

9. It shall be the duty of all Coal Merchants to supply the local authority, as defined herein, for the district or districts in which their places of business are situated or in which coal is sold or delivered by them with such information as may be required by the local authority for the purpose of ascertaining whether the retail prices of house coal sold in bulk or in small quantities in their area comply with the requirements of this Order.

10. (a) Every local authority, as defined herein, shall, after consultation with the coal merchants in their area, publish in the local press and in such other manner as may appear to the local authority to be desirable lists showing the prices chargeable under this Order for the various classes of coal sold in the district for household purposes.

(b) The local authority may by publication in the manner prescribed herein withdraw or vary any or all of the prices published by them under this Article.

11. The local authority may appoint a committee consisting of members of the local authority and may delegate subject to such conditions as they may think fit to such committee all or any of their functions under this Order.

12. For the purposes of this Order the term "local authority" means:—

In England and Wales the Council of every Municipal Borough, Urban District and Rural District, including the Council of the Isles of Scilly.

In Scotland in a County the County Council and in a Royal, Parliamentary or Police Burgh, the Town Council.

In Ireland the Council of every County Borough, Borough and Urban District, the Town Commissioners of every Town not being an Urban District, and the Council of every Rural District.

13. The publication of retail prices of house coal by a local authority in the manner prescribed by Article 10 of the Order shall, so long as the prices are not withdrawn or varied as provided therein, be conclusive evidence that such prices comply with the provisions of this Order.

14. (a) No person in charge of a vehicle offering for sale coal in quantities not exceeding two hundredweights in such vehicle shall sell or offer for sale such coal unless there shall be affixed on prominent and conspicuous parts of such vehicle so as to be visible on both sides thereof, metal tablets on which shall be clearly marked in a permanent manner in a figure or figures of at least 3 inches in length the price per hundredweight at which the coal is offered for sale, and such persons shall not alter, deface, or remove or exchange such figure or figures, except at the place of loading or at the office of his employer.

(b) No person in charge of a vehicle to which is affixed a metal tablet as aforesaid, shall, on a sale of any such coal, charge to the purchaser any price greater than that marked on the said metal tablet.

Provided that this Article shall not apply to the area of any County Council in Scotland or of any Rural District Council in England or Wales or Ireland except as regards any part of the area to which the local authority may,

with the approval of the Controller of Coal Mines, by order apply it.

15. (a) No person being the owner or occupier or in charge of a shop or premises where coal is sold or kept or exposed for sale in quantities not exceeding 2 cwt. shall sell or offer for sale such coal unless there shall be exhibited in some conspicuous place in the shop or premises where coal is sold or kept or exposed for sale a notice on which shall be clearly printed in figures at least one and three-eighths of an inch in length and half an inch in width the price per 112 lbs., 56 lbs., 28 lbs., 14 lbs. and 7 lbs. at which coal is offered for sale, and no person shall alter, deface, or remove such notice except at the commencement of each day upon which such shop or premises shall be open for the sale of coal.

(b) No person being the owner or occupier or in charge of a shop or premises where coal is sold or kept or exposed for sale in which shop or premises is affixed a notice as aforesaid shall, on a sale of any such coal, charge to the purchaser any price greater than that marked on the said notice.

16. No person shall sell or buy or offer to sell or buy by retail coal of any description (a) at a price exceeding the permitted maximum price on the occasion of such a sale of coal of the same description, or (b) under other descriptions than those specified in the lists of prices published by the local authority as provided in Article 10 of this Order.

17. If any person acts in contravention of this Order or aids or abets any other person in doing anything in contravention of this Order that person is guilty of a summary offence against the Defence of the Realm Regulations, and if such person is a corporation or company every director and officer of the corporation or company is guilty of the like offence unless he proves that the contravention took place without his knowledge or consent.

18. Articles 1 to 13 of this Order shall not apply to such part of the area of any local authority as is for the time being subject to the provisions of the Household Coal Distribution Order, 1917, made by the Board of Trade on the 10th August, 1917.

19. The Controller of Coal Mines for the time being appointed by the Board of Trade shall be responsible to and is hereby authorised by the Board of Trade to take all measures that are needed to give effect to this Order.

He may suspend from time to time and for any period and in any district or part of a district the operation of all or any of the articles of this Order or parts thereof as he thinks fit, and may restore such operation.

He may make such rules and issue such instructions under this Order as may be necessary to give effect to its provisions, and such rules and instructions shall be deemed to be part of this Order and shall have the same effect as if they had been included in this Order.

20. This Order may be cited as the Retail Coal Prices Order, 1917.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trade this eleventh day of September, 1917.

W. F. Marwood,

A Secretary to the Board of Trade.