1993 No. 330

FOOD

The Extraction Solvents in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993

Made . . . . . *27th July 1993*

Coming into operation . . *13th September 1993*

The Department of Health and Social Services in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 15(1)(*a*), (*c*) and (*e*), 16(1), 25(1)(*a*) and (3), 26(3) and 47(2) of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991(**a**) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf and after consultation in accordance with Article 47(3) of the said Order with such organisations as appear to it to be representative of interests likely to be substantially affected by these Regulations hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Extraction Solvents in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 and shall come into operation on 13th September 1993.

(2) In these Regulations—

"extraction procedure" means either—

(i) the extraction from a food of any ingredient or other component part of that food, including any contaminant which is in or on that food, or

(ii) the extraction of food from any other article or substance;

"extraction solvent" means any solvent which is used or intended to be used in an extraction procedure, and includes in any particular case, further to its use in such a procedure, any substance other than such a solvent but deriving exclusively from such a solvent;

"the Order" means the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991;

"permitted extraction solvent" means—

(i) any extraction solvent described in column 1 (as read, where applicable, with the corresponding entry in column 2) of Part I of Schedule 1 which satisfies the general purity criteria in relation to extraction solvents specified in the first Note to that Part of that Schedule and, so far as is not otherwise provided in relation to particular extraction solvents, any mixture of two or more such extraction solvents, and

(a) S.I. 1991/762 (N.I. 7). *See* Article 2(2) for the definitions of "regulations" and "the Department concerned"

(ii) any substance or material described in column 1 of Part II of Schedule 1 when used (where applicable) in accordance with the conditions specified in column 2 of that Part;

"residue" includes any residual substance other than an extraction solvent but deriving exclusively from an extraction solvent;

"solvent" means any substance which is capable of dissolving food, or any ingredient or other component part of food, including any contaminant which is in or on a food.

Exemption

2. The provisions of these Regulations shall not apply to any extraction solvent used in the production of any of—

(*a*) food additives,

(*b*) vitamins, or

(*c*) any other nutritional additive,

save where any such food additive, vitamin or other nutritional additive is specified anywhere in either Schedule 1 or 2.

Sale of food containing extraction solvents and of extraction solvents

3.—(1) Subject as hereinafter provided, no person shall sell, or import into Northern Ireland from outside the European Economic Community—

(*a*) any food having in it or on it any added extraction solvent other than a permitted extraction solvent, or

(*b*) any extraction solvent other than a permitted extraction solvent.

(2) No person shall sell, or import into Northern Ireland from outside the European Economic Community, any food having in it or on it any added permitted extraction solvent specified in column 1 of Part I or II of Schedule 1 unless—

(*a*) it is a food having in it or on it any added permitted extraction solvent listed in items 1 to 8 (or, in the case of olive-pomace oil, any added permitted extraction solvent listed in items 1 to 6 and 8) in column 1 of Part I of Schedule 1, and the use of such extraction solvent has resulted in the presence in or on that food only of residues of that extraction solvent in technically unavoidable quantities that present no danger to human health;

(*b*) it is a food having in it or on it either or both of the permitted extraction solvents listed in items 9 and 10 in column 1 of Part I of Schedule 1, and the use of such extraction solvent or extraction solvents has resulted in the presence in or on that food of a residue of such extraction solvent (or a combined residue of such extraction solvents) of not more than 10 milligrams per kilogram of the food;

(*c*) it is a food having in it or on it any added permitted extraction solvent listed in column 1 of Part II of Schedule 1;

(*d*) in respect of any food specified in column 1 of Schedule 2 having in it or on it any added permitted extraction solvent listed in items 11 to 14 in column 1 of Part I of Schedule 1, such extraction solvent—

(i) is that (or, if applicable, those) specified in column 2 of Schedule 2 in relation to that food, and

(ii) has been used only for the purpose described in column 3 of Schedule 2 in relation to that food, and

(iii) has resulted in residues in or on that food (or, where so specified, in any food in which that food is an ingredient) of the added permitted extraction solvent specified in relation to it (or, as the case may be, to a food in which it is an ingredient) in an amount not exceeding that specified in column 4 of Schedule 2, or

(*e*) in respect of any food containing or consisting of flavourings prepared from natural flavouring materials prepared by using any added permitted extraction solvent listed in items 11 to 19 in column 1 of Part I of Schedule 1, such use has resulted in the presence in such food of residues of such extraction solvent (or extraction solvents) in an amount not exceeding that specified in column 2 of Schedule 3 in relation to each such specified extraction solvent,

subject (where appropriate) to the Notes to Part I of Schedule 1.

(3) No person shall sell or import into Northern Ireland from outside the European Economic Community any permitted extraction solvent described in column 1 of Part I of Schedule 1 unless the information concerning it that is specified in Part 1 of Schedule 4 is given in accordance with the provisions of Part II of Schedule 4.

Penalties and enforcement

4.—(1) If any person contravenes any of the foregoing provisions of these Regulations he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £2,000.

(2) Each district council shall enforce and execute these Regulations within its district.

Defence in relation to exports

5. In any proceedings for an offence under these Regulations it shall be a defence for the person charged to prove that the food, or as the case may be, the extraction solvent in respect of which the offence is alleged to have been committed was intended for export outside the European Economic Community and complied with the importing country's domestic legislation relevant to the alleged offence.

Application of various provisions of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991

6. The following provisions of the Order shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations as they apply for the purposes of Article 13 or 14 of the Order and, unless the context otherwise requires, any reference in them to the Order shall be construed for the purposes of these Regulations as a reference to these Regulations—

(*a*) Articles 2(4) and 3 (extended meaning of "sale" etc.);

(*b*) Article 4 (presumptions that food is intended for human consumption);

(*c*) Article 19 (offences due to fault of another person);

(*d*) Article 20 (defence of due diligence);

(*e*) Article 30(8) (which relates to documentary evidence);

(*f*) Article 34 (obstruction, etc. of officers).

Transitional provision

7. It shall not be an offence—

(*a*) to sell or import into Northern Ireland from outside the European Economic Community—

(i) any food having in it or on it any added extraction solvent, or

(ii) any extraction solvent, or,

(*b*) in respect of any permitted extraction solvent, to fail to give the required information specified in Schedule 4,

where the food or extraction solvent in question was put into the packaging in which it is to be sold or imported before 13th September 1993.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services on 27th July 1993.

(L.S.) *D. A. Baker*
Assistant Secretary

SCHEDULE 1 Regulation 1(2)

PART I

PERMITTED EXTRACTION SOLVENTS

Column 1	Column 2
Extraction solvent (see note 1)	*Detailed description of extraction solvent*
1. Propane	
2. Butane	
3. Butyl acetate	
4. Ethyl acetate	
5. Ethanol	
6. Carbon Dioxide	
7. Acetone	
8. Nitrous Oxide	
9. Methanol	
10. Propan-2-ol	
11. Hexane (see note 2)	the commercial product consisting essentially of acyclic saturated hydrocarbons containing six carbon atoms and distilling between 64°C and 70°C
12. Methyl acetate	
13. Ethylmethylketone (see note 2)	containing not more than 50 mg/kg of n-Hexane
14. Dichloromethane	
15. Diethyl ether	
16. Butan-1-ol	
17. Butan-2-ol	
18. Methyl-propan-1-ol	
19. Propan-1-ol	

Notes

1. The extraction solvents listed in column 1 shall satisfy the following general purity criteria—

(*a*) subject to sub-paragraph (*b*) they shall not contain a toxicologically dangerous amount of any element or substance;

(*b*) they shall not contain more than 1 mg/kg of, respectively, arsenic or lead.

2. The combined use of Hexane and Ethylmethylketone is not permitted.