1967. No. 157 **[C]**

FOOD AND DRUGS

Composition and Labelling

Canned Meat Products

REGULATIONS, DATED 28TH JUNE 1967, 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 Canned Meat Product Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967 and shall come into operation on 31st May 1969.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these regulations—

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

"canned" in relation to any food means packed in a tin, jar or other hermetically sealed container, and either sterilised or pasteurised after sealing, and "canning" shall be construed accordingly;

"canned meat product" means any meat canned for human consumption and any product containing meat canned for human consumption and any reference to canned meat product includes any such product after removal from its container;

"canned meat with cereal" means any canned meat product which has a meat content of less than 95 per cent. and a vegetable content of less than 25 per cent. and of which the principal ingredient by weight, other than meat, is cereal, and includes luncheon meat, but does not include any faggot, rissole, croquette or meat ball described as such;

"canned meat with gravy" means any canned meat product which has a meat content of less than 95 per cent. and a vegetable content of less than 25 per cent. and of which the principal ingredient by weight, other than meat, is added gravy;

"canned meat with jelly" means any canned meat product which has a meat content of less than 95 per cent. and a vegetable content of less than 25 per cent. and of which the principal ingredient by weight, other than meat, is added jelly;

(a) 1958, c. 27.

"canned meat with sauce" means any canned meat product which has a meat content of less than 95 per cent. and a vegetable content of less than 25 per cent. and of which the principal ingredient by weight, other than meat, is added sauce;

"canned sausage" means any sausage canned for human consumption and any reference to canned sausage includes any such sausage after removal from its container;

"cereal" includes potato flour, potato starch, rice flour, rice starch, ground rice and soya flour but does not include grain rice, pastry, dumplings or any form of pasta;

"complete meat product" means any meat product which is homogeneous and complete in itself and is capable of being removed from a container in a single piece when the contents of the container are not frozen or congealed;

"container" includes any form of packaging of food for sale as a single item, whether by way of wholly or partly enclosing the food or by way of attaching the food to some other article, and in particular includes a wrapper or confining band;

"gravy" means the product usually known by that name, and consisting of a liquid, thickened or unthickened, frozen or otherwise, having a flavour essentially derived from meat and including gravy sauce and any other product having characteristics similar to gravy;

"lean meat content" means the total weight of lean meat free of visible fat, when raw or after curing or any other similar processing, contained in any canned meat product expressed as a percentage of the total weight of that product;

"meat" means the flesh, including fat, and the skin, rind, gristle and sinew in amounts naturally associated with the flesh used, of any animal or bird which is normally used for human consumption and includes cured meat, permitted offal, tails, feet, sweetbreads and tripe, but does not include fish;

"meat content" means the total weight of meat when raw or after curing or any other similar processing contained in any canned meat product expressed as a percentage of the total weight of that product;

"meat paste" means any readily spreadable product of which meat is a major ingredient and includes potted meat, chopped meat, minced meat, flaked meat and pâté intended for a use similar to any normal use of meat paste;

"meat pie" means any product containing meat which is wholly or partly encased in pastry and is intended for sale for human consumption and includes pasty and meat pudding but does not include sausage roll or vol-au-vent;

"permitted offal" means any offal other than offal prohibited to be used in any uncooked open meat product by the Offals in Meat Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1960(a);

"sauce" means a liquid, thickened or unthickened, frozen or otherwise, used as a garnish with food and having a colour and flavour derived essentially from ingredients other than meat, but does not include gravy sauce or any other product having characteristics similar to gravy;

(a) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1960, No. 165.

"sausage" means a product of a shape usually known as sausage shape or part of that such product made of comminuted meat with or without the addition of cereal and other minor ingredients, whether contained in an edible or inedible casing or not, and includes any chipolata, frankfurter, salame, saveloy and polony;

"sausage meat" means a product made of meat, with or without the addition of cereal and other minor ingredients, commonly used for or intended for the making of sausages or sold under any description which states or implies that the product is sausage meat;

"sell" includes offer or expose for sale or have in possession for sale, and "sale" and "sold" shall be construed accordingly;

"vegetable" means any product usually regarded as a vegetable for culinary purposes and includes mushroom and other edible fungus, tomato and grain rice as normally consumed.

(2) All percentages mentioned in these regulations are percentages calculated by weight and are calculated on the weight of the product as sold.

(3) 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.

(4) For the purposes of these regulations, the supply of food, otherwise than by sale, at, in or from any place where food is supplied in the course of a business shall be deemed to be a sale of that food, and references to purchasing and purchaser shall be construed accordingly.

Exemptions

3.—(1) The provisions of these regulations shall not apply in relation to—

(*a*) any meat paste;

(*b*) any canned meat pie, canned sausage roll, canned sausage or canned sausage meat other than any such meat pie, sausage roll, sausage or sausage meat which is sold, consigned or delivered as a part of any canned meat product;

(*c*) any canned meat product bearing on a label on its container a clear statement that such canned meat product is intended for consumption exclusively by invalids, babies or young children and no statement to the effect that such canned meat product is intended for consumption by any other class of person;

(*d*) any canned product containing the fat, but no other meat, of any animal or bird normally used for human consumption;

(*e*) any canned cured ham, canned cured gammon or canned cured pork shoulder—

(i) to which nothing has been added except solid gelatine, and

(ii) which bears the description "X in natural juices" or "X in natural juices, gelatine added" whichever is appropriate and such description has been completed by inserting at "X" the word "ham", "gammon" or "pork shoulder", as the case may be;

(*f*) any canned gravy or canned sauce in each case described as such;

(*g*) any canned haggis, canned black pudding or canned white pudding in each case described as such;

(*h*) any canned sandwich or canned vol-au-vent in each case described as such;

(*i*) any canned soup (whether dehydrated or frozen or not) described as such;

(*j*) any canned whole carcase of any bird or canned half-carcase thereof (from which, in each case, no bones except those of the head, the neck or the feet have been removed) or any canned whole leg or canned whole wing of any bird in each case described as such;

(*k*) any canned meat product which is sold for exportation to any place outside the United Kingdom;

(*l*) any canned meat product supplied under Government contracts for consumption by Her Majesty's Forces or for consumption by a visiting force within the meaning of any of the provisions of Part I of the Visiting Forces Act 1952(**a**);

(*m*) any canned meat product sold, consigned or delivered to a manufacturer for the purposes of his manufacturing business or to a caterer for the purposes of his catering business.

(2) For the purposes of the exemptions referred to in sub-paragraphs (*f*) to (*j*) of paragraph (1), it shall not be necessary for the description in any case to include the word "canned" or a reference to canning.

Amendment of the Labelling of Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1961

4. The Labelling of Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1961(**b**) shall be amended by inserting after the words "other than" in the first item in column 1 of Table C in Schedule 1 the words "canned meat or canned meat products,".

PART II

COMPOSITION OF CANNED MEAT AND CANNED MEAT PRODUCTS

Calculation of Meat Content

5.—(1) Any egg which is present in any canned meat product, not exceeding one fifth by weight of the meat content of such canned meat product, may be reckoned as part of the meat content of such canned meat product for the purposes of regulation 6, if the canned meat product bears, as part of or in immediate proximity to its name, a description indicating the presence of egg in such canned meat product.

(2) The minimum meat content required by regulation 6 for any canned meat product (other than any canned sausage, canned meat pie or canned sausage roll) shall include a lean meat content of not less than 60 per cent. of such minimum meat content.

(3) The weight of any bone which is present as part of, or adhering to, any canned meat product, being bone which a purchaser may expect to be present by reason of a specific declaration on the container of such canned meat product, or by words otherwise disclosing or implying the presence of bone, shall be calculated as meat, for the purposes of regulation 6, but any bone otherwise present shall be reckoned as part of the total weight of the canned meat product, but not as part of the weight of the meat.

(4) Any edible casing used to enclose any canned meat product shall not be included in calculating, for the purposes of regulation 6, the total weight of any such canned meat product or the percentage of meat, jelly, gravy, sauce or cereal in such canned meat product.

(**a**) 15 & 16 Geo. 6 & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 67. (**b**) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1961, No. 160.

(5) (*a*) The meat content of any dehydrated canned meat product shall be calculated, for the purposes of regulation 6, on the weight of such canned meat product as reconstituted, if it is clearly stated on the label on the container of such canned meat product that the ingredients are intended to be reconstituted before consumption;

(*b*) The total weight of any canned meat product of which one or more but not all of the ingredients is or are dehydrated shall, if it is clearly stated on the label on the container of such canned meat product that the dehydrated ingredients are intended to be reconstituted before consumption, be calculated, for the purposes of regulation 6, as if the dehydrated ingredients were reconstituted, and the percentage of the total canned meat product which such ingredients represent shall be calculated on the weight of such ingredients as if they were reconstituted.

Composition of Canned Meat Products

6.—(1) Any canned meat sold, consigned or delivered under the description "corned X" where the description has been completed by inserting at "X" the usual or common name of the meat or type of meat present, shall consist wholly of meat which has been corned.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this regulation, any canned meat product sold, consigned or delivered under any description that states or implies that the product contains no food other than meat shall have a meat content of not less than 95 per cent.:

Provided that any such canned meat product may—

(*a*) have a meat content of not less than 90 per cent. if such canned meat product has been cured and cooked after canning, and bears on a label on the container as a description as or as part of or in immediate proximity to its name the expression "cured meat" or the name of any variety of meat which is commonly or usually recognised as the name of a cured meat;

(*b*) have a meat content of not less than 85 per cent. if such canned meat product does not contain any meat suitable for slicing and bears on any label on the container as a description as or as part of or in immediate proximity to its name any one of the following expressions, namely "savoury minced meat" or "savoury meat mince" or "savoury minced X" or "savoury X mince", and such description has been completed, where appropriate, by inserting at "X" the common or usual name of the meat present.

(3) Any canned meat with jelly sold, consigned or delivered shall have a meat content of not less than 80 per cent.:

Provided that any such canned meat with jelly may have a meat content of not less than 60 per cent.—

(*a*) if there is included in the description on the label on the container of such canned meat with jelly, as or as part of or in immediate proximity to its name, the expression "brawn" or "collard head" or "pressed meat" or "pressed X", and such description has been completed, where appropriate, by inserting at "X" the common or usual name of the meat present, and

(*b*) if such description does not contain any words stating or implying that such canned meat with jelly has a meat content of not less than 80 per cent.