
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

No 660.

Hong Kong.

ORDINANCE No. 27 of 1932. (FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS).

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 4 (1) of the Factories and Workshops Ordinance, 1932, the Governor in Council makes the following regulations:—

*Regulations. Fire Precautions in Factories and Workshops.***INTERPRETATION.**

1. In these regulations—

- (a) "Existing factory" means premises erected and used as a factory before the commencement of these regulations.
- (b) "New factory" means a factory erected after the commencement of these regulations, and shall include any building converted for use as a factory.
- (c) "Tenement factory" means a building in the occupancy of or intended to be in the occupancy of more than one person or firm, any floor of which is used for any of the purposes set out in the Ordinance.
- (d) "High building" means a building the uppermost floor of which is fifty feet above the level of the adjacent ground or road.
- (e) "Fire resisting material" means a building material not readily combustible by the action of fire.

Precautions in Existing factories.

2.—(1) From and after the commencement of these regulations in the case of any existing factory (except a workshop as defined in the Ordinance) which is—

- (a) A high building; or
- (b) A building in which more than twenty persons are employed;

if the Protector shall be of opinion that such building is not provided with proper and sufficient means of escape therefrom in case of fire, the Protector shall have power, and he is hereby empowered to require, by notice in writing, the proprietor of the factory to provide such means of escape as may be specified in such notice.

(2) Any such notice as aforesaid shall specify in detail the requirements, and the proprietor of the factory, upon the receipt of such notice, shall execute and do all such works and things as may be necessary in order to comply with every of such requirements, including the submission of any necessary plans to the Building Authority.

Precautions in New Factories.

3. Every new factory shall be erected in accordance with plans expressly approved by the Building Authority. The plans shall incorporate full constructional details showing the thickness of party and fire walls, floors, and other structures.

4. Each room or space in a new factory shall be efficiently ventilated. Any lift or goods hoist and any belt drive openings shall be protected to guard against the communication of fire as the Protector may deem necessary.

Precautions in Tenement Factories and Workshops.

5. The Protector may require that any existing Tenement factory shall be provided with an enclosed concrete stairway with fire resisting self-closing doors on each landing, and that the stairway shall be carried in concrete to the top floor and continued either in concrete or in iron to the roof. He may also require the provision of a protected route to neighbouring buildings, or such other alternative means of escape as he may approve. In the case of a factory extending laterally more than two house spaces on either side of the aforesaid enclosed concrete stairway he may require an alternative means of egress from each floor affected.

6. No Tenement factory or workshop shall be situated on the upper floors of a building where the ground floor is licensed for the storage of dangerous goods, unless the dangerous goods are housed in a structure effectively cut off, to the satisfaction of the Protector and of the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, by fire resisting material from direct communication with the factory or workshop.

General regulations.

7. In every factory and workshop the exit doors, giving on to a street or way, and doors giving access to stairways shall be constructed of fire resisting material. The doors shall open outward, or, in special cases when the open door would create an obstruction to egress, sliding doors may be permitted by the Protector. Doors other than such sliding doors shall be secured only by means of panic bolts whilst the employees are on the premises.

8.—(1) No factory building or part of a factory building shall extend to more than 250,000 cubic feet without being divided by 'division' or 'fire walls' in such a manner that no room or space exceeds the limit of 250,000 cubic feet, provided that under special circumstances the Protector may consent to a building being wholly or in part divided horizontally by floors, instead of being vertically divided by division or fire walls. Such division floors must be constructed to the satisfaction of the Building Authority.

(2) No opening shall be made in any 'division wall' or 'fire wall' opening up communication between two rooms or spaces, whereby the total capacity of the two rooms or spaces, if taken together, would exceed 250,000 cubic feet, unless such opening is fitted with fire-resisting doors to the satisfaction of the Protector.

(3) The Protector shall have power, where he is satisfied that the nature of the trade or industrial process carried on renders variations from the provisions of this regulation necessary, to allow such variations as he may deem necessary in the circumstances.

9. If so required by the Protector alternative means of escape from the premises of a factory or workshop shall be indicated by illuminated "FIRE EXIT" notices, approved by him, in English and Chinese.

10. All means of escape in case of fire shall be kept and maintained by the proprietor of the business carried on in the factory or workshop in respect whereof they are provided in good condition and repair and in efficient working order, and no person shall knowingly or wilfully alter, damage, obstruct, or render less commodious or permit or suffer to be altered, damaged, obstructed or rendered less commodious any such means of escape.

11. If the process carried on in the course of manufacture or treatment of goods involves the use of any inflammable liquid or inflammable mixture, or of any highly combustible matter it shall be lawful for the Protector to prohibit smoking or the use of naked lights, and the occupier shall provide "NO SMOKING" notices in English and Chinese in prominent positions in the premises.

12. Every proprietor of a business carried on in a factory or workshop shall provide such means for dealing with fire in the premises as the Protector may deem expedient.

13. Every proprietor of a business carried on in a factory or workshop shall at all times keep and cause to be kept the approved means of dealing with fire in good condition and repair and free from any obstruction which would be likely to retard their use in an emergency.

14. Any Fire Brigade officer, not under the rank of Station Officer, holding a written authorisation from the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, shall at all reasonable times be allowed to enter any factory or workshop to which these regulations apply, and shall be given all reasonable facilities for inspection by the proprietor of the business carried on in the factory or workshop and by his agents and servants.

R. A. C. NORTH,
Clerk of Councils.

COUNCIL CHAMBER,
4th October, 1933.