

Circulation:

River Authorities
Catchment Boards
Internal Drainage Boards



Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968
Registers of Drainage Boards Regulations 1968

1. These Regulations, which were made by the Minister on 18th October 1968, prescribe the form of the register of drainage hereditaments and the map which each drainage board is required by section 35 of the Act to keep and make available for inspection by the public.
2. The Regulations necessarily describe in detail the information which must be shown. They have, however, been drafted in close consultation with the Association of Drainage Authorities and the Association of River Authorities and have been designed to allow a considerable degree of flexibility both in the scope of the information that can be included in the register and the form in which the register and map can be maintained.
3. The following points should be noted:-
 - (a) It will be possible for many drainage boards to adapt for their registers their existing registers and maps providing these show clearly the basic information prescribed in the Regulations. Regulation 2(3) makes it clear that there is nothing to prevent drainage boards from including any additional particulars either in the register or on the map if they so wish.
 - (b) For properties assessed on annual value, which will be mainly agricultural land and buildings, the basic information which the register must contain includes a short description of the property, its total acreage and annual value. For every agricultural property and every other property which cannot otherwise be properly identified the information must in addition contain a list comprising the numbers of all enclosures and parts of enclosures (with the acreages of those parts) included in the property. These numbers must be shown on the map so that the property can be identified by reference to it.
 - (c) The map must consist of ordnance sheets on a scale of not less than 6 inches to the mile. But since enclosure numbers are not shown on ordnance sheets of 6 inch scale it will be necessary for any drainage boards who use such sheets to insert on them an appropriate number for each enclosure so that it can be identified by a reference to this number in the register. It is thought that most boards will find it convenient to use 25 inch ordnance sheets, on which enclosure numbers are already shown, wherever these are available.
 - (d) The register may be maintained in the form of a bound book, or on separate sheets contained in a binder, or in a card register form. Most boards will already be maintaining records in one or other of these ways. The Regulations should not therefore give rise to any special difficulties in this respect.

(e) The register must show in Part I particulars of all properties which are assessed for drainage rates on annual value; also particulars of split rating hereditaments which are assessed under section 31 of the 1968 Act on a proportion of their general rating valuation. Details of other property which is assessed for drainage rating purposes on the basis of rateable value need not be shown in Part I of the register since its valuation can be found by reference to the valuation lists of the local authority in whose area it is situated. The Regulations provide for a form of statement (comprised in Part II of the register) which will assist interested persons to identify the local authority in whose valuation list any necessary information can be found. Rateable value hereditaments can nevertheless be shown in Part I of the register if the drainage board so wish (e.g. if they already keep extracts from the relevant valuation lists). In this event Part II should be amended as indicated in the Notes to that Part.

(f) Drainage boards are required to complete the preparation of the register and map by 1st September 1969. A substantial period has been allowed for completion of the register and map in order to cater for the needs of boards with more limited resources. The Minister has power to authorise an extension of time for completion of the register and map either generally or for particular boards. It must be borne in mind, however, that, until the register and map of a drainage board are available, it will be difficult for the drainage ratepayers in their district to exercise their rights under the Act, including in particular their right of appeal against any determination made by the board. In other words the provisions of the Act will not be made fully effective in the district until the register and map are completed. For that reason it is unlikely that it will prove feasible to grant any extension of time save in exceptional circumstances.

4. The Regulations (S.I. 1968 No. 1672) come into operation on 30th October 1968. Copies may be obtained (Price 1s 9d net) from H.M. Stationery Office.

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