

1982 No. 297

FOOD AND DRUGS

**Composition and Labelling
Preservatives in Food (Amendment) Regulations
(Northern Ireland) 1982**

Made 20th September 1982

Coming into operation 1st November 1982

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

Citation, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Preservatives in Food (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982 and shall come into operation on 1st November 1982.

(2) In these regulations “the principal regulations” means the Preservatives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1980(d).

Amendment of the principal regulations

2. Regulation 2(1) of the principal regulations shall be amended—

(a) by inserting after the definition of “fruit spread” the following definition:—

““hermetically sealed container” means a sealed container which is airtight and impermeable to gases;”;

(b) by substituting for the definitions of “sausage” and “sausage meat” the following definition:—

““sausage” does not include any cured meat product which has been acidified or fermented;”;

(c) by inserting after the definition of “specified sugar product” the following definition:—

““sterile pack” means a hermetically sealed container which has been sufficiently heat processed to destroy any *Clostridium botulinum* in the container or in any food which is in the container;”.

3. The proviso to regulation 4(1) of the principal regulations shall be amended—

(a) by substituting for sub-paragraph (i) of paragraph (b) the following sub-paragraph:—

“(i) in the case of candied peel or cut and drained (syruped) peel, fruit spread, sambal oelek, concentrated snack meals with a moisture content of not less than 15% and not more than 60%, soup concentrates with a moisture

(a) See S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964 No. 205 art. 5 and Sch. 2 Part I and 1973 c. 36 s. 40 and Sch. 5 para. 8

(b) Added by S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 363

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

(d) S.R. 1980 No. 28, amended by S.R. 1980 No. 380 and S.R. 1982 No. 105

content of not less than 25% and not more than 60%, wine (including alcoholic cordials) other than wine in respect of which the maximum permitted sulphur dioxide content is prescribed by any Community regulation or wine in respect of which the maximum permitted sulphur dioxide content is prescribed by any Community regulation, to the maximum quantity of each such preservative appropriate thereto in accordance with that Schedule;”;

- (b) by inserting after sub-paragraph (iv) of paragraph (b) the following sub-paragraph:—

“(ivA) In the case of cheese (other than Cheddar, Cheshire, Grana-padano or Provolone type cheeses or soft cheese) or cured meat, in accordance with the appropriate provisions of that Schedule;”.

4. Regulation 5 of the principal regulations shall be amended—

- (a) by substituting for the word “Nothing” at the beginning of the regulation the words “Subject to regulation 6A, nothing”;
- (b) by inserting after the words “specified food” in paragraph (iii) of the proviso the words “other than a cured meat product”.

5. The following regulation shall be inserted after regulation 6 of the principal regulations:—

“*Food for babies and young children*

6A. A person shall not sell any food that is specially prepared for babies or young children if it has in it or on it any added-sodium nitrate or sodium nitrite.”.

6. Schedule 2 to the principal regulations shall be amended—

- (a) by substituting for the entries in columns 2 and 3 of the item relating to candied peel or cut and drained (syruped) peel the following entries:—

In column 2 <i>(Permitted Preservative)</i>	In column 3 <i>(Milligrams per kilogram not exceeding —)</i>
“Sulphur dioxide and sorbic acid”	100 1,000”;

- (b) by substituting for the entries in columns 2 and 3 of the item relating to cheese, other than Cheddar, Cheshire, Grana-padano or Provolone type cheeses or soft cheese the following entries:—

In column 2 <i>(Permitted Preservative)</i>	In column 3 <i>(Milligrams per kilogram not exceeding —)</i>
“Sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite”	} 50, of which not more than } 5 may be sodium nitrite, expressed in both cases as sodium nitrite”;

- (c) by inserting after the item relating to the permitted colouring matter E150 caramel the following item:—

In column 1 (Specified Food)	In column 2 (Permitted Preservative)	In column 3 (Milligrams per kilogram not exceeding -)
“Crabmeat, canned	Sulphur dioxide	30”;

- (d) by inserting after the item relating to gelatin the following item:—

In column 1 (Specified Food)	In column 2 (Permitted Preservative)	In column 3 (Milligrams per kilogram not exceeding -)
“Gelatin capsules	Sorbic acid	3,000”;

- (e) by substituting for the item relating to cured meat (including bacon and ham) the following item:—

In column 1 (Specified Food)	In column 2 (Permitted Preservative)	In column 3 (Milligrams per kilogram not exceeding -)
“Meat, cured (including cured meat products);	Sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite	} 150, of which not more than 50 may be sodium nitrite, expressed in both cases as sodium nitrite
Cured meat (including cured meat products) packed in a sterile pack, whether or not it has been removed from the pack		
Acidified and/or fermented cured meat products (including salami and similar products) not packed in a sterile pack	Sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite	} 400, of which not more than 50 may be sodium nitrite, expressed in both cases as sodium nitrite

In column 1 (Specified Food)	In column 2 (Permitted Preservative)	In column 3 (Milligrams per kilogram not exceeding -)
Uncooked bacon and ham; cooked bacon and ham that is not, and has not been, packed in any hermetically sealed container	Sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite	} 500, of which not more than 200 may be sodium nitrite, expressed in both cases as sodium nitrite
Any cured meat or cured meat product not specified above	Sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite	} 250, of which not more than 150 may be sodium nitrite, expressed in both cases as sodium nitrite";

(f) by inserting after the item relating to raw peeled potatoes the following item:—

In column 1 (Specified Food)	In column 2 (Permitted Preservative)	In column 3 (Milligrams per kilogram not exceeding -)
"Prawns, shrimps and scampi	Sulphur dioxide	200 in the edible part";

(g) by inserting after the item relating to sausages or sausage meat the following item:—

In column 1 (Specified Food)	In column 2 (Permitted Preservative)	In column 3 (Milligrams per kilogram not exceeding -)
"Snack meals, concentrated, with a moisture content of not less than 15% and not more than 60%	Sorbic acid and methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate	1,500 175".

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland on 20th September 1982.

(L.S.)

J. A. Wylie

Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These regulations, which come into operation on 1st November 1982, further amend the Preservatives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1980 ("the principal regulations").

The regulations—

- (a) insert a provision prohibiting the sale of food specially prepared for babies and young children which contains added sodium nitrate or sodium nitrite (regulations 4(a) and 5);
- (b) amend the principal regulations to permit candied peel to contain added sorbic acid in addition to sulphur dioxide (regulations 3(a) and 6(a));
- (c) reduce the maximum amount of sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite that may be contained in cheese (regulations 3(b) and 6(b));
- (d) change the maximum amount of sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite that may be contained in cured meat (regulations 2(a) and (c), 3(a) and (b), 4(b) and 6(e));
- (e) amend the principal regulations so as to prohibit acidified or fermented cured meat products from containing sulphur dioxide (regulation 2(b));
- (f) add canned crabmeat, gelatin capsules, prawns, shrimps and scampi and certain concentrated snack meals to the list of specified foods in Schedule 2 which may contain permitted preservatives and make a consequential amendment (regulations 3(a) and 6(c), (d), (f) and (g)).