CHAPTER No. 378.

National Standards.

GENERAL ANNOTATION.

ADMINISTRATION.

The administration of this Chapter was not vested specifically in any Minister at the date of its preparation for inclusion, therefore, under Section 148(2) of the Constitution, it seems that political responsibility was vested in the Prime Minister.

The present administration may be ascertained by reference to the most recent Determination of Titles and Responsibilities of Ministers made under Section 148(1) of the Constitution.

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CHAPTER No. 378.

National Standards Act.

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 - "member"
 - "physical quantity"
 - "PNG legal unit of measurement"
 - "PNG standard of measurement"
 - "this Act".
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CHAPTER No. 378.

National Standards Act.

Being an Act to establish a National Standards Council, and to provide for the establishment and use of uniform units and standards of measurement of physical quantities, for the control of measurements for trade purposes, and for related purposes.

PART I.—PRELIMINARY.

1. Interpretation.

In this Act, unless the contrary intention appears—

"the Chairman" means the Chairman of the Council;

"the Council" means the National Standards Council established under Section 3:

"member" means a member of the Council appointed under Section 4 and includes an alternative member acting in place of a member;

"physical quantity" includes mass;

"PNG legal unit of measurement" means a unit of measurement prescribed as a legal unit of measurement of a physical quantity;

"PNG standard of measurement" means a standard by which measurements of a physical quantity for which there is a PNG legal unit of measurement may be made in terms of that unit;

"this Act" includes the regulations.

2. Application to the State.

This Act binds the State.

PART II.—NATIONAL STANDARDS COUNCIL.

3. Establishment of the Council.

- (1) A Council by the name of the "National Standards Council" is hereby established.
- (2) The Council—
 - (a) is a corporation with perpetual succession; and
 - (b) shall have a common seal; and
 - (c) is capable of acquiring, holding and disposing of property; and
 - (d) may sue and be sued in its corporate name.
- (3) All courts, Judges and persons acting judicially shall take judicial notice of the common seal of the Council affixed to a document and shall presume that it was duly affixed.

4. Constitution of the Council.

- (1) The Council shall consist of seven members appointed by the Minister by notice in the National Gazette of whom—
 - (a) one shall be appointed as Chairman for a period of four years; and

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- (b) one shall be appointed as Deputy Chairman for a period of three years; and
- (t) two shall be appointed as members for a period of three years; and
- (d) three shall be appointed as members for a period of two years, and each member shall be eligible for re-appointment.
 - (2) Where for any reason the Chairman is unable to act, the Deputy Chairman may-
 - (a) exercise all or any of the powers; and
 - (b) perform all or any of the functions,

of the Chairman.

- (3) The persons appointed to be members shall be appointed on account of their competence and relevant experience in commerce, industry, education and consumer affairs.
- (4) The Minister may, by notice in the National Gazette, appoint a person to be an alternate member for a member, for the period of that member's appointment under Subsection (1).
- (5) A person appointed as an alternate under Subsection (4) shall not perform the duties of the Chairman or Deputy Chairman at a meeting of the Council.
- (6) Subject to this Act, the terms and conditions of appointment of members are as fixed by the Minister from time to time.

5. Leave of absence of members.

The Chairman may grant leave of absence to a member on such terms and conditions as he thinks fit.

6. Vacation of office of member.

- (1) If a member—
 - (a) becomes permanently incapable of performing his duties; or
 - (b) resigns his office by written notice addressed to the Minister; or
 - (c) absents himself from three consecutive meetings of the Council without the written consent of the Chairman; or
 - (d) becomes bankrupt, applies to take the benefit of any law for the relief of bankrupt or insolvent debtors, compounds with his creditors or makes an assignment of his remuneration for their benefit; or
 - (e) becomes of unsound mind as that expression is used in the Public Health Act;
 - (f) is convicted of an offence punishable under a law by death or by imprisonment for one year or longer, and as a result of the conviction—
 - (i) is subject to be sentenced to death or imprisonment; or
 - (ii) is under sentence of death or is undergoing imprisonment; or
 - (iii) is under bond to appear for sentence if called on,

the Minister shall terminate his appointment.

- (2) The Minister may, at any time, terminate the appointment of a member for inability, inefficiency, incapacity or misbehaviour.
- (3) Where the appointment of a member is terminated under this section, the Minister shall, by notice in the National Gazette, declare his office vacant.

(4) Where an office is declared vacant under Subsection (3), the vacancy shall be filled in accordance with Section 4.

7. Vacancy not to affect powers or functions.

The exercise or performance of a power or function of the Council is not invalidated by reason only of a vacancy in the membership of the Council.

8. Meetings of the Council.

- (1) Meetings of the Council shall be held at such times and at such places as the Chairman, or in the absence of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, determines.
 - (2) At a meeting of the Council-
 - (a) four members are a quorum; and
 - (b) the Chairman, or in his absence the Deputy Chairman, shall preside; and
 - (c) in the absence of the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, the Council shall choose one of its members to preside; and
 - (d) matters arising at a meeting shall be decided by a majority of the votes of the members present and voting; and
 - (e) the person presiding has a deliberative and, in the event of an equality of votes on a matter, also a casting vote.
 - (3) The Council shall cause minutes of its meetings to be recorded and kept.
- (4) Subject to this Act, the procedures of the Council are as determined by the Council.

9. Functions of the Council.

The functions of the Council are to advise the Minister on all matters relating to the establishing and maintenance, and encouragement of the use, of standards of measurement of physical quantities and National Technical Standards, and in particular—

- (a) to recommend the prescribing of particular standards of measurements as PNG legal units of measurements; and
- (b) to recommend the prescribing of the numerical relationship between PNG legal units of measurement and other units of measurement; and
- (c) to recommend the maintenance of such standards of measurement as it considers necessary to enable the verification of means of measurement; and
- (d) to recommend the approval of measuring instruments to be used for the verification of measurements; and
- (e) to publish such information relating to standards of measurement and technical standards as it thinks fit or as directed by the Minister; and
- (f) to recognize as testing authorities persons, bodies, and institutions as having adequate facilities and capacity to carry out testing functions in relation to standards of measurement and technical standards; and
- (g) to do all things that it is required by this Act to do or which are necessary or convenient to be done by the Council for giving effect to this Act and the National Technical Standards Act, and to do such other things as directed from time to time by the Minister.

10. Powers of the Council.

The Council has such powers as are reasonably necessary to enable it to carry out its functions, and such other powers as by this or any other Act are given to it.

11. Delegation.

The Council may by instrument, delegate to any person all or any of its powers and functions (except this power of delegation).

12. Committees of the Council.

The Council may establish such committees of the Council as it considers necessary to carry out its functions and include on those committees such persons who are not members of the Council (being less than 75% the membership of any committee) as it thinks fit.

13. Application of Public Bodies (Financial Administration) Act.

- (1) The Public Bodies (Financial Administration) Act applies to and in relation to the Council subject to the exceptions and modifications specified in Schedule 1.
- (2) The Council is, for the purposes of Section 10 of the Public Bodies (Financial Administration) Act, a trading enterprise.

PART III.—UNITS AND STANDARDS OF MEASUREMENT.

14. Application of Part III.

In any law in force in the country, a reference to a measurement in units, or multiples or fractions of units, for which there is—

- (a) a PNG legal unit of measurement; or
- (b) a PNG standard of measurement,

shall, unless the contrary intention appears in that law, be a reference to-

- (c) a PNG legal unit of measurement; or
- (d) a PNG standard of measurement,

as the case may be.

15. PNG legal units of measurement.

The Minister may, by notice in the National Gazette, fix a date on and from which a PNG legal unit of measurement is the sole legal unit of measurement of a particular physical quantity.

16. Contracts, etc., to be expressed in PNG legal units of measurement.

- (1) Subject to Subsection (3), on and after the date specified in a notice under Section 15, a contract, dealing or transaction made or entered into for any goods or services relating to a measurement of physical quantity shall be made or entered into by reference to the PNG legal unit of measurement of that physical quantity.
- (2) Where in a contract, dealing or transaction to which Subsection (1) applies, a reference is made to a unit of measurement of a physical quantity and there is a PNG legal unit of measurement of that physical quantity of the same name, that reference shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be deemed to be a reference to the PNG legal unit of measurement of that physical quantity.

(3) The Minister may-

- (a) in the case of a particular contract, dealing or transaction—by written notice to the party applying to him; or
- (b) in the case of a particular class of contract, dealing or transaction, or contracts, dealings or transactions relating to a particular commodity—by notice in the National Gazette,

after having received and considered the advice of the Council, exempt that contract, dealing or transaction, particular class of contract, dealing or transaction or those contracts, dealings or transactions relating to a particular commodity, as the case may be, from the application of this section.

(4) Subject to Subsection (3), where in a contract, dealing or transaction measurements of physical quantity are expressed in units other than PNG legal units of measurement, that contract, dealing or transaction is voidable at the option of any party to it.

17. Conversion factors.

Where, for any legal purpose, it is necessary to convert-

- (a) a measurement of a physical quantity expressed in terms of a legal unit of measurement applicable in the country immediately before the publication of a notice under Section 15 relating to that physical quantity; or
- (b) a measurement of a physical quantity expressed in terms of one of the PNG legal units of measurement to one expressed in terms of another PNG legal unit of measurement,

the prescribed conversion factor shall be used.

18. Standards of measurement.

- (1) Subject to Subsection (3), the Council shall maintain, or cause to be maintained, such standards of measurement as it considers necessary or desirable to provide means by which measurement of physical quantities for which there are PNG legal units of measurement may be made in terms of those units.
- (2) The Council may, by notice in the National Gazette, determine that magnitudes of physical quantities under conditions specified in that determination shall be special standards of measurement for the purpose of providing additional means by which measurements of physical quantities for which there are PNG legal units of measurement may be made in terms of those units.
- (3) The Council may, by notice in the National Gazette, approve such standards of measurement maintained within or outside of the country as it considers desirable to provide means by which measurements of physical quantities for which there are PNG legal units of measurement may be made in terms of those units.
 - (4) The Council shall, by notice in the National Gazette—
 - (a) ascribe a nominal value to a particular standard of measurement; and
 - (b) where it considers it desirable, specify values higher and lower than that nominal value within the limits of which the actual value of that standard of measurement is deemed to equal the nominal value.

19. Verification of standards of measurement.

(1) A standard of measurement referred to in Section 18(1) shall be verified and from time to time reverified by, or with the written authority of, the Council.

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- (2) The verification or reverification referred to in Subsection (1) shall be carried out in such manner as the Council considers appropriate having regard to the nature of the standard of measurement.
- (3) A standard of measurement shall be deemed to comply with the nominal value ascribed to that standard of measurement under Section 18(4) if the value ascribed to it on verification or reverification, as the case may be, falls within the limits of variation from the nominal value specified for that standard of measurement under that section.
- (4) The Council or a person or body authorized by the Council to verify or reverify a standard of measurement may issue a certificate in respect of that verification or reverification that shall—
 - (a) identify the standard of measurement concerned; and
 - (b) report the result of the verification or reverification; and
 - (c) specify the period within which the standard of measurement is to be reverified or again reverified, as the case may be.
- (5) A document purporting to be a certificate issued under Subsection (4) and signed by or on behalf of the Council or person or body authorized by the Council, as the case may be, shall be admitted in evidence, and be prima facie evidence of the facts stated in it in proceedings before any court.

20. Measurements to be ascertained in accordance with appropriate standards of measurement.

Where, for any purpose it is necessary to ascertain whether a measurement of a physical quantity for which there is a PNG legal unit of measurement has been, or is being, made in terms of those units, that fact shall be ascertained by means of, by reference to, by comparison with, or by derivation from, one or more standards of measurement referred to in Section 18.

21. Verification of means of measurement.

A means of measurement of a physical quantity for which there is a PNG legal unit of measurement, being a means of measurement that is required by a law of the country or of a province to be verified or reverified for any purpose, shall be verified or reverified in terms of one or more of those units.

PART IV.—MISCELLANEOUS.

22. Regulations.

The Head of State, acting on advice, may make regulations not inconsistent with this Act, prescribing all matters that are required or permitted to be prescribed, or that are necessary or convenient to be prescribed, for carrying out and giving effect to this Act and in particular for prescribing—

- (a) PNG legal units of measurement and any limitations on the use to which any unit may be put; and
- (b) the numerical relationships between PNG legal units of measurement and other units of measurement; and
- (c) the procedures for verification and reverification of standards of measurement; and

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(d) prescribing the fees to be charged by the Council for inspection tests or services.

SCHEDULE 1.

Sec.13.

EXCEPTIONS AND MODIFICATIONS TO THE PUBLIC BODIES (FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION) ACT.

Provision.	Modification, etc.
Section 9	Not applicable.
Section 11	Not applicable.
Section 13	Not applicable.
Section 14	Not applicable.

Section 15(1), (2), (4) and (5)

Apply as if the reference to the Minister were a

reference to the Prime Minister.

Section 15(3) Not applicable.

CHAPTER No. 378.

National Standards Regulation.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS.

- 1. Interpretation—
 - "primary standard of measurement"
 - "secondary standard of measurement"
 - "subsidiary standards of measurement"
 - "verifying authority."
- 2. PNG legal units of measurement.
- 3. References to PNG legal units of measurement, etc.
- 4. Conversion factors.
- 5. Verifying authorities.
- 6. Verification, etc., of primary and secondary standards of measurement.
- 7. Verification, etc., of standards of measurement as subsidiary standards.
- 8. Certificates as evidence.
- 9. Cancelling of certificates.

SCHEDULE 1.—Conversion Factors.

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CHAPTER No. 378.

National Standards Regulation.

MADE under the National Standards Act.

1. Interpretation.

In this Regulation, unless the contrary intention appears—

- "primary standard of measurement" means a PNG standard of measurement the value of which has been determined in terms of a PNG legal unit of measurement in accordance with Section 18(1) of the Act as a primary or ultimate standard of measurement for Papua New Guinea and may be approved by the Council in accordance with Section 18(3) of the Act;
- "secondary standard of measurement" means a PNG standard of measurement, to be used as a working standard of measurement, the value of which has been determined in terms of a PNG legal unit of measurement in accordance with Section 18(1) of the Act by reference to one or more primary standards of measurement;
- "subsidiary standards of measurement" means a PNG standard of measurement the value of which has been determined in terms of a PNG legal unit of measurement in accordance with Section 18(1) of the Act by reference to one or more primary, secondary or other subsidiary standards of measurement;
- "verifying authority" in relation to verification or reverification of a standard of measurement means a person appointed under Section 5 to be a verifying authority in relation to that standard of measurement.

2. PNG legal units of measurement.

- (1) For the purposes of Subsection (2) the Minister may, on the recommendation of the Council, by notice in the National Gazette, declare a physical quantity to be a physical quantity to which that subsection applies.
- (2) The PNG legal unit of measurement of a physical quantity to which this subsection applies is the unit of measurement, other than the decimal multiples and submultiples of that unit, that relates to that physical quantity in the International System of Units for the time being approved by the General Conference on Weights and Measures.
- (3) The Minister may, on the recommendation of the Council, by notice in the National Gazette, declare a unit of measurement, other than a unit referred to in Subsection (2), to be a PNG legal unit of measurement of a physical quantity specified in the notice.
- (4) The Minister may, in the notice under Subsection (3), impose a limitation on the use to which a unit, the subject of a declaration under that subsection, may be put.

3. References to PNG legal units of measurement, etc.

(1) Where in any matter, a PNG legal unit of measurement is not referred to by its full name, the unit shall be referred to by the symbol assigned to that unit in the International System of Units referred to in Section 2(2) or in the notice under Section 2(3), as the case may be.

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(2) A symbol under Subsection (1) may, where applicable, also be expressed by using appropriate negative exponents.

4. Conversion factors.

- (1) For the purposes of Section 17(a) of the Act, a unit of measurement in Column 3 of Schedule 1 in an item in that schedule is related to the PNG legal unit of measurement of the physical quantity in Column 2 in that item, in the manner specified in Column 4 in the item.
- (2) A conversion factor by which a unit of measurement in Column 3 of Schedule 1 may be expressed in conjunction with—
 - (a) another unit of measurement in that column; or
 - (b) a legal unit of measurement, other than a unit referred to in Paragraph (a), applicable in the country immediately before a notice under Section 15 of the Act,

shall be derived from the appropriate factor or factors in Column 4 of Schedule 1.

(3) For the purposes of Section 17(b) of the Act, a notice under Section 2(3) may specify a conversion factor by which a PNG legal unit of measurement declared in that notice may be expressed in terms of another PNG legal unit of measurement.

5. Verifying authorities.

- (1) The Council may, by instrument, appoint a person, including a corporation, to be a verifying authority in relation to the verification and reverification of standards of measurement.
- (2) An appointment under this section may be an appointment of the person for the time being holding, or performing the duties of, a specified office of—
 - (a) the State; or
 - (b) a corporation.
- (3) An appointment under this section may be in relation to the verification and reverification of standards of measurement generally or the verification and reverification of the standards of measurement included in a particular class of standards of measurement.

6. Verification, etc., of primary and secondary standards of measurement.

- (1) Where a PNG standard of measurement is verified or reverified as a primary or secondary standard of measurement—
 - (a) in the case of a verification or reverification carried out by the Council—an officer or employee of the Council authorized by the Council in writing to sign and issue certificates under this section; or
 - (b) in any other case—any person authorized by the Council in writing to sign and issue a certificate under this section,

may sign and issue a certificate with respect to the verification or reverification of the standard of measurement.

- (2) A certificate under Subsection (1) shall state—
 - (a) the date on which the standard of measurement was verified or reverified; and
 - (b) the accuracy with which the standard was verified or reverified; and
 - (c) a description of the identification mark (if any) appearing on the standard; and

- (d) the value, in terms of a PNG legal unit of measurement, of the standard as ascertained on the date referred to in Paragraph (a); and
- (e) the period specified under Section 19(4) of the Act as the period within which the standard is to be reverified or reverified again; and
- (f) that the standard is a primary standard or a secondary standard, as the case may be.
- (3) Except in respect of standards of measurement which are approved in accordance with Section 18(3) of the Act and maintained outside the country, the accuracy of the standard of measurement for the purposes of Subsection (2)(b) shall be ascertained and expressed in the manner authorized by a determination of the Council for the purposes of this section or if more than one manner is authorized in the determination, in one of the manners so authorized.

7. Verification, etc., of standards of measurement as subsidiary standards.

- (1) The verification and reverification of a standard of measurement as a subsidiary standard of measurement for the purposes of the Act shall be carried out—
 - (a) by the Council; or
 - (b) by a verifying authority being a corporation; or
- (c) by, or under the supervision of, a verifying authority not being a corporation, in accordance with this section.
- (2) The verification or reverification shall be carried out in a manner that, having regard to the nature of the standard to be verified or reverified, is appropriate for the purpose.
- (3) Where a standard of measurement is verified or reverified as a subsidiary standard of measurement by the Council, the Council or an officer or employee of the Council authorized by the Council in writing for the purposes of this subsection, shall specify the period within which the standard is to be reverified or reverified again, as the case requires, and the standard shall be reverified within that period.
- (4) Where a standard of measurement is verified or reverified as a subsidiary standard of measurement by, or under the supervision of, a verifying authority, the standard shall be reverified or reverified again, as the case requires, within such period as the Council, or a person authorized by the Council in writing for the purposes of this subsection directs.
- (5) A direction by the Council or a person authorized by the Council under Subsection (4) may relate to a particular standard of measurement or to all the standards of measurement included in a particular class of standards of measurement.
- (6) Where a standard of measurement is verified or reverified in accordance with this section—
 - (a) if the verification or reverification is carried out by the Council or a verifying authority being a corporation—an officer or employee of the Council or of the verifying authority authorized in writing by the Council or the verifying authority, as the case may be, to sign and issue certificates under this section; or
 - (b) if the verification or reverification is carried out by, or under the supervision of, a verifying authority not being a corporation—
 - (i) the verifying authority; or

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(ii) if the Council empowers the verifying authority to authorize in writing a person to sign and issue certificates under this section—a person so authorized,

may sign and issue a certificate accordingly.

- (7) A certificate under Subsection (6) shall state—
 - (a) the date on which the standard of measurement was verified or reverified; and
 - (b) the accuracy with which the standard of measurement was verified or reverified; and
 - (c) a description of the identification mark (if any) appearing on the standard; and
 - (d) the value, in terms of a PNG legal unit of measurement, of the standard as ascertained on the date referred to in Paragraph (a); and
 - (e) the period within which the standard is to be reverified or reverified again;
 - (f) that the standard was verified or reverified as a subsidiary standard of measurement—
 - (i) by the Council; or
 - (ii) by, or under the supervision of, a specified verifying authority, in accordance with this section.
- (8) For the purposes of Subsection (7)(b), the accuracy of the standard of measurement shall be ascertained and expressed in a manner authorized by a determination of the Council for the purposes of this section or, if more than one manner is authorized in such a determination, in one of the manners so authorized.
- (9) For the purpose of Subsection (8) the Council may, from time to time, determine the manner or manners in which the accuracy of a subsidiary standard of measurement shall be ascertained and expressed.
- (10) Notice of a determination made under Subsection (8) shall be given, by or on behalf of the Council to all verifying authorities that have been appointed verifying authorities, in relation to a standard of measurement to which the determination relates.

8. Certificates as evidence.

- (1) A certificate issued under Section 6 or 7 is evidence of the matters stated in it.
- (2) A document purporting to be a certificate under Section 6 or 7 may be received in evidence in any court or in proceedings before a person authorized by law or by consent of parties, to hear, receive and examine evidence.
- (3) A certificate purporting to be a certificate under Section 6 or 7 or a document purporting to be a document cancelling a certificate under this Regulation shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been signed and issued by the person by whom it purports to have been signed and issued and, unless the contrary is proved, the person by whom it purports to have been signed and issued shall be deemed to be a person duly authorized to sign and issue the certificate or document.

9. Cancelling of certificates.

(1) A certificate issued under Section 6 may be cancelled at any time by the Council or by a person authorized in writing by the Council to do so.

- (2) A certificate issued under Section 7 may be cancelled at any time-
 - (a) in the case of a certificate issued by an officer or employee of the Council—by the Council or by a person authorized in writing by the Council to do so; or
 - (b) in the case of a certificate issued by a verifying authority or an officer or employee of a verifying authority authorized under Section 7(6)(b) to sign and issue certificates—
 - (i) by the Council; or
 - (ii) by the verifying authority; or
 - (iii) by a person authorized in writing by the Council to cancel a certificate of that kind.
- (3) Where a certificate is cancelled under this section, the body or person cancelling the certificate shall sign and issue a document stating that the certificate has been cancelled or, if the certificate is in the possession of the body or person, endorse on it the word "Cancelled" and the date of cancellation.

SCHEDULE 1.

Reg. Sec. 4(1), (2).

CONVERSION FACTORS.

Column 1 Item.	. Column 2. Physical quantity.	Column 3. Unit.	Column 4. Equivalent value.
1.	length	yard	0.914 4 metre
2.	mass	pound	0.453 592 37 kilogram
3.	volume	gallon	4.546 09 x 10 ⁻³ cubic metre
4.	force	pound force	0.453 592 37 x 9.806 65 newtons
5.	pressure	millimetre of mercury	133.322 19 pascals
6.	power	horsepower	745.7 watts
7.	temperature interval	degree Fahrenheit	5/9 kelvin
8.	energy	British thermal unit	1 055.055 joules

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National Standards Act.

APPENDIX 1.

SOURCE OF THE NATIONAL STANDARDS ACT.

Part A.—Previous Legislation. National Standards Act 1978 (No. 49 of 1978).

Part B.—Cross References.

Section, etc., in Revised Edition.	Previous Reference ¹ .	Section, etc., in Revised Edition.	Previous Reference ¹ .
1	1	13	13
2	2	14	14
3	3	15	15
4	4	16	16
5	5	17	17
6	6	18	18
7	7	19	19
8	8	20	20
9	9	21	21
10	10	22	22
11	11	Schedule 1	Schedule
12	12		

APPENDIX 2.

SOURCE OF THE NATIONAL STANDARDS REGULATION.

Part A.—Previous Legislation.

National Standards Regulation 1980 (Statutory Instrument No. 7 of 1980).

Part B.—Cross References.

Section, etc., in Revised Edition.	Previous Reference ² .	Section, etc., in Revised Edition.	Previous Reference ² .
1 .		6	6
2	2	7	7
3	3	8 .	8
4	4	9	9
5	5	Schedule	Schedule

 $^{^1}$ Unless otherwise indicated, references are to the Act set out in Part A. 2 Unless otherwise indicated, references are to the regulation set out in Part A.

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