



ANALYSIS

<p>Title</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Short Title 2. Interpretation 3. Act to bind the Crown <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Petroleum Demand Restraint Regulations</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Petroleum demand restraint regulations 5. Restrictions on making of regulations 6. Regulations to expire unless confirmed by Act 7. Power of Minister to give directions 8. Further provisions as to regulations 9. Special provisions as to regulations 10. Suspension of petroleum demand restraint regulations 11. Certain stabilisation regulations to continue in force as petroleum demand restraint regulations 12. Publication or notification in <i>Gazette</i> to be notice to all persons concerned 	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Miscellaneous Provisions</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Inquiries and investigations 14. Delegation of powers 15. Authentication of documents 16. Notices 17. Power of entry 18. Self-incrimination 19. Powers of traffic officers 20. Secrecy <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Legal Proceedings</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 21. Offences 22. Infringement offences and owner liability 23. Information may charge several offences 24. Liability of principal for acts of agents, etc. 25. Offences to be punishable on summary conviction 26. Act not to derogate from certain other Acts <p style="text-align: center;">Schedule</p>
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1981, No. 12

An Act to make provision for the imposition of measures restraining the demand for petroleum products or ensuring the equitable distribution in New Zealand of petroleum products that are, or are likely to be, in short supply in New Zealand
[23 July 1981]

BE IT ENACTED by the General Assembly of New Zealand in Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1. **Short Title**—This Act may be cited as the Petroleum Demand Restraint Act 1981.

2. Interpretation—In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

“Administrative regulations” are regulations—

(a) Which are of a formal nature or are necessary or desirable for the establishment or administration of any scheme, restrictions, or controls provided for in any petroleum demand restraint regulations; and

(b) Which do not—

(i) Impose obligations on persons (other than persons in the service of the Crown); or

(ii) Prescribe offences:

“Minister” means the Minister of Energy:

“Petroleum demand restraint regulations” means regulations made under this Act; and includes the regulations specified in the Schedule to this Act:

“Petroleum products”—

(a) Means substances, whether refined or semi-refined, produced directly or indirectly from petroleum feedstocks, natural gas, or coal; and

(b) Includes—

(i) Motor gasoline:

(ii) Aviation fuels whether of a gasoline type or a kerosine type:

(iii) Kerosine:

(iv) Naphtha:

(v) Diesel oil:

(vi) Fuel oil:

(vii) Bitumen:

(viii) Lubricants derived from petroleum:

(ix) Solvents derived from petroleum:

(x) Petroleum coke:

(xi) Liquefied petroleum gas separated from natural gas:

(xii) Methanol derived from the conversion of natural gas; but

(c) Subject to paragraph (b) (xi) and (xii) of this definition, does not include natural gas:

“Production”, in relation to petroleum, includes processing; and “produce” has a corresponding meaning:

“Undertaking” includes a business, and also any activity carried on by a body of persons, whether corporate or unincorporate.

3. Act to bind the Crown—This Act shall bind the Crown.

Petroleum Demand Restraint Regulations

4. Petroleum demand restraint regulations—(1) Subject to section 5 of this Act, the Governor-General may from time to time, by Order in Council, make regulations (in this Act referred to as petroleum demand restraint regulations) for the purpose of restraining the demand for, or reducing the consumption of, petroleum products in New Zealand or for the purpose of ensuring the equitable distribution in New Zealand of petroleum products that are, or are likely to be, in short supply in New Zealand.

(2) Regulations made under this section may—

- (a) Control, regulate, prohibit, or otherwise make provision as to the acquisition, distribution, supply, storage, sale, or use of petroleum products in New Zealand:
- (b) Restrict, regulate, or prohibit the use of motor vehicles or of any class of motor vehicles:
- (c) Prescribe a scheme for the rationing of petroleum products or of any class of petroleum products:
- (d) Authorise the Governor-General, by Order in Council, to determine or alter the value of any coupons issued under any rationing scheme or to cancel any such coupons:
- (e) Enable coupons issued under any rationing scheme to be transferred, with or without consideration:
- (f) Authorise the Secretary of Energy to buy and sell coupons issued under any rationing scheme:
- (g) Provide for appeals against decisions made under the regulations:
- (h) Provide for exemptions from the regulations:
- (i) Provide for the setting aside of reserve supplies of crude petroleum, condensate, or petroleum products or of any class of crude petroleum, condensate, or petroleum products:
- (j) Provide for the appointment of officers and committees and other bodies (including tribunals), and define their functions and powers:
- (k) Deem any tribunal established by the regulations to be a commission of inquiry under the Commissions of Inquiry Act 1908; and apply that Act to any such tribunal with such modifications, if any, as are specified in the regulations:

- (1) Prescribe matters in respect of which fees are to be payable under the regulations, the amount of the fees, and the persons liable to pay them; and authorise the refund or remission of any such fees:
- (m) Prescribe offences in respect of the contravention of, or non-compliance with, any provision of any regulations made under this section or of any direction, requisition, or condition given or imposed under any such regulations:
- (n) Prescribe the amount of the fines that may be imposed in respect of offences against any regulations made under this section, which fines shall be an amount not exceeding \$10,000:
- (o) Provide for such matters as are contemplated by or necessary for giving full effect to this Act and for its due administration.

(3) Any regulations made under this section may empower or provide for empowering such authorities, tribunals, persons, or classes of persons as may be specified in the regulations to give directions, notices, exemptions, or consents or make orders for any of the purposes for which regulations are authorised by this section to be made, and may contain such incidental and supplementary provisions as appear to the Governor-General in Council to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of the regulations.

(4) Any regulations made under this section—

- (a) May relate to petroleum products or classes of petroleum products generally; or
- (b) May relate to particular petroleum products or particular classes of petroleum products; or
- (c) May make different provision in respect of different classes of persons.

(5) All regulations made under this section shall be laid before Parliament within 16 sitting days after the date of the making thereof if Parliament is then in session, and, if not, shall be laid before Parliament within 16 sitting days after the commencement of the next ensuing session.

5. Restrictions on making of regulations—(1) No regulations (other than administrative regulations) shall be made under this Act unless—

- (a) The Governor-General in Council is satisfied that the reasonably available supplies of petroleum products or any class of petroleum products or any particular

petroleum products, as the case may be, are or are likely to be insufficient to maintain stocks of such products at normal prudent levels—

(i) In New Zealand; or

(ii) In the case of regulations that apply only within a specified part or subdivision of a district of a local authority or within any specified part of New Zealand, in the area to which the regulations apply,—

and so recites in the regulations; or

(b) The regulations provide (to the extent that they are not administrative regulations) that they shall come into force on a date to be appointed by Order in Council.

(2) No Order in Council shall be made under any provision to which subsection (1) (b) of this section applies unless the Governor-General in Council is satisfied, in respect of the regulations to which the order relates, as to the matters specified in subparagraph (i) or subparagraph (ii) of subsection (1) (a) of this section, and so recites in the Order in Council.

(3) Section 24 of the Acts Interpretation Act 1924 shall have effect subject to subsections (1) and (2) of this section.

6. Regulations to expire unless confirmed by Act—(1) All regulations laid before Parliament in any session pursuant to section 4 (5) of this Act shall expire on the close of the last day of that session except so far as they are expressly validated or confirmed by an Act of Parliament passed during that session.

(2) Subject to sections 9 and 10 of this Act, all petroleum demand restraint regulations shall, while they continue in force, have the force of law.

(3) Unless otherwise provided, the repeal of any Act passed pursuant to subsection (1) of this section shall not, of itself, affect the validity of any regulation validated or confirmed by the Act repealed.

7. Power of Minister to give directions—(1) Petroleum demand restraint regulations may authorise the Minister, after he has held appropriate consultations, to give, or revoke or vary, for the purposes of those regulations, directions—

- (a) To any person carrying on an undertaking in the course of which he acquires, supplies, or distributes petroleum products, as to the acquisition, supply, or distribution thereof by him in New Zealand:
 - (b) To any person carrying on an undertaking which involves the use of petroleum products, as to the use thereof by him, whether for purposes specified by the Minister or during periods specified by him or otherwise.
- (2) Without restricting the generality of subsection (1) (b) of this section, petroleum demand restraint regulations may authorise the giving, for the purposes of those regulations, of a direction which—
- (a) Prohibits or restricts the acquisition, supply, or distribution of petroleum products by or to persons specified by the Minister:
 - (b) Requires the supply or distribution of petroleum products to persons specified by the Minister in accordance with requirements specified by him.
- (3) For the purpose of subsection (1) of this section, “appropriate consultations” means such consultations as the Minister thinks practicable and appropriate—
- (a) With persons who appear to him to be representative of those suppliers of petroleum products who are likely, in his opinion, to be affected by the directions or with representatives of those persons; and
 - (b) With persons who appear to him to be representative of those users of petroleum products who are likely, in his opinion, to be affected by the directions or with representatives of those persons.
- (4) Where the Minister gives, under any petroleum demand restraint regulations, a direction to which this section applies, he shall, as soon as practicable after the giving of that direction, publish in the *Gazette* and lay before Parliament a copy of the direction.

8. Further provisions as to regulations—(1) No petroleum demand restraint regulation shall be held invalid because it is, or authorises any act or omission which is, repugnant to, or inconsistent with,—

- (a) The Motor Spirits (Regulation of Prices) Act 1933; or
- (b) The Motor Spirits Distribution Act 1953; or
- (c) The Transport Act 1962.

- (2) Petroleum demand restraint regulations may—
- (a) Provide that a person acting in compliance with any such regulations, or with any direction or other instrument made thereunder, shall not be liable or held to account for contravening or failing to satisfy, whether in whole or in part, the requirements of any other enactment or of any contractual obligation relating to, or involving, the acquisition, distribution, supply, or use of petroleum products:
 - (b) Make any incidental, supplementary, or transitional provision which is necessary or expedient for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(3) Nothing in section 7 of this Act shall limit the power in section 4 of this Act to make regulations as to any matter mentioned in the said section 7 applicable to all, or any class of, persons to whom, or in respect of whom, directions could be given under, or by virtue of, the said section 7.

9. Special provisions as to regulations—(1) Any petroleum demand restraint regulations may apply generally, or may apply, or be applied from time to time by the Governor-General by Order in Council within any specified district or subdivision of a district of any local authority, or within any specified part of New Zealand; and any such order may be revoked or varied at any time in like manner.

(2) If at any time while any such regulations apply within any specified district or subdivision of a district of any local authority the boundaries of the district or subdivision are altered, the regulations, unless the context thereof or of any such order as aforesaid otherwise requires, shall thereafter apply within the district or subdivision as so altered.

(3) The operation of any petroleum demand restraint regulations may, if so provided in the regulations, be wholly suspended until they are applied by the Governor-General by Order in Council pursuant to subsection (1) of this section.

10. Suspension of petroleum demand restraint regulations—

(1) Where the Minister is satisfied that as a result of exceptional circumstances substantial problems have arisen or will arise in any part of New Zealand from the need to observe all or any of the provisions of any petroleum demand restraint regulations, he may, by public notice, suspend the operation of all or any of those provisions in that part of New Zealand for such period, not exceeding 14 days, as he thinks fit.

(2) The Minister may, by public notice, vary or revoke any notice issued under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) No notice under subsection (1) or subsection (2) of this section shall be in force for more than 14 days, without prejudice to the issue of another notice under subsection (1) of this section at or before the end of that period.

(4) Where the first publication of a notice given under subsection (1) or subsection (2) of this section is in a newspaper or in a radio or television broadcast, the Minister shall cause that notice to be gazetted within 7 days after the date of its first publication.

(5) In this section "public notice" means a notice published—

(a) In the *Gazette*; or

(b) In a newspaper circulating in the part of New Zealand to which the notice relates; or

(c) In a radio or television broadcast made by the Broadcasting Corporation of New Zealand or other holder of a warrant under the Broadcasting Act 1976.

11. Certain stabilisation regulations to continue in force as petroleum demand restraint regulations—Notwithstanding anything in section 5 of this Act, the regulations specified in the Schedule to this Act (being stabilisation regulations within the meaning of the Economic Stabilisation Act 1948) shall continue in force as if they had been made under this Act and confirmed by Act of Parliament.

12. Publication or notification in *Gazette* to be notice to all persons concerned—The publication in the *Gazette* or in accordance with the Regulations Act 1936, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, of any petroleum demand restraint regulations, or of any Order in Council, order, notice, warrant, licence, or other act of authority under this Act or under any petroleum demand restraint regulations shall for all purposes be deemed to be notice thereof to all persons concerned, and in any prosecution under this Act the liability of the accused shall be determined accordingly.

Miscellaneous Provisions

13. Inquiries and investigations—(1) For the purpose of obtaining any information that may be required for the purposes of this Act or of any petroleum demand restraint regulations, the Minister or any person authorised by him in writing in that behalf may from time to time—

- (a) Inspect, examine, and audit any books or documents:
- (b) Require any person to produce any books or documents in his possession or under his control, and to allow copies of or extracts from any such books or documents to be made:
- (c) Require any person to furnish any information or particulars that may be required by the regulations, and any copies of or extracts from any such books or documents as aforesaid.

(2) The Minister may, if he thinks fit, require that any written information or particulars or any copies or extracts furnished under this section shall be verified by statutory declaration or otherwise as the Minister may require.

(3) Where any person is exercising any of the powers conferred by paragraphs (a) to (c) of subsection (1) of this section, he shall have with him, and shall produce if required to do so, evidence of—

- (a) His identity; and
- (b) Where applicable, his authorisation.

14. Delegation of powers—(1) Subject to subsection (6) of this section, the Minister or any other person in the service of the Crown with the authority of the Minister may from time to time, either generally or particularly, delegate to any person in the service of the Crown any of the powers conferred by this Act or by any petroleum demand restraint regulations on the person effecting the delegation, but not including the power of delegation conferred by this section.

(2) Subject to any general or special directions given or conditions attached by the person effecting the delegation, the person to whom the powers are delegated (being a person in the service of the Crown) may exercise those powers in the same manner and with the same effect as if they had been conferred on him directly by this Act or by the regulations and not by delegation.

(3) Every person purporting to act pursuant to any delegation under this section shall be presumed to be acting in accordance with the terms of the delegation in the absence of proof to the contrary.

(4) Any delegation under this section may be made to a specified person or to persons of a specified class, or to the holder or holders for the time being of a specified office or appointment or class of offices or appointments.

(5) The delegation by the Minister or by any other person of any powers conferred on him by or under this Act or by or under any petroleum demand restraint regulations shall not prevent the personal exercise of those powers by the Minister or by that other person.

(6) Subject to section 25 (e) of the Acts Interpretation Act 1924 and to sections 14 and 15 of the Civil List Act 1979, the Minister shall not delegate the powers conferred on him by section 7 or section 10 of this Act.

15. Authentication of documents—Any written notice, direction, approval, requisition, or other instrument, given, granted, or made by the Minister or by any other person authorised in that behalf under this Act or under any petroleum demand restraint regulations shall be sufficiently authenticated if it is signed by the Minister or authorised person or by any person on behalf of and by direction of the Minister or authorised person, as the case may be.

16. Notices—(1) The Minister or any person authorised in that behalf may give notice to any person of any direction, approval, requisition, or condition given or imposed under this Act or under any petroleum demand restraint regulations, and every person to whom the notice is given shall be bound thereby.

(2) Except where otherwise specially provided, any notice required to be given to any person for the purposes of this Act or of any petroleum demand restraint regulations may be given by causing it to be delivered to that person, or to be left at his usual or last known place of abode or business or at the address specified by him in any application, notice, or other document received from him by the Minister or authorised person or to be posted in a letter addressed to him at that place of abode or business or at that address.

(3) If any such notice is sent to any person by registered letter it shall be deemed to have been delivered to him when it would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post, and in proving the delivery it shall be sufficient to prove that the letter was properly addressed and posted.

(4) Every notice under this Act or under any petroleum demand restraint regulations shall take effect on the date when it is published or given, or on such later date as may be specified in that behalf in the notice.

(5) Any notice given under this Act or under any petroleum demand restraint regulations may be at any time varied or revoked by a subsequent notice.

17. Power of entry—(1) Subject to subsection (2) of this section, a person authorised in writing by the Minister may enter any premises or vehicle of a retailer of petroleum products for the purpose of—

- (a) Securing compliance with any petroleum demand restraint regulations or with any direction, requisition, or condition given or imposed under them; or
- (b) Making enquiries and inspections under the regulations; or
- (c) Purchasing or taking samples of any substance; or
- (d) Checking or verifying information and returns required for the purposes of the regulations.

(2) The power of entry set out in subsection (1) of this section—

- (a) Shall not apply to premises used only as a dwelling; and
- (b) May be exercised only at reasonable hours.

(3) Where any person is exercising any of the powers conferred by paragraphs (a) to (d) of subsection (1) of this section, he shall have with him, and shall produce if required to do so, evidence of—

- (a) His identity; and
- (b) His authorisation.

(4) Petroleum demand restraint regulations may provide for the application of sections 198 and 199 of the Summary Proceedings Act 1957 where an offence created by, or pursuant to, this Act or any regulations made under this Act has been or is suspected of having been committed, notwithstanding that the offence is not punishable by imprisonment.

18. Self-incrimination—No person shall be required, pursuant to section 13 or section 17 of this Act, to answer any question if the answer would or could tend to incriminate that person or the spouse of that person.

19. Powers of traffic officers—Every traffic officer within the meaning of section 2 (1) of the Transport Act 1962, if for the time being in uniform or in possession of any warrant or other evidence of his authority as a traffic officer, is hereby authorised to enforce the provisions of this Act or any

regulations made under this Act on any road as defined in the Transport Act 1962 or on any motorway as defined by the Public Works Amendment Act 1947.

20. Secrecy—No information that is obtained by any person through the exercise of the powers conferred by section 13 or section 17 of this Act shall be disclosed by that person except—

- (a) For the purpose of carrying this Act or any petroleum demand restraint regulations into effect; or
- (b) With a view to the commencement, or otherwise for the purposes, of any criminal proceedings; or
- (c) With the consent of the person to whom the information relates; or
- (d) To a Government Department for the purpose of the exercise of any of its functions so far as those functions relate to the performance of New Zealand's obligations under the International Energy Agreement; or
- (e) To the International Energy Agency, in pursuance of New Zealand's obligations under the International Energy Agreement to transmit the information or see to its transmission; or
- (f) In the form of statistics or otherwise, so that it cannot readily be recognised as relating to any particular person or undertaking.

Legal Proceedings

21. Offences—Every person commits an offence against this Act and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding \$1,000 who—

- (a) Wilfully resists, obstructs, or deceives, or attempts to deceive any Court, authority, or person that is exercising or attempting to exercise any power or function under this Act or under any petroleum demand restraint regulations:
- (b) Wilfully makes any false or misleading statement or any material omission in any communication with or application to the Minister or any other person (whether in writing or otherwise) for the purposes of this Act or of any petroleum demand restraint regulations, or in any information, particulars, copy, extract, or return furnished under this Act or under any such regulations:

- (c) Wilfully discloses any information in contravention of section 20 of this Act.

22. Infringement offences and owner liability—(1) In this section,—

“Infringement offence” means an offence against any petroleum demand restraint regulations (being an offence that is punishable by a fine not exceeding \$100) which involves the use of a motor vehicle and which is specified in those regulations as an infringement offence:

“Proceedings” means proceedings under the Summary Proceedings Act 1957; and includes the issue of an infringement notice under section 42A of the Transport Act 1962.

(2) Proceedings for an infringement offence may be taken against any one or more of the following persons:

- (a) The person who allegedly committed the offence:
(b) Any person who, at the time of the alleged offence, was registered as the owner, or one of the owners, of the vehicle involved in the offence in a register kept under section 16 of the Transport Act 1962:
(c) Any person who, at the time of the alleged offence, was lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle involved in the offence (whether jointly with any other person or not)—

whether or not (in the case of a person referred to in paragraph (b) or paragraph (c) of this subsection) the person is an individual or was the driver, person in charge, or user of the vehicle at the time the alleged offence was committed.

(3) Subject to subsections (5) and (7) of this section, in any proceedings taken against a person pursuant to paragraph (b) or paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of this section it shall be conclusively presumed that—

- (a) The person was the driver, person in charge, and user of the vehicle at the time of the alleged offence (whether or not the person is an individual); and accordingly
(b) The acts or omissions of the driver, person in charge, or user of the vehicle at that time were the acts or omissions of the first-mentioned person.
(4) It shall be a defence to proceedings taken under the Summary Proceedings Act 1957 against a person for an infringement offence if the person proves that—

- (a) An infringement notice has been issued in respect of the offence and the infringement fee specified in the notice has been paid to the enforcement authority before the commencement of the proceedings; or
 - (b) Another person has been ordered to pay an amount in respect of the offence pursuant to section 78A of the Summary Proceedings Act 1957.
- (5) It shall be a defence to proceedings taken under the Summary Proceedings Act 1957 against a person pursuant to paragraph (b) or paragraph (c) of subsection (2) of this section if the person proves that—
- (a) At the time the alleged offence was committed—
 - (i) He was not lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle (either jointly with any other person or severally); or
 - (ii) Another person was unlawfully in charge of the vehicle; and
 - (b) Forthwith after becoming aware of the alleged offence he advised the enforcement authority that, at the time the offence was committed, he was not lawfully entitled to possession of the vehicle or another person unlawfully had charge of the vehicle, as the case may be; and
 - (c) He has done everything reasonably possible on his part to comply with all requests of the enforcement authority to supply to the authority information regarding the person lawfully entitled to possession, or who was in charge, of the vehicle at the time of the alleged offence.
- (6) This section shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Act or rule of law.
- (7) Nothing in this section shall limit any defence that is specifically prescribed by any petroleum demand restraint regulations as being available in respect of an offence against those regulations.
- (8) Every infringement offence shall be an infringement offence for the purposes of section 42A of the Transport Act 1962 and a minor traffic offence for the purposes of sections 21 and 78A of the Summary Proceedings Act 1957.
- (9) Where any petroleum demand restraint regulations specify that an offence against those regulations is an infringement offence, those regulations shall specify the infringement fee (which shall be an amount not exceeding

\$100) that is payable in respect of that offence and that infringement fee shall, for the purposes of section 42A of the Transport Act 1962 be deemed to be specified in respect of that offence in the Second Schedule to that Act.

(10) In this section the term “motor vehicle” and the term “use”, in relation to a motor vehicle, have the meanings given to them by section 2 (1) of the Transport Act 1962.

23. Information may charge several offences—(1) Any information may charge the defendant with any number of offences against any petroleum demand restraint regulations, if those offences are founded on the same set of facts, or form or are part of a series of offences of the same or a similar character.

(2) Where any information charges more than one such offence, particulars of each offence charged shall be set out separately in the information.

(3) All such charges shall be heard together, unless the Court, either before or at any time during the hearing, considers it just that any charge should be heard separately and makes an order to that effect.

24. Liability of principal for acts of agents, etc.—(1) Where an offence is committed against this Act or against any petroleum demand restraint regulation by any person acting as the agent or employee of another person, that other person shall, without prejudice to the liability of the first-mentioned person, be liable under this Act in the same manner and to the same extent as if he had personally committed the offence.

(2) Notwithstanding anything in subsection (1) of this section, where any proceedings are brought by virtue of that subsection, it shall be a good defence to the charge if the defendant proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge and that he took all reasonable steps to prevent the commission of the offence.

(3) Where any body corporate is convicted of an offence against this Act or against any regulation made under this Act, every director and every person concerned in the management of the body corporate shall be guilty of a like offence if it is proved that the act that constituted the offence took place with his authority, permission, or consent,

or that he knew the offence was to be or was being committed and failed to take all reasonable steps to prevent or stop it.

25. Offences to be punishable on summary conviction— Subject to section 22 of this Act, every offence against any petroleum demand restraint regulations shall be punishable on summary conviction.

26. Act not to derogate from certain other Acts— Except as provided in section 11 of this Act, nothing in this Act shall derogate from the provisions of—

- (a) The Public Safety Conservation Act 1932; or
- (b) The Economic Stabilisation Act 1948; or
- (c) The Civil Defence Act 1962; or
- (d) The International Energy Agreement Act 1976.

SCHEDULE

Section 11

REGULATIONS CONTINUED IN FORCE

Title	Statutory Regulations Serial Number
The Economic Stabilisation (Conservation of Petroleum) Regulations (No. 3) 1979	1979/153
The Economic Stabilisation (Conservation of Petroleum) Regulations (No. 3) 1979, Amendment No. 1	1979/229
The Economic Stabilisation (Conservation of Petroleum) Regulations (No. 3) 1979, Amendment No. 4	1980/137
The Economic Stabilisation (Conservation of Petroleum) Regulations (No. 3) 1979, Amendment No. 5	1980/181

This Act is administered in the Ministry of Energy.