CAC.

(2) Any employee or employees' representative who believes that the arrangements for a ballot held under regulation 8 did not satisfy one or more of the requirements set out in regulation 8(4) may, within 21 days of the holding of the ballot, present a complaint to the CAC.

(3) Where the CAC finds a complaint under paragraph (1) or (2) well-founded it shall make an order requiring the employer –

- (a) in the case of a complaint under paragraph (1), to initiate negotiations under regulation 7; and
- (b) in the case of a complaint under paragraph (2), to –
 - (i) hold the ballot under regulation 8 again; or
 - (ii) if, prior to the order being made, the employer makes representations to the CAC that it would prefer to initiate negotiations under regulation 7, to initiate those negotiations.

Employer notification of decision to initiate negotiations

11. (1) The employer may initiate the negotiation process set out in regulation 14(1) on his own initiative by issuing a written notification, satisfying the requirements of paragraph (2), stating that he wishes to do so.

(2) The notification referred to in paragraph (1) must –

- (a) state that it is made for the purpose of these Regulations;
- (b) state the date on which it is issued; and
- (c) be published in such a manner as to bring it to the attention of, so far as reasonably practicable, all the employees of the undertaking.

Restrictions on employee request and employer notification

12. (1) Subject to paragraph (2), no employee request or employer notification shall be valid if it is made or issued, as the case may be, –

- (a) where a negotiated agreement applies, within a period of three years from the date of the agreement or, where the agreement is terminated within that period, before the date on which the termination takes effect;
- (b) where the standard information and consultation provisions apply within a period of three years from the date on which they started to apply;
- (c) where the employer has held a ballot under regulation 8 and the result was that set out in paragraph (5)(c) of that regulation, within a period of three years from the date of the employee request for which the employer sought the employees' endorsement in that ballot or, if more than one, the earliest request; and
- (d) where the employer has held a ballot referred to in regulation 9(1) and the result was that set out in regulation 8(5)(c), by any employees covered by the pre-existing agreement within a period of three years from the date of the employee request for which the employer sought the employees' endorsement in that ballot or, if more than one, the earliest request.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply where there are material changes in the undertaking during the applicable period having the result–

- (a) where a ballot held under regulation 8 had the result set out in paragraph (5)(c) of that regulation, that there is no longer an agreement which satisfies paragraph (1)(b) and (c) of that regulation; or
- (b) where a negotiated agreement exists, that the agreement no longer complies with regulation 16(1)(d).

Dispute about employee request, employer notification or whether obligation in regulation 7(1) applies

13. (1) If the employer considers that –

- (a) an employee request (or separate requests) was not valid because it did not satisfy any requirement of regulation 7(2) to (4) or was covered by the restriction in regulation 12; or

(b) the obligation in regulation 7(1) did not apply to it on the date on which the employee request was made,

it may apply to the CAC for a declaration as to whether the request was valid or whether the obligation did apply on that date.

(2) If an employee or an employees' representative considers that an employer notification was not valid because it did not comply with one or more of the requirements in regulation 11(2) or was covered by the restriction in regulation 12 he may apply to the CAC for a declaration as to whether the notification was valid.

(3) The CAC shall only consider an application for a declaration made under paragraph (1) or (2) if the application is made within a one month period beginning on the date –

(a) on which an employee request, or if more than one, the request which resulted in the requisite number of employees having made the request, was made, whether or not that request was valid; or

(b) on which the notification was issued for the purposes of regulation 11, whether or not the notification was valid.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (3)(a) the requisite number means the number required by regulation 7(2) or (3).

Negotiations to reach an agreement

14. (1) In order to initiate negotiations to reach an agreement under these Regulations the employer must as soon as reasonably practicable –

(a) make arrangements, satisfying the requirements of paragraph (2), for the employees of the undertaking to appoint or elect negotiating representatives; and thereafter

(b) inform the employees in writing of the identity of the negotiating representatives; and

(c) invite the negotiating representatives to enter into negotiations to reach a negotiated agreement.

(2) The requirements for the appointment or election of negotiating representatives under paragraph (1)(a) are that –

(a) all employees of the undertaking must be entitled to take part in the appointment or election of the representatives;
and

(b) the election or appointment of the representatives must be arranged in such a way that, following their election or appointment, all employees of the undertaking are represented by a representative.

(3) The negotiations referred to in paragraph (1)(c) shall last for a period not exceeding six months commencing three months after the date of the employee request was made or the employer notification was issued provided that –

(a) where the employer holds a ballot pursuant to regulation 8, the period between the employer notifying the employees of his decision to hold such a ballot and the date of the ballot shall be disregarded;

(b) where a complaint is made about the ballot for endorsement of the employee request is made pursuant to regulation 10, the period between the date of the ballot and the determination of the complaint including any appeal, shall be disregarded;

(c) where an application for a declaration is made to the CAC pursuant to regulation 13, the period between the date of that application and the final decision of the CAC or any appeal from that decision shall be disregarded; and

(d) where a complaint about the election or appointment of negotiating representatives is made pursuant to regulation 15, the time between the date of the complaint and the determination of the complaint, including any appeal shall be disregarded but, where the complaint is upheld, the period until the negotiation representatives are re-elected or re-appointed shall also be disregarded.

(4) If, before the end of the six month period referred to in paragraph (3), the employer and a majority of the negotiating representatives agree that that period should be extended, it can be extended by such period as the parties agree and thereafter can be further extended by such period or periods as the parties agree.

(5) Where the employer or more than one employers wish to initiate negotiations to reach an agreement to cover employees in more than one undertaking, any employer whose employees have not made an employee request and who has not issued an employer notification, shall issue such a notification.

(6) Where paragraph (5) applies, the provisions of paragraphs (1) to (4) of this regulation and regulations 15 and 16 apply with the following modifications-

(a) the references to the employees of the undertaking refer to employees of all undertakings to be covered by any agreement negotiated; and

(b) references to employees refer to employees of all undertakings to be covered by any agreement negotiated.

Complaint about election or appointment of negotiating representatives

15. (1) If an employee or an employees' representative considers that one or both of the requirements for the appointment or election of negotiating representatives set out in regulation 14(2) have not been complied with, he may, within 21 days of the election or appointment, present a complaint to the CAC.

(2) Where the CAC finds the complaint well-founded it shall make an order requiring the employer to arrange for the election or appointment of negotiating representatives referred to in regulation 14 again within such period as that order shall specify.

Negotiated agreements

16. (1) A negotiated agreement must –

- (a) set out the circumstances in which the employer must inform and consult his employees;
- (b) be in writing;
- (c) be dated;
- (d) cover all employees of the undertaking;
- (e) be approved in accordance with paragraph (2);
- (f) be signed by or on behalf of the employer; and
- (g) either –
 - (i) provide for the appointment or election of information and consultation representatives to whom the employer must provide the information and whom the employer must consult in the circumstances referred to in sub-paragraph (a); or
 - (ii) provide that the employer must provide information directly to the employees of the undertaking and consult the employees directly in the circumstances referred to in sub-paragraph (a).

(2) The negotiated agreement shall be deemed to have been approved in accordance with sub-paragraph (1)(e) if –

- (a) all the negotiating representatives sign it; or
- (b) a majority of negotiating representatives sign it, and either –
 - (i) at least 50% of employees employed in the undertaking approve the agreement in writing; or
 - (ii) at least 50% of employees who vote in a ballot, the arrangements for which satisfy the requirements set out in paragraph (3), approve the agreement,

and the employer may decide to seek approval in one or more of the ways set out in sub-paragraphs (a) and (b).

(3) A ballot referred to in paragraph (2) must satisfy the following requirements –

- (a) the employer shall make such arrangements as are reasonably practicable to ensure that the ballot is fair;
- (b) all employees employed by the undertaking on the date of the ballot must be entitled to vote in the ballot; and
- (c) the ballot must be conducted so as to secure that –
 - (i) so far as is reasonably practicable, those voting do so in secret; and
 - (ii) the votes given at the ballot are accurately counted.

Complaint about ballot for employee approval of agreement

17. (1) Any negotiating representative who believes that the arrangements of a ballot held under regulation 16 did not satisfy one or more of the requirements set out in paragraph (3) of that regulation, may, within 21 days of the holding of the ballot, present a complaint to the CAC.

(2) Where the CAC finds the complaint well-founded it shall make an order requiring the employer to hold the ballot referred to in regulation 16 again within such period as the order may specify.

PART IV

STANDARD INFORMATION AND CONSULTATION PROVISIONS

Application of standard information and consultation provisions

18. (1) Subject to paragraph (2),

(a) where the employer is under a duty to initiate negotiations in accordance with regulation 14 but fails to do so, the standard information and consultation provisions shall apply from the date-

- (i) which is six months from the date the employee request was made or the employer notification was issued; or
- (ii) information and consultation representatives are elected under regulation 19,

whichever is the sooner; and

(b) if the parties do not reach a negotiated agreement within the time limit referred to in regulation 14(3) (or that period as extended by agreement under paragraph (4) of that regulation) the standard information and consultation provisions shall apply from the date-

- (i) which is six months from the day that time limit expires; or
- (ii) information and consultation representatives are elected under regulation 19,

whichever is the sooner.

- (2) (a) Where the standard information and consultation provisions apply, the employer and the information and consultation representatives elected pursuant to regulation 19 may, at any time, reach an agreement that provisions other than the standard information and consultation provisions shall apply.
- (b) Any agreement referred to in sub-paragraph (a) must comply with the requirements listed in regulation 16(1)(a) to (d), (f) and (g) and be signed by a majority of the information and consultation representatives.

Election of information and consultation representatives

- 19.** (1) (a) Where the standard information and consultation provisions apply, the employer shall, before the standard information and consultation provisions start to apply, arrange for the holding of a ballot of its employees to elect the relevant number of information and consultation representatives.
- (b) The ballot referred to in sub-paragraph (a) must comply with the provisions in Schedule 2 to these Regulations.

(2) In this regulation the “relevant number of information and consultation representatives” means one representative per fifty employees or part thereof, provided that that number is at least 2 and does not exceed 25.

(3) An employee or an employee’s representative may complain to the CAC that the employer has not arranged or held a ballot in accordance with paragraph (1)(a).

(4) Where the CAC finds the complaint well-founded, it shall make an order requiring the employer to arrange and hold the ballot.

(5) Where the CAC finds a complaint under paragraph (3) well-founded, the employee or the employee’s representative may make an application to the Appeal Tribunal under regulation 22(6) and paragraphs (7) and (8) of that regulation shall be applicable to any such application.

Standard information and consultation provisions

20. – (1) The employer must provide the information and consultation representatives with information on –

- (a) the recent and probable development of the undertaking’s activities and economic situation;
- (b) the situation, structure and probable development of employment within the undertaking and on any anticipatory measures envisaged, in particular, where there is a threat to employment within the undertaking; and
- (c) subject to paragraph (5), decisions likely to lead to substantial changes in work organisation or in contractual relations, including those referred to in-

(i) sections 188 to 192 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992^a; and

(ii) regulations 10 to 12 of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1981^b.

(2) The information referred to in paragraph (1) must be given at such time, in such fashion and with such content as are appropriate to enable, in particular, the information and consultation representatives to conduct an adequate study and, where necessary, to prepare for consultation.

(3) The employer must consult the information and consultation representatives on the matters referred to in paragraph (1)(b) and (c).

(4) The employer must ensure that the consultation referred to in paragraph (3) is conducted -

(a) in such a way as to ensure that the timing, method and content of the consultation are appropriate;

(b) on the basis of the information supplied by the employer to the information and consultation representatives and of any opinion which those representatives express to the employer;

(c) in such a way as to enable the information and consultation representatives to meet the employer at the relevant level of management depending on the subject under discussion and to obtain a reasoned response from the employer to any such opinion; and

(d) in relation to matters falling within paragraph (1)(c), with a view to reaching agreement on decisions within the scope of the employer's powers.

(5) The duties in this regulation to inform and consult the information and consultation representatives on decisions falling within paragraph (1)(c) cease to apply where the employer is under a duty under -

(a) section 188 of the Act referred to in paragraph (1)(c)(i) (duty of employer to consult representatives); or

^a 1992 c. 52.

^b S.I. 1981/1794; regulations 10 to 12 have been amended by the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1992 (1992 c. 53), the Trade Union Reform and Employment Rights Act 1993 (1993 c. 19), the Collective Redundancies and Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 1995 (S.I. 1995 1925), the Collective Redundancies and Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations 1995 (S.I. 1995/2587), the Employment Rights (Dispute Resolution) Act 1998 (1998 c. 8) and the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (Amendment) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 1999/2402).

(b) regulation 10 of the Regulations referred to in paragraph (1)(c)(ii) (duty to inform and consult representatives), and

he has notified the information and consultation representatives in writing that he will be complying with his duty under the legislation referred to in sub-paragraph (a) or (b), as the case may be, instead of under these Regulations.

(6) Where there is an obligation in these Regulations on the employer to inform and consult his employees, a failure on the part of a person who controls the employer (either directly or indirectly) to provide information to the employer shall not constitute a valid reason for the employer failing to inform and consult.

PART V DUTY OF COOPERATION

Cooperation

21. The parties are under a duty, when negotiating or implementing a negotiated agreement or when implementing the standard information and consultation provisions, to work in a spirit of co-operation and with due regard for their reciprocal rights and obligations, taking into account the interests of both the undertaking and the employees.

PART VI COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Disputes about operation of a negotiated agreement or the standard information and consultation provisions

22. – (1) Where –

- (a) a negotiated agreement has been agreed; or
- (b) the standard information and consultation provisions apply,

a complaint may be presented to the CAC by a relevant applicant who considers that the employer has failed to comply with the terms of the negotiated agreement or, as the case may be, one or more of the standard information and consultation provisions.

(2) A complaint brought under paragraph (1) must be brought within a period of 3 months commencing with the date of the alleged failure.

(3) In this regulation –

“failure” means an act or omission; and

“relevant applicant” means –

- (a) in a case where information and consultation representatives have been elected or appointed, an information and consultation representative, or
- (b) in a case where no information and consultation representatives have been elected or appointed, an employee or an employee representative.

(4) Where the CAC finds the complaint well-founded it shall make a decision to that effect and may make an order requiring the employer to take such steps as are necessary to comply with the terms of the negotiated agreement or, as the case may be, the standard information and consultation provisions.

(5) An order made under paragraph (4) shall specify –

- (a) the steps which the employer is required to take;
- (b) the date of the failure; and
- (c) the period within which the order must be complied with.

(6) If the CAC makes a decision under paragraph (3) the relevant applicant may, within the period of three months beginning with the day on which the decision is made, make an application to the Appeal Tribunal for a penalty notice to be issued.

(7) Where such an application is made, the Appeal Tribunal shall issue a written penalty notice to the employer requiring him to pay a penalty to the Secretary of State in respect of the failure unless satisfied, on hearing representations from the employer, that the failure resulted from a reason beyond the employer's control or that he has some other reasonable excuse for his failure.

(8) Regulation 23 shall apply in respect of a penalty notice issued under this regulation.

(9) No order of the CAC under this regulation shall have the effect of suspending or altering the effect of any act done or of any agreement made by the employer or of preventing or delaying any act or agreement which the employer proposes to do or to make.

Penalties

23. (1) A penalty notice issued under regulation 22 shall specify –

- (a) the amount of the penalty which is payable;
- (b) the date before which the penalty must be paid; and
- (c) the failure and period to which the penalty relates.

(2) No penalty set by the Appeal Tribunal under this regulation may exceed £75,000.

(3) When setting the amount of the penalty, the Appeal Tribunal shall take into account –

- (a) the gravity of the failure;
- (b) the period of time over which the failure occurred;
- (c) the reason for the failure;
- (d) the number of employees affected by the failure; and
- (e) the number of employees employed by the undertaking or, where a negotiated agreement covers employees in more than one undertaking, the number of employees covered by the agreement .

(4) The date specified under paragraph (1)(b) above must not be earlier than the end of the period within which an appeal against a decision or order made by the CAC under regulation 22 may be made.

(5) If the specified date in a penalty notice has passed and –

- (a) the period during which an appeal may be made has expired without an appeal having been made; or
- (b) such an appeal has been made and determined,

the Secretary of State may recover from the employer, as a civil debt due to him, any amount payable under the penalty notice which remains outstanding.

(6) The making of an appeal suspends the effect of the penalty notice.

(7) Any sums received by the Secretary of State under regulation 22 or this regulation shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Exclusivity of remedy

24. The remedy for infringement of the rights conferred by these Regulations is by way of complaint to the CAC in accordance with Parts I to VI, and not otherwise.

PART VII CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

Breach of statutory duty

25. – (1) A person to whom the employer, pursuant to his obligations under these Regulations, entrusts any information or document on terms requiring it to be held in confidence shall not disclose that information or document except in accordance with those terms.

(2) In this regulation a person referred to in paragraph (1) to whom information or a document is entrusted is referred to as a “recipient”.

(3) The obligation to comply with paragraph (1) is a duty owed to the employer, and a breach of the duty is actionable accordingly (subject to the defences and other incidents applying to actions for breaches of statutory duty).

(4) Paragraph (3) shall not affect the liability which any person may incur, nor affect any right which any person may have, apart from paragraph (3).

(5) No action shall lie under paragraph (3) where the recipient reasonably believed the disclosure to be a “protected disclosure” within the meaning given to that expression by section 43A of the 1996 Act^a.

(6) A recipient whom the employer has entrusted with any information or document on terms requiring it to be held in confidence may apply to the CAC for a declaration as to whether it was reasonable for the employer to impose such a requirement.

(7) If the CAC considers that the disclosure of the information or document by the recipient would not, or would not be likely to, harm the legitimate interests of the undertaking, it shall make a declaration that it was not reasonable for the employer to require the recipient to hold the information or document in confidence.

(8) If a declaration is made under paragraph (7), the information or document shall not at any time thereafter be regarded as having been entrusted to the recipient who made the application under paragraph (6), or to any other recipient, on terms requiring it to be held in confidence.

Withholding of information by the employer

26. (1) The employer is not required to disclose any information or document to a recipient when the nature of the information or document is such that, according to objective criteria, the disclosure of the information or document would seriously harm the functioning of, or would be prejudicial to, the undertaking.

(2) Where there is a dispute between the employer and –

(a) where information and consultation representatives have been elected or appointed, an information representative; or

(b) where no information and consultation representatives have been elected or appointed, an employee or an employees’ representative,

as to whether the nature of the information or document which the employer has failed to provide is such as is described in paragraph (1), the employer or a person referred to in sub-paragraph (a) or (b) may apply to the CAC for a declaration as to whether the information or document is of such a nature.

(3) If the CAC makes a declaration that the disclosure of the information or document in question would not, according to objective criteria, seriously harm the

^a Section 43A of the 1996 Act was inserted by the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (c. 23), section 1.

functioning of, or be prejudicial to, the undertaking, the CAC shall order the employer to disclose the information or document.

- (4) An order under paragraph (3) above shall specify -
- (a) the information or document to be disclosed;
 - (b) the recipient or recipients to whom the information or document is to be disclosed;
 - (c) any terms on which the information or document is to be disclosed; and
 - (d) the date before which the information or document is to be disclosed.

PART VIII
PROTECTIONS FOR INFORMATION
AND CONSULTATION REPRESENTATIVES, ETC.

Right to time off for information and consultation representatives, etc.

27. – (1) An employee who is –

- (a) a negotiating representative; or
- (b) an information and consultation representative,

is entitled to be permitted by his employer to take reasonable time off during the employee's working hours in order to perform his functions as such a representative.

(2) For the purposes of this regulation, the working hours of an employee shall be taken to be any time when, in accordance with his contract of employment, the employee is required to be at work.

Right to remuneration for time off under regulation 27

28. – (1) An employee who is permitted to take time off under regulation 27 is entitled to be paid remuneration by his employer for the time taken off at the appropriate hourly rate.

(2) Chapter II of Part XIV of the 1996 Act (a week's pay) shall apply in relation to this regulation as it applies in relation to section 62 of the 1996 Act.

(3) The appropriate hourly rate, in relation to an employee, is the amount of one week's pay divided by the number of normal working hours in a week for that employee when employed under the contract of employment in force on the day when time is taken.

(4) But where the number of normal working hours differs from week to week or over a longer period, the amount of one week's pay shall be divided instead by -

- (a) the average number of normal working hours calculated by dividing by twelve the total number of the employee's normal working hours during

the period of twelve weeks ending with the last complete week before the day on which the time is taken off; or

- (b) where the employee has not been employed for a sufficient period to enable the calculations to be made under sub-paragraph (a), a number which fairly represents the number of normal working hours in a week having regard to such of the considerations specified in paragraph (5) as are appropriate in the circumstances.

(5) The considerations referred to in paragraph (4)(b) are –

- (a) the average number of normal working hours in a week which the employee could expect in accordance with the terms of his contract; and
- (b) the average number of normal working hours of other employees engaged in relevant comparable employment with the same employer.

(6) A right to any amount under paragraph (1) does not affect any right of an employee in relation to remuneration under his contract of employment (“contractual remuneration”).

(7) Any contractual remuneration paid to an employee in respect of a period of time off under regulation 27 goes towards discharging any liability of the employer to pay remuneration under paragraph (1) in respect of that period, and, conversely, any payment of remuneration under paragraph (1) in respect of a period goes towards discharging any liability of the employer to pay contractual remuneration in respect of that period.

Right to time off: complaint to tribunals

29. (1) An employee may present a complaint to an employment tribunal that his employer –

- (a) has unreasonably refused to permit him to take time off as required by regulation 27; or
- (b) has failed to pay the whole or part of any amount to which the employee is entitled under regulation 28.

(2) A tribunal shall not consider a complaint under this regulation unless it is presented -

- (a) before the end of the period of three months beginning with the day on which the time off was taken or on which it is alleged the time off should have been permitted; or
- (b) within such further period as the tribunal considers reasonable in a case where it is satisfied that it was not reasonably practicable for the complaint to be presented before the end of that period of three months.

(3) Where a tribunal finds a complaint under this regulation well-founded, the tribunal shall make a declaration to that effect.

(4) If the complaint is that the employer has unreasonably refused to permit the employee to take time off, the tribunal shall also order the employer to pay to the employee an amount equal to the remuneration to which he would have been entitled under regulation 28 if the employer had not refused.

(5) If the complaint is that the employer has failed to pay the employee the whole or part of any amount to which he is entitled under regulation 28, the tribunal shall also order the employer to pay to the employee the amount it finds due to him.

Unfair dismissal

30. (1) An employee who is dismissed and to whom paragraph (2) or (5) applies shall be regarded, if the reason (or, if more than one, the principal reason) for the dismissal is a reason specified in, respectively, paragraph (3) or (6), as unfairly dismissed for the purposes of Part X of the 1996 Act.

(2) This paragraph applies to an employee who is -

- (a) an employees' representative;
- (b) a negotiating representative;
- (c) an information and consultation representative; or
- (d) a candidate in an election in which any person elected will, on being elected, be such a representative.

(3) The reason is that -

- (a) the employee performed any functions or activities as such a representative or candidate;
- (b) the employee or a person acting on his behalf made a request to exercise an entitlement conferred on the employee by regulation 27 or 28;

or proposed to do so.

(4) The reason in paragraph (3)(a) does not apply where the reason (or principal reason) for the dismissal is that in the performance, or purported performance, of the employee's functions or activities he has disclosed any information or document in breach of the duty in regulation 25, unless the employee reasonably believed the disclosure to be a "protected disclosure" within the meaning given to that expression by section 43A of the 1996 Act.

(5) This paragraph applies to any employee whether or not he is an employee to whom paragraph (2) applies.

- (6) The reasons are that the employee –
- (a) took, or proposed to take, any proceedings before an employment tribunal to enforce a right or secure an entitlement conferred on him by these Regulations;
 - (b) exercised, or proposed to exercise, any entitlement to apply or complain to the CAC or the Appeal Tribunal conferred by these Regulations;
 - (c) requested, or proposed to request, data in accordance with regulation 5;
 - (d) acted with a view to securing that an agreement was or was not negotiated or that the standard information and consultation provisions did or did not become applicable;
 - (e) indicated that he supported or did not support the coming into existence of a negotiated agreement or the application of the standard information and consultation provisions;
 - (f) stood as a candidate in an election in which any person elected would, on being elected, be a negotiating representative or an information and consultation representative;
 - (g) influenced or sought to influence by lawful means the way in which votes were to be cast by other employees in a ballot arranged under these Regulations;
 - (h) voted in such a ballot;
 - (i) expressed doubts, whether to a ballot supervisor or otherwise, as to whether such a ballot had been properly conducted; or
 - (j) proposed to do, failed to do, or proposed to decline to do, any of the things mentioned in sub-paragraphs (d) to (i).
- (7) It is immaterial for the purpose of paragraph (6)(a) –
- (a) whether or not the employee has the right; or
 - (b) whether or not the right has been infringed;

but for that paragraph to apply, the claim to the right and, if applicable, the claim that it has been infringed must be made in good faith.

Subsidiary provisions relating to unfair dismissal

31. (1) In section 105 of the 1996 Act (redundancy as unfair dismissal) in subsection (1)(c) (which requires one of a specified group of subsections to apply for a person to be treated as unfairly dismissed)^a there shall be inserted “or (7G)” immediately before “applies” and after subsection (7F) there shall be inserted –

“(7G) This subsection applies if the reason (or, if more than one, the principal reason) for which the employee was selected for dismissal was one specified in paragraph (3) or (6) of regulation 30 of the Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations 2004 (read with paragraphs (4) and (7) of that regulation).”.

(2) In section 108^b of the 1996 Act (exclusion of right: qualifying period of employment) in subsection (3) (cases where no qualifying period of employment is required)^c the word “or” at the end of paragraph (i) shall be omitted and after paragraph (j) there shall be inserted -

“or

(k) paragraph (3) or (6) of regulation 30 of the Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations 2004 (read with paragraphs (4) and (7) of that regulation) applies.”.

(3) In section 109 of the 1996 Act (exclusion of right: upper age limit) in subsection (2) (cases where upper age limit does not apply)^d the word “or” at the end of paragraph (i) shall be omitted and after paragraph (j) there shall be inserted -

“or

(k) paragraph (3) or (6) of regulation 30 of the Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations 2004 (read with paragraphs (4) and (7) of that regulation) applies.”.

Detriment

32. (1) An employee to whom paragraph (2) or (5) applies has the right not to be subjected to any detriment by any act, or deliberate failure to act, by his employer, done on a ground specified in, respectively, paragraph (3) or (6).

(2) This paragraph applies to an employee who is -

(a) an employees’ representative;

(b) a negotiating representative;

^a Section 105 has been amended on a number of occasions to specify additional circumstances in which an employee dismissed by reason of redundancy is to be regarded as unfairly dismissed.

^b Section 108(1) was amended by S.I. 1999/1436, Article 3.

^c Section 108(3) has been amended on a number of occasions to specify additional cases in which no qualifying period of employment is required.

^d Section 109(2) has been amended on a number of occasions to specify additional cases where the upper age limit does not apply.

- (c) an information and consultation representative; or
- (d) a candidate in an election in which any person elected will, on being elected, be such a representative.

(3) The ground is that -

- (a) the employee performed any functions or activities as such a representative or candidate;
- (b) the employee or a person acting on his behalf made a request to exercise an entitlement conferred on the employee by regulation 27 or 28;

or proposed to do so.

(4) The ground in paragraph (3)(a) does not apply where the ground (or principal ground) for the subsection to detriment is that in the performance, or purported performance, of the employee's functions or activities he has disclosed any information or document in breach of the duty in regulation 25, unless the employee reasonably believed the disclosure to be a "protected disclosure" within the meaning given to that expression by section 43A of the 1996 Act.

(5) This paragraph applies to any employee whether or not he is an employee to whom paragraph (2) applies.

(6) The grounds are that the employee –

- (a) took, or proposed to take, any proceedings before an employment tribunal to enforce a right or secure an entitlement conferred on him by these Regulations;
- (b) exercised, or proposed to exercise, any entitlement to apply or complain to the CAC or the Appeal Tribunal conferred by these Regulations;
- (c) requested, or proposed to request, data in accordance with regulation 5;
- (d) acted with a view to securing that an agreement was or was not negotiated or that the standard information and consultation provisions did or did not become applicable;
- (e) indicated that he supported or did not support the coming into existence of a negotiated agreement or the application of the standard information and consultation provisions;
- (f) stood as a candidate in an election in which any person elected would, on being elected, be a negotiating representative or an information and consultation representative;

- (g) influenced or sought to influence by lawful means the way in which votes were to be cast by other employees in a ballot arranged under these Regulations;
 - (h) voted in such a ballot;
 - (i) expressed doubts, whether to a ballot supervisor or otherwise, as to whether such a ballot had been properly conducted; or
 - (j) proposed to do, failed to do, or proposed to decline to do, any of the things mentioned in sub-paragraphs (d) to (i).
- (7) It is immaterial for the purpose of paragraph (6)(a) –
- (a) whether or not the employee has the right; or
 - (b) whether or not the right has been infringed,

but for that paragraph to apply, the claim to the right and, if applicable, the claim that it has been infringed must be made in good faith.

Detriment: enforcement and subsidiary provisions

33. (1) An employee may present a complaint to an employment tribunal that he has been subjected to a detriment in contravention of regulation 32.

(2) The provisions of sections 48(2) to (4) and 49 of the 1996 Act^a (complaints to employment tribunals and remedies) shall apply in relation to a complaint under this regulation as they apply in relation to a complaint under section 48 of the Act but taking references to the employer as references to the employer within the meaning of regulation 32(1) above.

Conciliation

34. – In section 18 of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996 (conciliation) in subsection (1) (which specifies the proceedings and claims to which the section applies)^b –

- (a) at the end of paragraph (i), the word “or” shall be omitted; and
- (b) after paragraph (j), there shall be inserted –

“or

- (k) under regulation 29 or 33 of the Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations [2004].”.

^a Sections 48 and 49 were amended respectively by sections 1(2)(b) and 1(2)(a) of the Employment Rights (Dispute Resolution) Act 1998 (c. 8); there have been other amendments not relevant to these Regulations.

^b 1996 c. 17. Section 18(1) has been amended on a number of occasions to specify additional proceedings and claims to which the section applies.

PART IX
MISCELLANEOUS

Appeal Tribunal: jurisdiction

35. Any proceedings before the Appeal Tribunal arising under these Regulations, other than proceedings before the Appeal Tribunal under paragraph (o) of section 21(1) of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996^a, shall -

(a) where the registered office or, where there is no registered office, the head office or principal place of business is situated in England and Wales, be in England and Wales; and

(b) where the registered office or, where there is no registered office, the head office or principal place of business is situated in Scotland, be in Scotland.

Appeal Tribunal: proceedings

36. (1) The Employment Tribunals Act 1996 shall be amended as follows.

(2) In section 20(4) (the Appeal Tribunal), after “1999” insert “and regulation 35 of the Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations 2004”.

(3) In section 21 (jurisdiction of the Appeal Tribunal), in subsection (1) (which specifies the proceedings and claims to which the section applies) after paragraph (n) insert “(o) the Information and Consultation of Employees Regulations 2004.”.

CAC proceedings

37. - (1) Where under these Regulations a person presents a complaint or makes an application to the CAC the complaint or application must be in writing and in such form as the CAC may require.

(2) In its consideration of a complaint or application under these Regulations, the CAC shall make such enquiries as it sees fit and give any person whom it considers has a proper interest in the complaint or application an opportunity to be heard.

(3) A declaration or order made by the CAC under these Regulations may be relied on –

(a) in relation to an employer whose registered office, head office or principal place of business is in England or Wales, as if it were a declaration or order made by the High Court, and

(b) in relation to an employer whose registered office, head office or principal place of business is in Scotland as if it were a declaration or order made by the Court of Session.

(4) A declaration or order made by the CAC under these Regulations must be in writing and state the reasons for the CAC’s findings.

^a Section 21(1) has been amended on a number of occasions to add additional proceedings.

(5) An appeal lies to the Appeal Tribunal on any question of law arising from any declaration or order of, or arising in any proceedings before, the CAC under these Regulations.

ACAS

38. (1) If on receipt of an application or complaint under these Regulations the CAC is of the opinion that it is reasonably likely to be settled by conciliation, it shall refer the application or complaint to ACAS and shall notify the applicant or complainant and any persons whom it considers have a proper interest in the application or complaint accordingly, whereupon ACAS shall seek to promote a settlement of the matter.

(2) If an application or complaint so referred is not settled or withdrawn and ACAS is of the opinion that further attempts at conciliation are unlikely to result in a settlement, it shall inform the CAC of its opinion.

(3) If the application or complaint is not referred to ACAS or if it is so referred, on ACAS, informing the CAC of its opinion that further attempts at conciliation are unlikely to result in a settlement, the CAC shall proceed to hear and determine the application or complaint.

Restrictions on contracting out: general

39. (1) Any provision in any agreement (whether an employee's contract or not) is void in so far as it purports –

- (a) to exclude or limit the operation of any provision of these Regulations other than a provision of Part VIII; or
- (b) to preclude a person from bringing any proceedings before the CAC or the Appeal Tribunal under any provision of these Regulations other than a provision of Part VIII.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to any agreement to refrain from continuing any proceedings referred to in sub-paragraph (b) of that paragraph made after the proceedings have been instituted.

Restrictions on contracting out: Part VIII

40. (1) Any provision in any agreement (whether an employee's contract or not) is void in so far as it purports –

- (a) to exclude or limit the operation of any provision of Part VIII; or
- (b) to preclude a person from bringing any proceedings before an employment tribunal under that Part.

(2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to any agreement to refrain from instituting or continuing proceedings before an employment tribunal where a conciliation officer has taken action under section 18 of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996 (conciliation).

(3) Paragraph (1) does not apply to any agreement to refrain from instituting or continuing before an employment tribunal proceedings within section 18(1) of the Employment Tribunals Act 1996 (proceedings under these Regulations where conciliation is available) if the conditions regulating compromise agreements under these Regulations are satisfied in relation to the agreement.

(4) For the purposes of paragraph (3) the conditions regulating compromise agreements are that –

- (a) the agreement must be in writing;
- (b) the agreement must relate to the particular proceedings;
- (c) the employee must have received advice from a relevant independent adviser as to the terms and effect of the proposed agreement and, in particular, its effect on his ability to pursue his rights before an employment tribunal;
- (d) there must be in force, when the adviser gives the advice, a contract of insurance, or an indemnity provided for members of a profession or a professional body, covering the risk of a claim by the employee in respect of loss arising in consequence of the advice;
- (e) the agreement must identify the adviser; and
- (f) the agreement must state that the conditions in sub-paragraphs (a) to (e) are satisfied.

(5) A person is a relevant independent legal adviser for the purposes of paragraph (4)(c) –

- (a) if he is a qualified lawyer;
- (b) if he is an officer, official, employee or member of an independent trade union who has been certified in writing by the trade union as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the trade union; or
- (c) if he works at an advice centre (whether as an employee or as a volunteer) and had been certified in writing by the centre as competent to give advice and as authorised to do so on behalf of the centre.

(6) But a person is not a relevant independent legal adviser for the purposes of paragraph (4)(c) –

- (a) if he is, is employed by or is acting in the matter for the employer or an associated employer;

(b) in the case of a person within paragraph (5)(b) or (c), if the trade union or advice centre is the employer or an associated employer; or

(c) in the case of a person within (5)(c), if the employee makes a payment for the advice received from him.

(7) In paragraph (5)(a), “qualified lawyer” means –

(a) as respects England and Wales, a barrister (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice), a solicitor who holds a practising certificate, or a person other than a barrister or a solicitor who is an authorised advocate or authorised litigator (within the meaning of the Courts and Legal Services Act 1990^a); and

(b) as respects Scotland, an advocate (whether in practice as such or employed to give legal advice) or a solicitor who holds a practising certificate.

(8) For the purposes of paragraph (6) any two employers shall be treated as associated if –

(a) one is a company of which the other (directly or indirectly) has control; or

(b) both are companies of which a third person (directly or indirectly) has control;

and “associated employer” shall be construed accordingly.

Exception for merchant navy

41. (1) Subject to paragraph (3), no long haul crew member shall be –

(a) a negotiating representative; or

(b) an information and consultation representative.

(2) In paragraph (1), a “long haul crew member” means a person who is a member of a merchant navy crew other than –

(a) a ferry worker; or

(b) a person who normally works on voyages the duration of which is less than 48 hours.

(3) Paragraph (1) shall not apply where the employer decides that the long haul crew member in question shall be permitted to be, as the case may be, a negotiating representative or an information and consultation representative.

(4) Where paragraph (1) applies, no long haul crew member shall –

^a 1990 c. 41.

(a) stand as a candidate for election as a negotiating representative or an information and consultation representative; or

(b) be appointed or elected to be a negotiating representative or an information and consultation representative.

APPLICATION OF REGULATIONS

<i>Number of employees</i>	<i>Date Regulations apply</i>
At least 150	6 April 2005
At least 100	6 April 2007
At least 50	6 April 2008

SCHEDULE 2

Requirements for ballots held under regulation 19

Ballot arrangements

1. Ballots held under regulation 19 must comply with the requirements specified in paragraph 2.
2. The requirements referred to in paragraph 1 are that -
 - (a) (i) the ballot must comprise a single ballot but may instead, if the employer so decides, comprise separate ballots of employees in such constituencies as the employer may decide where –

the employer considers that if separate ballots were to be held for those constituencies, the information and consultation representatives to be elected would better reflect the interests of the employees as a whole than if a single ballot were held;

- (ii) If, at any point, it becomes clear that the number of people standing as candidates in the ballot is equal to or fewer than the relevant number of information and consultation representatives (as defined in regulation 19(2)), the obligation on the employer to hold the ballot in regulation 19 will cease and the candidates referred to above will become the information and consultation representatives.
 - (b) any employee who is an employee of the undertaking on the day on which votes may be cast in the ballot, or if the votes may be cast on more than one day, on the first day of those days, is entitled to vote in the ballot;
 - (c) any employee who is an employee of the undertaking at the latest time at which a person may become a candidate in the ballot is entitled to stand in the ballot as a candidate as an information and consultation representative;
 - (d) the employer must, in accordance with paragraph 6, appoint an independent ballot supervisor to supervise the conduct of the ballot;
 - (e) after the employer has formulated proposals as to the arrangements for the ballot and before he has published the final arrangements under subparagraph (f) he must, so far as reasonably practicable, consult with employees' representatives or, if no such representatives exist, the employees, on the proposed arrangements for the ballot; and
 - (f) the employer must publish the final arrangements for the ballot in such manner as to bring them to the attention of, so far as reasonably

practicable, his employees and, where they exist, the employees' representatives.

3. Any employee or an employees' representative who believes that the arrangements for the ballot are defective may, within a period of 21 days beginning on the date on which the employer published the final arrangements under paragraph 2(f), present a complaint to the CAC.
4. Where the CAC finds the complaint well-founded it shall make a declaration to that effect and may make an order requiring the employer to modify the arrangements it has made for the ballot or to satisfy the requirements in sub-paragraphs (a) to (e) of paragraph 2.
5. An order under paragraph 4 shall specify the modifications to the arrangements which the employer is required to make and the requirements he must satisfy.
6. A person is an independent ballot supervisor for the purposes of paragraph 2(d) if the employer reasonably believes that he will carry out any functions conferred on him in relation to the ballot competently and has no reasonable grounds for believing that his independence might reasonably be called into question.
7. For the purposes of paragraph 3 the arrangements for the ballot are defective if any of the requirements specified in sub-paragraphs (a) to (e) of paragraph 2 is not satisfied.

Conduct of the ballot

8. The employer must –
 - (a) ensure that a ballot supervisor appointed under paragraph 2(d) carries out his functions under this Schedule and that there is no interference with his carrying out of those functions; and
 - (b) comply with all reasonable requests made by a ballot supervisor for the purposes of or in connection with the carrying out of those functions.
9. A ballot supervisor's appointment shall require that he –
 - (a) supervises the conduct of the ballot he is being appointed to supervise, in accordance with the arrangements for the ballot published by the employer under paragraph 2(f) or, where appropriate, in accordance with the arrangements as required to be modified by an order made under paragraph 4;
 - (b) does not conduct the ballot before the employer has satisfied the requirement specified in paragraph 2(f) and –
 - (i) where no complaint has been presented under paragraph 3, before the expiry of 21 days beginning with the date on which

- the employer published its arrangements under paragraph 2(f);
or
 - (ii) where a complaint has been presented under paragraph 3, before the complaint has been determined and, where appropriate, the arrangements have been modified as required by an order made as a result of the complaint;
- (c) conducts the ballot so as to secure that –
- (i) so far as reasonably practicable, those entitled to vote are given the opportunity to do so;
 - (ii) so far as reasonably practicable, those entitled to stand as candidates are given the opportunity to stand;
 - (iii) so far as reasonably practicable, those voting are able to do so in secret; and
 - (iv) the votes given in the ballot are fairly and accurately counted.

10. As soon as reasonably practicable after the holding of the ballot, the ballot supervisor must publish the results of the ballot in such manner as to make them available to the employer and, so far as reasonably practicable, the employees entitled to vote in the ballot and the persons who stood as candidates in the ballot.

11. A ballot supervisor shall publish a report (“an ineffective ballot report”) where he considers (whether or not on the basis of representations made to him by another person) that –

- (a) any of the requirements referred to in paragraph 2 was not satisfied with the result that the outcome of the ballot would have been different; or
- (b) there was interference with the carrying out of his functions or a failure by the employer to comply with all reasonable requests made by him with the result that he was unable to form a proper judgement as to whether each of the requirements referred to in paragraph 2 was satisfied in the ballot.

12. Where a ballot supervisor publishes an ineffective ballot report the report must be published within a period of one month commencing on the date on which the ballot supervisor publishes the results of the ballot under paragraph 10.

13. A ballot supervisor must publish an ineffective ballot report in such manner as to make them available to the employer and, so far as reasonably practicable, the employees entitled to vote in the ballot and the persons who stood as candidates in the ballot.

14. Where a ballot supervisor publishes an ineffective ballot report, the outcome of the ballot shall be of no effect and -

- (a) if there has been a single ballot or an ineffective ballot report has been published in respect of every separate ballot, the outcome of the ballot

or ballots shall be of no effect and the employer shall again be under the obligation in regulation 19:

(b) if there have been separate ballots and sub-paragraph (a) does not apply –

(i) the employer shall arrange for the separate ballot or ballots in respect of which an ineffective ballot report has been issued to be reheld in accordance with regulation 19, and

(ii) no such ballot shall have effect until it has been reheld and no ineffective ballot report has been published in respect of it.

15. All costs relating to the holding of the ballot, including payments made to a ballot supervisor for the supervising the conduct of the ballot, shall be borne by the employer (whether or not an ineffective ballot report has been made).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations, made under powers in section [41] of the Employment Relations Act 2004 implement in Great Britain Directive 2002/14/EC establishing a general framework for informing and consulting employees in the European Community ('the Information and Consultation Directive').

The principal provisions of the Regulations provide as follows:

1. Regulation 3 sets out the undertakings to which the Regulations apply.
2. Regulation 4 provides a method of calculating the number of employees in an undertaking, regulation 5 provides the employees of an undertaking with an entitlement to information to make the calculation in regulation 4 and regulation 6 allows a complaint to be made to the Central Arbitration Committee ('the CAC') that the employer has failed to provide such information or has supplied false or incomplete information.
3. Part III deals with negotiated agreements and, in particular, regulation 7 provides that an employer must start negotiations on receipt of an employee request. However, the employer does not have to do so if there exists a pre-existing agreement and the request was made by fewer than 40% of employees. In the latter case the employer can choose to seek employee endorsement for the request and, unless at least 40% of employees in the undertaking and the majority of employees who vote do endorse the request, the employer does not have to start negotiations (regulation 8).
4. Regulation 9 deals with the situation where there are pre-existing agreements covering groups of undertakings.
5. Regulation 10 covers complaints to the CAC about ballots held under regulation 8.
6. Negotiations can also be commenced by an employer notification of his intention to start negotiations (regulation 11).
7. Regulation 12 contains certain restrictions on when an employee request or an employer notification can be made.
8. Regulation 13 allows applications to the CAC that an employee request or an employer notification is invalid.
9. Regulation 14 sets out what steps have to be taken to initiate negotiations, including the appointment or election of negotiating representatives and regulation 15 allows a complaint to the CAC in relation to the appointment or election of such representatives.

10. Regulation 16 sets out what a negotiated agreement must contain and how it must be approved and regulation 17 provides for a complaint to the CAC about such approval.

11. Part IV contains provisions relating to the standard information and consultation provisions. Regulation 18 sets out when they apply, regulation 19 obliges the employer to hold a ballot for the appointment of information and consultation representatives to act under the standard provisions and regulation 20 sets out the employer's obligations under the standard provisions.

12. Regulation 21 places the parties under a duty of cooperation.

13. Part VI deals with compliance and enforcement. Regulation 22 provides for complaints to the CAC about the operation of a negotiated agreement or the standard information and consultation provisions and for an application to be made to the Employment Appeal Tribunal for a penalty notice where the CAC finds a failure to comply with the negotiated agreement or the standard provisions by the employer. Regulation 23 deals with penalties under a penalty notice.

14. Regulation 24 provides that the only remedies available are the ones under Parts I to VI of the Regulations and not otherwise.

15. Part VII deals with confidential information and regulation 25 imposes a statutory duty not to disclose confidential information on anyone to whom such information is given and provides for an application to the CAC to challenge the necessity of information or a document being treated as confidential. Regulation 26 provides that an employer does not have to disclose certain information.

16. Part VIII provides protections to employees taking part in negotiations, information and consultation procedures or elections including protection against unfair dismissal (regulations 30 and 31) and detriment (regulations 32 and 33). Regulation 34 allows ACAS to conciliate in such disputes.

17. Regulations 39 and 40 place restrictions on contracting out of the rights provided by these Regulations.

18. Regulation 41 provides an exception for the merchant navy.

[A full Regulatory Impact Assessment of the effect that this instrument will have on the costs of business has been prepared and placed in the library of each House. This document can be obtained from the Department of Trade and Industry, Employee Involvement Team, Employment Relations Directorate, 1 Victoria Street, London, SW1H 0ET. It can also be downloaded from **[add website address].**]