The Secretary of State makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 16(1), 17(1) and (2), 26(1)(a) and (3), and 48(1) of the Food Safety Act 1990(a), and now vested in him(b), as read with paragraph 1A of Schedule 2 to the European Communities Act 1972(c).

These Regulations make provision for a purpose mentioned in section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 and it appears to the Secretary of State that it is expedient for references to an Article of or Annex to the EU instruments specified in regulation 2(3) to be construed as references to that Article or Annex as it may be amended from time to time.

In accordance with section 48(4A) of the Food Safety Act 1990, he has had regard to relevant advice given by the Food Standards Agency.

As required by Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety(d), there has been open and transparent public consultation during the preparation and evaluation of these Regulations.

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(a) 1990 c. 16. Section 1(1) and (2) (definition of “food”) was substituted by S.I. 2004/2990. Sections 17 and 48 were amended by paragraphs 12 and 21 respectively of Schedule 5 to the Food Standards Act 1999 (1999 c.28), “the 1999 Act”. Section 48 was also amended by S.I. 2004/2990. Section 26(3) was amended by Schedule 6 to the 1999 Act. Section 53(2) was amended by paragraph 19 of Schedule 16 to the Deregulation and Contracting Out Act 1994 (1994 c.40), Schedule 6 to the 1999 Act, S.I. 2004/2990 and S.I. 2004/3279.

(b) Functions formerly exercisable by “the Ministers” (being, in relation to England and Wales and acting jointly, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretaries of State respectively concerned with health in England and food and health in Wales and, in relation to Scotland, the Secretary of State) are now exercisable in relation to England by the Secretary of State pursuant to paragraph 8 of Schedule 5 to the 1999 Act. Those functions, so far as exercisable in relation to Wales, were transferred to the National Assembly for Wales by S.I. 1999/572 as read with section 40(3) of the 1999 Act and subsequently transferred to the Welsh Ministers by paragraph 30 of Schedule 11 to the Government of Wales Act 2006 (2006 c.32). Those functions, so far as exercisable in relation to Scotland, were transferred to the Scottish Ministers by section 53 of the Scotland Act 1998 (1998 c. 46) as read with section 40(2) of the 1999 Act.

(c) 1972 c.68. Paragraph 1A of Schedule 2 was inserted by section 28 of the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 (2006 c.51) and amended by Part 1 of Schedule 1 to the European Union (Amendment) Act 2008 (2008 c.7).

PART 1
Introductory

Title, application and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2013, apply in relation to England only and come into force on 31st October 2013.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations —

“the Act” means the Food Safety Act 1990;

“Directive 76/621” means Council Directive 76/621/EEC relating to the fixing of the maximum level of erucic acid in oils and fats intended as such for human consumption and in foodstuffs containing added oils or fats(a);

“Directive 80/891” means Commission Directive 80/891/EEC relating to the Community method of analysis for determining the erucic acid content in oils and fats intended to be used as such for human consumption and in foodstuffs containing added oils or fats(b);

“Regulation 1881/2006” means Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1881/2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs(c);

“Regulation 629/2008” means Commission Regulation (EC) No. 629/2008 amending Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs(d);

“Regulation 124/2009” means Commission Regulation (EC) No. 124/2009 setting maximum levels for the presence of coccidiostats or histomonostats in food resulting from the unavoidable carry-over of these substances in non-target feed(e);


“authorised officer” means any person who is authorised in writing, either generally or specially, by a food authority to act in matters arising under these Regulations;

“food authority” has the meaning given by section 5 of the Act except that it does not include the appropriate Treasurer of the Inner Temple and the Middle Temple.

(2) Any other expression used in these Regulations and in Directive 76/621, Directive 80/891, Regulation 1881/2006 or Regulation 124/2009 has the same meaning in these Regulations as it bears in the Directive or Regulation concerned.

(3) Any reference to an Article of or Annex to Directive 76/621, Directive 80/891, Regulation 1881/2006 or Regulation 124/2009 is a reference to that Article or Annex as it may be amended from time to time, and any reference to any of those Directives or Regulations is to be construed accordingly.


(b) OJ No. L254, 27.9.1980, p.35.


(f) OJ No. L50, 27.2.2010, p.8.
(4) Where any functions under the Act are assigned —
   (a) by an order under section 2 or 7 of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984(a), to a port health authority;
   (b) by an order under section 6 of the Public Health Act 1936(b), to a joint board for a
       united district; or
   (c) by an order under paragraph 15(6) of Schedule 8 to the Local Government Act
       1985(c), to a single authority for a metropolitan county,

any reference in these Regulations to a food authority is to be construed, so far as relating to those
functions, as a reference to the authority to which they are so assigned.

PART 2
Erucic acid in food

Scope
3.—(1) This Part applies to —
   (a) oils, fats and mixtures of the two which are intended as such for human consumption;
   (b) compound foodstuffs described directly or by implication as specially prepared for
       infants and young children, to which oils, fats or mixtures of the two have been
       added; and
   (c) compound foodstuffs other than those described directly or by implication as
       specially prepared for infants and young children, to which oils, fats or mixtures of
       the two have been added and the overall fat content of which exceeds 5%.

   (2) In paragraph (1) the expressions “infants” and “young children” have the meanings given to
       them in Article 2 of Commission Directive 2006/141/EC on infant formulae and follow-on

Controls on erucic acid
4.—(1) No person may place on the market, for consumption by the final consumer, a product to
   which this Part applies in which the level of erucic acid exceeds 5%, calculated on the total level
   of fatty acids in the fat component.

   (2) The level of erucic acid in a food is to be determined according to the methods of screening
       and analysis prescribed in Article 2 of and the Annex to Directive 80/891.

   (3) Any person who contravenes paragraph (1) is guilty of an offence.

   (4) In paragraph (1) “final consumer” means the ultimate consumer of a foodstuff who will not
       use the food as part of any food business operation or activity.

PART 3
Contaminants in food

Controls on contaminants in food
5.—(1) Subject to the transitional arrangements contained in —
a person who contravenes or fails to comply with any of the EU provisions specified in paragraph 
(2) is guilty of an offence.

(2) The EU provisions are —

(a) Article 1(1) of Regulation 1881/2006 (prohibition on the placing on the market of 
foodstuffs containing contaminants in excess of prescribed limits contained in the 
Annex), as read with —

(i) Article 1(2) (maximum levels applying to edible part of food unless otherwise 
specified in the Annex),

(ii) Article 2 (provisions relating to the application of maximum levels to dried, diluted, 
processed and compound foodstuffs),

(iii) Article 4 (specific provisions for groundnuts, other oilseeds, tree nuts, dried fruit, 
rice and maize),

(iv) Article 6 (specific provisions for lettuce), and

(v) the Annex (maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs);

(b) Article 3 of Regulation 1881/2006 (prohibitions on use, mixing and detoxification);

(c) Article 5 of Regulation 1881/2006 (specific labelling requirements for groundnuts, 
other oilseeds, derived products thereof and cereals); and

(d) Article 1(1) of Regulation 124/2009 (prohibitions on marketing or mixing foods 
containing coccidiostats or histomonstats at levels in excess of prescribed limits), as 
read with Article 1(2).

PART 4

Administration and enforcement

Penalties

6. Anyone convicted of an offence under regulation 4(3) or regulation 5(1) is liable on summary 
conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

Enforcement and competent authorities

7.—(1) It is the duty of each food authority within its area or district to execute and enforce 

(2) The competent authority for the purposes of —

(a) Article 2(2) of Regulation 1881/2006 (justification by food business operators of 
concentration or dilution factors); and

(b) Article 1(1) of Regulation 124/2009 (relating to the duty to investigate the reasons 
for the contamination),

is the authority having the duty to execute and enforce under paragraph (1).

Application of various sections of the Food Safety Act 1990

8.—(1) The following provisions of the Act apply for the purposes of these Regulations with the 
modification that any reference in those provisions to the Act or Part of it is to be construed as a 
reference to these Regulations —

(a) section 3 (presumptions that food intended for human consumption);
(b) section 20 (offences due to fault of another person);
(c) section 21 (defence of due diligence)(a) with the modification that—
   (i) subsections (2) to (4) shall apply in relation to an offence under regulation 4(3) or 5(1) as they apply in relation to an offence under section 14 or 15, and
   (ii) in subsection (4) the references to “sale” are deemed to include references to “placing on the market”;
(d) section 30(8) (which relates to documentary evidence);
(e) section 33(1) (obstruction etc. of officers);
(f) section 33(2), with the modification that the reference to “any such requirement as is mentioned in subsection (1)(b) above” shall be deemed to be a reference to any such requirement as is mentioned in section 33(1)(b) as applied by sub-paragraph (e);
(g) section 35(1) (punishment of offences)(b), in so far as it relates to offences under section 33(1) as applied by sub-paragraph (e);
(h) section 35(2) and (3)(e), in so far as it relates to offences under section 33(2) as applied by sub-paragraph (f);
(i) section 36 (offences by bodies corporate);
(j) section 36A (offences by Scottish partnerships)(d); and
(k) section 44 (protection of officers acting in good faith).
(2) Subject to paragraph (3), section 9 of the Act (inspection and seizure of suspected food) applies for the purposes of these Regulations as if it read as follows—

“9.—(1) An authorised officer of a food authority may at all reasonable times inspect any food intended for human consumption which has been placed on the market and subsections (2) to (7) below shall apply where, on such an inspection, it appears to the authorised officer that the placing on the market of any food fails to comply with any of the requirements specified in regulation 4(1) or 5(2) of the Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2013, (“the EU requirements”).
(2) The authorised officer may either —
   (a) give notice to the person in charge of the food that, until the notice is withdrawn, the food or any specified portion of it —
      (i) is not to be used for human consumption, and
      (ii) either is not to be removed or is to be removed to a place at which there are facilities to carry out sampling in the manner required by law; or
   (b) seize the food and remove it in order to have it dealt with by a justice of the peace.
(3) Where the authorised officer exercises the power conferred by subsection (2)(a) above, that officer shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within 21 days, determine whether or not the food complies with the EU requirements and —
   (a) if satisfied that it does comply, shall forthwith withdraw the notice;
   (b) if not so satisfied, shall seize the food and remove it in order to have it dealt with by a justice of the peace.
(4) Where an authorised officer exercises the powers conferred by subsection (2)(b) or (3)(b) above, the officer shall inform the person in charge of the food of the intention to have it dealt with by a justice of the peace and —

(a) Section 21 was amended by S.I. 2004/3279.
(b) Section 35(1) is amended by the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (2003 c.44), Schedule 26, paragraph 42, from a date to be appointed.
(c) Section 35(3) was amended by S.I. 2004/3279.
(d) Section 36A was inserted by the Food Standards Act 1999 (1999 c.28), Schedule 5, paragraph 16.
(a) any person who in connection with any of the EU requirements might be liable to a prosecution in respect of the food shall, if that person attends before the justice of the peace by whom the food falls to be dealt with, be entitled to be heard and to call witnesses; and

(b) that justice of the peace may, but need not, be a member of the court before which any person is proceeded against for an offence in connection with any of the EU requirements in relation to that food.

(5) If it appears to a justice of the peace, on the basis of such evidence as the justice considers appropriate in the circumstances, that any food falling to be dealt with under this section fails to comply with any of the EU requirements the justice shall condemn the food and order —

(a) the food to be destroyed or to be so disposed of as to prevent it from being used for human consumption; and

(b) any expenses reasonably incurred in connection with the destruction or disposal to be defrayed by the owner of the food.

(6) If a notice under subsection (2)(a) above is withdrawn, or the justice of the peace by whom any food falls to be dealt with under this section refuses to condemn it, the food authority shall compensate the owner of the food for any depreciation in its value resulting from the action taken by the authorised officer.

(7) Any disputed question as to the right to or the amount of any compensation payable under subsection (6) above shall be determined by arbitration.

(8) Any person who knowingly contravenes the requirements of a notice under subsection (2)(a) above shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.”.

(3) The expressions “authorised officer” and “food authority” which are used in section 9 of the Act so far as it applies for the purposes of these Regulations by virtue of paragraph (2), shall, for those purposes, bear the meanings that those expressions respectively bear in these Regulations.

Consequential amendment

9. In Schedule 1 to the Food Safety (Sampling and Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2013(a) (provisions to which those Regulations do not apply), for the entries relating to the Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2010(b) substitute the following entries in column 1 and 2 respectively —

“The Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2013 (to the extent that a sample falls to be prepared and analysed in accordance with Commission Regulation (EC) No 1881/2006 setting maximum levels for certain contaminants in foodstuffs

Revocations

10. The —

(a) Mineral Hydrocarbons in Food Regulations 1966(c);

(b) Erucic Acid in Food Regulations 1977(d);

(c) Erucic Acid in Food (Amendment) Regulations 1982(e); and

(d) Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2010.

(a) S.I. 2013/264.
(b) S.I. 2010/2228.
(c) S.I. 1966/1073.
(d) S.I. 1977/691.
(e) S.I. 1982/264.
are revoked.

**Review**

11.—(1) The Food Standards Agency must from time to time —

(a) carry out a review of the operation and effect of regulation 2 to 8 of these Regulations;
(b) set out the conclusions of the review in a report; and
(c) publish the report.

(2) In carrying out the review the Agency must, so far as is reasonable, have regard to how the EU instruments mentioned in regulation 2(1) are implemented or executed and enforced in other Member States.

(3) The report must in particular —

(a) set out the objectives intended to be achieved by these Regulations;
(b) assess the extent to which those objectives are achieved; and
(c) assess whether those objectives remain appropriate and, if so, the extent to which they could be achieved with a system that imposes less regulation.

(4) The first report under this regulation must be published before the end of the period of five years beginning with the day on which these Regulations come into force.

(5) Reports under this regulation are afterwards to be published at intervals not exceeding five years.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Health.

Anna Soubry
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,

3rd September 2013

Department of Health
EXPLANATORY NOTE
(This note is not part of the Regulations)

1. These Regulations, which apply in relation to England only, revoke and re-enact with changes the Contaminants in Food (England) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 2010/2228). They make provision for —
   (a) the continuing implementation of Council Directive 76/621/EEC relating to the fixing of the maximum level of erucic acid in oils and fats intended as such for human consumption and in foodstuffs containing added oils or fats (OJ No. L202, 28.7.1976, p.35) and of Commission Directive 80/891/EEC relating to the Community method of analysis for determining the erucic acid content in oils and fats intended to be used as such for human consumption and foodstuffs containing added oils or fats (OJ No. L254, 27.9.1980, p.35); and

2. The Commission Regulation has been amended by —
   (c) Commission Regulation (EC) No. 629/2008 (OJ No. L173, 3.7.2008, p.6), which concerns maximum permitted levels for certain heavy metals;
   (e) Commission Regulation (EU) No. 165/2010 (OJ No. L50, 27.2.2010, p.8), which concerns maximum levels for aflatoxins and the treatment of certain foods found to contain aflatoxins in excess of those levels;
   (f) Commission Regulation (EU) No.420/2011 (OJ No. L111, 30.4.2011, p.3), which concerns the collection of occurrence data by Member States;
   (j) Commission Regulation (EU) No. 594/2012 (OJ No. L176, 6.7.2012, p. 43) concerning maximum permitted levels of ochratoxin A, non dioxin-like PCBs and melamine in foodstuffs; and


4. The Regulations provide that it is an offence to place specified foods on the market containing erucic acid in excess of permitted levels (regulations 3 and 4).
5. The Regulations also provide that it is an offence, (except in certain cases relating to food placed on the market before a date specified in the relevant EU legislation) —
   (a) to place on the market certain foods if they contain contaminants of any kind specified in the Commission Regulation or in Regulation 124/2009 at levels exceeding those specified;
   (b) to use food containing contaminants at levels in excess of those permitted by the Commission Regulation as ingredients in the production of certain foods;
   (c) to mix foods that do not comply with the maximum levels prescribed by the Commission Regulation or Regulation 124/2009 with foods which do comply;
   (d) to mix foods to which the Commission Regulation relates and which are intended for direct consumption or as food ingredients with foods to which the Commission Regulation relates and which are intended to be sorted or otherwise treated prior to consumption;
   (e) to detoxify by chemical treatment food containing mycotoxins in excess of the limits specified in the Commission Regulation;
   (f) to fail to observe particular labelling requirements for certain groundnuts, other oilseeds, derived products thereof and cereals; and
   (g) to place on the market or mix certain foods containing specified coccidiostats and histomonostats in excess of prescribed limits (regulation 5).

6. These Regulations additionally
   (a) provide for penalties on conviction for an offence under these Regulations (regulation 6) and specify the enforcement and competent authorities (regulation 7);
   (b) provide for the application of specified provisions of the Food Safety Act 1990 for the purposes of these Regulations (regulation 8);
   (c) make a consequential amendment to the Food Safety (Sampling and Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2013 (regulation 9), the effect being to disapply the sampling and analysis provisions of those Regulations only to the extent that those matters are regulated by the EU instruments mentioned in paragraph 7.

7. The Commission Regulation specifies the European Union methods of sampling and analysis that are required to be used for the official control of levels of the substances covered by it. Those methods are set out in —
   (b) Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1882/2006 laying down methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of the levels of nitrates in certain foodstuffs (OJ No. L364, 20.12.2006, p.25);
   (c) Commission Regulation (EC) No. 333/2007 laying down the methods of sampling and analysis for the official control of the levels of lead, cadmium, mercury, inorganic tin, 3-MCPD and benzo(a)pyrene in foodstuffs (OJ No. L88, 29.3.2007, p.29), as amended by Commission Regulation (EU) No. 836/2011 (OJ No. L215, 20.8.2011, p.9); and

8. A full impact assessment of the effect that this instrument will have on the costs of business and the voluntary sector is available from the Chemical Safety Group of the Food Standards Agency, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NH and is annexed to the Explanatory
Memorandum which is available alongside the instrument on the website of the National Archives.

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