

TEL. No.: VICTORIA 443

Any communication on the subject of this letter should be addressed to:—

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE,  
HOME OFFICE, (FIRE BRIGADES DIVISION),  
CLELAND HOUSE,  
PAGE STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

and the following number quoted:—

HOME OFFICE,  
CLELAND HOUSE,  
PAGE STREET,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

20th August, 1940.

F.B.Gen.164/11

Sir,

Cement Control.  
F.B. Circular No. 117/1940.

1. I am directed by the Minister of Home Security to refer to Home Security Circular No. 213/1940 addressed to local authorities on the subject of the control of cement supplies, and to say that control in respect of supplies for regular fire brigades and the Auxiliary Fire Service is being exercised by the Home Office (Fire Brigades Division), to whom quota of cement has been allocated for the period 19th August to 29th September, 1940.
2. Control will be operated through the medium of a system of certificates to purchase. The certificates will be issued by this Division in duplicate, one copy being sent to the fire authority making the application and one to the Cement Makers' Federation, who will then issue to the fire authority named on the certificate, the coupons which constitute the authority to obtain cement from suppliers. The scheme has already come into force, and cement can now only be obtained upon presentation of coupons. Any Fire Authority which requires cement should, therefore, apply to the Fire Brigades Division for a certificate to purchase, giving the following information:—
  - (i) name of the place where the work is being undertaken.
  - (ii) description of the job.
  - (iii) name of the principal contractor
  - (iv) name of cement manufacturer or merchant with whom the order is being placed (if known).
  - (v) total quantity of cement required.
  - (vi) the quantities to be delivered in each of the weeks ending August 25th, September 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.
3. With the application the fire authority should furnish additional

The Clerk of the London County Council.  
The Town Clerk,  
The Clerk to the Council.

information under the following heads:-

- (i) whether the work is for regular fire brigade or Auxiliary Fire Service purposes,
- (ii) if for Auxiliary Fire Service purposes, whether the work has received Home Office approval. (Reference number should be quoted).
- (iii) if for regular fire brigade purposes, whether Ministry of Health loan sanction has been obtained. (Reference number should be quoted).
- (iv) whether the work has already been started, and, if so, the stage reached.

4. The fire authority should also satisfy itself:-

- (a) that the amount of cement applied for is the smallest amount that is essential
- (b) that it is not possible to adopt a form of construction which is more economical in terms of cement or to utilise any alternative materials, the use of which is not restricted.

and a certificate to this effect should be contained in the application by the fire authority.

5. If the application is approved by the Division a certificate will be issued as described in paragraph 2 and fire authorities will receive, in due course, the necessary coupons entitling them to purchase. Any unused coupons should be immediately returned to this Division.

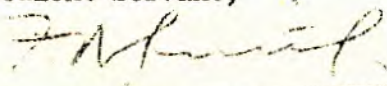
6. The quota of cement allocated to this Division is on a scale which necessitates the utmost economy in its use and it may not be possible to meet all applications. Within the limited supplies, certificates can only be considered for issue in places where it is clearly established that the work is vitally necessary with reference to the present emergency.

7. The issue to fire authorities of a certificate and coupons does not constitute a guarantee that supplies are available, and it may be impossible to obtain supplies in some areas until local stocks have been replenished.

8. Coupons should not be used for the purpose of building up in the hands of fire authorities or contractors, stocks of cement against needs extending beyond the present rationing period, viz. August 19th to September 30th.

9. A copy of this Circular is enclosed for the information of the Council's Architect, Surveyor, Engineer or other officer responsible for building work.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,



Issued to: All Fire Authorities in  
England and Wales.

Copies sent for information to: Chief Officers of Fire Brigades and  
Chief Constables in England and Wales.