

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE HEALTH PROTECTION AGENCY (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS 2007**

2007 No. 1624

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Health and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

2.1 The Regulations amend the Health Protection Agency Regulations 2005 (SI 2005 No. 408) (the 2005 Regulations). They enable the Health Protection Agency to carry out additional functions with regard to provisions of the International Health Regulations 2005 of the World Health Organization.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

None.

4. Legislative Background

4.1 The Regulations enable the Health Protection Agency to carry out additional functions with regard to provisions of the International Health Regulations 2005, which globally will replace the International Health Regulations 1969 on 15 June 2007.

5. Extent

5.1 This instrument applies to the United Kingdom.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

6.1 As the instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure and does not amend primary legislation, no statement is required.

7. Policy background

7.1 The World Health Organization (WHO) aims, through its International Health Regulations (IHR), to prevent the spread of disease between countries in ways that avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade.

7.2 The IHR that are currently in force are the IHR 1969. The United Kingdom (UK) Government is a party to the IHR 1969.

7.3 Over time, the need to update the IHR 1969 has become clear. Accordingly, new IHR (the IHR 2005) were adopted by WHO in May 2005. The UK is automatically a party to the IHR 2005 by virtue of being a member of the World

Health Assembly. Globally, the IHR 2005 come into force on 15 June 2007, replacing the IHR 1969.

7.4 These Regulations enable the Health Protection Agency to carry out additional functions with regard to provisions of the IHR 2005.

7.5 Scotland and Northern Ireland are making their own orders for this purpose, and Wales has been consulted in the making of this instrument.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this memorandum as no impact on the private or voluntary sector is foreseen.

9. Contact

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