

1988 No. 433

FOOD AND DRUGS

Composition and Labelling

Sweeteners in Food (Amendment) Regulations
(Northern Ireland) 1988

Made 12th December 1988

Coming into operation 16th January 1989

The Department of Health and Social Services(a) in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 4, 7 and 68 of the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland) 1958(b) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and after consultation in accordance with section 68(2) of that Act with such organisations as appear to it to be representative of interests substantially affected by these Regulations, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Sweeteners in Food (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1988, and shall come into operation on 16th January 1989.

Amendment of the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983

2. Schedule 1 to the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983(c) shall be amended—

(a) by inserting in Part I (Permitted Sweeteners) after the item relating to “Isomalt” the following item—

Column 1 (Name of Sweetener)	Column 2 (Serial Number)
“Lactitol	_____”;

(b) by inserting in Part II (Specific Purity Criteria for Permitted Sweeteners) after the item relating to “Isomalt” the following item—
“Lactitol

Synonyms	Lactit, Lactositol, Lactobiosit.
Chemical name	4-0-(β-D-galactopyranosyl)-D-glucitol.

(a) See S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964 No. 205 art. 5 and Sch. 2 Part I

(b) 1958 c. 27 (N.I.)

(c) S.R. 1983 No. 265; to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations

Empirical formula	$C_{12}H_{24}O_{11}$
Molecular weight	344.32.
Specific rotation, $[\alpha]_D^{20^\circ C}$	+ 13° to + 15° (using a 10% weight to volume aqueous solution).
Water	Lactitol monohydrate not more than 5.5% (Karl Fischer). Lactitol dihydrate not more than 10.5% (Karl Fischer).
Description	Colourless, aqueous syrup with a sweet taste. When dried, the resulting products, lactitol monohydrate and lactitol dihydrate, are white, odourless and crystalline.
Content	Not less than 97.5% 4-0- (β -D-galactopyranosyl)-D-glucitol on a dry weight basis.
Other polyols	Not more than 2.5% on a dry weight basis.
Reducing sugars	Not more than 0.2% on a dry weight basis, expressed as lactose.
Chlorides	Not more than 100 mg/kg on a dry weight basis, expressed as Cl.
Sulphate	Not more than 100 mg/kg on a dry weight basis, expressed as SO_4 .
Arsenic	Not more than 1 mg/kg on a dry weight basis, expressed as As.
Nickel	Not more than 1 mg/kg on a dry weight basis, expressed as Ni.
Lead	Not more than 1 mg/kg on a dry weight basis, expressed as Pb.
Ash	Not more than 0.1% after ignition at $800 \pm 25^\circ C$, calculated on a dry weight basis."

Amendment of the Jam and Similar Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982

3. The Jam and Similar Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982(a) shall be amended by substituting for paragraph (2) of regulation 13 the following paragraph—

“(2) Permitted sweeteners may be used in the preparation of reduced sugar products.”.

Amendment of the Food Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984

4. The Food Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984(b) shall be amended by inserting in Schedule 6, Part II (Restricted Claims), column 2

(a) S.R. 1982 No. 105; the relevant amending Regulation is S.R. 1983 No. 265

(b) S.R. 1984 No. 407; to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations

(Conditions), in paragraphs 3 and 4 of item 5 (Diabetic claims) after "isomalt" where it occurs in both places, ", lactitol".

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services on 12th December 1988.

(L.S.)

R. McMurray

Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations, which come into operation on 16th January 1989, further amend the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983 by adding Lactitol to the list of permitted sweeteners (regulation 2(a)). Specific purity criteria are prescribed for Lactitol (regulation 2(b)).

The Regulations further amend the Jam and Similar Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981 by substituting for a specified list of sweeteners, a reference to "permitted sweeteners", which, as defined, will include Lactitol (regulation 3).

The Regulations also further amend the Food Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984 by including Lactitol in the list of sweeteners in respect of which marking or labelling conditions apply where there is a claim that a food containing such a sweetener is suitable, or has been specially made, for diabetics (regulation 4).