

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

## SCHEDULE 1

## Minimum requirements for standard grade

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>Minimum standard</i>
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.

## SCHEDULE 2

## PART I

## Types of containers and minimum period of exposure to heat after filling and sealing

Description of container		Diameter in inches	Height in inches	Nominal capacity		Minimum period of exposure to heat in minutes required under Regulation 6(1)
				fluid ounces	milli-litres	
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)		(5)
5 oz can	211 x 208	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	5.53	157	10
U8 can	300 x 207	3	2 $\frac{7}{8}$	7.9	225	10
Picnic can	211 x 301	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	3 $\frac{1}{8}$	8.26	235	10
A1 can	211 x 400	2 $\frac{1}{8}$	4	11.1	315	10
14Z can	300 x 401	3	4 $\frac{1}{8}$	14.0	398	15
UT can	300 x 408 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	4 $\frac{35}{64}$	15.7	445	15
A2 can	307 x 408	3 $\frac{7}{8}$	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	20.35	578	15
A2 $\frac{1}{2}$ can	401 x 411	4 $\frac{1}{8}$	4 $\frac{1}{8}$	29.9	850	15
A6 can	603 x 600	6 $\frac{3}{8}$	6	93.0	2642	20
A10 can	603 x 700	6 $\frac{3}{8}$	7	109.1	3100	20

## PART II

*Selection of containers*

1. Containers may be selected for examination at any time after they have been filled and sealed but the examination shall not commence until at least 24 hours after they have been subjected to the heat treatment specified in the Schedule to a licence.

*Method of determining drained weight*

2.—(1) Containers after opening shall be inverted over a perforated screen and carefully withdrawn from their contents. After draining for a period of 1 minute the material remaining on the screen shall be weighed and the weight expressed in ounces or grammes.

(2) The screen referred to in sub-paragraph (1) shall consist of a metal sheet perforated with 4 holes per square centimetre or 25 holes per square inch each hole being circular and of a diameter of not less than 3.25 mm ( $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch) nor more than 4.0 mm ( $\frac{5}{32}$  of an inch). The screen shall be of sufficient area to support all the contents of the container and immediately before use it shall be clean and dry.

## 3. Minimum drained weight of contents of containers

TABLE.

Column 1  <i>Description of container</i>	Column 2  <i>Minimum drained weight required by Regulation 6(2)</i>	
	<i>ounces</i>	<i>grammes</i>
5 oz can	4.6	130.40
U8 can	6.75	191.35
Picnic can	7.0	198.44
A1 can	9.25	262.23
14Z can	12.0	340.19
UT can	13.5	382.17
A2 can	17.0	481.93
A2½ can	25.0	708.72
A6 can	78.0	2211.22
A10 can	92.0	2608.11

## SCHEDULE 3

## PART I

## Embossing or marking of containers

The code referred to at Regulation 6(3) shall comprise:—

The letters SP (to indicate the nature of the contents of the container) followed by a number, letter and number (to indicate the year, month and day of the month in which the contents of the container were processed) as set out in the table below:—

<i>Year of processing</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Month of processing</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Day of processing</i>	<i>Code</i>
1971	1	January	A	1	1
1972	2	February	B	2	2
1973	3	March	C	3	3
1974	4	April	D	4	4
1975	5	May	E	5	5
1976	6	June	F	6	6
1977	7	July	G	7	7
1978	8	August	H	8	8
1979	9	September	I	9	9
1980	0	October	J	10	10
1981	1	November	K	11	11
1982	2	December	L	12	12
1983	3			13	13
1984	4			14	14
1985	5			15	15
1986	6			16	16
1987	7			17	17
1988	8			18	18
1989	9			19	19
1990	0			20	20
				21	21
				22	22
				23	23
				24	24
				25	25
				26	26
				27	27
				28	28
				29	29
				30	30
				31	31

## SCHEDULE 3

## PART II

1. The label which shall be fixed to a container in accordance with Regulation 6(4) shall bear the words "sub-standard" or "out-graded" or such other word as the Department may approve.
  2. The label shall be clearly distinguishable from its surroundings; either by being bounded by lines or being of a markedly contrasting colour or material or in some other respect.
  3. The wording on the label shall appear in a space measuring not less than 1 inch (2.5 centimetres) in height and width.
  4. Every letter or word appearing on a label shall be:—
    - (a) clearly legible;
    - (b) of a dark colour upon a light coloured ground or of a light colour upon a dark coloured ground;
    - (c) not less than .25 of an inch (.625 centimetres) in height in the case of any word.
- 

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)*

These regulations

1. prescribe a standard grade for solid pack apples;
2. prescribe the type of containers to be used for packing solid pack apples;
3. prescribe the minimum period during which the containers after filling are required to be exposed to heat;
4. prescribe the minimum weight of solid pack apples in each container;
5. prescribe the code to indicate the date on which the solid pack apples were processed;
6. make provision for the identification of sub-standard produce;
7. provide that only solid pack apples conforming to standard grade may be exported out of Northern Ireland;
8. revoke the Solid Pack Apples (Grading) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971 (S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1971 No. 187); and Regulation 7 of the Fresh and Processed Horticultural Produce (Licensing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975 (S.R. 1975 No. 54).