

Product Regulation and Metrology Bill [HL]

FOURTH MARSHALLED
LIST OF AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN GRAND COMMITTEE

[Amendments marked ★ are new or have been altered]

**Amendment
No.**

After Clause 2

LORD HOLMES OF RICHMOND

- 52 After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause –
- “Review of product regulations and supply chains**
- (1) On the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must initiate a review of all product regulations and standards as they pertain to supply chains.
 - (2) The review must assess how product regulations align with the principles of traceability, transparency and trust.
 - (3) The review must recommend a new supply chain standard to take into account factors including the supply chain of a product’s –
 - (a) environmental impact;
 - (b) transparency and traceability, in real time, of products, financial, trade and legal documents.”

LORD HOLMES OF RICHMOND

- 53 After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause –
- “Review of large language models**
- (1) On the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must commence a review to consider the introduction of standards for large language models which operate and generate revenue in the United Kingdom as a condition of market access.

- (2) The review must consider the applicability of similar standards, such as those that already exist in industries such as pharmaceuticals, food and drinks.
- (3) The review must also consider the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988, and whether there is a need for legislative clarity under section 27 of that Act about whether large language models constitute an “article”.

LORD HOLMES OF RICHMOND

54 After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause –

“AI-product regulations

On the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must commence a review of all product regulations to assess their ability to address opportunities and challenges presented by all forms of artificial intelligence.”

LORD REDESDALE

55 After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause –

“Sale of bikes on online marketplaces

Online marketplaces must ensure that all listings for bikes on their platform, including e-bikes sold by third party manufacturers, include the frame number or registered security marks, where they are sold to customers in the United Kingdom.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to ensure that a serial number or registered security mark is on all bikes, including e-bikes, sold on online marketplaces

LORD REDESDALE
LORD FOSTER OF BATH

56 After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause –

“Returns policy for products containing lithium-ion on online marketplaces

Online marketplaces must take reasonable steps to ensure that their platforms have a returns policy for products containing lithium-ion, where they are sold to customers in the United Kingdom.”

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

57 After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause –

“Clothing safety: regulations and requirements

- (1) Within three years of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must, by regulations under section 1, make provision to reduce risks as defined in section 1(4) presented by clothing.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, clothing means items of fabric, leather, plastic and similar materials usually worn on the human body.
- (3) Within three years of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must also make provision about clothing product requirements by regulations under section 2.
- (4) Regulations in accordance with subsection (3) must set out product requirements for the production, use, marking, marketing, testing, approval and provision of information (including information about risk) of clothing.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment intends to probe whether the Secretary of State will use powers under sections 1 and 2 to regulate clothing products, given the human and environmental health risks they represent from artificial fibres and chemical constituents.

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

58 After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause –

“Single-use plastic safety: regulations and requirements

- (1) Within two years of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must, by regulations under section 1, make provision to reduce risks as defined in section 1(4) presented by single-use plastics produced and sold in the United Kingdom.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, single-use plastics consist of materials made from petrochemicals or other materials used for packing, food dispensing, or other short-term single use.
- (3) Within two years of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must also make provision about single-use plastic product requirements by regulations under section 2.
- (4) Regulations in accordance with subsection (3) must set out product requirements for the production, use, marking, marketing, testing, approval and provision of information (including information about risk) of single-use plastics.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment intends to probe whether the Secretary of State will use powers under sections 1 and 2 to regulate single-use plastic production and sale, given the human and environmental health risks they represent from artificial fibres and chemical constituents.

BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

59 After Clause 2, insert the following new Clause—

“Period product safety: regulations and requirements

- (1) Within one year of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must, by regulations under section 1, make provision to reduce risks as defined in section 1(4) presented by period products, including those for single use and for re-use.
- (2) For the purposes of this section, period products consist of items intended to collect menstrual blood.
- (3) Within one year of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must also make provision about period products requirements by regulations under section 2.
- (4) Regulations in accordance with subsection (3) must set out product requirements for the production, use, marking, marketing, testing, approval and provision of information (including information about risk) of period products.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment intends to probe whether the Secretary of State will use powers under sections 1 and 2 to regulate period products, given the human and environmental health risks they represent.

Clause 3

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

60 Clause 3, page 3, line 42, leave out subsection (1)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks clarification on the designation of “relevant authority” for the enforcement of product regulations.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

61 Clause 3, page 4, line 3, leave out subsection (3)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks clarification on the specific functions that may be conferred upon a relevant authority under the product regulations.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

62 Clause 3, page 4, line 9, leave out subsection (4)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to clarify the powers that may be granted to inspectors under the product regulations.

LORD FOSTER OF BATH

63 Clause 3, page 4, line 18, at end insert –

“(iia) power to require a person to attend an interview to answer questions;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would expand enforcement powers for a relevant authority appointed under the Act to allow interview notices to be given.

LORD FOSTER OF BATH
BARONESS BRINTON
BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

64 Clause 3, page 4, line 20, at end insert –

“(4A) The Secretary of State must ensure that all authorities with enforcement powers under this Act have the capacity to enforce product and metrology regulations, including provisions described in subsection (3).”

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment places a duty on the Secretary of State to ensure that there is adequate capacity for relevant authorities to ensure the enforcement of product and metrology regulations.

BARONESS BRINTON
BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

65 Clause 3, page 4, line 20, at end insert –

“(4A) Within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must designate Trading Standards Offices as relevant authorities under subsection (1).

(4B) The Secretary of State must ensure that Trading Standards Offices operating under local authorities have the resources to enforce regulations under the Act, including, but not limited to, financial resources.”

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment ensures that Trading Standards Offices are designed as relevant authorities under the Act after a period of six months and have the resources, including financial, to enforce regulations under the Act.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

66 Clause 3, page 4, line 29, leave out paragraph (a)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to clarify to whom “others” refers regarding the warning of risks presented by a product.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

67 Clause 3, page 4, line 33, leave out subsection (7)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks clarification on what constitutes “non-compliance” under product regulations.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

68 Clause 3, page 5, line 6, leave out subsection (9)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to clarify the offences which could be created or expanded under subsection (9), as well as the civil sanctions which might be imposed.

BARONESS BRINTON

69 Clause 3, page 5, line 6, leave out subsections (9) to (11)

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment seeks to ensure that new criminal offences, which would have consequences for the Ministry of Justice and the criminal justice system, are not created through new product regulations under the Act.

LORD FOSTER OF BATH

70 Clause 3, page 5, line 26, at end insert –

“(12) An action for damages may be brought against the provider of an online marketplace by a consumer who suffers loss as a result of the provider's non-compliance with product regulations made under this Act.

(13) Subject to (12), if a consumer has, in relation to the purchase of a product completed through an online marketplace, any claim against –

- (a) a manufacturer,
- (b) importer,
- (c) distributor, or
- (d) an authorised representative of a person in (a) to (c)

they shall have a like claim against the provider of the online marketplace who, with the manufacturer, importer, distributor or authorised representative, shall be jointly and severally liable.

(14) Subsection (12) applies to claims in respect of non-compliance with a product requirement made in product regulations under this Act.

(15) Subject to any agreement between them, the provider of an online marketplace shall be entitled to be indemnified by the manufacturer, importer, distributor or

authorised representative for the loss suffered by the provider of the online marketplace in satisfying its liability under subsection (12), including costs it reasonably incurs in defending proceedings instituted by the consumer.

- (16) In an action brought against the provider of an online marketplace under subsection (12), the provider shall be entitled, in accordance with rules of court, to have the manufacturer, importer, distributor or authorised representative made a party to the proceedings.”

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment allows a consumer to bring a claim against an online marketplace for the non-compliance by other economic operators with their own regulatory obligations, for products purchased from the online marketplace platform which have caused harm.

After Clause 3

BARONESS CRAWLEY
LORD FOSTER OF BATH
THE EARL OF LINDSAY

71 After Clause 3, insert the following new Clause –

“Liability and redress for unsafe or defective products

The Secretary of State may by regulations make provision for –

- (a) the extension of liability for unsafe or defective products to online marketplaces and any other persons within the scope of section 2(3);
- (b) the disclosure of evidence in relation to claims for compensation or other rights of action in law for harm caused by unsafe or defective products and presumptions of liability that may arise accordingly;
- (c) proceedings, including collective proceedings, to ensure redress for consumers or other individuals suffering harm as a result of unsafe or defective products made available in breach of requirements imposed under powers given by this Act.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment allows the Secretary of State to make regulations providing for liability of online marketplaces for defective and unsafe products, and to ensure that those suffering harm from unsafe or defective products can obtain redress.

Clause 4

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM
VISCOUNT TRENCHARD

72 Clause 4, page 5, line 30, at end insert –

- “(3) The Secretary of State must lay before both Houses of Parliament a comprehensive framework outlining the conditions and procedures for the use of emergency powers under this section.

- (4) Product regulations providing for emergency disapplication or modification may not be made until this framework has been laid before Parliament and approved by a resolution of both Houses.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to present a framework to Parliament defining the use of emergency powers.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM
VISCOUNT TRENCHARD

73

Clause 4, page 5, line 30, at end insert –

- “(3) Any disapplication or modification under subsection (1) shall only be valid for an initial period of three months.
- (4) The Secretary of State may extend the disapplication or modification beyond three months only after conducting a comprehensive review detailing –
- (a) the justification for the continued need,
 - (b) an assessment of the impact, and
 - (c) consultation undertaken with relevant stakeholders
- (5) The comprehensive review conducted under subsection (4) must be published and laid before both Houses of Parliament within 14 days of the decision to extend the disapplication or modification.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment limits the duration of emergency modifications to three months and requires a review to for any extension, ensuring transparency and stakeholder consultation.

After Clause 4

BARONESS RITCHIE OF DOWNPATRICK

74

After Clause 4, insert the following new Clause –

“Products: artificial intelligence risk assessment

- (1) Where a product or digital product contains or relies on an AI system the provider of the product or digital product must carry out a specific risk assessment relating to the impact of the AI system on the product or digital product’s functioning and use in particular in relation to the following –
 - (a) the risks identified in section 1(4),
 - (b) the risks to equality of treatment of individuals, and
 - (c) the risks to the privacy of individuals and security of personal information.
- (2) Without prejudice to any obligations in any other enactment, the provider of a product or a digital product must take reasonable steps to reduce, mitigate or manage the relevant risks resulting from the inclusion of the AI system in the product or digital product.”

LORD HOLMES OF RICHMOND
BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

75 After Clause 4, insert the following new Clause –

“Product labelling and AI

- (1) The Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a statutory instrument containing regulations requiring the labelling of products manufactured by, or containing, artificial intelligence (AI) within six months of the day on which this Act is passed.
- (2) The labelling must include –
 - (a) health warnings;
 - (b) opportunities to give or withhold informed consent;
 - (c) a quick-response (QR) code, which links to a website listing –
 - (i) the data used in the training of the AI, and
 - (ii) the power and water consumption used in the development of the AI as it relates to the product.
- (3) Regulations made under subsection (1) must ensure that all such products are labelled within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed.”

LORD HOLMES OF RICHMOND

76 After Clause 4, insert the following new Clause –

“Labelling of AI-generated music

From the day on which this Act is passed, all music generated by artificial intelligence (AI) applications must be identified as such to alert consumers to the nature of the music.”

LORD HOLMES OF RICHMOND

77 After Clause 4, insert the following new Clause –

“Labelling of AI generated content

After section 36(1) of the Consumer Rights Act 2015, insert –

- “(1A) Subsection (1) specifically includes the labelling of digital content generated by artificial intelligence.””

LORD HOLMES OF RICHMOND

78 After Clause 4, insert the following new Clause –

“Products based on personal data

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, make regulations to ensure no product or content that constitutes a product

under this Act which uses an individual's image, likeness or personality rights without that individual's express consent can be developed, deployed, marketed or sold.

- (2) The right in subsection (1) includes but is not limited to an individual's name, face, voice or any physical characteristic.”

LORD HOLMES OF RICHMOND

79 After Clause 4, insert the following new Clause –

“Inclusive by design principle for products

- (1) On the day on which this Act is passed the Secretary of State must commence a consultation to develop an Inclusive by Design (IBD) standard for all products developed or marketed in the UK, to be implemented within 12 months of the day on which this Act is passed.
- (2) The standard must include a mark on all products, physically or electronically, to demonstrate compliance with the IBD standard.
- (3) Any product development or update to a product must comply with the IBD standard.
- (4) The Secretary of State must ensure by regulations that any update which renders an existing accessible product inaccessible as a result of that update will immediately trigger an investigation and potential sanctions as determined by regulations.”

Clause 5

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM
VISCOUNT TRENCHARD

80 Clause 5, page 5, line 38, leave out subsection (2)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to remove the broad powers granted to the Secretary of State under metrology regulations, regarding quantities in marketing goods.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM
VISCOUNT TRENCHARD

81 Clause 5, page 6, line 2, at end insert –

- “(2A) The Secretary of State may not use any powers under this Act to remove or disapply the use of the pint as a unit of measurement for alcoholic beverages sold or marketed in the United Kingdom.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that the pint remains an accepted unit of measurement for alcoholic beverages.

LORD FOX

82 Clause 5, page 6, line 8, at end insert –

“(3A) Regulations under this section must have regard for the impact of metrology regulations on small and medium sized enterprises.”

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment ensures that new metrology regulations under the act have regard for impacts on small and medium sized enterprises.

Clause 6

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

83 Clause 6, page 6, line 21, leave out subsection (1)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks clarification on the designation of “relevant authority” for the enforcement of metrology regulations.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

84 Clause 6, page 6, line 25, leave out subsection (3)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks clarification on the specific functions that may be conferred upon a relevant authority under metrology regulations.

BARONESS CRAWLEY
LORD FOSTER OF BATH

85 Clause 6, page 6, line 30, at end insert –

- “(e) conducting inspections on a regular basis of goods available for sale or supply within the United Kingdom,
- (f) inspecting and testing weighing and measuring instruments,
- (g) investigating complaints relating to suspected breaches of metrology regulations, and
- (h) taking necessary enforcement action, including the issuing of notices and penalties where breaches are identified.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment enables relevant authorities in Great Britain and Northern Ireland to enforce metrology regulations. By empowering these authorities to inspect, test, investigate, and act, it ensures accurate measurement standards for consumer protection and boosts confidence in commercial transactions.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

86 Clause 6, page 6, line 31, leave out subsection (4)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to clarify the powers that may be granted to inspectors under metrology regulations.

LORD FOSTER OF BATH

87 Clause 6, page 6, line 40, at end insert –

“(iiiia) power to require a person to attend an interview to answer questions;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would expand enforcement powers for a relevant authority appointed under the Act to allow interview notices to be given.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM
VISCOUNT TRENCHARD

88 Clause 6, page 7, line 6, leave out subsection (6)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to clarify to what “something” refers to regarding the powers of the relevant authority in enforcing metrology regulations.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

89 Clause 6, page 7, line 9, leave out subsection (7)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks clarification on what constitutes “non-compliance” under metrology regulations.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

90 Clause 6, page 7, line 24, leave out subsection (9)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to clarify the offences that could be created or expanded under subsection (9), as well as the civil sanctions that might be imposed.

BARONESS BRINTON

- 91 Clause 6, page 7, line 24, leave out subsections (9) to (11)

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment seeks to ensure that new criminal offences, which would have consequences for the Ministry of Justice and the criminal justice system, are not created through new metrology regulations under the Act.

LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

- 92 Clause 6, page 7, line 30, at end insert –

“(9A) At least 30 days before making provisions as described in subsection (9), the Secretary of State must place in the library of both Houses an Explanatory Memorandum, outlining why such changes are necessary to meet the requirements in section 1(1) of the Act.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment creates a presumption that any changes to regulations in respect of criminal offences arising from non compliance will be subject to appropriate Parliamentary scrutiny and oversight.

After Clause 6LORD FOX
LORD HOPE OF CRAIGHEAD
BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE
LORD THOMAS OF CWMGIEDD

- 93 After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause –

“Regulations: devolved administrations

The Secretary of State must consult with the devolved administrations on the impacts of regulations made under this Act.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that devolved administrations are consulted with regards to the impacts of regulations under the Act.

LORD FOX

94 After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause—

“Regulations: international law

The Secretary of State, in making regulations under this Act, must have regard for current and future international law relating to product regulation and metrology, including, but not limited to, EU law.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires that new regulations made under the Act must have regard for current and future international product and metrology regulation.

LORD FOX
BARONESS BRINTON

95 After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause—

“Regulations: consumer safety and sustainability

Regulations made under this Act must have regard for consumer safety and wellbeing, and environmental sustainability, with particular reference to the disposal of chemical and lithium-ion products.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that regulations under the Act have regard for consumer safety and wellbeing, and environmental sustainability.

LORD FOX

96 After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause—

“Regard for United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020

In exercising their functions under this Act, the Secretary of State must have regard to the provisions of Part 1 of the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020 (UK market access: goods).”

BARONESS CRAWLEY
THE EARL OF LINDSAY
LORD FOSTER OF BATH
BARONESS BENNETT OF MANOR CASTLE

97 After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause—

“Regulations: precautionary principle

- (1) Any product regulations or regulations consequential to such regulations made under the provisions of this Act must take due account of the precautionary

principle and must be interpreted as far as possible in a manner which is compatible with the need to take due account of that principle.

- (2) Any product regulations or regulations consequential to such regulations may not be made under the provisions of this Act unless the Secretary of State is satisfied that those regulations do not weaken or reduce existing levels of consumer protection and regulatory standards in relation to products, including with regard to enforcement.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment inserts safeguards to ensure non-regression from existing legal protections, as well as providing for the due consideration of the precautionary principle when scientific evidence about a possible risk may not yet be fully available but there is a need to be cautious given the potentially serious consequences for the safety of individuals.

BARONESS CRAWLEY
LORD FOSTER OF BATH

98 After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause –

“Fulfilment houses

- (1) Fulfilment houses in the United Kingdom must ensure that products within their purview and facilities comply with all of the necessary metrology and product safety regulations made under this Act.
- (2) Fulfilment houses in the United Kingdom must retain detailed records demonstrating their compliance with product regulations and must cooperate with market surveillance authorities when an inspection or investigation is commenced.
- (3) In this Act, “fulfilment houses” means businesses that store, pack, or distribute products on behalf of third-party sellers that may or may not be based in the United Kingdom.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment includes and defines fulfilment houses under product safety laws, making them responsible for regulatory compliance of stored products. By ensuring these intermediaries uphold safety standards, the amendment closes a critical gap in the supply chain and protects consumers from non-compliant goods from third-party sellers.

LORD HOLMES OF RICHMOND

99 After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause –

“Consultation on metrology regulations in relation to AI

- (1) On the day on which this Act is passed the Secretary of State must launch a consultation on a metrology standard for artificial intelligence (AI).
- (2) The consultation must consider developing units of measurement around units of –

- (a) power, water and compute power per AI model developed and trained,
- (b) power per AI query,
- (c) water per AI query, and
- (d) computer power per query.”

LORD HOLMES OF RICHMOND

100 After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause—

“Consultation on metrology regulations in relation to AI search functions

- (1) On the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must launch a consultation on a metrology standard for artificial intelligence search functions.
- (2) The consultation must consider developing units of measurement around units of—
 - (a) power per search query,
 - (b) water per search query, and
 - (c) computer power per search query.”

LORD HOLMES OF RICHMOND

101 After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause—

“Consultation on metrology regulations

- (1) On the day on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must launch a consultation on a new metrology standard for the power usage of data centres.
- (2) The consultation must seek views on the effectiveness of the current power usage efficiency measure.”

LORD FOSTER OF BATH

102 After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause—

“Extra-territorial application and jurisdiction

- (1) References in this Act to an online marketplace include such a marketplace provided from outside the United Kingdom (as well as such a marketplace provided from within the United Kingdom), insofar as they relate to goods sold to customers in the United Kingdom.
- (2) The power to require the production of documents or information by virtue of an information requirement includes power to require the production of documents or information held outside the United Kingdom, insofar as they relate to goods sold to customers in the United Kingdom.
- (3) The power to require a person to attend an interview to answer questions by virtue of an information requirement includes the power to require a person

outside the United Kingdom to attend an interview about goods sold to customers in the United Kingdom.

- (4) Product regulations or metrology regulations may make provision that apply to acts done by a person in the United Kingdom or elsewhere, insofar as they relate to goods sold to customers in the United Kingdom.
- (5) In the case of an offence where subsection (4) applies which is committed outside the United Kingdom—
 - (a) proceedings for the offence may be taken at any place in the United Kingdom, and
 - (b) the offence may for all incidental purposes be treated as having been committed at any such place.
- (6) In the application of subsection (5) to Scotland, any such proceedings against a person may be taken—
 - (a) in any sheriff court district in which the person is apprehended or is in custody, or
 - (b) in such sheriff court district as the Lord Advocate may determine.
- (7) In this section—
 - “act” includes a failure to act;
 - “information requirement” has the meaning given by section (*information requirements: restrictions*)(9);
 - “sheriff court district” is to be construed in accordance with the Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1995 (see section 307(1) of that Act).”

Member's explanatory statement

This new Clause seeks to apply the Bill, and allow any regulations made under the Bill to apply, extra-territorially.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM
VISCOUNT TRENCHARD
BARONESS LAWLOR

103 After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause—

“Report: impact on consumer choice

The Secretary of State must, within twelve months of the day on which this Act is passed, lay before both Houses a report assessing the impact of the Act on consumer choice.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to publish a report on the impact of this Act on consumer choice.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM
VISCOUNT TRENCHARD
BARONESS LAWLOR

104 After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause –

“Report: economic impact of regulations under this Act

The Secretary of State must conduct an economic impact review of the regulations made under this Act every two years, with the first review commencing within two years of the day on which this Act is passed.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment introduces a structured review process to monitor the economic impact of the regulations and make any necessary adjustments to foster growth.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

104A After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause –

“Regulatory sandboxes

The Secretary of State must establish regulatory sandboxes for businesses developing innovative products affected by this Act.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment seeks to promote innovation by allowing companies to test new products under regulatory supervision. Regulatory sandboxes allow businesses to trial new products, with certain rules temporarily removed.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM
BARONESS LAWLOR

104B After Clause 6, insert the following new Clause –

“Impact on SMEs

- (1) The Secretary of State must, within six months of the day on which this Act is passed, lay before both Houses of Parliament a report assessing the impact of such regulations on small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
- (2) The report must include –
 - (a) an evaluation of potential compliance costs;
 - (b) the effect on SME competitiveness and innovation;
 - (c) any measures proposed to mitigate disproportionate burdens on SMEs;
 - (d) the outcome of consultations with SME representatives and relevant stakeholders.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment mandates that the Secretary of State provides a report to both Houses of Parliament detailing the impact of product regulations on SMEs, ensuring transparency and accountability in assessing how regulations affect smaller businesses.

Clause 7

BARONESS FINLAY OF LLANDAFF

105 Clause 7, page 8, line 5, leave out “may” and insert “must”

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment seeks to ensure that regulations must make provision for sharing information about unsafe products with the emergency services, for the purposes of safety messaging or prevention campaigns.

LORD FOX

106 Clause 7, page 8, line 15, at end insert –

- “(d) coroners, medical examiners or procurators fiscal investigating the causes of deaths in England, Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland,
- (e) the Office for National Statistics, National Records of Scotland or the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency,
- (f) bodies designated to make super-complaints on behalf of consumers pursuant to section 11 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (super-complaints to OFT),
- (g) NHS England,
- (h) the Royal College of Emergency Medicine,
- (i) other bodies specified by the Secretary of State which play a role in representing the public interest in relation to reducing the risks presented by products,
- (j) persons conducting academic research into the extent, causes or reduction of harm arising from or potentially associated with the use of products, or
- (k) bodies or persons performing roles comparable to those in paragraphs (a) to (h) in this subsection in the European Union, OECD or individual member states of either of those organisations.”

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment ensures that the information sharing provisions of the Act apply to more bodies responsible for investigating harms and deaths caused by products.

BARONESS BRINTON

107 Clause 7, page 8, line 20, leave out paragraph (d)

Member's explanatory statement

This probing amendment seeks to ensure that new criminal offences, which would have consequences for the Ministry of Justice and the criminal justice system, are not created through new information sharing regulations under the Act.

After Clause 7

LORD FOSTER OF BATH

108

After Clause 7, insert the following new Clause—

“Information requirements: restrictions

- (1) An information requirement does not require a person to give a relevant authority or an inspector information to the extent that requiring the person to do so would involve an infringement of the privileges of either House of Parliament.
- (2) An information requirement does not require a person to give a relevant authority or an inspector information in respect of a communication which is made—
 - (a) between a professional legal adviser and the adviser's client, and
 - (b) in connection with the giving of legal advice to the client with respect to obligations, liabilities or rights under product regulations or metrology regulations.
- (3) An information requirement does not require a person to give a relevant authority or an inspector information in respect of a communication which is made—
 - (a) between a professional legal adviser and the adviser's client or between such an adviser or client and another person,
 - (b) in connection with or in contemplation of proceedings under or arising out of product regulations or metrology regulations, and
 - (c) for the purposes of such proceedings.
- (4) In subsections (2) and (3), references to the client of a professional legal adviser include references to a person acting on behalf of the client.
- (5) An information requirement does not require a person to provide a relevant authority or an inspector with information if doing so would, by revealing evidence of the commission of an offence expose the person to proceedings for that offence.
- (6) The reference to an offence in subsection (5) does not include an offence under—
 - (a) product regulations or metrology regulations;
 - (b) section 5 of the Perjury Act 1911 (false statements made otherwise than on oath);
 - (c) section 44(2) of the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 (false statements made otherwise than on oath);
 - (d) Article 10 of the Perjury (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (S.I. 1979/1714 (N.I. 19)) (false statutory declarations and other false unsworn statements).
- (7) An oral or written statement provided by a person in response to an information requirement may not be used in evidence against that person on a prosecution

for an offence under product regulations or metrology regulations (other than an offence specified in subsection (8)) unless in the proceedings –

- (a) in giving evidence the person provides information inconsistent with the statement, and
 - (b) evidence relating to the statement is adduced, or a question relating to it is asked, by that person or on that person's behalf.
- (8) The offences specified in this subsection are –
- (a) an offence created under product regulations by virtue of section 3(7)(d), and
 - (b) an offence created under metrology regulations by virtue of section 6(7)(d).
- (9) In this section an “information requirement” is any requirement of a person to comply with the exercise by a relevant authority or an inspector –
- (a) under product regulations of the power conferred by section 3(4)(b)(iii) or (iiia), or
 - (b) under metrology regulations of the power conferred by section 6(4)(b)(iii) or (iiia).”

Member's explanatory statement

This new Clause is a probing amendment for restrictions on information requirements.

Clause 8

BARONESS CRAWLEY

109 Clause 8, page 9, line 17, at end insert –

“(4) Fees collected under subsection (1) must be ringfenced and allocated to local trading standards authorities.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment reserves fees collected for the purposes of cost recovery for local trading standards authorities, ensuring funds are dedicated to effective enforcement. This financial support would boost trading standards authorities' ability to maintain regulatory compliance and enhance consumer safety across the UK.

Clause 9

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

110 Clause 9, page 9, line 19, leave out subsection (1)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment prevents the repeal of provisions made by Parts 2, 4 and 5 of the Consumer Protection Act 1987.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

111 Clause 9, page 9, line 22, leave out subsection (2)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment prevents the amendment or repeal of provisions made by the Gun Barrel Proof Acts 1868 to 1978 and section 77 and Schedule 5 to the Consumer Rights Act 2015.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

112 Clause 9, page 9, line 27, leave out subsection (3)

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment prevents the repeal of provisions made by the Weights and Measures Act 1985.

LORD FOX

113 Clause 9, page 9, line 29, leave out subsection (4)

Member's explanatory statement

The amendment removes the power for consequential changes to be made by delegated legislation to Acts other than those specified, further to the concerns highlighted by the 2nd Report from the Delegated Powers and Regulatory Reform Committee (HL Paper 17), published on 15 October 2024.

Clause 10

BARONESS RITCHIE OF DOWNPATRICK

114 Clause 10, page 9, line 36, at end insert –

““AI system” means a machine-based system that can, for a given set of human-defined explicit or implicit objectives, infer, from the input it receives, how to generate outputs such as make predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that can influence physical real or virtual environments, irrespective of its levels of autonomy and adaptiveness after deployment;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment defines a term used in a proposed new Clause inserted by another amendment in the name of Baroness Ritchie.

LORD FOX

115 Clause 10, page 9, line 38, at end insert –

““circular economy” means that products are manufactured to minimise waste and maximise the use, reuse, and recyclability of products;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment clarifies the meaning of “circular economy” as it relates to another amendment in the name of Lord Fox.

BARONESS RITCHIE OF DOWNPATRICK

116 Clause 10, page 9, line 38, at and insert —

““digital product” means data which are supplied or available for use in digital form;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment defines a term used in a proposed new Clause inserted by another amendment in the name of Baroness Ritchie.

LORD FOSTER OF BATH

117 Clause 10, page 10, line 7, at end insert —

““internet service” has the meaning given by section 228 of the Online Safety Act 2023;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and another related amendment, would clarify the meaning of internet service within the Bill to give it the same meaning as in the Online Safety Act 2023.

BARONESS CRAWLEY
THE EARL OF LINDSAY
LORD FOSTER OF BATH

118 Clause 10, page 10, line 19, after “service” insert “or feature of a service”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and others in the name of Baroness Crawley to Clause 10 would ensure that the definition of “online marketplace” for the purpose of imposing new product requirements is sufficiently wide to cover the many different types of platform and online services targeting users in the UK, and not be at risk of being subject to interpretation in a restrictive way.

BARONESS CRAWLEY
THE EARL OF LINDSAY
LORD FOSTER OF BATH

119 Clause 10, page 10, line 20, at end insert “, in whole or in part”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and others in the name of Baroness Crawley to Clause 10 would ensure that the definition of “online marketplace” for the purpose of imposing new product requirements is sufficiently wide to cover the many different types of platform and online services targeting users in the UK, and not be at risk of being subject to interpretation in a restrictive way.

BARONESS CRAWLEY
THE EARL OF LINDSAY
LORD FOSTER OF BATH

- 120 Clause 10, page 10, line 22, after “platform” insert “, interface or software”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and others in the name of Baroness Crawley to Clause 10 would ensure that the definition of “online marketplace” for the purpose of imposing new product requirements is sufficiently wide to cover the many different types of platform and online services targeting users in the UK, and not be at risk of being subject to interpretation in a restrictive way.

BARONESS CRAWLEY
THE EARL OF LINDSAY
LORD FOSTER OF BATH

- 121 Clause 10, page 10, line 23, after “available” insert “digitally or”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and others in the name of Baroness Crawley to Clause 10 would ensure that the definition of “online marketplace” for the purpose of imposing new product requirements is sufficiently wide to cover the many different types of platform and online services targeting users in the UK, and not be at risk of being subject to interpretation in a restrictive way.

LORD FOSTER OF BATH

- 122 Clause 10, page 10, line 23, leave out “the internet” and insert “an internet service”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, and another related amendment, would clarify the meaning of internet service within the Bill to give it the same meaning as in the Online Safety Act 2023.

BARONESS CRAWLEY
THE EARL OF LINDSAY
LORD FOSTER OF BATH

- 123 Clause 10, page 10, line 24, after “marketing” insert “or supply”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and others in the name of Baroness Crawley to Clause 10 would ensure that the definition of “online marketplace” for the purpose of imposing new product requirements is sufficiently wide to cover the many different types of platform and online services targeting users in the UK, and not be at risk of being subject to interpretation in a restrictive way.

BARONESS CRAWLEY
THE EARL OF LINDSAY
LORD FOSTER OF BATH

124 Clause 10, page 10, line 24, leave out “in the United Kingdom”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and others in the name of Baroness Crawley to Clause 10 would ensure that the definition of “online marketplace” for the purpose of imposing new product requirements is sufficiently wide to cover the many different types of platform and online services targeting users in the UK, and not be at risk of being subject to interpretation in a restrictive way.

LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

124A Clause 10, page 10, line 29, at end insert –

““regulatory sandbox” means an environment which allows businesses to explore and experiment with new innovative products under regulatory supervision.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment, in conjunction with another amendment in Lord Sharpe of Epsom’s name, seeks to promote innovation by allowing companies to test new products under regulatory supervision. Regulatory sandboxes allow businesses to trial new products, with certain rules temporarily removed.

LORD FOX

125 Clause 10, page 10, line 32, at end insert –

““right to repair” means the provision for manufacturers to conveniently sell replacement components for products they sell;”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment clarifies the meaning of “right to repair” as it relates to another amendment in the name of Lord Fox.

Clause 11

BARONESS CRAWLEY
THE EARL OF LINDSAY
LORD FOSTER OF BATH

126 Clause 11, page 10, line 37, at end insert –

“(1A) Before making regulations under this Act, the Secretary of State must publish such regulations in draft form and consult such persons as the Secretary of State considers appropriate on the draft regulations, including organisations representing the interests of consumers and other relevant organisations.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to conduct appropriate consultation on draft regulations made under this Act.

LORD RUSSELL OF LIVERPOOL
LORD KIRKHOPE OF HARROGATE
LORD BROWNE OF LADYTON
LORD FOX

127 Clause 11, page 11, line 10, at end insert –

“(za) provision described in section (*Replication of EU law*)(2);”

LORD FROST
LORD JACKSON OF PETERBOROUGH

128 Clause 11, page 11, line 10, at end insert –

“(za) provision described in section 2(7);”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the affirmative parliamentary procedure will apply to regulations under Clause 2(7), that is, any regulations which include references to relevant foreign law.

LORD FOSTER OF BATH

129 Clause 11, page 11, line 10, at end insert –

“(za) provision described in section 1(2A);”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment and another in the name of Lord Foster of Bath seeks to ensure that any regulation of high risk products is approved using affirmative parliamentary procedures.

BARONESS LAWLOR
VISCOUNT TRENCHARD

130 Clause 11, page 11, line 10, at end insert –

“(za) provisions described in sections 1(2A) and (2B);”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the affirmative parliamentary procedure will apply to regulations under Clause 1(2A), that is renewal regulations.

BARONESS LAWLOR
VISCOUNT TRENCHARD

131 Clause 11, page 11, line 10, at end insert –

“(za) provision described in section 2(7A);”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment would ensure that the affirmative parliamentary procedure will apply to regulations under Clause 2(7A), that is regulations incorporating EU law into UK law.

LORD FOX

132 Clause 11, page 11, line 18, at end insert –

“(6) Every six months after the date on which this Act is passed, the Secretary of State must publish an assessment of the impact of all of the regulations made by virtue of subsection (3) which have been laid since the previous report.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment requires the Secretary of State to publish a report every 6 months detailing draft regulations under the Act, to inform Parliamentary and industry scrutiny of the regulations.

LORD FOX
LORD ANDERSON OF IPSWICH
LORD SHARPE OF EPSOM

133 Clause 11, page 11, line 18, at end insert –

- “(6) A Minister of the Crown may not make a statutory instrument containing regulations until –
- (a) a document containing a proposal for those regulations has been laid before Parliament,
 - (b) the document has been referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses, and
 - (c) a period of at least 40 days has elapsed after that referral, not including any period during which Parliament is dissolved or prorogued, or either House is adjourned for more than four days.
- (7) If the Joint Committee referred to in subsection (6), after considering any regulations laid under this subsection, finds that –
- (a) the regulations represent a substantive change to product or metrology law, or
 - (b) the Minister of the Crown has not carried out public consultation lasting at least six weeks before laying the document before Parliament,
- a Minister of the Crown must table a motion for resolution in each House of Parliament to approve the instrument before the period in subsection (6)(c) elapses.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment ensures that regulations under the Act be referred to a Joint Committee of both Houses for review. Should the Committee deem it necessary, such as when the regulations represent a significant departure from existing law, it would have the authority to refer the instruments to a process requiring Parliamentary approval.

The Schedule

LORD LIDDLE

134 The Schedule, page 12, line 19, at end insert –

“7A Products and equipment for use in civil aviation.”

Member's explanatory statement

This amendment is intended to probe the Government's position regarding the use of the powers in the Bill to regulate products used in civil aviation.

LORD FOX

135 [Withdrawn]

Product Regulation and Metrology Bill [HL]

FOURTH MARSHALLED
LIST OF AMENDMENTS
TO BE MOVED
IN GRAND COMMITTEE

9 December 2024

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS