STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2006 No. 251

FOOD

The Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006

Made - - - -	*5th June 2006*
Coming into operation	*30th June 2006*

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety(**1**) makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 15(2), 16(1) and (2), 25(1)(a) and (3), 32 and 47(2) of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991(**2**).

In accordance with Article 47(3A) of the said Order it has taken into account relevant advice given by the Food Standards Agency.

As required by Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety(**3**), there has been open and transparent public consultation during the preparation and evaluation of these Regulations.

PART 1

Preliminary

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 and come into operation on 30th June 2006.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations —

"authorised officer" means any person, whether or not an officer of the district council, who is authorised by it in writing to act in matters arising under these Regulations;

(**1**) Formerly the Department of Health and Social Services see S.I.1999/283 (N.I.1) Article 3(6)
(**2**) S.I. 1991/762 (N.I.7) as amended by S.I. 1996/1663 (N.I.12), paragraphs 26 to 42 of Schedule 5 and Schedule 6 to the Food Standards Act 1999 c. 28 and S.R. 2004 Nos. 482 and 505
(**3**) OJ No. L31, 1.2.2002, p.1. That Regulation was last amended by Regulation (EC) No. 1642/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ No. L245, 29.9.2003, p.4)

"BADGE" has the meaning given in Article 1(1)(a) of Regulation 1895/2005;

"BFDGE" has the meaning given in Article 1(1)(b) of Regulation 1895/2005;

"business" is to be construed in accordance with Article 2(2) of the Order;

"capable" means capable as established under regulation 11;

"Directive 82/711" means Council Directive 82/711/EEC(**4**) laying down the basic rules necessary for testing migration of the constituents of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, as last amended by Commission Directive 97/48/EC(**5**);

"Directive 85/572" means Council Directive 85/572/EEC laying down the list of simulants to be used for testing migration of constituents of plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs(**6**);

"Directive 88/388" means Council Directive 88/388/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to flavourings for use in foodstuffs and to source materials for their production(**7**);

"Directive 89/107" means Council Directive 89/107/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning food additives authorised in foodstuffs intended for human consumption(**8**);

"the Directive" means Commission Directive 2002/72/EC(**9**) relating to plastic materials and articles intended to come into contact with foodstuffs, as last amended by Commission Directive 2004/19/EC(**10**);

"EEA State" means a Member State (other than the United Kingdom), Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein;

"EFSA" means the European Food Safety Authority;

"food" is to be construed in accordance with Article 15(5) of the Order;

"good technical quality" means good technical quality as regards the purity criteria;

"handling of food" means use in connection with the storage, preparation, packaging, sale or serving of food;

"import" means import in the course of a business;

"material or article" means a material or article falling within the definition of materials and articles in Article 1(2) of Regulation 1895/2005;

"monomer" means any substance which is included for the purposes of the Directive among monomers and other starting substances;

"NOGE" has the meaning given in Article 1(1)(c) of Regulation 1895/2005;

"the Order" means the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order1991;

"the 1998 Regulations" means the Plastic Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998(**11**);

"the 2005 Regulations" means the Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005(**12**);

(**4**) OJ No. L297, 23.10.1982, p.26
(**5**) OJ No. L222, 12.8.1997, p.10
(**6**) OJ No. L372, 31.12.1985, p.14
(**7**) OJ No. L184, 15.7.1988, p.61
(**8**) OJ No. L40, 11.2.1989, p. 27
(**9**) OJ No. L220, 15.8.2002, p.18
(**10**) OJ No. L71, 10.3.2004, p.8
(**11**) S.R. 1998 No. 264, as amended by S.R. 2000 No. 402, S.R. 2002 No. 316, S.R. 2003 No. 2, S.R. 2004 No. 493 and S.R. 2005 No. 49
(**12**) S.R. 2005 No. 210

"plastic material or article" means anything which for the purposes of the Directive is included among those plastic materials and articles and parts thereof to which the Directive applies;

"the Purity Directives" means Commission Directive 95/31/EC laying down specific criteria of purity concerning sweeteners for use in foodstuffs(**13**), Commission Directive 95/45/EC laying down purity criteria concerning colours for use in foodstuffs(**14**) and Commission Directive 96/77/EC laying down specific purity criteria for food additives other than colours or sweeteners(**15**);

"Regulation 1895/2005" means Commission Regulation (EC) No 1895/2005 on the restriction of use of certain epoxy derivatives in materials and articles intended to come into contact with food(**16**);

(2) For the purposes of these Regulations the supply otherwise than on sale, in the course of a business, of any material or article is deemed to be a sale.

(3) Any other expression used in these Regulations and in the Directive, Directive 82/711, Directive 85/572 or Regulation 1895/2005 bears the same meaning in these Regulations as it bears in that Directive or Regulation.

PART 2

Requirements for Materials and Articles

Restriction on the use, sale or import of plastic materials and articles

3.—(1) No person may —

(a) use for the handling of food in the course of a business;

(b) sell for the purpose of handling of food; or

(c) import from anywhere other than an EEA State for the purpose of handling of food,

a plastic material or article which fails to meet the required standard.

(2) For the purposes of this regulation a plastic material or article fails to meet the required standard if —

(a) it has been manufactured with a prohibited monomer as described in regulation 4(2) or a prohibited additive as described in regulation 5(2); or

(b) it does not meet the required standards set out in regulation 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10.

Restriction on the use of monomers in the manufacture of plastic materials and articles

4.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (3), (4) and (5), no person may use any prohibited monomer in the manufacture of any plastic material or article.

(2) A prohibited monomer is any monomer which is not —

(a) of good technical quality;

(b) identified by PM/REF no, CAS no (if any) and name in columns 1, 2 and 3 respectively of the relevant section of Part 1 of Schedule 1; and

(c) used in accordance with any restrictions and specifications for that monomer set out or referred to in column 4 of that Schedule.

(**13**) OJ No. L178, 28.7.97, p.1, as last amended by Commission Directive 2004/46, OJ No. L114, 21.4.2004, p.15
(**14**) OJ No. L226, 22.9.95, p.1, as last amended by Commission Directive 2004/47, OJ No. L113, 20.4.2004, p.24
(**15**) OJ No. L339, 30.12.96, p.1, as last amended by Commission Directive 2003/95, OJ No. L283, 31.10.2003, p.71
(**16**) OJ No. L302, 19.11.2005, p.28

(3) Paragraph (1) does not apply to the use of a monomer in the manufacture of any —

(a) surface coatings obtained from resinous of polymerised products in liquid, powder or dispersion form, including but not limited to varnishes, lacquers and paints;

(b) epoxy resins;

(c) adhesives and adhesion promoters; or

(d) printing inks.

(4) Paragraph (1) shall not be taken to prohibit the manufacture of any plastic material or article with any substance if the substance in question is a mixture which falls within paragraph 3(c) (relating to mixtures of authorised substances) of Annex II to the Directive and is of good technical quality.

(5) In any proceedings for an offence under these Regulations where it is alleged that a plastic material or article does not comply with paragraph (1) because it was manufactured with any monomer (whether or not of good technical quality) other than one mentioned in paragraph (2)(b) it shall a be defence for the person accused to prove that —

(a) each monomer is present in the finished plastic material as an impurity, a reaction intermediate or a decomposition product which falls within paragraph 3(a) of Annex II to the Directive,

(b) each such monomer is an oligomer or a natural or synthetic macromolecular substance or a mixture thereof which falls within paragraph 3(b) of that Annex, or

(c) each monomer falls within either sub-paragraph (a) or (b)of these Regulations,

and is of good technical quality.

(6) Part 2 of Schedule 1 has effect to supplement this regulation and Part 1 of that Schedule.

Restriction on the use of additives in the manufacture of plastic materials and articles

5.—(1) Subject to paragraph (3) no person may use in the manufacture of any plastic material or article any prohibited additive.

(2) A prohibited additive is —

(a) any additive identified by PM/REF No, CAS No (if any) and name in columns 1, 2 and 3 respectively of Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 2 which —

(i) is not of good technical quality, or

(ii) is not used in accordance with any restrictions and specifications for that additive set out in the corresponding entry in column 4 of Part 1 or Part 2 of that Schedule; or

(b) any food additive authorised by Directive 89/107 or any flavouring authorised by Directive 88/388 that migrates into food —

(i) in a quantity that has a technical function in the final food product, or

(ii) where the food is of a type for which the use of any such food additive or flavouring is so authorised, in quantities exceeding the limits provided for in Directive 89/107 or Directive 88/388 as appropriate, or in Schedule 2, whichever is the lower.

(3) In any proceedings for an offence under these Regulations where it is alleged that the commission of the offence is due to the manufacture of a plastic material or article with any additive identified in Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 2 which is not of good technical quality, it shall be a defence for the person accused to prove that each such additive is present in the finished plastic material or article as an impurity, a reaction intermediate or a decomposition product.

(4) Part 3 of Schedule 2 has effect to supplement this regulation and Parts 1 and 2 of that Schedule.

Required standard for non-migration of constituents of monomers

6.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), where a migration limit expressed in mg/kg is indicated in column 4 of the relevant section of Part 1 of Schedule 1 in relation to any monomer, a plastic material or article manufactured from that monomer meets the required standard under this regulation if it is not capable of transferring constituents of that monomer to food with which the plastic material or article may come into contact in quantities exceeding the appropriate limit, and for the purposes of this paragraph the appropriate limit is —

(a) the number of milligrams expressed in column 4 released per kilogram of food in the case of any plastic material or article other than one specified in sub-paragraph (b); and

(b) one sixth of the number of milligrams expressed in column 4 per square decimetre of surface area of the plastic material or article if the plastic material or article comprises —

(i) an article which is a container or is comparable to a container or can be filled, having a capacity of less than 500 millilitres or more than 10 litres, or

(ii) sheet, film or other plastic material or article which cannot be filled or for which it is impracticable to estimate the relationship between the surface area of the material or article in question and the quantity of food in contact with that surface area.

(2) A plastic material or article manufactured from any monomer for which a migration limit in mg/kg is expressed in column 4 of the relevant section of Part 1 of Schedule 1 is not deemed to be capable of transferring constituents of that monomer to food with which the plastic material or article may come into contact in quantities exceeding the appropriate limit in paragraph (1) if the only food with which that plastic material or article may come into contact is food to which regulation 9(3) applies.

Required standard for non-migration of constituents of additives

7.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), where a migration limit expressed in mg/kg is indicated in column 4 of Part 1 or 2 of Schedule 2 in relation to any additive, a plastic material or article manufactured containing that additive meets the required standard under this regulation if it is not capable of transferring constituents of that additive to food with which the plastic material or article may come into contact in quantities exceeding the appropriate limit, and for the purposes of this paragraph the appropriate limit is —

(a) the number of milligrams indicated in column 4 released per kilogram of food in the case of any plastic material or article other than one specified in sub-paragraph (b); and

(b) one sixth of the number of milligrams expressed in column 4 per square decimetre of surface area of the plastic material or article if the plastic material or article comprises —

(i) an article which is a container or is comparable to a container or can be filled, having a capacity of less than 500 millilitres or more than 10 litres, or

(ii) sheet, film or other plastic material or article which cannot be filled or for which it is impracticable to estimate the relationship between the surface area of the material or article in question and the quantity of food in contact with that surface area.

(2) A plastic material or article manufactured containing an additive for which a migration limit in mg/kg is expressed in column 4 of Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 2 is not deemed to be capable of transferring constituents of that additive to food with which the plastic material or article may come into contact in quantities exceeding the appropriate limit in paragraph (1) if the only food with which that plastic material or article may come into contact is food to which regulation 9(3) applies.