1969. No. 346 [C]

FOOD AND DRUGS

Composition and Labelling

Artificial Sweeteners in Food

REGULATIONS, DATED 22ND DECEMBER 1969, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES UNDER SECTIONS 4, 7 AND 68 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1958.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by sections 4, 7 and 68 of the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland) 1958(a), having consulted 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 Artificial Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1970.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these regulations—

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

"artificial sweetener" means any chemical compound which is sweet to the taste, but does not include any sugar or any polyhydric alcohol;

"artificial sweetening tablet" means any tablet which contains an artificial sweetener and which is intended for sale with a view to its use in the preparation of food;

"carbohydrate" means a substance containing carbon, hydrogen and oxygen only in which the hydrogen and oxygen occur in the same proportion as in water;

"full strength tablets" means artificial sweetening tablets which comply with the requirements as to composition set out in paragraph 1 of Schedule 2;

"half strength tablets" means artificial sweetening tablets which comply with the requirements as to composition set out in paragraph 2 of Schedule 2;

"permitted artificial sweetener" means saccharin, saccharin calcium or saccharin sodium;

"polyhydric alcohol" means an alcohol with three or more free hydroxyl groups;

"saccharin" means the substance conforming to the description, specifications and requirements for saccharin contained in the British Pharmacopoeia 1968;

(a) 1958. c. 27.

"saccharin calcium" means the substance conforming to the description, specifications and requirements for saccharin calcium contained in Schedule 1;

"saccharin sodium" means the substance conforming to the description, specifications and requirements for saccharin sodium contained in the British Pharmacopoeia 1968;

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

"sugar" means any soluble carbohydrate sweetening matter.

(2) For the purposes of these regulations, the supply of any artificial sweetener or any food containing any artificial sweetener, otherwise than by sale, at, in or from any place where artificial sweeteners or such food are or is supplied in the course of a business shall be deemed to be a sale of that artificial sweetener or that food, as the case may be; and references to purchasing and purchaser shall be construed accordingly.

(3) For the purposes of the Labelling of Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1961(**b**), these regulations, insofar as they prescribe requirements as to composition for artificial sweetening tablets, shall be taken to prescribe standards for such tablets.

(4) Any reference in these regulations to a label borne on a container shall be construed as including a reference to any legible marking on the container however effected.

Exemptions

3. The provisions of these regulations shall not apply to any food or artificial sweetener intended at the time of sale, consignment or delivery, as the case may be, for exportation to any place outside the United Kingdom.

PART II

REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL SWEETENERS

Sale, etc. of artificial sweeteners

4. No person shall sell, consign or deliver any artificial sweetener for human consumption which is not a permitted artificial sweetener.

Requirements as to composition for tablets containing artificial sweeteners

5.—(1) Every artificial sweetening tablet containing saccharin or saccharin calcium or saccharin sodium or a mixture of two or all of those substances shall conform to the requirements as to composition set forth in relation thereto in the appropriate paragraph of Schedule 2.

(2) No person shall sell, consign or deliver any artificial sweetening tablet which does not comply with this regulation.

Labelling of containers of artificial sweetening tablets

6.—(1) No person shall sell, consign or deliver any artificial sweetening tablets in a container unless such container bears a label on which there appears such one of the following descriptions as may be appropriate:—

(*a*) the words "saccharin tablets" or "half strength saccharin tablets" for full strength or half strength tablets respectively, containing no permitted artificial sweetener other than saccharin or a mixture of saccharin and saccharin calcium and saccharin sodium or of any two of those substances;

(*b*) the words "saccharin calcium tablets" or "half strength saccharin calcium tablets" for full strength or half strength tablets respectively, containing no permitted artificial sweetener other than saccharin calcium;

(**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1961, No. 160.