

BOOK REVIEW

"ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF INSURANCE LAW"

SWEET & MAXWELL £85.00

"Not yet another loose leaf book" thought I rather unkindly as this volume arrived for review. I have to admit to not being a fan of this latest vogue in publishing despite its many theoretical advantages. Notwithstanding this unpromising start this Encyclopaedia is one of the exceptions. Having been on my study desk I have found it to be an extremely valuable aid which is very easy to use.

On the practical side the pages actually stay open leaving just sufficient exposed to enable the whole page to be read without strain. The plastic covered section dividers are named on both sides making for quick and easy reference of the five section book.

Part 1 "Introduction" is the weakest part of the book setting out to give a synopsis of Insurance Law in eight and a quarter pages. Although obviously not a full text book it does nevertheless produce a useful guide to a variety of subjects.

Part 2 "Statutes" covers some 36 Acts from the Life Assurance Act 1774 to the Insurance Companies Act 1982 and includes all of the old faithfuls like the MWPA and the Employers Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 as well as such gems as the Riding Establishments Act 1964. This section together with Part 3 "Statutory Instruments" is clearly laid out and easy to read with a full contents list. The Statutory Instruments start with the 1923 Industrial Assurance (Courts Emergency Powers) Regulations and concludes with the 1983 Insurance Companies (Accounts and Statements) (Amendment) (General Business Reinsurances) Regulation. To date all that I have needed to refer to has been present.

Part 4 "Cases" is once again nicely set out. There is a list of subject matter, for example all motor cases being grouped together. This is followed by the normal table of cases for each topic. The majority of cases are dealt with in under half a page showing the facts and the findings so it will be appreciated that this is no more than a quick guide to case law.

Part 5 "EEC Law" contains three Council Directives - two on direct and the other on co-insurance and once again is set out in easily readable (if not digestible) form. The final part of the book is a first class index which unlike so many today actually appears to have been prepared with the practitioner in mind.

This book certainly makes reference quicker and easier which is after all what a reference book should do.

Michael Cohen

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Reports on the Five Working Sessions

1. i. "Origins of Legal Expenses Insurances" by Mr. R. Skrodski, West Germany
- ii. "Family Legal Expenses Insurance and Possible Alternatives to State Legal Aid" by Messrs. C. Jackson, United Kingdom, and C. Hagensgard, Denmark

(Reported by S.J. Armstrong)

Although there are present delegates from a large number of countries with political systems which range across a broad spectrum, one common feature of all of these political systems