



ACETYLENE SAFETY REGULATIONS 2026

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Statutory Document No. 20XX/XXXX

*Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974*

ACETYLENE SAFETY REGULATIONS 2026

*Approved by Tynwald:**Coming into Operation:**1 August 2028*

The Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture makes the following Regulations, after consulting such organisations as it considers represent the interests affected by the Regulations¹, under section 15(1), (2), (3)(a) and (c), (4)(a), (5) and (9) and 82(3)(a) of, and paragraphs 1(1), (2), (3), (5), 2(1), 3, 4, 9 and 12 of Schedule 3 to, the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (of Parliament²) as those provisions apply to the Island.

1 Title

These Regulations are the Acetylene Safety Regulations 2026.

2 Commencement

If approved by Tynwald³, these Regulations come into operation on 1 August 2028.

3 Application of the Regulations

SI 2014/1639, reg 1 and drafting

These Regulations apply —

- (a) to the Island, other than the territorial sea; and
- (b) apart from paragraph 8 of the Schedule (cylinder colouring), to the territorial sea as sections 1 to 53 and 80 to 82 of the 1974 Act apply by virtue of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (Application to the Territorial Sea) Order 2026⁴.

4 Interpretation

SI 2014/1639, reg 2

In these Regulations —

¹ As required by section 82(4) of the 1974 Act.

² 1974 c. 37: currently applied by SD 2024/0073.

³ Tynwald approval is required under section 82(5) of the 1974 Act.

⁴ SD 2026/xxxx.

“the 1974 Act” means the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (of Parliament), as it applies to the Island;

“the 2009 Regulations” means the Carriage of Dangerous Goods and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations 2009⁵ (of Parliament);

“acetylene” means the hydrocarbon chemical listed under that name in the European inventory of existing commercial chemical substances, published in the Official Journal of the European Communities, C 146A on 15th June 1990, under entry number 200-816-9;

“acetylene equipment” means any equipment containing compressed acetylene gas, excluding a cylinder and acetylene manifold but including a pipe, hose, valve, or device that is —

- (a) designed or manufactured for use with compressed acetylene gas; or
- (b) used with compressed acetylene gas;

“acetylene gas” means acetylene gas —

- (a) in a free gaseous state;
- (b) dissolved in a solution; or
- (c) contained in a homogeneous porous material, with or without a solvent;

“acetylene manifold” means a system of interconnected pipework in which compressed acetylene gas is contained, and which connects to, but excludes, a cylinder;

“bar(g)” means pressure, above atmospheric pressure, measured in the unit bar;

“compressed acetylene gas” means acetylene gas at pressure equal to or greater than 0.62 bar(g);

“cylinder” means —

- (a) transportable pressure equipment within the meaning of article 2(1)(a) of the Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive; or
- (b) an old pressure receptacle which —
 - (i) satisfies the requirements of regulation 14(4) of the 2009 Regulations, and
 - (ii) would be treated in England and Wales as an old pressure receptacle under regulation 15(9) of the Acetylene Safety (England and Wales and Scotland) Regulations 2014⁶ if it were in England and Wales;

“the Department” means the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture;

⁵ SI 2009/1348.

⁶ SI 2014/1639.

“licence” means a licence granted under regulation 9 and includes a renewed, varied or transferred licence;

“licensee” means a person who has been granted a licence and includes —

- (a) a person to whom a licence is transferred; and
- (b) a person treated as being the licensee under regulation 13;

“old pressure receptacle” means an old pressure receptacle within the meaning of regulation 14(6) of the 2009 Regulations;

“relevant activity” means any of the following or a combination of any of the following —

- (a) the manufacture of compressed acetylene gas;
- (b) the compression of acetylene gas equal to or greater than 0.62 bar(g), or
- (c) the filling of a cylinder with compressed acetylene gas;

“risk” means the likelihood of a person’s safety being affected by any uncontrolled release of energy caused by —

- (a) the decomposition of acetylene gas or acetylene-derived compounds; or
- (b) any uncontrolled combustion of acetylene gas or acetylene-derived compounds; and

“the Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive” means Directive 2010/35/EU of the European Parliament and Council repealing Council Directives 76/767/EEC, 84/525/EEC, 84/526/EEC, 84/527/EEC and 1999/36/EC⁷.

5 Prohibition concerning liquid and solid acetylene

SI 2014/1639, reg 3

A person must not manufacture, use, store, transport, import or sell liquid or solid acetylene, whether on its own or in any mixture.

6 Prohibition concerning compressed acetylene gas

SI 2014/1639, reg 4

- (1) A person must not use, store, transport, import or sell compressed acetylene gas, subject to paragraph (2).
- (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply to —
 - (a) the use of compressed acetylene gas at equal to or lower than 1.5 bar(g) provided that —
 - (i) the requirements in the Schedule are met; and
 - (ii) risk is reduced so far as is reasonably practicable;

⁷ OJ No L 165, 30.06.2010, p.1.

- (b) the storage of compressed acetylene gas in an acetylene manifold, provided that —
 - (i) the requirements in the Schedule are met; and
 - (ii) risk is reduced so far as is reasonably practicable;
- (c) the storage of compressed acetylene gas in a cylinder which would, if used for carriage, meet the requirements of —
 - (i) the 2009 Regulations; and
 - (ii) paragraph 8 of the Schedule (cylinder colouring) to these Regulations;
- (d) the transportation, importation and sale of compressed acetylene gas in a cylinder, provided that —
 - (i) the relevant requirements of the 2009 Regulations are met; and
 - (ii) the cylinder complies with paragraph 8 of the Schedule to these Regulations;
- (e) the use or storage of the requisite amount of compressed acetylene gas, in conditions other than those specified in subparagraphs (a) to (d), where the use or storage is required to assess the compliance of acetylene equipment, an acetylene manifold or cylinder with any relevant standards of a prescribed standards body or with relevant legal requirements, provided the use or storage is undertaken in such a way that risk is reduced so far as is reasonably practicable; and
- (f) the use or storage of compressed acetylene gas in conditions other than those specified in paragraphs (a) to (d), during the process of testing equipment, including devices and valves, where the testing occurs for the purpose of regulatory investigations, enforcement actions or other legal proceedings initiated by or on behalf of the Department.

(3) In this regulation —

“prescribed standards body” means any full member from time to time of the International Organization for Standardization;

“requisite amount” means —

- (a) where there is a minimum amount required for the assessment in the relevant standard or in the relevant legal requirements, that minimum amount; or
- (b) where there is not a minimum amount required for the assessment in the relevant standard or the relevant legal requirements, the lowest amount at which the assessment can be performed effectively;

“relevant legal requirements” means any enactment of national, European or international origin imposing, from time to time, safety or technical requirements on acetylene equipment, an acetylene manifold or cylinder, that is applicable in the Island or in any other jurisdiction.

7 Prohibition of a relevant activity without a licence

SI 2014/1639, reg 5

- (1) A person must not conduct a relevant activity unless the person —
 - (a) holds a licence for that activity;
 - (b) complies with the conditions of that licence; and
 - (c) complies with the requirements of the Schedule.
- (2) But paragraph (1) does not apply to the compression of naturally occurring, by-product, or traces of, compressed acetylene gas that is mixed with other gases excluding oxygen in a proportion insufficient to sustain decomposition.

8 Applications in relation to licences

SI 2014/1639, reg 6

- (1) An application for a licence or a renewal, variation or transfer of a licence must be made to the Department in a form approved for the time being by the Department for the purpose of these Regulations.
- (2) The Department may request additional information from the applicant where it considers it necessary to determine whether to grant, renew, vary or transfer a licence.
- (3) Where the Department considers it necessary, when determining whether to grant, renew, vary or transfer a licence, to obtain evidence that the equipment, including devices and valves, proposed to be used for a relevant activity is suitable for that activity, then it may —
 - (a) test the equipment, including devices and valves; or
 - (b) require the applicant to provide evidence that such equipment, including devices and valves, is suitable.

9 Grants, renewals, variations and transfers of licences

SI 2014/1639, reg 9

- (1) The Department may grant a licence —
 - (a) for any relevant activity; and
 - (b) with or without a time limit as to its duration.
- (2) The Department may grant a licence only if it is of the opinion that —
 - (a) the premises where the applicant proposes to carry out a relevant activity are suitable for that activity;

- (b) the construction, site and orientation of any building, including protective works around the building, where the applicant proposes to carry out a relevant activity are suitable for that activity;
 - (c) the equipment, including devices and valves, which the applicant proposes to use for any relevant activity are suitable for that activity; and
 - (d) there are no other reasons to conclude that permitting the relevant activity would result in significant risk that may not be adequately reduced by the imposition of conditions under paragraph (3).
- (3) The Department may make a licence subject to any of the following conditions that it considers appropriate to reduce risk —
 - (a) the maximum amount of compressed acetylene gas which may be manufactured on the premises;
 - (b) the maximum amount of acetylene gas which may be compressed at equal to or greater than 0.62 bar(g) on the premises;
 - (c) the maximum number of cylinders which may be filled with compressed acetylene gas on the premises;
 - (d) conditions as to the construction, location or orientation of any building, including protective works around the building, where the relevant activity is to take place;
 - (e) conditions as to the activities which may be undertaken in a building or part of a building within the premises specified in the licence;
 - (f) conditions as to the equipment, including devices and valves, that is to be used for any relevant activity;
 - (g) conditions as to the operational requirements for equipment, including devices and valves; and
 - (h) any other condition it considers appropriate to reduce risk.
- (4) The Department may, following an application by the licensee, renew a time-limited licence if satisfied that —
 - (a) the licensee has complied with the licence conditions, if any;
 - (b) the requirements in paragraph (2) are still satisfied; and
 - (c) the conditions of the licence, if any, are still sufficient adequately to reduce risk.
- (5) The Department may vary a licence, including the conditions attached to a licence —
 - (a) without the consent of the licensee, if there has been a change in circumstances such that a variation is necessary adequately to reduce risk; or

- (b) on the application of the licensee, if the Department is satisfied that after the variation the —
 - (i) requirements in paragraph (2) would still be satisfied; and
 - (ii) conditions of the licence, if any, are still sufficient adequately to reduce risk.
- (6) Following an application by the licensee, the Department may transfer a licence, subject to the conditions of that licence, to any other person who wishes to conduct the activity permitted in the licence in place of the licensee, if the Department is satisfied that after the transfer the requirements in paragraph (2) would still be satisfied.

10 Form of licences

SI 2014/1639, reg 10

- (1) A licence must be in a form approved for the time being by the Department for the purposes of this regulation.
- (2) A licence must specify —
 - (a) the name and address of the licensee;
 - (b) the relevant activity that is permitted;
 - (c) the premises, and the places within the premises, where any relevant activity may take place;
 - (d) any conditions attached to that licence under regulation 9(3); and
 - (e) the duration for which it is granted, if it is of limited duration.

11 Revocation of licences

SI 2014/1639, reg 11

The Department may revoke a licence if there has been a change in circumstances leading it to conclude that the requirements in regulation 9(2) are no longer satisfied.

12 Further provisions concerning refusals, variations and revocations

SI 2014/1639, reg 12

- (1) Where the Department proposes to —
 - (a) refuse an application for —
 - (i) a licence;
 - (ii) a renewal of a licence;
 - (iii) a transfer of a licence; or
 - (iv) a variation of a licence;
 - (b) vary a licence without the agreement of the licensee; or
 - (c) revoke a licence,

it must notify the applicant or the licensee in writing, as applicable, of its proposed course of action and afford them a period of 28 days beginning with the date of the notification to make written representations to the Department about the proposed course of action.

- (2) After the 28 day period for making representations in paragraph (1) has elapsed, the Department must consider any written representations received in that period from the applicant or the licensee, as applicable, prior to making a final decision.
- (3) Where the Department decides to —
 - (a) refuse an application for —
 - (i) a licence;
 - (ii) a renewal of a licence;
 - (iii) a transfer of a licence; or
 - (iv) a variation of a licence;
 - (b) vary a licence without the agreement of the licensee; or
 - (c) revoke a licence,it must provide the applicant or licensee, as applicable, with written reasons for the decision.

13 Death, incapacity, bankruptcy and insolvency

SI 2014/1639, reg 13

- (1) If a licensee dies or becomes incapacitated, a person carrying on a relevant activity in accordance with the conditions of the licensee's licence is to be treated as being the licensee until the first to occur of —
 - (a) the expiration of a period of 60 days beginning with the date of the death or incapacity;
 - (b) the grant or refusal of a new licence; or
 - (c) the transfer of, or refusal to transfer, the licence.
- (2) If a licensee becomes bankrupt or, in the case of a company, goes into liquidation, administration or receivership or has a receiving order made against it, any liquidator, administrator, trustee in bankruptcy or receiver is to be treated as being the licensee.

14 Power to grant exemptions

SI 2014/1639, reg 14

- (1) Subject to paragraph (3), the Department may, by a certificate in writing, exempt any person or class of persons from all or any of the requirements or prohibitions imposed by or under these Regulations, save where such an exemption would contravene rules imposed by other enactments.

- (2) An exemption granted under paragraph (1) may be —
- (a) subject to conditions;
 - (b) subject to a time limit; and
 - (c) revoked at any time by a certificate in writing.
- (3) The Department must not grant an exemption under paragraph (1) unless, having regard to the circumstances of the case, and in particular to —
- (a) the conditions, if any, which it proposes to attach to the exemption under paragraph (2); and
 - (b) any requirements imposed by or under any enactments which apply to the case,
- it is satisfied that the safety of persons who are likely to be affected by the exemption will not be prejudiced in consequence of it.

MADE

CLARE BARBER

Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture

SCHEDULE

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Regulation 6(2) and 7(1)

SI 2014/1639, Schedule 1 (and drafting)

1 Requirements for any acetylene equipment or acetylene manifold

Any acetylene equipment or acetylene manifold may only be used if designed, manufactured and operated to prevent, so far as is reasonably practicable —

- (a) the uncontrolled combustion of acetylene gas;
- (b) the decomposition of acetylene gas; and
- (c) the formation of acetylene-derived compounds that pose a risk or are liable to initiate decomposition of acetylene gas.

2 Design and manufacture of acetylene equipment or acetylene manifold

Any acetylene equipment or acetylene manifold may only be used if designed and manufactured to —

- (a) withstand the thermal and mechanical stresses of any decomposition of the acetylene gas that it contains; or
- (b) dissipate or direct the thermal and mechanical stresses of any decomposition of the acetylene gas that it contains.

3 Further requirements for an acetylene manifold

An acetylene manifold may be used only if it is —

- (a) designed to prevent the mixture of air, or oxygen, with acetylene gas within the acetylene manifold;
- (b) fitted with rigid pipework with an internal diameter equal to or less than 25mm;
- (c) fitted with a flexible hose where rigid pipework is not practicable and the flexible hose —
 - (i) is kept at the minimum practicable length; and
 - (ii) has an internal diameter equal to or less than 25mm; and
- (d) not subjected to pressure greater than that within any attached cylinder.

4 Requirements of a system of connected acetylene equipment

A system of connected acetylene equipment may be used only if it is fitted —

- (a) with a pressure regulation device that is —
 - (i) designed and constructed for use with compressed acetylene gas; and
 - (ii) positioned as close as is reasonably practicable to the acetylene manifold or, where no acetylene manifold is used, to the cylinder;
- (b) within one metre of the pressure regulation device, with a flame arrestor; and
- (c) with a non-return device, effective against the return of gas towards the cylinder, and a quick-acting shut-off device, and both devices are positioned as close as is reasonably practicable to the acetylene manifold or, where no acetylene manifold is used, to the cylinder.

5 Maximum diameter of system of connected acetylene equipment

A system of connected acetylene equipment may be used only if the internal diameter of the pipework does not exceed the maximum diameter specified in the Table for the respective pressure of the compressed acetylene gas in use.

Table

<i>Pipework maximum internal diameter (mm)</i>	<i>Maximum pressure of contained compressed acetylene gas (bar(g))</i>
23	1.5
25	1.3
35	1.0
42	0.8

6 Requirements for a flame arrestor

A flame arrestor that is put into service after 1 August 2028 may be used only if, at the time it is put into service, it complies with the requirements of BS EN ISO 5175-1-2017 or any other relevant international standard recognised for use in the United Kingdom or any EEA State at that date.

7 Requirement for an isolation valve

A manually operated isolation valve must be fitted as close as is reasonably practicable upstream of each acetylene burner or acetylene-consuming equipment.

8 Cylinder colouring

A cylinder must be painted, on both its body and shoulder, in the colour matching number 3007 of the Classic RAL system⁸.

9 Interpretation

In this Schedule —

“**acetylene burner**” means any equipment, including devices and valves, designed for use with ignited acetylene gas;

“**acetylene-consuming equipment**” means any equipment designed to convert acetylene gas into another chemical form;

“**flame arrestor**” means a device designed and constructed to arrest the progression of any flame resulting from the decomposition or uncontrolled combustion of acetylene gas;

“**quick-acting shut-off device**” means a safety device effective against the continued release of —

- (a) acetylene gas; and
- (b) products of decomposition caused by —
 - (i) the decomposition of acetylene gas; or
 - (ii) any uncontrolled combustion of acetylene gas; and

“**system of connected acetylene equipment**” means any connected equipment, whether permanently or temporarily connected, which is intended for use with compressed acetylene gas, or which is used with compressed acetylene gas, including acetylene equipment, a cylinder, an acetylene manifold and other accessories.

⁸ The Classic RAL system is used to define colour standards and is available, without charge, from the website: www.ralcolours.com.

*EXPLANATORY NOTE**(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations provide the framework for the regulatory regime in relation to acetylene.

Most of the terms and expressions used in these Regulations are defined in regulation 4.

Regulation 5 makes the following changes of substance to the previous regime:

- (a) prohibitions concerning solid acetylene; and
- (b) prohibitions, without disapplications, concerning liquid acetylene.

Prohibitions concerning “compressed acetylene gas” are contained in regulation 6 but are subject to disapplications. Nothing in these Regulations imposes restrictions on acetylene gas at a pressure lower than 0.62 bar(g).

Subject to a disapplication, a person wishing to conduct a “relevant activity” requires a licence to do so and must comply with safety requirements contained in the Schedule (regulation 7). Applications for a licence should be made to the Department (regulation 8).

Grounds for granting, renewing, varying or transferring a licence are set out in regulation 9. Regulation 10 specifies the form of a license and the information it must contain. Grounds for revoking a licence are set out in regulation 11. The circumstances and timescales for making written representations are contained in regulation 12. Licence arrangements in the event of death, incapacity, bankruptcy and insolvency of the licensee are contained in regulation 13.

Power to grant exemptions from the requirements or prohibitions imposed by these Regulations is conferred on the Department by regulation 14.