

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.



ANNO TERTIO  
GEORGII QUINTI REGIS,  
VI.

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No. 25 of 1912.

AN ACT to prohibit the use of White Phosphorus in the Manufacture of Matches; to prohibit the Sale of Matches made with White Phosphorus; and for purposes consequent thereon or incidental thereto.

[Assented to 3rd September, 1912.]

BE it enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Council and Legislative Assembly of Western Australia, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. This Act may be cited as the *White Phosphorus Matches Prohibition Act, 1912*, and shall come into operation on a day to be fixed by Proclamation not earlier than the first day of June, one thousand nine hundred and thirteen.

2. In this Act—

“Analyst” means and includes the Government Analyst and any person appointed or registered as an analyst for the purposes of “The Health Act, 1911”;

“Inspector” means any inspector for the time being appointed or acting under “The Health Act, 1911”;

Interpretation.  
See Tas., 1911, No.  
4, s. 2.

“Package” includes every means by which goods may be cased, covered, enclosed, contained, or packed;

“To sell” includes—

- (1.) To barter or exchange;
- (2.) To agree to sell, barter, or exchange;
- (3.) To offer, expose, store, have in possession, send or deliver for or on sale;
- (4.) To receive for sale;
- (5.) To cause or suffer to be sold, bartered, or exchanged, or to be agreed to be sold, bartered, or exchanged;
- (6.) To cause or suffer to be offered, exposed, stored, had in possession, sent or delivered for or on sale;
- (7.) To cause or suffer to be received for sale; and
- (8.) To attempt to do any of such acts or things;

“This Act” includes regulations made under this Act;

“White phosphorus” means the substance usually known as white or yellow phosphorus.

Minister of Public Health to administer. See *Ibid.*, s. 3.

**3.** The Minister of Public Health is hereby charged with the administration and enforcement of this Act throughout the State.

Prohibition of manufacture of matches with white phosphorus.

**4.** (1.) Any person who manufactures or causes to be manufactured any matches in the manufacture of which white phosphorus is used shall be guilty of an offence against this Act, and shall on conviction be liable to a penalty not exceeding one hundred pounds.

Penalty. *Ibid.*, s. 4.

(2.) The Court of summary jurisdiction imposing any such penalty upon any person contravening this section may in addition forfeit any white phosphorus or any matches made with white phosphorus which is or are apparently in the possession or under the control of the said person.

Prohibition of sale. *Ibid.*, s. 5.

**5.** It shall not be lawful for any person to sell any matches made with white phosphorus.

If any person contravenes the provisions of this section he may, on complaint to a court of summary jurisdiction, be ordered to forfeit any such matches in his possession.

Any matches so forfeited shall be destroyed or otherwise dealt with as the Court may think fit.

6. Any inspector may enter any place where he believes matches to be manufactured or sold, and—

Powers of inspectors.  
*Ibid.*, s. 6.

- (1.) May inspect and examine any matches and any material he believes or suspects may be white phosphorus, or may be for use in the manufacture or preparation of matches, and may examine and open any package, and, on payment or tender of the current market value thereof, take for analysis sufficient samples of such matches or material or both:
- (2.) Make any general or particular inquiries as to the observance of this Act:
- (3.) Seize, detain, and remove any matches or material, and any package in which the same is contained, if he has reasonable cause to believe that there has been a contravention of this Act in respect of such matches or material:
- (4.) May do any act or thing required or permitted by regulation to be done in connection with or for the purposes of anything authorised by this section or the analysis of samples taken under this section:
- (5.) Shall, if requested by any person apparently in charge of such place, or any work carried on therein, produce his appointment as inspector, or the portion of the *Government Gazette* in which his appointment is published.

7. If any person—

- (1.) Obstructs, molests, resists, or hinders any inspector in the course of carrying out any of the provisions of this Act; or
- (2.) Refuses to give information, or wilfully or knowingly gives false information, in answer to any reasonable inquiry made by any inspector for the purposes of this Act—

Penalty for obstructing inspectors, etc.  
*Ibid.*, s. 7.

he shall be guilty of an offence against this Act, and shall on conviction be liable to a penalty of not more than five pounds for a first offence, and of not less than two pounds or more than fifty pounds for every subsequent offence.

8. Section one hundred and eighty-nine of "The Health Act, 1911," is hereby incorporated with this Act as part thereof, and shall be read and construed with all necessary alterations, and as if the words "article or thing" were substituted throughout the said sections for the words "food or drug."

Incorporation of certain provisions of Health Act, 1911, as to taking sample for analysis.  
See *Ibid.*, s. 8.

Evidence.  
*Ibid.*, s. 9.

9. In any proceedings, unless the contrary is proved—

- (1.) Parol evidence that any person is an inspector or analyst shall be deemed sufficient ;
- (2.) Authority to do any act or take any proceeding shall be presumed.

Protection to  
officers acting under  
the Act.  
*Ibid.*, s. 10.

10. No inspector or other officer shall be liable, except in respect of wilful misconduct or neglect, to any legal proceedings for anything done or omitted in the exercise or execution of any of his powers or duties under this Act.

Impersonating  
inspector.  
*Ibid.*, s. 11.

11. Whoever falsely represents himself to be or personates an inspector, shall be guilty of an offence against this Act, and on conviction shall be liable to a penalty of not less than five pounds and not exceeding one hundred pounds, or to imprisonment for not exceeding six months.

Regulations.  
*Ibid.*, s. 12.

12. (1.) The Governor may make regulations for giving effect to this Act, and for, amongst others, the following things—

- (a.) Forms to be used :
- (b.) With respect to taking samples :
- (c.) With respect to the analysis of samples :
- (d.) The manner in which the powers and duties of inspectors and analysts are to be exercised and discharged, and generally such things as may be necessary or convenient for enabling inspectors and analysts to exercise and discharge such powers and duties, and to carry out the objects of this Act.

(2.) The regulations may impose a penalty not exceeding ten pounds for any breach thereof.

Expenses of  
administration.  
*Ibid.*, s. 13.

13. The expenses of administering and enforcing this Act shall be defrayed out of moneys from time to time appropriated by Parliament for the purpose.

Procedure.  
*Ibid.*, s. 14.

14. All complaints for offences against the provisions of this Act, and all penalties, fines, and forfeitures imposed by or under the provisions of this Act, may be heard, determined, recovered, and enforced in a summary way in the mode prescribed by "The Justices Act, 1902," the provisions of which Act shall apply.