1977 No. 67

HORTICULTURE

Solid Pack Apples (Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1977

Made . . . . . *9th March* 1977

Coming into operation . . . . *1st May* 1977

The Department(a) of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 13, 17, 18 and 33, of the Horticulture Act (Northern Ireland) 1966(b) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, and after consultation with such organisations as appear to be representative of interests affected by the regulations, hereby makes the following regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Solid Pack Apples (Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1977 and shall come into operation on 1st May 1977.

Revocation

2. The Solid Pack Apples (Grading) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971(c) are hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3. In these regulations—

"the Act" means the Horticulture Act (Northern Ireland) 1966;

"apples" means the edible fruits of PYRUS MALUS which are specially cultivated for human consumption;

"approved" means approved in writing by the Department;

"container" means a can of a description designated and defined in Part I of Schedule 2;

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"licence" means a valid licence issued under the Processing of Horticultural Produce (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970(d);

"solid pack apples" means a product consisting of not less than 75% by weight of raw apples and not more than 25% by weight of other ingredients (including water, sugar or other substances) which has been subjected to a process of heat treatment and packed in a hermetically sealed container, and which has a pH of not more than 4.5;

"standard grade" has the meaning ascribed by Regulation 4.

Designation of standard grade

4.—(1) The minimum quality of solid pack apples necessary to satisfy the requirements of standard grade is as set out in Schedule 1.

(a) Formerly Ministry: *see* 1973 c. 36 Sch. 5 para. 8(1)
(b) 1966 c. 15 (N.I.)
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1971 No. 187 (p. 944)
(d) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1970 No. 324 (p. 1441)

(2) Solid pack apples which comply with the requirements set out in Schedule 1 may be referred to as being of standard grade.

Prescribed weight

5. The prescribed weight for the purposes of section 18(2) of the Act shall be 12 kgs (26 and 4/10ths lbs).

Type, filling and marking of containers

6.—(1) Solid pack apples shall be packed in containers which shall be free from rust or other corrosion and shall be of a description mentioned in Column 1 of Part I of Schedule 2 and of the diameter, height and capacity respectively mentioned in Columns 2, 3 and 4 of that Schedule for containers of that description. Each container of such a description shall as soon as practicable after filling and sealing be exposed to heat of a temperature of not less than 99 degrees C (210 degrees F) either by being totally immersed in boiling water or by being subjected to steam in a retort from which all air has been removed for a continuous period which must not be less than that specified in Column 5 of Part I of Schedule 2 as being the minimum period of exposure to heat required for containers of that description or for such other period or by such other method as the Department may approve.

(2) The minimum drained weight of solid pack apples packed in a container shall be determined by the method described in Paragraph 2 of Part II of Schedule 2 and the drained weight of each description of container specified in Column 1 of the table at Paragraph 3 of Part II of Schedule 2 shall not be less than that specified in Column 2 of the table.

(3) Each container of solid pack apples shall be embossed with or have fixed to it:

(*a*) letters and numerals in accordance with the code described in Part I of Schedule 3 indicating the date on which the solid pack apples were processed and the nature of the produce in the container;

(*b*) the number of the licence issued in respect of the premises in which the raw apples were processed.

(4) Solid pack apples which do not meet the requirements of standard grade as set out in Schedule 1 shall be labelled in accordance with the provisions of Part II of Schedule 3.

Movement of produce out of Northern Ireland

7. For the purposes of Section 18(1)(*b*) of the Act only solid pack apples conforming to standard grade may be sent out of Northern Ireland.

8. Regulation 7 of the Fresh and Processed Horticultural Produce (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975(e) is hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 9th March 1977.

(L.S.) *D. J. Alexander*
Assistant Secretary

(e) S.R. 1975 No. 54 (I, p. 249)

SCHEDULE 1

Minimum requirements for standard grade

Characteristic	*Minimum standard*
Colour	The sections or pieces of apple shall be reasonably uniform in colour, which shall be characteristic of the variety of apples used, and fairly bright and attractive.
Texture	The sections or pieces of apple shall be reasonably discrete, firm, flexible, tender and free from disintegration.
Physical defects	The sections or pieces of apple shall be reasonably free from noticeable blemishes, bruise damage, pieces of core and skin, and the container shall not contain undue amounts of extraneous matter.
Sizing	The sections or pieces of apple shall not vary unduly in size or shape.
Flavour	The sections or pieces of apple shall have a distinct natural apple flavour and shall be free from bitter or other foreign flavours.
Containers	Cans shall be free from rust, both internally and externally, and shall not be unduly distorted.