



Uimhir 28 de 1991

An tAcht um Dhliteanas i leith Táirgí Fabhtacha, 1991
[An tiontú oifigiúil]



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**AN tACHT UM DHLITEANAS I LEITH TÁIRGÍ
FABHTACHA, 1991**

[An tiontú oifigiúil]

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4. Damáiste agus fabht a chruthú.
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*An tAcht um Dhliteanas i
leith Táirgí Fabhtacha, 1991.*

[1991.]

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Uimhir 28 de 1991

**AN tACHT UM DHLITEANAS I LEITH TÁIRGÍ
FABHTACHA, 1991**

[An tiontú oifigiúil]

ACHT DÁ CHUMASÚ ÉIFEACHT A THABHAIRT D'FHORÁLACHA
THREOIR UIMH. 85/374/CEE, 25 IÚIL 1985 Ó CHOMHAIRLE
NA gCOMHPHOBAL EORPACH MAIDIR LE COMHFHOGASÚ
A DHÉANAMH AR DHLÍTHE, RIALACHÁIN AGUS
FORÁLACHA RÍARACHÁIN BHALLSTÁIT NA
gCOMHPHOBAL EORPACH I dTAOBH DLITEANAIS I LEITH
TÁIRGÍ FABHTACHA. [4 Nollaig, 1991]

ACHTAÍTEAR AG AN OIREACHTAS MAR A LEANAS:

1.—(1) San Acht seo, ach amháin mar a n-éilíonn an comhthéacs a Léiriú.
mhalairt—

ciallaíonn “an Treoir ón gComhairle” Treoir Uimh. 85/374/CEE ón
gComhairle, 25 Iúil 1985⁽¹⁾, a bhfuil an téacs de i mBéarla leagtha amach
mar áis tagartha sa Sceideal a ghabhann leis an Acht seo;

ciallaíonn “damáiste”—

(a) bás nó díobháil phearsanta, nó

(b) aon mhír mhaoine, seachas an táirge fabhtach féin, a chailleadh,
a dhamáistiú nó a dhíothú;

Ar choinníoll, maidir leis an mír mhaoine—

(i) gur de chineál í a bheartaítear de ghnáth lena húsáid nó lena
tomhailt go príobháideach, agus

⁽¹⁾ O.J. Uimh. L210, an 7.8.1985, lch. 29.

- (ii) gur lena húsáid nó lena tomhailt go príobháideach aige féin a d'úsáid an duine díobháilte go príomha í;

ciallaíonn “próiseáil tosaigh”, i ndáil le táirgí príomhúla talmhaíochta, aon phróiseáil de shaghas tionsclaíoch ar na táirgí sin a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ina cúis le fabht a bheith iontu;

ciallaíonn “duine díobháilte” duine dár bhain damáiste ar fabht i dtáirge ba chúis leis go hiomlán nó go páirteach, nó, i gcás go bhfuair sé bás, a ionadaí pearsanta (de réir bhrí alt 3 den Acht Comharbais, 1965) nó a chleithiúnaithe (de réir bhrí alt 47 (1) den Acht um Dhliteanas Sibhialta, 1961);

ciallaíonn “Ballstát” Ballstát de na Comhphobail Eorpacha;

ciallaíonn “an tAire” an tAire Tionscail agus Tráchtála;

folaíonn “díobháil phearsanta” aon ghalar agus aon mhallachar ar bhail choirp nó mheabhrach duine;

ciallaíonn “táirgí príomhúla talmhaíochta” táirgí na hithreach, táirgí feirmeoireachta stoic agus táirgí iascaigh agus géim, gan táirgí ná géim den sórt sin a chuaigh faoi phróiseáil tosaigh a áireamh;

forléireofar “táirgeoir” de réir *alt* 2 den Acht seo;

ciallaíonn “táirge” gach sochorraitheach cé is moite de tháirgí príomhúla talmhaíochta nach ndeachaigh faoi phróiseáil tosaigh, agus folaíonn sé—

- (a) sochorraitheach fiú má tá siad corpraithe i dtáirge eile nó i ndochorraitheach, cibé acu is de bhua iad a bheith ina gcomhpháirt nó ina n-amhábhair nó ar shlí eile,
- (b) leictreachas i gcás damáiste a dhéanamh de dheasca cliseadh sa phróiseas giniúna leictreachais.

(2) Tá le focal nó abairt a úsáidtear san Acht seo agus a úsáidtear freisin sa Treoir ón gComhairle, mura léir a mhalairt a bheith ar intinn, an bhrí san Acht seo atá leis nó léi sa Treoir ón gComhairle.

(3) Le linn foráil den Acht seo a fhorléiriú, tabharfaidh cúirt forléiriú uirthi a thabharfaidh éifeacht don Treoir ón gComhairle, agus chun na

críche seo beidh aird ag cúirt ar fhorálacha na Treorach ón gComhairle, lena n-áirítear a brollach.

(4) San Acht seo, aon tagairt d'aon achtachán eile forléireofar í mar thagairt don achtachán sin arna leasú le haon achtachán eile nó faoi, lena n-áirítear an tAcht seo.

2.—(1) Beidh an táirgeoir faoi dhliteanas maidir le damáistí i dtort i leith damáiste ar fabht ina tháirge is cúis leis go hiomlán nó go páirteach. Dhliteanas i leith
damáiste ar táirgí
fabhtacha is cúis leis.

(2) San Acht seo, ciallaíonn “táirgeoir”—

- (a) monaróir nó táirgeoir táirge chríochnaithe, nó
- (b) monaróir nó táirgeoir aon amhábhair nó monaróir nó táirgeoir comhpháirte de tháirge, nó
- (c) i gcás táirgí na hithreach, táirgí feirmeoireachta stoic agus táirgí iascaigh agus géim, a chuaigh faoi phróiseáil tosaigh, an duine a rinne an phróiseáil sin, nó
- (d) aon duine a thug le fios gurb é táirgeoir an táirge é trína ainm, a thrádmharc nó sainghné eile a chur ar an táirge nó trína ainm nó aon mharc nó gné den sórt sin a úsáid i ndáil leis an táirge, nó
- (e) aon duine a d'allmhairigh an táirge isteach i mBallstát ó áit lasmuigh de na Comhphobail Eorpacha d'fhonn é a sholáthar, i gcúrsa aon ghnó dá chuid, do dhuine eile, nó
- (f) aon duine atá faoi dhliteanas mar tháirgeoir an táirge de bhun *fho-alt (3)* den alt seo.

(3) Gan dochar *d'fho-alt (1)* den alt seo, i gcás gur fabht i dtáirge is cúis go hiomlán nó go páirteach le damáiste, beidh aon duine a sholáthair an táirge (cibé acu don duine ar bhain an damáiste dó, do tháirgeoir aon táirge ina gcuimsítear an táirge nó d'aon duine eile) faoi dhliteanas, mar an táirgeoir, i leith an damáiste i gcás nach féidir, trí bhearta réasúnacha a ghlacadh, táirgeoir an táirge a chéannú, más rud é—

- (a) go n-iarrann an duine díobháilte ar an soláthróir aon duine (cibé acu atá sé ar marthain fós nó nach bhfuil) lena mbaineann *mír* (a), (b), (c), (d) nó (e) *d'fho-alt* (2) den alt seo i ndáil leis an táirge, a chéannú,
- (b) go ndéantar an iarraidh sin laistigh de thréimhse réasúnach amara tar éis don damáiste tarlú agus tráth nach féidir le réasún leis an duine díobháilte na daoine sin go léir a chéannú, agus
- (c) go mainníonn an soláthróir, laistigh de thréimhse réasúnach amara tar éis an iarraidh a fháil, déanamh de réir na hiarrata nó an duine a sholáthair an táirge dó a chéannú.

Teorainn le damáistí.

3.—(1) Más rud é go mbeadh, murach an t-alt seo, damáistí nach mó ná £350, maidir le haon mhír mhaoine, seachas an táirge fabhtach féin, a chailleadh, a dhamáistiú nó a dhíothú, le dámhachtain de bhua an Achta seo, ní dhámhfar aon damáistí, agus más rud é go mbeadh, murach an t-alt seo, damáistí is mó ná an méid sin le dámhachtain, ní dhámhfar ach an barrachas sin.

(2) Féadfaidh an tAire le hordú an méid a shonraítear i bhfo-alt (1) den alt seo a athrú le héifeacht ó dháta a bheidh sonraithe san ordú, ar dáta i ndiaidh dáta déanta an ordaithe é ach ní bheidh feidhm ag an athrú sin maidir le himeachtaí a bheidh ar feitheamh in aon chúirt ar an dáta sin.

(3) Féadfaidh an tAire, le hordú, ordú arna dhéanamh faoin alt seo a leasú nó a chúlghairm.

Damáiste agus fabht a chruthú.

4.—Is ar an duine díobháilte lena mbaineann a bheidh an dualgas an damáiste, an fabht agus an ceangal cúisíoch idir an fabht agus an damáiste a chruthú.

Táirge fabhtach.

5.—(1) Chun críocha an Achta seo is táirge fabhtach táirge mura gcuireann sé an tsábháilteacht sin ar fáil a bhfuil duine i dteideal a bheith ag súil léi, ag cur na n-imthosca go léir i gcuntas, lena n-áirítear—

- (a) cur i láthair an táirge,
- (b) an úsáid a bhféadfaí le réasún a bheith ag súil leis a bhainfí as an táirge, agus

(c) an tráth a cuireadh an táirge i gcúrsaíocht.

(2) Ní mheasfar táirge a bheith fabhtach de bhrí amháin go gcuirtear táirge níos fearr i gcúrsaíocht dá éis sin.

6.—Ní bheidh táirgeoir faoi dhliteanas faoin Acht seo má chruthaíonn Cosaintí. sé—

(a) nár chuir sé an táirge i gcúrsaíocht, nó

(b) gur dócha, ag féachaint do na himthosca, nárbh ann don fhabht ba chúis leis an damáiste an tráth a chuir sé an táirge i gcúrsaíocht nó gur tharla an fabht a bheith ann ina dhiaidh sin, nó

(c) nár mhonaraigh sé an táirge lena dhíol nó lena dháileadh i bhfoirm ar bith chun críche eacnamaíche ná nár mhonaraigh nó nár dháil sé é i gcúrsa a ghnó, nó

(d) gurb é is bun leis an bhfabht lena mbaineann, go gcomhlíonann an táirge aon cheanglas a fhorchuirtear le haon achtachán nó faoi aon achtachán nó aon cheanglas de chuid dhlí na gComhphobal Eorpach, nó

(e) nárbh amhlaidh do staid an eolais eolaíochta agus theicniúil, an tráth a chuir sé an táirge i gcúrsaíocht, go bhféadfaí a fháil amach go raibh an fabht ann, nó

(f) i gcás monaróra comhpháirte nó táirgeora amhábhair, go bhfuil an fabht inchurtha síos go hiomlán do dhearadh an táirge inar feistíodh an chomhpháirt feistithe nó inar corpraíodh an t-amhábhair nó do na treoracha a thug monaróir an táirge.

7.—(1) Ní thionscnófar caingean chun damáistí a ghnóthú faoin Acht seo tar éis trí bliana a bheith caite ón dáta a d'fhabhraigh an chúis chaingne nó ón dáta (más déanaí ná sin é) a tháinig an gearánaí ar an eolas, nó ba cheart dó le réasún teacht ar an eolas, i dtaobh an damáiste, an fhabht agus chéannacht an táirgeora. Teorainn le caingne.

(2) (a) Múchfar ceart caingne faoin Acht seo ar thréimhse deich mbliana a bheith caite ón dáta a chuir an táirgeoir an táirge iarbhir ba chúis leis an damáiste i gcúrsaíocht mura ndearna an duine díobháilte imeachtaí a thionscnamh idir an dá linn in aghaidh an táirgeora.

(b) Beidh éifeacht le *mír (a)* den fho-alt seo cibé acu a d'fhabhraigh nó nár fhabhraigh an ceart caingne, nó a thosaigh nó nár thosaigh an t-am ag rith, le linn na tréimhse dá dtagraítear i *bhfo-alt (1)* den alt seo.

(3) Ní bheidh feidhm ag ailt 9 agus 48(6) den Acht um Dhliteanas Sibhialta, 1961, maidir le caingean chun damáistí a ghnóthú faoin Acht seo.

(4) Beidh feidhm ag Reachtanna na dTréimhsí, 1957 agus 1991, maidir le caingean faoin Acht seo faoi réir fhorálacha an ailt seo.

(5) Chun críocha *fho-alt (4)*—

(a) measfar gur foráil den Acht um Reacht na dTréimhsí (Leasú), 1991, den chineál dá dtagraítear in alt 2(1) den Acht sin, *fo-alt (1)* den alt seo,

(b) folaíonn “díobháil”, aon áit a bhfuil sé san Acht sin ach amháin in alt 2(1)(b) de, damáiste do mhaoín, agus forléireofar “duine díobháilte” agus “díobháilte” dá réir sin, agus

(c) déanfar an tagairt i *bhfo-alt (1)* den alt seo don dáta a tháinig an gearánaí ar an eolas, nó ba cheart dó le réasún teacht ar an eolas, i dtaobh an damáiste, an fhabht agus chéannacht an táirgeora, a fhorléiriú de réir alt 2 den Acht sin, ach ní dhéanfaidh aon ní sa mhír seo dochar d'fheidhm *alt 1(3)* den Acht seo.

Dliteanas
comhpháirteach agus
leithleach.

8.—I gcás go mbeidh beirt duine nó níos mó faoi dhliteanas de bhua an Achta seo i leith an damáiste chéanna, beidh siad faoi dhliteanas i gcomhpháirt agus go leithleach mar éagóiritheoirí comhthráthacha de réir bhrí Chuid III den Acht um Dhliteanas Sibhialta, 1961.

[1991.]

*An tAcht um Dhliteanas i
leith Táirgí Fabhtacha, 1991.*

[Uimh. 28.]

9.—(1) Gan dochar do Chuid III den Acht um Dhliteanas Sibhialta, 1961, a bhaineann le ceart ranníoca, ní laghdófar dliteanas an táirgeora nuair is fabht i dtáirge agus gníomh nó neamhghníomh ag tríú páirtí is cúis le damáiste. Dlitéanas a laghdú.

(2) I gcás gur fabht i dtáirge, go páirteach, agus locht an duine dhíobháilte nó aon duine a bhfuil an duine díobháilte freagrach ina leith, go páirteach, is cúis le damáiste, beidh éifeacht le forálacha an Achta um Dhliteanas Sibhialta, 1961, a bhaineann le faillí rannpháirteach, amhail is dá mba é ba chúis leis an bhfabht locht de chuid gach duine atá faoi dhliteanas de bhua an Achta seo i leith an damáiste arb é an fabht is cúis leis.

10.—Ní dhéanfaidh aon téarma conartha, aon fhógra ná aon fhoráil eile dliteanas táirgeora de bhua an Achta seo i leith duine dhíobháilte a theorannú ná a eisiámh. Toirmeasc ar eisiámh ó dhliteanas.

11.—Ní dhéanfaidh an tAcht seo difear d'aon chearta a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag duine díobháilte faoi aon achtachán nó faoi aon riail dlí. Ní bheidh cosc le cearta eile caingne.

12.—Beidh feidhm ag alt 1 d'Acht na gCúirteanna, 1988, maidir le caingean san Ard-Chúirt chun damáistí a éileamh faoin Acht seo nó maidir le ceist fíorais nó saincheist a éireoidh i gcaingean den sórt sin amhail is dá mbeadh na damáistí sin luaite i bhfo-alt (1)(a) den alt sin. Feidhm Acht na gCúirteanna, 1988.

13.—Ní bheidh feidhm ag an Acht seo maidir le haon táirge a cuireadh i gcúrsaíocht laistigh de chríoch aon Bhallstáit roimh thosach feidhme an Achta seo. Feidhm an Achta seo.

14.—(1) Féadfar an tAcht um Dhliteanas i leith Táirgí Fabhtacha, 1991, a ghairm den Acht seo. Gearrtheideal agus tosach feidhme.

(2) Tiocfaidh an tAcht seo i ngníomh cibé lá a cheapfaidh an tAire le hordú.

AN SCEIDEAL

Alt 1.

7.8.85 Iris Oifigiúil na gComhphobal Eorpach

Uimh. L 210/29

**COUNCIL DIRECTIVE
of 25 July 1985**

on the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative
provisions of the Member States concerning liability for defective
products

(85/374/EEC)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Economic
Community, and in particular Article 100 thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the Commission⁽¹⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the European Parliament⁽²⁾,

Having regard to the opinion of the Economic and Social Committee⁽³⁾,

Whereas approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning
the liability of the producer for damage caused by the defectiveness of
his products is necessary because the existing divergences may distort
competition and affect the movement of goods within the common market
and entail a differing degree of protection of the consumer against damage
caused by a defective product to his health or property;

Whereas liability without fault on the part of the producer is the sole
means of adequately solving the problem, peculiar to our age of increasing
technicality, of a fair apportionment of the risks inherent in modern
technological production;

⁽¹⁾ O.J. No. C241, 14.10.1976, p.9 and O.J. No. C271, 26.10.1979, p.3.

⁽²⁾ O.J. No. C127, 21.5.1979, p.61.

⁽³⁾ O.J. No. C114, 7.5.1979, p.15.

Whereas liability without fault should apply only to movables which have been industrially produced; whereas, as a result, it is appropriate to exclude liability for agricultural products and game, except where they have undergone a processing of an industrial nature which could cause a defect in these products; whereas the liability provided for in this Directive should also apply to movables which are used in the construction of immovables or are installed in immovables;

Whereas protection of the consumer requires that all producers involved in the production process should be made liable, in so far as their finished product, component part or any raw material supplied by them was defective; whereas, for the same reason, liability should extend to importers of products into the Community and to persons who present themselves as producers by affixing their name, trade mark or other distinguishing feature or who supply a product the producer of which cannot be identified;

Whereas, in situations where several persons are liable for the same damage, the protection of the consumer requires that the injured person should be able to claim full compensation for the damage from any one of them;

Whereas, to protect the physical well-being and property of the consumer, the defectiveness of the product should be determined by reference not to its fitness for use but to the lack of the safety which the public at large is entitled to expect; whereas the safety is assessed by excluding any misuse of the product not reasonable under the circumstances;

Whereas a fair apportionment of risk between the injured person and the producer implies that the producer should be able to free himself from liability if he furnishes proof as to the existence of certain exonerating circumstances;

Whereas the protection of the consumer requires that the liability of the producer remains unaffected by acts or omissions of other persons having contributed to cause the damage; whereas, however, the contributory negligence of the injured person may be taken into account to reduce or disallow such liability;

Whereas the protection of the consumer requires compensation for death and personal injury as well as compensation for damage to property; whereas the latter should nevertheless be limited to goods for private use or consumption and be subject to a deduction of a lower threshold of a fixed amount in order to avoid litigation in an excessive number of cases;

whereas this Directive should not prejudice compensation for pain and suffering and other non-material damages payable, where appropriate, under the law applicable to the case;

Whereas a uniform period of limitation for the bringing of action for compensation is in the interests both of the injured person and of the producer;

Whereas products age in the course of time, higher safety standards are developed and the state of science and technology progresses; whereas, therefore, it would not be reasonable to make the producer liable for an unlimited period for the defectiveness of his product; whereas, therefore, liability should expire after a reasonable length of time, without prejudice to claims pending at law;

Whereas, to achieve effective protection of consumers, no contractual derogation should be permitted as regards the liability of the producer in relation to the injured person;

Whereas under the legal systems of the Member States an injured party may have a claim for damages based on grounds of contractual liability or on grounds of non-contractual liability other than that provided for in this Directive; in so far as these provisions also serve to attain the objective of effective protection of consumers, they should remain unaffected by this Directive; whereas, in so far as effective protection of consumers in the sector of pharmaceutical products is already also attained in a Member State under a special liability system, claims based on this system should similarly remain possible;

Whereas, to the extent that liability for nuclear injury or damage is already covered in all Member States by adequate special rules, it has been possible to exclude damage of this type from the scope of this Directive;

Whereas, since the exclusion of primary agricultural products and game from the scope of this Directive may be felt, in certain Member States, in view of what is expected for the protection of consumers, to restrict unduly such protection, it should be possible for a Member State to extend liability to such products;

Whereas, for similar reasons, the possibility offered to a producer to free himself from liability if he proves that the state of scientific and technical knowledge at the time when he put the product into circulation was not such as to enable the existence of a defect to be discovered may be felt in

certain Member States to restrict unduly the protection of the consumer; whereas it should therefore be possible for a Member State to maintain in its legislation or to provide by new legislation that this exonerating circumstance is not admitted; whereas, in the case of new legislation, making use of this derogation should, however, be subject to a Community stand-still procedure, in order to raise, if possible, the level of protection in a uniform manner throughout the Community;

Whereas, taking into account the legal traditions in most of the Member States, it is inappropriate to set any financial ceiling on the producer's liability without fault; whereas, in so far as there are, however, differing traditions, it seems possible to admit that a Member State may derogate from the principle of unlimited liability by providing a limit for the total liability of the producer for damage resulting from a death or personal injury and caused by identical items with the same defect, provided that this limit is established at a level sufficiently high to guarantee adequate protection of the consumer and the correct functioning of the common market;

Whereas the harmonization resulting from this cannot be total at the present stage, but opens the way towards greater harmonization; whereas it is therefore necessary that the Council receive at regular intervals, reports from the Commission on the application of this Directive, accompanied, as the case may be, by appropriate proposals;

Whereas it is particularly important in this respect that a re-examination be carried out of those parts of the Directive relating to the derogations open to the Member States, at the expiry of a period of sufficient length to gather practical experience on the effects of these derogations on the protection of consumers and on the functioning of the common market,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DIRECTIVE:

Article 1

The producer shall be liable for damage caused by a defect in his product.

Article 2

For the purpose of this Directive ‘product’ means all movables, with the exception of primary agricultural products and game, even though incorporated into another movable or into an immovable. ‘Primary agricultural products’ means the products of the soil, of stock-farming and of fisheries, excluding products which have undergone initial processing. ‘Product’ includes electricity.

Article 3

1. ‘Producer’ means the manufacturer of a finished product, the producer of any raw material or the manufacturer of a component part and any person who, by putting his name, trade mark or other distinguishing feature on the product presents himself as its producer.

2. Without prejudice to the liability of the producer, any person who imports into the Community a product for sale, hire, leasing or any form of distribution in the course of his business shall be deemed to be a producer within the meaning of this Directive and shall be responsible as a producer.

3. Where the producer of the product cannot be identified, each supplier of the product shall be treated as its producer unless he informs the injured person, within a reasonable time, of the identity of the producer or of the person who supplied him with the product. The same shall apply, in the case of an imported product, if this product does not indicate the identity of the importer referred to in paragraph 2, even if the name of the producer is indicated.

Article 4

The injured person shall be required to prove the damage, the defect and the causal relationship between defect and damage.

Article 5

Where, as a result of the provisions of this Directive, two or more persons are liable for the same damage, they shall be liable jointly and severally, without prejudice to the provisions of national law concerning the rights of contribution or recourse.

Article 6

1. A product is defective when it does not provide the safety which a person is entitled to expect, taking all circumstances into account, including:

- (a) the presentation of the product;
- (b) the use to which it could reasonably be expected that the product would be put;
- (c) the time when the product was put into circulation.

2. A product shall not be considered defective for the sole reason that a better product is subsequently put into circulation.

Article 7

The producer shall not be liable as a result of this Directive if he proves:

- (a) that he did not put the product into circulation; or
- (b) that, having regard to the circumstances, it is probable that the defect which caused the damage did not exist at the time when the product was put into circulation by him or that this defect came into being afterwards; or
- (c) that the product was neither manufactured by him for sale or any form of distribution for economic purpose nor manufactured or distributed by him in the course of his business; or
- (d) that the defect is due to compliance of the product with mandatory regulations issued by the public authorities; or
- (e) that the state of scientific and technical knowledge at the time when he put the product into circulation was not such as to enable the existence of the defect to be discovered; or
- (f) in the case of a manufacturer of a component, that the defect is attributable to the design of the product in which the component has been fitted or to the instructions given by the manufacturer of the product.

Article 8

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of national law concerning the right of contribution or recourse, the liability of the producer shall not be reduced when the damage is caused both by a defect in the product and by the act or omission of a third party.

2. The liability of the producer may be reduced or disallowed when, having regard to all the circumstances, the damage is caused both by a defect in the product and by the fault of the injured person or any person for whom the injured person is responsible.

Article 9

For the purpose of Article 1, 'damage' means:

- (a) damage caused by death or by personal injuries;
- (b) damage to, or destruction of, any item of property other than the defective product itself, with a lower threshold of 500 ECU, provided that the item of property:
 - (i) is of a type ordinarily intended for private use or consumption, and
 - (ii) was used by the injured person mainly for his own private use or consumption.

This Article shall be without prejudice to national provisions relating to non-material damage.

Article 10

1. Member States shall provide in their legislation that a limitation period of three years shall apply to proceedings for the recovery of damages as provided for in this Directive. The limitation period shall begin to run from the day on which the plaintiff became aware, or should reasonably have become aware, of the damage, the defect and the identity of the producer.

2. The laws of Member States regulating suspension or interruption of the limitation period shall not be affected by this Directive.

Article 11

Member States shall provide in their legislation that the rights conferred upon the injured person pursuant to this Directive shall be extinguished upon the expiry of a period of 10 years from the date on which the producer put into circulation the actual product which caused the damage, unless the injured person has in the meantime instituted proceedings against the producer.

Article 12

The liability of the producer arising from this Directive may not, in relation to the injured person, be limited or excluded by a provision limiting his liability or exempting him from liability.

Article 13

This Directive shall not affect any rights which an injured person may have according to the rules of the law of contractual or non-contractual liability or a special liability system existing at the moment when this Directive is notified.

Article 14

This Directive shall not apply to injury or damage arising from nuclear accidents and covered by international conventions ratified by the Member States.

Article 15

1. Each Member State may:

- (a) by way of derogation from Article 2, provide in its legislation that within the meaning of Article 1 of this Directive ‘product’ also means primary agricultural products and game;
- (b) by way of derogation from Article 7 (e), maintain or, subject to the procedure set out in paragraph 2 of this Article, provide in this legislation that the producer shall be liable even if he proves that the state of scientific and technical knowledge at

the time when he put the product into circulation was not such as to enable the existence of a defect to be discovered.

2. A Member State wishing to introduce the measure specified in paragraph 1 (b) shall communicate the text of the proposed measure to the Commission. The Commission shall inform the other Member States thereof.

The Member State concerned shall hold the proposed measure in abeyance for nine months after the Commission is informed and provided that in the meantime the Commission has not submitted to the Council a proposal amending this Directive on the relevant matter. However, if within three months of receiving the said information, the Commission does not advise the Member State concerned that it intends submitting such a proposal to the Council, the Member State may take the proposed measure immediately.

If the Commission does submit to the Council such a proposal amending this Directive within the aforementioned nine months, the Member State concerned shall hold the proposed measure in abeyance for a further period of 18 months from the date on which the proposal is submitted.

3. Ten years after the date of notification of this Directive, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the effect that rulings by the courts as to the application of Article 7 (e) and of paragraph 1 (b) of this Article have on consumer protection and the functioning of the common market. In the light of this report the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission and pursuant to the terms of Article 100 of the Treaty, shall decide whether to repeal Article 7(e).

Article 16

1. Any Member State may provide that a producer's total liability for damage resulting from a death or personal injury and caused by identical items with the same defect shall be limited to an amount which may not be less than 70 million ECU.

2. Ten years after the date of notification of this Directive, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the effect on consumer protection and the functioning of the common market of the implementation of the financial limit on liability by those Member States which have

used the option provided for in paragraph 1. In the light of this report the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission and pursuant to the terms of Article 100 of the Treaty, shall decide whether to repeal paragraph 1.

Article 17

This Directive shall not apply to products put into circulation before the date on which the provisions referred to in Article 19 enter into force.

Article 18

1. For the purposes of this Directive, the ECU shall be that defined by Regulation (EEC) No. 3180/78⁽¹⁾, as amended by Regulation (EEC) No. 2626/84⁽²⁾. The equivalent in national currency shall initially be calculated at the rate obtaining on the date of adoption of this Directive.

2. Every five years the Council, acting on a proposal from the Commission, shall examine and, if need be, revise the amounts in this Directive, in the light of economic and monetary trends in the Community.

Article 19

1. Member States shall bring into force, not later than three years from the date of notification of this Directive, the laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with this Directive. They shall forthwith inform the Commission thereof⁽³⁾.

2. The procedure set out in Article 15 (2) shall apply from the date of notification of this Directive.

Article 20

Member States shall communicate to the Commission the texts of the main provisions of national law which they subsequently adopt in the field governed by this Directive.

⁽¹⁾ O.J. No. L379, 30.12.1978, p.1.

⁽²⁾ O.J. No. L247, 16.9.1984, p.1.

⁽³⁾ This Directive was notified to the Member States on 30 July 1985.

SC.

[*Uimh.* 28.]

*An tAcht um Dhliteanas i
leith Táirgí Fabhtacha, 1991.*

[1991.]

Article 21

Every five years the Commission shall present a report to the Council on the application of this Directive and, if necessary, shall submit appropriate proposals to it.

Article 22

This Directive is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 25 July, 1985.

*For the Council,
The President,
J. POOS.*