1969. No. 72 **[C]**

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Equivalents for dealings with drugs

REGULATIONS, DATED 19TH FEBRUARY 1969, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES UNDER SECTION 4 OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1967.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 4(8) of the Weights and Measures Act (Northern Ireland) 1967(a), and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Weights and Measures (Equivalents for dealings with drugs) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969 and shall come into operation on 3rd March 1969.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

the word "mixture" means any liquid preparation intended for administration by mouth which consists of one or more drugs dissolved or suspended in an aqueous or other appropriate vehicle, but does not include an elixir, emulsion, linctus or syrup;

"the relevant date" means—

(*a*) in the case of a manufacturer—1st January 1970,

(*b*) in the case of a wholesale dealer—1st April 1970,

(*c*) in the case of a retail dealer

(i) for the dispensing of prescriptions—3rd March 1969,

(ii) for any other dealing with drugs—1st January 1971.

Equivalents for weights and volumes

3.—(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of any other enactment the following provisions shall have effect for the purpose of any dealing with drugs.

(2) Except as provided in regulations 4 and 5, any unit of measurement mentioned in column 2 of Tables 1, 2, 3 or 4 of the Schedule shall be treated as the equivalent of the unit set opposite thereto in column 1 of such Tables, and for any fraction of one grain not specifically mentioned in column 1 of the said Table 1, the equivalent for such purpose shall be treated as the corresponding fraction of the equivalent of one grain set out in column 2 of that Table.

(3) Except as provided in regulations 4 and 5, where any quantity of drugs, expressed in terms of one or more of the units mentioned in column 1 of Table 3 or Table 4 of the Schedule is greater than one pound or one pint, the equivalent shall be treated as the corresponding multiple of the equivalent for one pound or one pint, as the case may be, specified in column 2 of the relevant Table together with the equivalent so specified of any residue of less than a pound or pint respectively. In this paragraph "corresponding multiple" means the

(a) 1967. c. 6 (N.I.).

number of times a quantity of pounds or pints will divide into units of one pound or one pint, as the case may be.

Equivalents for doses of liquids

4.—(1) Except as provided in paragraph (3), where a prescription for any drug states that the quantity of each dose is to be either one fluid drachm or two fluid drachms, the equivalent of that quantity for the purpose of dispensing the prescription shall be treated as five or ten millilitres respectively.

(2) Where a prescription for any drug which is a mixture states that the quantity of each dose is to be a half of a fluid ounce, the equivalent of that quantity for the purpose of dispensing the prescription shall be treated as ten millilitres.

(3) Where a prescription for any drug which is a mixture, other than a mixture formulated for administration to children, states that the quantity of each dose is to be two fluid drachms, the equivalent of that quantity for the purpose of dispensing the prescription shall be treated as ten millilitres:

Provided that if the prescription refers to any edition of the British Pharmacopoeia, the British Pharmaceutical Codex or the British National Formulary prior to the 1968 editions, being an edition which contains a formulation of the drug with a dose of a half of a fluid ounce, and the drug is not prescribed at twice the normal strength, the equivalent of a dose of two fluid drachms shall be treated for the purpose of dispensing the prescription as ten millilitres of the drug at half the normal strength.

Equivalents for total quantities prescribed

5.—(1) Where a prescription to which regulation 4(1) refers is for a total quantity expressed as a number of fluid ounces mentioned in column 1 of Table 5 of the Schedule, the equivalent of that total quantity for the purpose of dispensing the prescription shall be treated as the quantity set opposite thereto in column 2 of the Table.

(2) Where a prescription to which regulation 4(2) refers is for a total quantity expressed as a number of fluid ounces mentioned in column 1 of Table 6 of the Schedule, the equivalent of that total quantity for the purpose of dispensing the prescription shall be treated as the quantity set opposite thereto in column 2 of the Table.

(3) Where a prescription to which regulation 4(3) refers is for a total quantity expressed as a number of fluid ounces mentioned in column 1 of Table 7 of the Schedule, the equivalent of that total quantity for the purpose of dispensing the prescription shall be treated as the quantity set opposite thereto in column 2 of the Table.

(4) Where a prescription to which regulation 4(1) or 4(3) refers is for a total quantity greater than twelve fluid ounces, the equivalent of the total quantity for the purpose of dispensing the prescription shall be treated as the corresponding multiple of the equivalent of twelve fluid ounces specified in column 2 of the said Table 5 or Table 7, as the case may be, together with the equivalent specified in the relevant Table of any residue of less than twelve fluid ounces.

(5) Where a prescription to which regulation 4(2) refers is for a total quantity greater than twenty-four fluid ounces, the equivalent of the total quantity for the purpose of dispensing the prescription shall be treated as the corresponding multiple of the equivalent of twenty-four fluid ounces specified in column 2 of the said Table 6 together with the equivalent specified in that Table of any residue of less than twenty-four fluid ounces.

(6) In this regulation "corresponding multiple" means the number of times the quantity of fluid ounces will divide by twelve or twenty-four as the case may require.

(7) Where any prescription to which regulation 4 refers specifies quantities of ingredients of any drug in the total quantity to be dispensed, these regulations shall be treated as applying to the quantity of each such ingredient in each dose.

Control of sale and supply

6. Where any manufacturer, wholesale dealer or retail dealer sells or supplies any drug on or after the relevant date, he shall, if the order or prescription relating to such dealing is expressed in terms of a unit of measurement specified in column 1 of Tables 1, 2, 3 or 4 of the Schedule or any such fraction as is mentioned in regulation 3(2), carry out such dealing in terms of the equivalent quantity ascertained in accordance with regulation 3:

Provided that where a drug is sold or supplied on a prescription to which regulation 4 refers and the prescription is expressed in terms of a unit of measurement specified in column 1 of Tables 5, 6 or 7 of the Schedule, the dealing shall be carried out in terms of the equivalent quantity ascertained in accordance with regulations 4 and 5.

Revocation

7. The Weights and Measures (Equivalents for Dealings with Drugs) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1964(**b**) shall cease to apply to manufacturers, wholesale dealers and retail dealers on the relevant date and those Regulations shall be revoked on 1st January 1971.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland this 19th day of February 1969.

(L.S.)

D. W. Lowry,
Assistant Secretary.

(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964, No. 9.

SCHEDULE

TABLE 1

WEIGHTS

Column 1 *grains*	Column 2 *milligrammes*
$\frac{1}{600}$	0·1
$\frac{1}{500}$ $\frac{1}{480}$	0·125
$\frac{1}{400}$	0·15
$\frac{1}{320}$ $\frac{1}{300}$	0·2
$\frac{1}{240}$	0·25
$\frac{1}{200}$	0·3
$\frac{1}{160}$ $\frac{1}{150}$	0·4
$\frac{1}{130}$ $\frac{1}{120}$	0·5
$\frac{1}{100}$	0·6
$\frac{1}{80}$ $\frac{1}{75}$	0·8
$\frac{1}{60}$	1
$\frac{1}{50}$	1·25
$\frac{1}{40}$	1·5
$\frac{1}{30}$	2
$\frac{1}{25}$ $\frac{1}{24}$	2·5
$\frac{1}{20}$	3
$\frac{1}{15}$	4
$\frac{1}{12}$	5
$\frac{1}{10}$	6

TABLE 1—*continued.*

Column 1 *grains*	Column 2 *milligrammes*
$\frac{1}{8}$	7·5
$\frac{1}{6}$	10
$\frac{1}{5}$	12·5
$\frac{1}{4}$	15
$\frac{1}{3}$	20
$\frac{2}{5}$	25
$\frac{1}{2}$	30
$\frac{3}{5}$	40
$\frac{3}{4}$	50
1	60
$1\frac{1}{4}$	75
$1\frac{1}{2}$	100
2	125
$2\frac{1}{2}$	150
3	200
$3\frac{1}{2}$ 4	250
$4\frac{1}{2}$ 5	300
$5\frac{1}{2}$ 6	400
$6\frac{1}{2}$ 7 $7\frac{1}{2}$	450
8	500
9 10	600
11 to 13	800