1981 No. 305

FOOD AND DRUGS

Labelling

Food Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981

Made . . . . . *14th September 1981*

Coming into operation
Regulations 1, 2 and 44 . . *26th October 1981*
Remainder . . . . *1st January 1983*

ARRANGEMENT OF REGULATIONS

PART I

PRELIMINARY

1. Citation and commencement.
2. Interpretation.
3. Exemptions.

PART II

FOOD TO BE DELIVERED AS SUCH TO THE ULTIMATE CONSUMER OR TO CATERERS

Scope and general labelling requirement

4. Scope of part II.
5. General labelling requirement.

Name of the food

6. Name prescribed by law.
7. Customary name.
8. Indication of true nature of food.
9. Form of name.
10. Trade marks, brand names and fancy names.
11. Indication of physical condition or treatment.

List of ingredients

12. Heading of list of ingredients.
13. Order of list of ingredients.
14. Names of ingredients.
15. Compound ingredients.
16. Added water.
17. Ingredients which need not be named.
18. Foods which need not bear a list of ingredients.

Ingredients given special emphasis

19. Indication of minimum or maximum percentage of ingredients.

Indication of minimum durability

20. Form of indication of minimum durability.
21. Foods which need not bear an indication of minimum durability.

Instructions for use

22. Requirements relating to instructions for use.

Omission of certain particulars

23. Food which is not prepacked and similar food.
24. Fancy confectionery products.
25. Indication of additives.
26. Small packages.
27. Food for immediate consumption where sold.
28. Other food for immediate consumption.

Additional labelling requirements for certain categories of food

29. Food sold from vending machines.
30. Alcoholic drinks.

Manner of marking or labelling

31. General requirement.
32. Food to which regulation 23, 24, 27 or 28 applies.
33. Intelligibility.
34. Field of vision.

PART III

CLAIMS AND MISLEADING DESCRIPTIONS

35. Claims relating to foods for particular nutritional uses.
36. Medicinal claims.
37. Misleading descriptions.
38. The word "wine".

PART IV

OFFENCES AND LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

39. Offences and penalties.
40. Enforcement.
41. Defences.

PART V

AMENDMENTS, REVOCATIONS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

42. Amendments.
43. Revocations.
44. Transitional provisions.

SCHEDULES

Schedule 1. Names prescribed by law.
Schedule 2. Indications of treatment.
Schedule 3. Generic names in list of ingredients.
Schedule 4. Categories of additives which must be identified in a list of ingredients by their category name.
Schedule 5. Claims relating to foods for particular nutritional uses: prescribed energy statement.
Schedule 6. Misleading descriptions.
Schedule 7. Amendments.
Part I. Provisions relating to sales to caterers.
Part II. Provisions relating to manner of marking or labelling.
Part III. Amendments consequent upon the revocation of the Labelling of Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970.
Schedule 8. Revocations.

The Department of Health and Social Services(**a**) in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 4, 7, 68 and 68A(**b**) of the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland) 1958(**c**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, and after consultation with such organisations as appear to it to be representative of interests substantially affected by these regulations, hereby makes the following regulations:—

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Food Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981 and shall come into operation—

(*a*) as respects regulations 1, 2 and 44 on 26th October 1981, and

(*b*) as respects the remainder on 1st January 1983.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these regulations—

"the Act" means the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland) 1958;

"additive" means any substance, not commonly regarded or used as food, which is added to, or used in or on, food at any stage to affect its keeping qualities, texture, consistency, appearance, taste, odour, alkalinity or acidity, or to serve any other technological function in relation to food, and includes processing aids in so far as they are added to, or used in or on, food as aforesaid, but does not include—

(*a*) vitamins, minerals or other nutrients in so far as they are used solely for the purpose of fortifying or enriching food or of restoring the constituents of food,

(*b*) herbs or spices when used as seasoning,

(*c*) hops,

(*d*) salt,

(**a**) *See* S.R.& O. (N.I.) 1964 No. 205 art. 5 and Sch. 2 Part 1 and 1973 c.36 s.40 and Sch. 5 para. 8
(**b**) Added by S.R.& O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 363
(**c**) 1958 c.27 (N.I.)

(*e*) yeast or yeast extracts,

(*f*) the total products of any hydrolysis or autolysis of food protein,

(*g*) starter cultures,

(*h*) malt or malt extract,

(*i*) any substance which is present in food solely as a result of its addition to animal, bird or fish feedingstuffs or its use in a process or treatment carried out in crop husbandry, animal husbandry, veterinary medicine or storage (including any pesticide, fumigant, sprout depressant or veterinary medicine), or

(*j*) air or water;

"the additives regulations" means the Colouring Matter in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973(**a**), the Antioxidants in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1978(**b**), the Preservatives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1980(**c**), the Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(**d**) and the Miscellaneous Additives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(**e**);

"advertisement" has the same meaning as in the Act, except that it does not include any form of labelling;

"alcoholic strength by mass" and "alcoholic strength by volume" have the meanings assigned to them by the Alcohol Tables Regulations 1979(**f**);

"aromatised wine" means vermouth or any other wine flavoured with aromatic extracts;

"biscuits" includes wafers, rusks, crispbreads, oatcakes and matzos;

"catering establishment" means a restaurant, canteen, club, public house, school, hospital or other establishment (including a vehicle or a fixed or mobile stall) where, in the course of a business, food is prepared for delivery to the ultimate consumer for immediate consumption;

"chocolate confectionery" means any food which is ready for consumption without further preparation, of which a characterising ingredient is chocolate or cocoa, and includes food of which a characterising ingredient is carbohydrate sweetening matter and which has a chocolate or chocolate flavoured coating, but does not include any biscuits, chocolate products, flour confectionery or ice-cream;

"chocolate product" has the meaning assigned to it by the Cocoa and Chocolate Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976(**g**);

"confectionery product" means any item of chocolate confectionery or sugar confectionery;

"disease" includes any injury, ailment or adverse condition, whether of body or mind;

"edible ice" includes ice-cream, water ice and fruit ice, whether alone or in combination, and any similar food;

"flour confectionery" means any cooked food which is ready for consumption without further preparation (other than reheating), of which a characterising

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(**a**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 466; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1975 No. 283, S.R. 1976 No. 382, S.R. 1979 No. 49
(**b**) S.R. 1978 No. 112, amended by S.R. 1981 No. 191
(**c**) S.R. 1980 No. 28, to which there is an amendment not relevant to these regulations
(**d**) S.R. 1981 No. 194
(**e**) S.R. 1981 No. 193
(**f**) S.I. 1979/132
(**g**) S.R. 1976 No. 183

ingredient is ground cereal, including shortbread, sponges, crumpets, muffins, macaroons, ratafias, pastry and pastry cases, and also includes meringues, petits fours and uncooked pastry and pastry cases, but does not include bread, pizzas, biscuits or any food containing a filling which has as an ingredient any cheese, meat, offal, fish, shellfish, vegetable protein material or microbial protein material;

"ingredient" means any substance, including any additive and any constituent of a compound ingredient, which is used in the preparation of a food and which is still present in the finished product, even if in altered form;

"labelling" in relation to a food, includes any words, particulars, trade mark, brand name, pictorial matter or symbol relating to the food and appearing on the packaging of the food or on any document, notice, label, ring or collar accompanying the food;

"liqueur wine"—

(*a*) in relation to a drink produced in the European Economic Community, has the meaning assigned to it by Annex II to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 337/79(**a**) on the common organisation of the market in wine, and

(*b*) in relation to a drink produced elsewhere, has the meaning assigned to it by article 2 of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 339/79(**b**) defining certain products falling within heading Nos. 20.07, 22.04 and 22.05 of the Common Customs Tariff and originating in third countries;

"prepacked" in relation to a food, means put into packaging (including a confining band) before being offered for sale in such a way that the food, whether wholly or only partly enclosed, cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging and is ready for sale to the ultimate consumer or to a catering establishment, and includes a food which is wholly enclosed in packaging before being offered for sale and which is intended to be cooked without opening the packaging and which is ready for sale to the ultimate consumer or to a catering establishment, but does not include individually wrapped sweets or chocolates which are not enclosed in any further packaging and which are not intended for sale as individual items;

"sell" includes offer or expose for sale or have in possession for sale;

"serial number" in relation to an additive, means the number specified for that additive in Schedule 1 to any of the additives regulations;

"sparkling wine"—

(*a*) in relation to a drink produced in the European Economic Community, has the meaning assigned to it by Annex II to Council Regulation (EEC) No. 337/79, except that it also includes aerated sparkling wine, semi-sparkling wine and aerated semi-sparkling wine as therein defined, and

(*b*) in relation to a drink produced elsewhere, has the meaning assigned to it by article 2 of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 339/79, except that it also includes aerated sparkling wine, semi-sparkling wine and aerated semi-sparkling wine as therein defined;

"sugar confectionery" means any food which is ready for consumption without further preparation, of which a characterising ingredient is carbohydrate sweetening matter, and includes sweetened liquorice and chewing gum, but does not include any chocolate confectionery, chocolate products, cocoa products, flour confectionery, ice-cream, ice lollies, table jellies, slab marzipan or sugar;

(**a**) O.J. No. L54, 5.3.79, p. 1
(**b**) O.J. No. L54, 5.3.79, p. 57