

1991 No. 475

FOOD

The Imported Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991

Made 23rd October 1991

Coming into operation 4th November 1991

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The Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 15, 16 and 26(3) of, and Schedule 1 to, the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991(a) and, being a designated Department(b) for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(c) in relation to the common agricultural policy of the European Economic Community, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the said section 2(2) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf and after

(a) S.I. 1991/762 (N.I. 7). See Article 2(2) for the definitions of "regulations" and "Department concerned"

(b) Designated by S.I. 1972/1811

(c) 1972 c. 68

consultation in accordance with Article 47(3) of the said Order with such organisations as appear to it to be representative of interests likely to be substantially affected by these regulations, hereby makes the following regulations:

PART I

PRELIMINARY

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Imported Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991 and shall come into operation on 4th November 1991.

(2) In these regulations—

“authorised officer” means an authorised officer of an enforcing authority;

“competent authority” means an authority having power under the laws in force in any country to examine food and to certify as to its fitness for human consumption;

“the Department” means the Department of Health and Social Services;

“district” means the district of a district council, and includes the waters of any customs port abutting on any part of the district;

“district council” means a district council within the meaning of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(a);

“enforcing authority” means the authority responsible for the enforcement and execution of these regulations under regulation 2;

“food” has the meaning given to it by Article 2(2) of the Order, but for the purposes of these Regulations does not include milk;

“fresh meat” means the flesh or other edible parts of a mammal or bird, which has not been subjected to any treatment or process other than chilling, freezing, vacuum packing or packing in a controlled atmosphere and includes minced, chopped or mechanically recovered meat, and meat treated by the addition of seasonings;

“hovercraft” has the meaning assigned to it by section 4(1) of the Hovercraft Act 1968(b);

“importer”, in relation to imported food, includes any person who, whether as owner, consignor, consignee, agent or broker, is in possession of the food or in any way entitled to the custody or control of it;

“milk” has the meaning given to it in the Importation of Milk Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983(c);

(a) 1972 c. 9 (N.I.)

(b) 1968 c. 59

(c) S.R. 1983 No. 338

“master”, in relation to a ship, aircraft or hovercraft, includes the officer or any other person for the time being in charge or command of the ship, aircraft or hovercraft;

“officer of Customs and Excise” includes any person acting under the authority of the Commissioners of Customs and Excise;

“the Order” means the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

Enforcement authorities

2. Subject to the provisions of regulation 3 and to such of the provisions of these regulations as prescribe functions to be exercised by officers of Customs and Excise, the authority responsible for the enforcement of these regulations shall be,—

- (a) in relation to imported food which is in, or unloaded in, a district, and—
 - (i) which is liable to immediate customs examination, the district council for that district,
 - (ii) where the customs examination is deferred until the food reaches a place of destination in Northern Ireland, the district council in whose district the place of destination lies,
 - (iii) where the customs examination is deferred until the food reaches a specified place in Northern Ireland, but the place of destination of the food lies elsewhere in Northern Ireland or in England, Wales or Scotland, the district council in whose district the specified place lies;
- (b) in relation to imported food which enters the United Kingdom in England, Wales or Scotland, the district council in whose district the food is deposited for customs examinations.

Deferred examination

3.—(1) Where imported food is unloaded in a district, and—

- (a) customs examination of the food has been completed; and
- (b) an authorised officer of the district council for that district nevertheless considers it expedient (having regard to the nature of the container in which the food is imported) that—
 - (i) any examination of the food for the purposes of these regulations should be deferred until the food reaches a specified place of destination elsewhere in Northern Ireland, or
 - (ii) any examination of the food should take place under England and Wales or Scotland regulations when the food reaches a specified place of destination in England, Wales or Scotland; and
- (c) the importer gives to the district council in whose district the port, airport or other place of entry is situated an undertaking in writing that the container has been sealed and will not be opened until it reaches the place of destination specified in the undertaking,

the authorised officer shall, by the most expeditious means available, notify the receiving authority that the food (so described as to enable it to be

identified) has not, by reason of the matters referred to in sub-paragraph (b), been examined under these regulations at the port, airport or other place of entry and send them a copy of the undertaking referred to in sub-paragraph (c); and where the receiving authority are a district council within the meaning of these regulations that district council shall thereupon become responsible for the execution and enforcement of these regulations in relation to that food.

(2) Where under any provision corresponding to paragraph (2) contained in England and Wales or Scotland regulations a district council receive notification that imported food which has not been examined under those regulations has been or is being sent to a place of destination in their district, they shall thereupon become responsible for the execution and enforcement of these regulations in relation to that food.

(3) Where imported food is in, or unloaded in, a district and customs examination is deferred until the food reaches a place of destination elsewhere in the United Kingdom, the district council shall so inform the receiving authority.

(4) In this regulation—

“England and Wales or Scotland regulations” means regulations with respect to imported food in force in England and Wales or Scotland, as the case may be;

“receiving authority” means an authority within the United Kingdom in whose district is situated the place of destination of any imported food, being an authority with enforcement functions under these regulations or the England and Wales or Scotland regulations, namely—

(a) where that place is in England, Wales or Scotland, a food authority within the meaning of the Food Safety Act 1990;

(b) where that place is in Northern Ireland, a district council.

PART II

ALL IMPORTED FOOD

Prohibition on importation of unfit food

4. A person shall not import into Northern Ireland any food intended for sale for human consumption—

(a) which has been rendered injurious to health by means of any operation described in Article 6 of the Order;

(b) which has been examined by a competent authority and found at the time of examination not to be fit for human consumption;

(c) which is otherwise unfit for human consumption or is unsound or unwholesome; or

(d) in the preparation of which any such food as aforesaid has been used.

Examination of imported food

5.—(1) An authorised officer may at all reasonable times examine any food intended for sale for human consumption which is imported into

Northern Ireland, and where on examination it appears to the authorised officer that any such food is being or has been imported in contravention of regulation 4, he may by notice in writing to the importer and to any other person in possession of the food require that, until the food has been dealt with by a justice of the peace, it shall not, without the consent of the authorised officer, be moved from the place of examination or from any other place specified in the notice.

(2) If on such examination being made it appears to an authorised officer that the food is being or has been imported in contravention of regulation 4, that food may be treated for the purposes of Article 8 of the Order as failing to comply with food safety requirements and Article 7(2) shall apply for the purposes of these regulations as it applies for the purposes of the Order.

(3) If the food is fresh meat, or is a meat product as defined in regulation 9(1), the following further provisions shall apply.

(a) Every notice served under paragraph (1) shall—

(i) specify the grounds upon which it is based, and

(ii) inform the person to whom it is addressed of his right to serve a counter-notice in accordance with sub-paragraph (d), if the food is subject to any of the directives specified in sub-paragraph (b).

(b) The directives referred to in sub-paragraph (a) are—

Council Directive 64/433/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat(a);

Council Directive 71/118/EEC on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat(b); and

Council Directive 77/99/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products(c).

(c) The authorised officer shall after service of the notice provide the Department with full details of the food and the reasons for its rejection or condemnation.

(d) A person served with a notice under paragraph (1) may, within seven days of receipt thereof, serve a counter-notice in writing on the authorised officer, stating that the food is subject to one of the directives specified in sub-paragraph (b), and requiring him, before the food is dealt with by a justice of the peace, to obtain the opinion of an independent veterinary expert, to be nominated by the Department as to the condition of the food and the validity of any matter specified in the notice as a ground on which it is based.

(e) Upon receipt of such a counter-notice the authorised officer shall inform the Department of its contents and request the nomination by it of an independent veterinary expert for the said purpose.

(f) If it appears to the Department that the food is food which is not subject to any of the directives specified in sub-paragraph (b), it shall

(a) O.J. No. L121, 29.7.1964, p. 23

(b) O.J. No. L55, 8.3.1971, p. 23

(c) O.J. No. L26, 31.1.1977, p. 85

- so inform the person serving the notice under sub-paragraph (d), whereupon the food shall be dealt with by a justice of the peace.
- (g) If it appears to the Department that the food is food which is subject to any of the directives specified in sub-paragraph (b), it shall consult the Commission of the European Economic Community as to the nomination of an appropriate independent veterinary expert, who shall be a national of a member state of the said Community other than the exporting country or the United Kingdom.
- (h) The Department shall nominate an independent veterinary expert, acting on the advice of the Commission of the European Economic Community, to determine—
- (i) whether the food is being, or has been, imported in contravention of regulation 4, and
 - (ii) the accuracy and relevance of any matter specified under sub-paragraph (a)(i) as a ground on which the notice served under paragraph (1) was based.
- (i) The independent veterinary expert so nominated shall examine the food and determine the matters referred to in sub-paragraph (h) and shall give his written opinion thereon to the authorised officer.
- (j) Within seven days of receipt by him of that written opinion the authorised officer—
- (i) shall make it available to the person who, under sub-paragraph (d), has required it to be obtained, and
 - (ii) may rescind the notice given by him under paragraph (1) by serving written notice to that effect on that person.
- (k) If, within seven days after receipt by him of that written opinion, the authorised officer has not rescinded the notice given by him under paragraph (1), the food shall be dealt with by a justice of the peace.

Special examination

6.—(1) Where an authorised officer is of the opinion that a special procedure is necessary for the examination of food, or where at the request of the importer he has recourse to such special procedure, the importer shall provide all such facilities as the authorised officer may reasonably require for the examination of such food.

(2) An authorised officer may by notice in writing to the importer or to any other person in possession of the imported food prohibit or restrict the removal or delivery of the food during any period, not exceeding 6 days (exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays), which may reasonably be required for the examination of the food; and the notice shall specify the period and the procedure required for that examination.

(3) When a notice under paragraph (2) has been given to an importer or to any other person in possession of the imported food he may appeal against the notice to a court of summary jurisdiction, and the court may direct that the notice be withdrawn or that such shorter period be fixed as appears reasonable in the circumstances.

Consent of officer of Customs and Excise

7. Where the duties of an officer of Customs and Excise with regard to the examination of a cargo or consignment comprising food have not been wholly discharged, no examination of the food shall be made or sample procured for the purpose of these regulations without his consent; but every officer of Customs and Excise shall afford such facilities as the circumstances require for such examination of the food to be made or sample to be taken.

Powers of officer of Customs and Excise

8.—(1) An authorised officer may request an officer of Customs and Excise (either orally or in writing) to prohibit the removal of imported food which has not been cleared from customs charge until it has been examined by an authorised officer, and such a request may be made in relation to a particular consignment of food or in relation to food of any class or description specified in the request. A request made orally under this paragraph shall be confirmed in writing.

(2) Where a request has been made under paragraph (1), the officer of Customs and Excise shall by notice in writing given to the importer or master of the ship, aircraft or hovercraft, or to the driver of the road vehicle, in which the food is imported require that, until the food has been examined by an authorised officer, it shall not be removed from the place specified in the notice, and he shall at the same time inform the enforcing authority of the effect of the notice.

(3) An authorised officer shall, without undue delay, examine any food in respect of which a notice has been given by an officer of Customs and Excise under this regulation and shall send to that officer a copy of any notice or certificate issued by him in accordance with these regulations, or a statement in writing of any action taken by him under any other provision of these regulations in respect of that food.

(4) Where an officer of Customs and Excise has given notice under paragraph (2) forbidding removal of any food, such food shall not, prior to its inspection by an authorised officer, be removed by any person contrary to the terms of the notice except with the written permission of either such officer.

PART III

MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS

Interpretation and application of Part III

9.—(1) In this Part—

“bulk lard” means lard or any other rendered mammal or poultry fat transported unpackaged in the tank of a ship, aircraft, hovercraft or road vehicle;

“carcase” means the whole body of a slaughtered animal or bird after bleeding, skinning (except pigs) or plucking, evisceration (including removal of the thick skirt and kidneys) and removal of the limbs at the carpus (except birds) and tarsus, the head, the tail (except birds) and the udder;

- “designated person” means a person having power under the laws in force in a country of origin to examine food and to certify as to its fitness for human consumption;
- “health mark” means a label, mark, seal, brand, stamp or other voucher;
- “meat product” means any product prepared wholly or partly from fresh meat (which has undergone treatment to ensure a certain degree of preservation) but excluding fresh meat and those products specified in Schedule 1;
- “offal” means fresh meat other than that of the carcase as defined in this paragraph, whether or not naturally connected to the carcase;
- “package” means an outer container of any material into which any fresh meat or meat product is placed, but shall not include a bulk container which may become part of a road vehicle or of a trailer to such a vehicle;
- “pig” includes a boar, sow and hog;
- “poultry” means domestic fowls, turkeys, guinea fowls, ducks and geese;
- “scraps and trimmings” means small pieces and trimmings, being muscular or other tissues or fat weighing less than one hundred grammes, which have been removed from an animal during the preparation of wholesale cuts, the boning, cutting or trimming of fresh meat or the preparation of fresh meat for the retail trade;
- “transport” means the movement or conveyance of any fresh meat or meat product from one place to another place;
- “wrapping” means the protection of fresh meat or meat product by the use of an initial wrapping of any material or initial container in direct contact with the fresh meat or meat product concerned, and also the initial wrapping material or initial container itself.

(2) This Part applies to any fresh meat or meat product, but does not apply to any article of food specified in Schedule 1.

Requirements as to health marks etc. for imported meat

10.—(1) A person shall not import into Northern Ireland for sale for human consumption any fresh meat, meat product or bulk lard unless it bears a health mark which—

- (a) shall be so placed as to be legible and clearly visible;
- (b) conforms to the requirements of Schedule 3; and
- (c) is recognised by the Department in accordance with paragraph (3).

(2) A person shall not import into Northern Ireland for sale for human consumption any fresh meat or meat product unless it has been wrapped and packed, and is transported, in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 4.

(3) The Department shall recognise a health mark which appears to show—

- (a) that the fresh meat to which it relates, or the meat from which the meat product to which it relates was prepared, was derived from mammals or birds inspected before and immediately after death, or in the case of mammals or birds killed when wild, was derived from mammals or birds inspected immediately after death only, and passed in accordance with criteria satisfactory to the Department; and
- (b) that the dressing, packing and other preparation of the fresh meat or meat product was carried out with all necessary precautions for the prevention of danger to health,

by means of a notice published in the Belfast Gazette, and the recognition may be made subject to conditions which shall be specified in the notice; and any such recognition or condition may be varied or revoked by a subsequent notice so published.

(4) In relation to any fresh meat of a description specified in Schedule 5, there shall be included in the notice referred to in paragraph (3) a statement to the effect that the recognition conferred by the notice extends to that description of fresh meat; and any such notice which does not contain a statement to that effect shall be deemed not to confer any recognition in respect of any description of meat set out in Schedule 5.

Requirements as to health certificates

11.—(1) A person shall not import into Northern Ireland for sale for human consumption any fresh meat which is derived from domestic bovine animals (including buffalo), swine, sheep, goats, solipeds or poultry, or any meat product (other than a product listed in Schedule 2) in the preparation of which any such fresh meat was used, unless it is accompanied by a health certificate which is valid in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (2).

(2) A health certificate is valid if,—

- (a) in the case of a certificate which relates to fresh meat which is derived from domestic bovine animals (including buffalo), swine, sheep, goats or solipeds imported from the Channel Islands or from any member state of the European Economic Community, it corresponds in form and content to the model in Schedule 6 and contains the information specified in that model;
- (b) in the case of a certificate which relates to fresh meat which is derived from domestic bovine animals (including buffalo), swine, sheep, goats or solipeds imported from any country not being the Channel Islands or a member state of the European Economic Community, it corresponds in form and content to the model in Schedule 7 and contains the information specified in that model;
- (c) in the case of a certificate which relates to meat products imported from the Channel Islands or any country of the European Economic Community, it corresponds in form and content to the model in Schedule 8 and contains the information specified in that model;
- (d) in the case of a certificate which relates to meat products imported from any country not being the Channel Islands or a member state of the European Economic Community, it corresponds in form and

content to the model in Schedule 9 and contains the information specified in that model;

- (e) in the case of a certificate which relates to poultry meat, it corresponds in form and content to the model in Schedule 10 and contains the information specified in that model;
- (f) it is expressed at least in the English language; and
- (g) it is issued by a designated person.

Lost, damaged or defective health marks and certificates

12.—(1) In any case where the importation into Northern Ireland of any fresh meat or meat product is not permitted by an authorised officer, having regard to the provisions of regulation 10 or 11, he may forthwith notify the Department to that effect, and shall furnish to it all relevant information in his possession.

(2) On receipt of such notification and information the Department shall make such enquiries as it considers appropriate, and shall communicate the results of its enquiries to the authorised officer.

(3) If, after taking into consideration the results of the Department's enquiries, and after consultation with the Department, the authorised officer is satisfied that—

- (a) the fresh meat or meat product originally came from a country in respect of which a health mark is for the time being recognised by the Department pursuant to regulation 10;
- (b) the fresh meat, or meat from which the meat product was prepared, was derived from mammals or birds, as the case may be, inspected before and immediately after death, or in the case of mammals or birds killed while wild, was derived from mammals or birds inspected immediately after death only, by a designated person and passed in accordance with criteria satisfactory to the Department; and
- (c) the dressing, packing and other preparation of the fresh meat or meat product were carried out with all necessary precautions for the prevention of danger to health,

and notifies the Department in writing to that effect, the provisions of regulations 10 and 11 shall have effect in relation to the fresh meat or meat product as if it had been accompanied by a health mark or certificate or both in compliance with the relevant requirements of those regulations.

Disposal of meat imported contrary to the regulations

13.—(1) If upon examination of any food an authorised officer is of the opinion that it comprises any fresh meat or meat product imported into Northern Ireland in contravention of the provisions of regulation 10 or 11 or that it comprises any fresh meat or meat product to which regulation 12(1) applies, he shall notify in writing the importer, or the master of the ship, aircraft or hovercraft or the driver of the road vehicle in which the food is so imported that any such meat or meat product must not be removed for any purposes other than its exportation from Northern Ireland.

(2) Unless the authorised officer proposes to notify the Department under regulation 12(1), any notice served under paragraph (1) shall—

- (a) specify the grounds upon which it is based;
- (b) notify the person to whom it is addressed of his right to serve a counter-notice in accordance with sub-paragraph (5)(b), if the food is subject to any of the directives specified in regulation 5(3)(b); and
- (c) notify the person to whom it is addressed that the food may be destroyed or disposed of, so that it cannot be used for human consumption, unless—
 - (i) within the time specified in the notice, being not less than 7 days after receiving the notice, the importer gives a written undertaking to the authorised officer to export the food at his own expense within 14 days from the date of the undertaking, or to prove in proceedings before a justice of the peace that the importation or removal of the food into Northern Ireland is not contrary to regulation 10 or 11,
 - (ii) within 7 days after the written opinion of an independent veterinary expert has been made available to him under paragraph (14), the importer gives a written undertaking to the authorised officer in the terms required under sub-paragraph (c)(i), or
 - (iii) the authorised officer rescinds the notice.
- (3) In the case of food in respect of which the authorised officer proposes to notify the Department under regulation 12(1), the notice referred to in paragraph (2) shall be given if, after completion of the enquiries and consultation required under regulation 12(3), the authorised officer fails to notify the Department that he is satisfied as to the matters set out in regulation 12(3).
- (4) The authorised officer shall, after service of a notice under paragraph (2), provide the Department with full details of the food and the reasons for its rejection or condemnation.
- (5) A person served with a notice under paragraph (2), may—
 - (a) within the time specified in the notice, give an undertaking in writing to the authorised officer—
 - (i) to export the food to which the notice relates, at his own expense, within 14 days after the date of the undertaking, or
 - (ii) to prove in proceedings before a justice of the peace that the importation or removal of the food into Northern Ireland is not contrary to regulation 10 or 11; or
 - (b) within 7 days after service of the notice, serve a counter-notice in writing upon the authorised officer, stating that the food is food which is subject to one of the directives specified in regulation 5(3)(b), and requiring him to obtain the opinion of an independent veterinary expert, to be nominated by the Department, as to the condition of the food and the validity of any matter specified in the notice as a ground on which it is based.
- (6) If within the time specified in any notice given under paragraph (2) the authorised officer has not received either a counter-notice or such written undertaking as described in the notice, or if within that time the authorised

officer has received an undertaking that the importer will, at his own expense, export the food and the importer has failed to export it within 14 days after receipt of the undertaking, the authorised officer may supervise its destruction or disposal by such means and in such manner as to prevent it from being used for human consumption.

(7) Where in pursuance of this regulation, the importer has given an undertaking to prove that the importation or removal of the food into Northern Ireland is not contrary to regulation 10 or 11, the authorised officer shall, within 24 hours after receipt of the undertaking, take steps to obtain the decision of a justice of the peace with respect thereto.

(8) If upon examination of any food in respect of which an officer of Customs and Excise has given a notice under regulation 8, an authorised officer is of the opinion that its importation or removal into Northern Ireland is not contrary to regulation 10 or 11, he shall give a certificate authorising its removal unless he takes action in respect of it under any other provision of these regulations.

(9) Upon receipt of a counter-notice served under paragraph (5)(b) the authorised officer shall inform the Department of its contents and request the nomination by it of an independent veterinary expert for the said purpose.

(10) If it appears to the Department that the food is food which is not subject to any of the directives specified in regulation 5(3)(b), it shall so inform the person serving the notice under paragraph (5)(b), whereupon the importer may give an undertaking in accordance with paragraph 2(c)(i), failing which the authorised officer may take appropriate action under paragraph (6).

(11) If it appears to the Department that the food is food which is subject to any of the directives specified in regulation 5(3)(b), it shall consult the Commission of the European Economic Community as to the nomination of an appropriate independent veterinary expert, who shall be a national of a member state of the said Community other than the exporting country or the United Kingdom.

(12) The Department shall nominate an independent veterinary expert, acting on the advice of the Commission of the European Economic Community, to determine—

- (a) whether the food is being, or has been, imported in contravention of regulation 10 or 11; and
- (b) the accuracy and relevance of any matter specified under paragraph (2)(b) as a ground on which the notice served under paragraph (2) was based.

(13) The independent veterinary expert so nominated shall examine the food and determine the matters referred to in paragraph (2)(a), and shall give his written opinion thereon to the authorised officer.

(14) Within 7 days of receipt by him of the written opinion, the authorised officer—

- (i) shall make it available to the person who, under paragraph (5)(b), has required it to be obtained, and

(ii) may rescind the notice given by him under paragraph (2) by serving written notice to that effect on that person.

(15) If, within 7 days after receiving the written opinion, the authorised officer has not rescinded the notice given by him under paragraph (2), the importer may give to the authorised officer a written undertaking in accordance with paragraph (2)(c)(ii), failing which the authorised officer may take appropriate action under paragraph (6).

(16) Where, in pursuance of paragraph (1), an authorised officer has given a notice forbidding the removal of any food, it shall not be removed by any person contrary to the terms of the notice except with the written permission of the authorised officer.

Powers of a justice of the peace

14.—(1) Where, in pursuance of regulation 13, an application is made to a justice of the peace in respect of any fresh meat or meat product and he is satisfied that the importer has failed to prove that the importation or removal into Northern Ireland of the fresh meat or meat product was not contrary to the provisions of regulation 10 or 11, he shall condemn the fresh meat or meat product and order it to be destroyed or disposed of under the supervision of an authorised officer by such means and in such manner as to prevent it from being used for human consumption.

(2) Where on such application the justice of the peace is satisfied that the importation or removal into Northern Ireland of the fresh meat or meat product is not contrary to the provisions of regulation 10 or 11 he shall order the rescission of the notice prohibiting its removal.

Prohibition on the importation of meat required to be exported

15. A person shall not land in Northern Ireland any fresh meat or meat product in respect of which a notice has been given under regulation 13(1) or any other regulation to the like effect then in force in any part of the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man.

PART IV

GENERAL

Record to be kept of food destroyed

16. Where in pursuance of these regulations any food is destroyed or otherwise disposed of under the supervision of an authorised officer, the enforcing authority, before the destruction or other disposal of the food, shall cause a description of, and such other details as will suffice to identify, the food to be recorded and shall keep the record in their custody for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of destruction or other disposal of the food.

Offences and penalties

17. If any person contravenes any of the provisions of these regulations, he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable—

(a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding £2,000; and

(b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years,

or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

Time limits for prosecutions

18. A prosecution for an offence under these regulations which is triable either summarily or on indictment shall not be begun after the expiry of—

(a) three years from the commission of the offence; or

(b) one year from its discovery by the prosecution,

whichever is the earlier.

Court may include a justice who has examined the food

19. The justice of the peace before whom any food is brought under regulation 5 or 13 may, but need not, be a member of the court before which a person is charged with an offence under regulation 4, 10 or 11, as the case may be, in relation to the food.

Compensation

20. Any disputed question as to the right or amount of any compensation payable under these regulations shall be determined by arbitration.

Application of Articles 2(4) and (6), 3, 4, 19, 20, 30(8) and 34 of the Order

21. The following provisions of the Order shall apply for the purposes of these regulations as they apply for the purposes of Article 7, 13 or 14 of the Order and unless the context otherwise requires any reference in them to the Order shall be construed as a reference to these regulations—

Article 2(4) (extended meaning of “sale”);

Article 2(6) (application to territorial waters);

Article 3 (application to food offered as prizes, etc.);

Article 4 (presumptions that food intended for human consumption);

Article 19 (offences due to fault of another person);

Article 20 (defence of due diligence);

Article 30(8) (which relates to documentary evidence); and

Article 34 (obstruction etc. of officers).

Revocation

22. The Imported Food (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1984(a) are hereby revoked.

No. 475

Food

2313

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland on 23rd October 1991.

(L.S.)

J. Scott

Assistant Secretary

Articles of food to which Part III does not apply

Vitamin concentrates containing meat.

Pharmaceutical products containing meat.

Gelatine.

Rennet.

Meat products, of which meat is not a principal ingredient and which do not contain fragments of meat.

SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 11(1)

Meat products which are exempt from the requirements of Regulation 11

1. Meat extracts, meat consommé and stock, meat sauces and similar products not containing fragments of meat.

2. Whole, broken or crushed bones, meat peptones, meat powder, pork-rind powder, blood plasma, dried blood, dried blood plasma, cellular proteins, bone extracts and similar products.

3. Fats melted down from animal tissues.

4. Stomachs, bladders and intestines, cleaned and bleached, salted or dried.

5. Products containing fragments of meat, but which contain a quantity of meat or meat product not exceeding ten per cent of the total weight of the final product ready for use, after preparation in accordance with the instructions for use issued by the manufacturer.

SCHEDULE 3

Regulation 10(1)

Requirements as to health marks for imported meat

1. The meat of all solipeds, ruminating animals and swine, and venison shall bear a health mark as specified below.

(a) A health mark shall before importation have been applied to the meat on all carcasses, half-carcasses, quarter-carcasses and half-carcasses cut into no more than 3 pieces and to livers. The health mark shall have been applied either by hot branding or stamping with marking ink, and shall have been applied in the following places—

(i) the external surface of the thighs, loins, back, breast and shoulder of each carcass weighing more than 65 kilograms; and

(ii) the external surface of the thighs and on the shoulders of all other carcasses.

(b) Livers of bovine animals, swine and solipeds shall bear a health mark which has been applied by hot-branding.

(c) If meat has been wrapped and packaged in accordance with Schedule 4, the packaging shall bear a health mark; in addition such meat may also bear a health mark.

- (d) Cuts of meat and offal, other than livers, which have not been wrapped or packaged, shall bear a health mark which has been applied by hot branding or by stamping with marking ink.
- (e) Meat, including pieces weighing less than 100 grammes, shall be wrapped and packaged and a health mark shall be borne on both the wrapping and packaging.
- (f) Portions of meat wrapped for direct retail sale shall bear a health mark on both the wrapping and packaging.

2. Poultry meat shall bear a health mark in the manner following—

- (a) large packages containing poultry carcasses which may be consigned from a poultry slaughterhouse to either—
 - (i) a poultry cutting plant for cutting the carcasses, or
 - (ii) restaurants, canteens, institutions or similar outlets for direct supply to a final consumer after preparation of the poultry meat by a process involving the application of heat,or similar packages of poultry carcasses which may be consigned from a poultry cutting plant to a meat products plant for treatment, shall bear a health mark and also a label in the form which is described in Schedule 11;
- (b) individual carcasses shall bear a health mark on the wrapping or on the carcase in such a manner that it is clearly visible under the wrapping, and also on any packaging;
- (c) large packages containing cuts of poultry meat and offal which may be consigned from a poultry slaughterhouse or a poultry cutting plant to a meat products establishment for treatment shall bear a health mark and also a label in the form which is described in Schedule 11;
- (d) the wrapping and packaging of individual cuts of poultry meat and offal shall bear a health mark.

3. Fresh meat, other than that to which paragraph 1 or paragraph 2 applies, shall bear a health mark which shall have been applied—

- (a) either to the meat or to the wrapping thereof; and
- (b) to any packaging thereof.

4. Meat products shall bear a health mark which shall have been applied—

- (a) either to the meat product or to the wrapping thereof; and
- (b) to any packaging thereof.

5. Bulk lard shall be presumed to bear a health mark in the following circumstances—

- (a) a health mark shall accompany any bulk lard which is transported in any ship, aircraft, hovercraft or road vehicle;
- (b) the health mark shall indicate the position of any tank containing lard, to which it may relate, in any ship, aircraft or hovercraft, in which such lard is transported;
- (c) the health mark shall state the quantity of lard carried in any tank containing such lard; and
- (d) a health mark shall contain a certificate to the effect that any tank, pipe and pump which may have been used for the loading of such lard into the tank had been inspected and found to be clean before the loading of the lard into the tank.

6. In all cases where a health mark has been applied to packaging, or is printed on packaging, it shall have been applied or printed in such a manner so that the health mark shall be destroyed when the package is opened, unless the packaging is not capable of being used again as packaging.

SCHEDULE 4

Regulation 10(2)

Requirements as to wrapping, packaging and transport of imported meat

1. The wrapping of fresh meat or meat products shall comply with the following conditions—

- (a) it shall be transparent and colourless, unless it fulfils, at the same time, the protective requirements of packaging;
- (b) it shall not alter the organoleptic characteristics of the meat;
- (c) it shall not be capable of transmitting to the meat any substances harmful to human health;
- (d) it shall not be used again for wrapping meat, but earthenware containers for meat products and wrappings which fulfil the protective requirements of packaging may be used again after cleaning and disinfection.

2. Poultry carcasses, parts of poultry or poultry offal shall be suitably enclosed in wrapping.

3. The packaging of fresh meat or meat products shall comply with the following conditions—

- (a) it shall be strong enough to ensure the effective protection of the meat during transportation and handling;
- (b) it shall not contain fresh meat of more than one species of animal;
- (c) it shall not be used again for a similar purpose, unless it is made of impervious and corrosion-resistant materials, which are easy to clean, and it has first been cleansed and disinfected.

4. Fresh meat and meat products shall be transported in sealed means of transport, designed and equipped in such a manner so that the following temperatures for the meat are maintained during the course of transport—

- (a) for carcasses and cuts (excluding rabbit meat, hare meat and poultry meat) — not higher than +7°C (chilled)
— not higher than -12°C (frozen)
- (b) for offals (excluding rabbit offals, hare offals and poultry offals) — not higher than +3°C
- (c) for rabbit meat, hare meat, poultry meat, rabbit offals, hare offals and poultry offals — not higher than +4°C
- (d) for meat products — temperature as specified on the label (when appropriate).

5. Fresh meat shall not be transported in a vehicle or container which is not clean or has not been disinfected before use. Vehicles or containers used for this purpose shall not show any evidence of having been used for the transport of live animals or birds.

6. Fresh meat and meat products shall not be transported in a vehicle or container with any other products likely to contaminate or to affect the hygiene of the meat, unless appropriate precautions are taken to prevent such an occurrence.

SCHEDULE 5

Regulation 10(4)

Meat or poultry meat in respect of which specific recognition is required

- 1. Fresh meat comprising, or forming part of, the head of any animal or bird.
- 2. Any part of a carcass which has been chopped or minced, with or without the addition of any spices, cereal products, salt, flavourings, vegetables or other ingredient.
- 3. Scraps and trimmings.
- 4. Boneless veal appearing to an authorised officer to be from calves less than three months old.

SCHEDULE 6

Regulation 11(2)(a)

Health certificate for fresh meat for consignment to a Member State (1) of the EEC

No. (2)

Exporting country

Ministry

Department

Ref.

(Optional)

I. Identification of meat:

Meat of

(Animal species)

Nature of cuts

Nature of packaging

Number of cuts or packages

Month(s) and year(s) when frozen

Net weight

II. Origin of meat:

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved slaughter-house(s)

.....

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved cutting plant(s)

.....
Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved store(s)

III. Destination of meat:

The meat will be sent from
(Place of loading)

to
(Country and place of destination)

by the following means of transport (3)

Name and address of consignor

.....
Name and address of consignee

IV. Health attestation:

'I, the undersigned official veterinarian, certify that the meat described above was obtained under the conditions governing production and control laid down in Directive 64/433/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat and that it is, therefore, considered as such to be fit for human consumption.'

Done at on

.....
(Signature of the official veterinarian)

- (1) Fresh meat: in accordance with the Directive referred to in IV of this certificate, this means all parts fit for human consumption from domestic bovine animals, swine, sheep and goats and solipeds which have not undergone any preserving process; however, chilled and frozen meat shall be considered to be fresh meat.
- (2) Optional.
- (3) In the case of rail trucks and lorries, state the registration number, in the case of aircraft the flight number, and in the case of boats the name, and where necessary the number of the container.

SCHEDULE 7

Regulation 11(2)(b)

Public Health Certificate
for fresh meat (1) intended for (Name of EEC Member State)

No. (2)

Exporting country

Ministry

Department

Ref.
(Optional)

I. Identification of meat:

Meat of
(Animal species) \

Nature of cuts

Nature of packaging

Number of cuts or packages

Month(s) and year(s) when frozen

Net weight

II. Origin of meat:

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved slaughterhouse(s)

.....

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved cutting plant(s)

.....

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved store(s)

.....

III. Destination of meat:

The meat will be sent from:
(Place of loading)

to:
(Country and place of destination)

by the following means of transport (3)

Name and address of consignor

.....

Name and address of consignee

.....

IV. Health attestation:

I, the undersigned, official veterinarian, certify that:

(a) the meat described above (4),
the label affixed to the packages of meat described above (4), bear(s) (4)
a mark to the effect that the meat comes wholly from animals
slaughtered in slaughterhouses approved for exporting to the country of
destination;

(b) the meat was obtained under the conditions governing production and
control contained in Council Directive 72/462/EEC and that it is
therefore considered as such to be fit for human consumption;

- (c) the meat has been cut in an approved cutting plant (4);
- (d) the meat has/has not been subject to an examination for trichinosis or, where Article 3 of Directive 77/96/EEC applies, has undergone cold treatment;
- (e) the means of transport and the loading conditions of meat of this consignment meet the hygiene requirements laid down in respect of export to the country of destination.

Done at on

.....
(Signature of the official veterinarian)

- (1) Fresh meat within the meaning of Article 2(b) of Directive 64/433/EEC.
- (2) Optional.
- (3) For railway wagons or goods vehicles the registration number should be given, for aircraft the flight number and for ships the name.
- (4) Delete as appropriate.

SCHEDULE 8

Regulation 11(2)(c)

Health Certificate for Meat Products (1) intended for Consignment to a Member State of the EEC

No. (2)

Exporting country

Ministry

Department concerned

Ref (2)

I. Identification of meat products:

Products manufactured with meat from

(Animal species)

Nature of products (3)

Nature of packaging

Number of individual items or packages

Storage and transport temperature (4)

Storage life (4)

Net weight

II. Meat products from:

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of approved processing establishment(s)

.....

III. Destination of meat products—

The meat products will be sent from
(Place of loading)

to

by the following means of transport (5)

Name and address of consignor

.....

Name and address of consignee

.....

IV. Health attestation

I, the undersigned, certify that:

- (a) the meat products described above were manufactured from fresh meat or meat products under conditions that comply with the standards laid down in Directive 77/99/EEC(6);
- (b) the said meat products, their wrappings or packaging, bear a mark proving that they have all come from approved establishments (6);
- (c) the fresh pigmeat used in the manufacture of the meat products has/has not been (6) subjected to a trichinae detection test;
- (d) the transport vehicles and equipment and the loading conditions of this consignment comply with the hygiene requirements laid down in Directive 77/99/EEC.

Done at on

(Signature)

Stamp

(Name in capital letters)

(1) Under Article 2 of Directive 77/99/EEC.

(2) Optional.

(3) Possible indication of ionizing radiation for medical reasons.

(4) Where an indication is given in accordance with Article 4 of Directive 77/99/EEC.

(5) Indicate the registration number (railway, wagons and trucks); the flight number (aircraft) or the name (ship).

(6) Delete as appropriate.

SCHEDULE 9

Regulation 11(2)(d)

Health Certificate for Meat Products intended for consignment to the United Kingdom

No. (1)

Exporting country

Ministry

Department concerned

Ref (1)

I. Identification of meat products:

Products manufactured with meat from
(Animal species)

Nature of products (2)

Nature of packaging

Number of individual items or of packages

Storage and transport temperature (3)

Net weight

II. Meat products from:

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of approved processing establishment(s)

.....

III. Destination of meat products:

The meat products will be sent from
(Place of loading)

by the following means of transport (4)

Name and address of consignor

.....

Name and address of consignee

.....

IV. Health attestation:

I, the undersigned, certify that—

- (a) the meat products described above were manufactured from fresh meat or meat products under conditions that comply with the standards laid down in the Explanatory Memorandum on the Importation of Meat Products into the United Kingdom;
- (b) the said meat products, their wrappings or packaging, bear a mark proving that they have all come from approved establishments;
- (c) the fresh pigmeat used in the manufacture of the meat products has/has not been (5) subject to a trichinae detection test;
- (d) the transport vehicles and equipment and the loading conditions of this consignment comply with the hygiene requirements laid down in the Explanatory Memorandum on the Importation of Meat Products into the United Kingdom.

Done at on

(Signature)

Stamp (Name in capital letters)

(1) Optional.

(2) Possible indication of ionizing radiation for medical reasons.

- (3) Where an indication is given in accordance with Section E, paragraph 23 of the Explanatory Memorandum on the Importation of Meat Products into the United Kingdom.
- (4) Indicate the registration number (railway, wagons and trucks); the flight number (aircraft) or the name (ship).
- (5) Delete as appropriate.

SCHEDULE 10

Regulation 11(2)(e)

Health Certificate for fresh poultrymeat (1) intended for consignment to a Member State of the EEC

No. (2)

Exporting country

Ministry

Competent service

Ref (2)

I. Identification of meat:

Meat of

(animal species)

Nature of cuts

Nature of packaging

Number of packages

Net weight

II. Origin of meat:

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the slaughterhouse(s)(4)

Address(es) and veterinary approval number(s) of the approved cutting premises (4)

III. Destination of meat:

The meat will be sent from

(place of loading)

to

(Country and place of destination)

by the following means of transport (3)

Name and address of consignor

Name and address of consignee

IV. Health attestation:

I, the undersigned, official veterinarian, certify that:

- (a) — the poultry meat described (4)
 - the packaging of the meat described above (4)
- bears a mark proving that

- the meat comes from animals slaughtered in approved slaughter-houses (4);
- the meat was cut in approved cutting premises (4);
- (b) this meat has been passed as fit for human consumption following a veterinary inspection carried out in accordance with the Council Directive of 15 February 1971 on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultry meat;
- (c) the transport vehicles or containers and the loading conditions of this consignment meet the hygiene requirements laid down in that Directive.

Done at on

.....
(Signature of official veterinarian)

-
- (1) Fresh poultry meat: fresh meat from the following species - live domestic hens, turkeys, guinea fowls, ducks and geese which have not been treated to ensure their preservation; however, poultry meat which has been chilled or frozen shall be considered to be fresh.
 - (2) Optional.
 - (3) For railway wagons and lorries the registration number, for aircraft the flight number and for ships the name should be given.
 - (4) Delete as appropriate.

SCHEDULE 11

Schedule 3, paragraph 2

Label to be affixed to large packages of poultry meat intended for a certain destination

<p>INTENDED USE: CUTTING/TREATMENT (1)</p> <p>ADDRESS OF DESTINATION</p>
<p>(1) Delete as appropriate</p>

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

1. These regulations replace the Imported Food (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1984, which no longer have effect following the repeal of the enabling provisions in the Food Act 1984 (c. 30) by Schedule 4 to the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991. That repeal is brought into operation on 4th November 1991 by the Food Safety (1991 Order) (Commencement) Order (Northern Ireland) 1991 (S.R. 1991 No. 175 (C. 11)).

2. The regulations contain only changes consequential on the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, and minor amendments to clarify the role of enforcement authorities (regulations 2 and 3).

3. The regulations contain measures for the protection of public health in relation to imported food.

4. These regulations continue to implement—

- (a) Council Directive 64/433/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat (O.J. No. 121, 29.7.64, p. 2012/64), as amended by the Council Directive 83/90/EEC (O.J. No. L59, 5.3.83, p. 10);
- (b) Council Directive 71/118/EEC on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat (O.J. No. L55, 8.3.71, p. 23), as amended by the Council Directive 82/532/EEC (O.J. No. L234, 9.8.82, p. 12);
- (c) Council Directive 72/462/EEC on health and veterinary inspection problems upon importation of bovine animals and swine and fresh meat from third countries (O.J. No. L302, 31.12.72, p. 28), as amended by the Council Directive 83/91/EEC (O.J. No. L59, 5.3.83, p. 34);
- (d) Council Directive 77/99/EEC on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in meat products (O.J. No. L26, 31.1.77, p. 85), as amended by the Council Directive 80/214/EEC (O.J. No. L47, 21.2.80, p. 3).

5. Part I of the regulations contains definitions and specifies the authorities by whom the regulations are to be enforced and provides for the deferred examination of imported food in certain circumstances (regulations 1 to 3).

6. Part II deals with imported food generally, and prohibits the importation of food which is unfit for human consumption, or is unsound or unwholesome (regulation 4). Imported food may be examined by authorised officers of an enforcing authority (regulation 5), and provision is made for special procedures for the examination of food (regulation 6) and for the co-operation of authorised officers of enforcing authorities with officers of Customs and Excise (regulations 7 and 8).

7. Part III deals with imported meat and meat products (including lard), which may not be imported for sale for human consumption unless they bear a health mark and are wrapped, packed and transported as specified. Provision is made for the official recognition of health marks (regulation 10). This Part contains requirements as to health certificates for fresh meat and meat products (regulation 11) and provisions as to lost, damaged or defective health marks and certificates (regulation 12), the disposal of meat imported contrary to the regulations (regulations 13 and 15) and the powers of a justice of the peace in respect of meat so imported (regulation 14).

8. Part IV makes general supplementary provisions, including—

- (a) a requirement for records to be kept by enforcing authorities of food destroyed or disposed of in pursuance of the regulations (regulation 16);
- (b) offences and penalties (regulation 17);
- (c) time limits for prosecutions (regulation 18);
- (d) provision that a justice of the peace may be a member of a court before which a person is charged with an offence under the regulations notwithstanding his prior dealings with the food concerned in the offence charge (regulation 19);
- (e) disputes as to compensation (regulation 20);
- (f) the application for the purposes of the regulations of various provisions of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (regulation 21); and
- (g) the revocation of the superseded regulations (regulation 22).