

2026

## Acetylene Safety Regulations 2026 Consultation Report

### PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESULTS

Health and Safety Inspectorate

#### Version Control

|   |                                       |            |         |
|---|---------------------------------------|------------|---------|
| 1 | Health and Safety Inspectorate (HSWI) | 13/05/2026 | Initial |
| 2 | HSWI                                  | 01/06/2026 | Review  |
|   |                                       |            |         |
|   |                                       |            |         |

## Acetylene Safety Regulations 2026 Consultation Report

<https://consult.gov.im/environment-food-and-agriculture/acetylene-safety-regulations-2026>

This report was created on Wednesday 13 May 2026 at 09:41

The activity ran from 03/12/2025 to 31/03/2026

Responses to this survey: 4

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF RESPONDENT COMMENTS:**

Respondents were broadly supportive of the proposed Acetylene Safety Regulations and the direction of travel towards aligning IOM legislation with UK standards, viewing this as a positive step in strengthening safety and modernising the regulatory framework.

Feedback indicated that the proposals themselves were generally clear, proportionate and appropriate, with little concern raised about the core structure of the legislation. However, responses highlighted that the success of the Regulations would depend heavily on implementation, particularly in ensuring that those handling acetylene have the appropriate competence and awareness. There was a clear emphasis on the inherent risks associated with acetylene use, with respondents stressing the need for stronger controls around access, storage and use, and for trained and competent individuals to manage the substance safely.

A consistent theme across responses was the importance of training, communication and practical support. Respondents identified a need for improved access to training (potentially mandatory), industry engagement, and support for local training provision to build capacity. There were also calls for clearer communication of the proposed changes to those directly affected, as well as for structured engagement with industry to support effective rollout.

Overall, while there was clear support for the intent and design of the Regulations, respondents emphasise that delivering the intended safety benefits would rely on effective communication, adequate training provision, and a coordinated, well-supported implementation approach that ensured requirements were understood and applied in practice.

**We asked:**

*The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) has been reviewing specific UK Health and Safety legislation to form a judgment on whether the Island would benefit from greater alignment with UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) standards. As part of that process, consideration has also been given to whether this UK HSE legislation would enhance public and worker safety for offshore energy developments. This process has culminated in public consultation of specific draft legislation, with the starting point for most of the legislation being existing UK legislation.*

*DEFA has welcomed stakeholder and public feedback on the proposed health and safety legislation, and where appropriate any associated guidance documentation, through this public consultation process.*

**You Said:**

*Respondents are broadly supportive of the proposed Acetylene Safety Regulations and alignment with UK standards, recognising the benefits for consistency, clarity and improved safety outcomes. However, they emphasised that the real test will be in practical implementation, with particular focus on ensuring that those handling acetylene are properly trained, competent, and aware of the risks. There were consistent calls for stronger communication, accessible training, and coordinated support, including engagement with industry and those directly using acetylene, to ensure the requirements are understood and applied effectively in practice.*

**We did:**

*The DEFA Health and Safety at Work Inspectorate (HSWI) is grateful to all those who took the time to consider and respond to this consultation.*

*Due to the December 2025 holiday period and the limited number of initial responses received, it was decided to extend the closing date of the outstanding health and safety legislation consultations to 31 March 2026.*

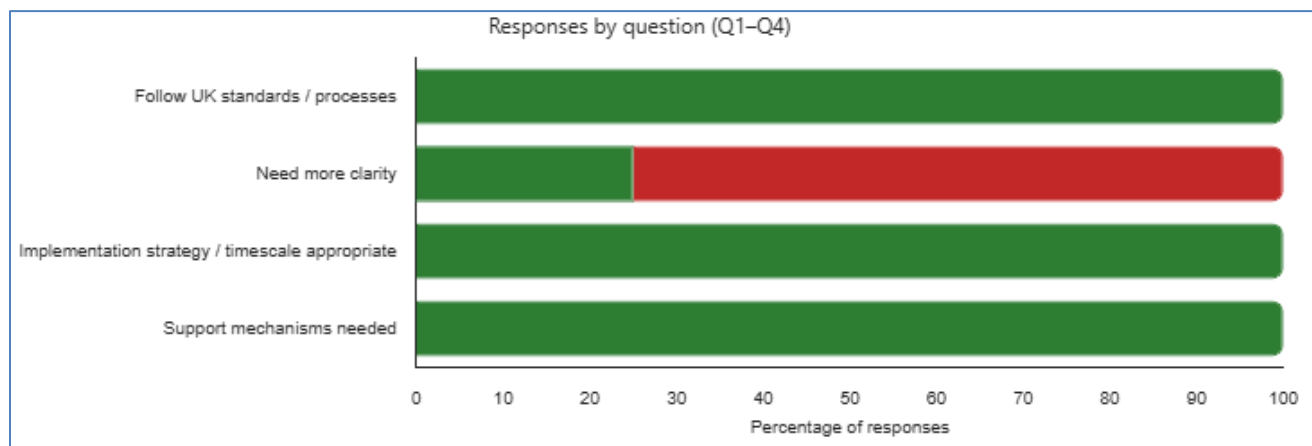
*The consultation process and responses received informed the Department's assessment of the benefits of the proposed legislation. All consultation responses were considered in detail, alongside direct engagement with relevant Manx businesses. The consultation process has therefore informed the Department's decision making. Having considered all available information, the Department has decided to pause the introduction of this tranche of legislation until further notice.*

*Further engagement between DEFA HSWI and the UK Health and Safety Executive (HSE) will take place in June 2026. Should the Department subsequently decide to proceed with the introduction of any of the draft legislation, this will first be reviewed against the latest position of the relevant UK legislation and updated where necessary. If any substantive changes are made as a result, a further public consultation exercise may be undertaken..*

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### CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

| Question Number | Title                                                                                                                                                                    | Total Responses |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1               | Do you agree that the Isle of Man should follow UK standards and processes for health and safety laws and its regulation?                                                | 4 (100.00%)     |
| 2               | Are there any parts of the legislation being consulted upon that require more clarity to aid understanding and assist with compliance?                                   | 4 (100.00%)     |
| 3               | Is the proposed implementation strategy and timescale for the introduction of the IOM Acetylene Safety Regulations 2026 appropriate for industry readiness?              | 4 (100.00%)     |
| 4               | Are there any specific support mechanisms (e.g. guidance, training, transitional arrangements) that would help you or your organisation prepare for the new legislation? | 4 (100.00%)     |
| 5               | Do you have any other comments on the draft IOM Acetylene Safety Regulations 2026 legislation attached to this stage of the overall consultation process?                | 2 (50.00%)      |
| 6               | Is there anything else you'd like to tell us about the proposed changes or the consultation process?                                                                     | 2 (50.00%)      |



**Fig 1:**  
**Question (Q1–Q4) - Percentage of Responses (Yes/Agree, No/Disagree, Not Answered)**

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS – INDIVIDUAL SUMMARY OF RESPONSES BY QUESTION

### ***Q1. Do you agree that the Isle of Man should follow UK standards and processes for health and safety laws and its regulation?***

All respondents supported alignment with UK standards. The consistent view was that this represents good practice, strengthens safety outcomes, and supports the ongoing modernisation of IOM legislation. Respondents also emphasised the practical benefits of alignment for industry, including improved clarity, consistency for contractors and training providers, and easier interpretation of requirements. There was a specific suggestion that alignment should extend to regulation structure and numbering to maximise these benefits.

### ***Q2. Are there any parts of the legislation that require more clarity?***

Most respondents felt the draft Regulations are sufficiently clear, with only limited requests for additional clarity. Where raised, comments focused on improving practical usability rather than legal interpretation, particularly through consistent formatting with UK regulations and clearer structuring. One response also highlighted the importance of ensuring regulations sit coherently within the broader suite of health and safety legislation.

### ***Q3. Is the proposed implementation strategy and timescale appropriate?***

All respondents considered the proposed implementation approach and timescale to be appropriate. However, comments suggest that this support is linked to ensuring effective implementation in practice, with one response highlighting the inherent risks associated with acetylene and the importance of robust controls around its purchase, storage, and use. Another stressed the need to ensure users are properly trained and that emergency services are aware of locations where acetylene is stored.

### ***Q4. Are there any specific support mechanisms that would help prepare for the new legislation?***

All respondents indicated that support mechanisms would be beneficial, with a strong and consistent focus on training, awareness, and industry engagement. Suggestions included reintroducing or mandating formal training for users, practical workshops, and support for local training providers to build capability. There were also calls for government support, including potential funding or coordinated engagement, to ensure smaller organisations and contractors can comply effectively.

### ***Q5. Any other comments on the draft Regulations?***

Additional comments reinforced the importance of safe handling and control of acetylene, including restricting access to trained and competent users, improving visibility of storage locations, and ensuring emergency services have appropriate information. Respondents also expressed broad support for the direction of travel, particularly where it improves safety and aligns with wider regulatory development.

### ***Q6. Anything else on the consultation process or proposed changes?***

Feedback on the consultation process itself was limited but included a practical suggestion that targeted communication should be improved, particularly ensuring that those who regularly use acetylene are directly informed of proposed changes. There was also a willingness from stakeholders to engage further in implementation, including participation in industry groups or briefings to support delivery.