1971. No. 187 **[C]**

HORTICULTURE

Processing and Marketing of Solid Pack Apples

REGULATIONS, DATED 29TH JUNE 1971, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTIONS 13, 17, 18, 20, 26 AND 33 OF THE HORTICULTURE ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1966.

The Ministry of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Sections 13, 17, 18, 20, 26 and 33 of the Horticulture Act (Northern Ireland) 1966(**a**) 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 (Grading) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971 and shall come into operation on 1st August 1971.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires,

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

"approved" means approved in writing by the Ministry;

"authorised officer" has the meaning assigned to it by Section 24(1) of the Act;

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

"label" includes any device for conveying information by written characters or other symbols stamped or otherwise placed directly on to a container and any reference to the fixing of a label shall be construed accordingly;

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

"Ministry" means the Ministry of Agriculture;

"package" includes any wrapper, bag, basket, pail, punnet, tray, case, carton, parcel, cask, box, crate or other receptacle;

"raw material" means apples of the following varieties, which are not unsound because of gross disease or physiological disorder, Bramley's Seedling, Grenadier, or such other varieties as will give a firm flesh and full flavour in the finished product and will not readily discolour on processing;

"solid pack apples" means any product consisting of not less than 75% by weight of raw material 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, packed in a hermetically sealed container and which has a pH of not more than 4·5.

(a) 1966. c. 15 (N.I.). (b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1970, No. 324.

Application

3. Part III of the Act and these Regulations shall apply to raw material processed in Northern Ireland.

Preparation and processing of raw material

4. For the purposes of these Regulations raw material shall be prepared and processed as specified in the Schedule to a licence.

Grading of solid pack apples

5. For the purposes of Section 13 of the Act grades of quality for solid pack apples shall be those designated and defined in the First Schedule.

Type, filling and marking of containers

6. For the purposes of Section 13 of the Act:

(*a*) solid pack apples shall be packed in containers which shall be free from rust or other corrosion and which shall be of the type described in Column 1 of Part I of the Second Schedule. Each description of container shall, as soon as practical after filling and sealing, be exposed to heat of a temperature of not less than 99° C (210° 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 the said Schedule as being the minimum period of exposure to heat required for that description of container or for such other period or by such other method as the Ministry may approve;

(*b*) the minimum drained weight of solid pack apples in a container shall be determined by the method prescribed by Paragraph 2 of Part II of the Second Schedule and the drained weight of each description of container specified in Column 1 of Paragraph 1 of Part II of the Second Schedule shall not be less than that specified in Column 2 of Paragraph 1 of Part II of the Second Schedule as being required for that description of container;

(*c*) each container of solid pack apples shall be embossed with or have affixed to it:

(i) letters and numerals in accordance with the Code described in Part I of the Third Schedule or such other Code as the Ministry may approve, indicating the date on which the solid pack apples were processed and the nature of the produce in the container;

(ii) the number of the licence issued in respect of the premises in which the raw material was processed.

7. For the purposes of Sections 13(*b*)(v) and 20 of the Act and without prejudice to Regulation 8 for each of the grades designated in the First Schedule the form of the label for indicating that the solid pack apples in connection with which the label is used fall within that grade shall be as set out in Part II of the Third Schedule.

8. A label in the form referred to in Regulation 7 for indicating that the solid pack apples in connection with which the label is used fall within the grade designated and defined in the First Schedule as "Choice" shall only be used with the approval of the Ministry; such approval may be withdrawn where, in the opinion of the Ministry, the solid pack apples in connection with which the label is used fail to meet the requirements of that grade.

9. Section 18(1)(*a*) of the Act shall not apply to any consignment of solid pack apples if the total weight of the solid pack apples in each consignment, together with the weight of the containers in which they are packed and the package in which the said containers are contained, does not exceed $26^{4}/_{10}$ lb (12 kilograms).

Manner of cancellation of labels by authorised officer

10. Where, under Section 26 of the Act an authorised officer finds any solid pack apples which are in a container which has affixed to it a label in the form prescribed for any grade designated and defined in the First Schedule but which he has reasonable cause to believe to be of a quality inferior to the quality required for that grade, he may cancel that label by affixing or requiring to be affixed to the container a label in the form prescribed in Part III of the Third Schedule which is appropriate to indicate what appears to him to be the correct grade.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 29th day of June 1971.

(L.S.) *A. McKelvie,*
Assistant Secretary.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Grades of Quality for Solid Pack Apples

Characteristic	Choice	Standard
Colour	The sections or pieces of apple shall generally be uniform in colour, which shall be characteristic of the variety of apples used as raw material, bright and attractive.	The sections or pieces of apple shall be fairly uniform in colour, which shall be characteristic of the variety of apples used as raw material, fairly bright and attractive.
Texture	The sections or pieces of apple shall generally be discrete, firm, flexible, tender and free from disintegration.	The sections or pieces of apple shall be fairly discrete, firm, flexible, tender and free from disintegration.
Physical defects	All sections or pieces of apple shall be free from easily noticeable blemishes, bruise damage, pieces of core and skin, and the contents of the container shall be free from extraneous matter.	The sections or pieces of apple shall generally be free from readily noticeable blemishes, bruise damage, pieces of core and skin, and the container shall not contain excessive amounts of extraneous matter.
Sizing	All sections or pieces of apple shall be reasonably uniform in size and shape.	The sections or pieces of apple shall not vary excessively in size or shape.
Flavour	All sections or pieces of apple shall have the full natural flavour of the variety of apple used as raw material.	The sections or pieces of apple shall generally 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 from panelling, peaking or other distortions.	Cans shall be free from rust, both internally and externally, and shall not be excessively distorted.