1983 No. 265

FOOD AND DRUGS

Composition and Labelling
Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983

Made	*6th September 1983*
Coming into operation . . .	*18th October 1983*

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 the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland) 1958 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 Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983 and shall come into operation on 18th October 1983.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these regulations—

"the Act" means the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland) 1958;

"the British Pharmacopoeia 1980" means the edition of the British Pharmacopoeia published in 1980 in London by the Department of Health and Social Security, the Scottish Home and Health Department, the Welsh Office and the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland, ISBN 0 11 320688 7*;

"the British Pharmacopoeia 1980 Addendum 1982" means the Addendum to the British Pharmacopoeia 1980 published in 1982 in London by the Department of Health and Social Security, the Scottish Home and Health Department, the Welsh Office and the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland, ISBN 0 11 320738 7;

"carbohydrate" means a substance which contains carbon, hydrogen and oxygen only, and in which the hydrogen and oxygen occur in the same proportion as in water;

"catering establishment" has the meaning assigned to it by the Food Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(c);

"natural food substance" means any substance, suitable for use as food and commonly used as food, which is wholly a natural product, whether or not that substance has been subjected to any process or treatment;

"permitted antioxidant" means any antioxidant in so far as its use is permitted by the Antioxidants in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1978(d);

"permitted bleaching agent" means any bleaching agent in so far as its use is permitted by the Bread and Flour Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1964(e);

(a) *See* S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964 No. 205 and Sch. 2 Part I
(b) 1958 c. 27 (N.I.)
(c) S.R. 1981 No. 305, to which there are amendments not relevant to these regulations
(d) S.R. 1978 No. 112; the relevant amending regulation is S.R. 1981 No. 191
(e) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964 No. 172; the relevant amending regulation is S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1972 No. 275

"permitted colouring matter" means any colouring matter in so far as its use is permitted by the Colouring Matter in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1973(**a**);

"permitted emulsifier" means any emulsifier in so far as its use is permitted by the Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(**b**);

"permitted improving agent" means any improving agent in so far as its use is permitted by the Bread and Flour Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1964;

"permitted miscellaneous additive" means any miscellaneous additive in so far as its use is permitted by the Miscellaneous Additives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(**c**);

"permitted preservative" means any preservative in so far as its use is permitted by the Preservatives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1980(**d**);

"permitted solvent" means any solvent in so far as its use is permitted by the Solvents in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967(**e**);

"permitted stabiliser" means any stabiliser in so far as its use is permitted by the Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981;

"permitted sweetener" means any sweetener specified in Part I of Schedule 1 which satisfies the specific purity criteria for that sweetener specified or referred to in Part II of that Schedule and, so far as is not otherwise provided for by any such specific purity criteria, satisfies the general purity criteria specified in Part III of that Schedule;

"sell" includes offer or expose for sale or have in possession for sale;

"sweetener" means any substance, other than a carbohydrate, whose primary organoleptic characteristic is sweetness, but does not include—

(*a*) any natural food substance,

(*b*) any permitted antioxidant,

(*c*) any permitted bleaching agent,

(*d*) any permitted colouring matter,

(*e*) any permitted emulsifier,

(*f*) any permitted improving agent,

(*g*) any permitted miscellaneous additive,

(*h*) any permitted preservative,

(*i*) any permitted solvent,

(*j*) any permitted stabiliser,

(*k*) any starch, whether modified or not;

"ultimate consumer" has the meaning assigned to it by the Food Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981.

(2) For the purposes of these regulations, the supply of food, otherwise than by sale, at, in or from any place where food is supplied in the course of a business shall be deemed to be a sale of that food.

(a) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1973 No. 466; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1975 No. 283, S.R. 1976 No. 382, S.R. 1979 No. 49

(b) S.R. 1981 No. 194; the relevant amending regulation is S.R. 1982 No. 257

(c) S.R. 1981 No. 193; the relevant amending regulation is S.R. 1982 No. 258

(d) S.R. 1980 No. 28; relevant amending regulations are S.R. 1980 No. 380, S.R. 1982 Nos. 105 and 297

(e) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1967 No. 282; relevant amending regulation is S.R. 1981 No. 192

(3) All proportions mentioned in these regulations are proportions calculated by weight of the product as sold.

Exemptions

3. These regulations do not apply to any food (including any sweetener) which is—

(*a*) not intended for sale for human consumption; or

(*b*) intended at the time of sale for exportation to any place outside the United Kingdom.

Sale of food containing added sweeteners

4. A person shall not sell any food which has in it or on it any added sweetener other than a permitted sweetener.

Sale and advertisement of sweeteners

5.—(1) A person shall not sell any sweetener (including any sweetener with which any other substance has been mixed) which is intended for use in a catering establishment or for use by the ultimate consumer other than a permitted sweetener.

(2) A person shall not sell or advertise for sale any sweetener (including any sweetener with which any other substance has been mixed) for use as an ingredient in the preparation of food unless the sweetener is a permitted sweetener.

Food for babies and young children

6.—(1) 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 sweetener.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to food specially prepared for babies or young children with special dietary requirements.

Labelling provisions

7.—(1) A person shall not sell a permitted sweetener (including a permitted sweetener with which any other substance has been mixed) which is not ready for delivery to the ultimate consumer or a catering establishment unless it is marked or labelled with—

(*a*) the name of the permitted sweetener;

(*b*) the serial number, if any, specified for the permitted sweetener in column 2 of Part I of Schedule 1;

(*c*) the words "for foodstuffs (restricted use)";

(*d*) the name or business name and an address or registered office of the manufacturer or packer, or of a seller established within the European Economic Community; and

(*e*) in the case of the permitted sweetener sorbitol syrup (E420) which contains after hydrolysis a level of total sugars exceeding 1 per centum, the words "contains after hydrolysis a level of total sugars of more than 1 per centum" or substantially similar words.

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph (1), a person shall not sell a permitted sweetener with which any other substance (including another permitted sweetener) has been mixed and which is not ready for delivery to the ultimate consumer or a catering establishment unless it is marked or labelled with the name of every other substance in the mixture.

(3) A permitted sweetener (including a permitted sweetener with which any other substance has been mixed) shall not be regarded as being marked or labelled in

accordance with the foregoing paragraphs unless the particulars with which it is required to be marked or labelled by those paragraphs appear—

(*a*) on the packaging, or

(*b*) on a label attached to the packaging, or

(*c*) on a label that is clearly visible through the packaging, in such a way that they are easy to understand, clearly legible and indelible and are not hidden, obscured or interrupted by any other written or pictorial matter.

Condemnation of food

8. Where any food is certified by a public analyst as being food which it is an offence against regulation 4 to sell, that food may be treated for the purposes of section 9 of the Act (under which food may be seized and destroyed on the order of a justice of the peace) as being unfit for human consumption.

Penalties and enforcement

9.—(1) If any person contravenes any of the foregoing provisions he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

(2) Each district council shall enforce and execute the provisions of these regulations in its district.

(3) The requirements of section 47(3) of the Act (which requires notice to be given to the Department of Health and Social Services of intention to institute proceedings for an offence against any provisions of regulations relating to labelling, advertising or description of food) shall not apply as respects any proceedings instituted by a district council for an offence against any such provisions of these regulations.

Amendments

10. The regulations specified in Schedule 2 shall be amended in accordance with that Schedule.

Revocation

11. The Artificial Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969(a) are hereby revoked.

Transitional provisions

12.—(1) In any proceedings for an offence against regulation 7 in respect of an act committed after 17th October 1983 and before 1st January 1986 in relation to saccharin, sodium saccharin or calcium saccharin, it shall be a defence for the defendant to prove that the act would not have constituted an offence against regulation 6(1) of the Artificial Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969 if those regulations had been in operation when the act was committed.

(2) In any proceedings for an offence against regulation 7 in respect of an act committed after 17th October 1983 and before 1st January 1986 in relation to mannitol, sorbitol or sorbitol syrup, it shall be a defence for the defendant to prove that the act would not have constituted an offence against regulation 5(2) of the Miscellaneous Additives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981 if those regulations had not been amended by these regulations.

(a) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1969 No. 346; the relevant amending regulation is S.R. 1981 No. 305

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland on 6th September 1983.

(L.S.) *J. A. Wylie*

Assistant Secretary

SCHEDULE 1 Regulation 2(1)

PART I

Permitted Sweeteners

Column 1	Column 2
Name of Sweetener	*Serial Number*
Acesulfame potassium	—
Aspartame	—
Hydrogenated glucose syrup	—
Isomalt	—
Mannitol	E421
Saccharin	—
Sodium saccharin	—
Calcium saccharin	—
Sorbitol	E420
Sorbitol syrup	E420
Thaumatin	—
Xylitol	—

PART II

Specific Purity Criteria for Permitted Sweeteners

Acesulfame potassium

Synonym	Acesulfame K.
Chemical name	Potassium 3,4-dihydro-6-methyl-2,2,4-trioxo-1,2λ⁶,3-oxathiazin-3-ide.
Empirical formula	$C_4H_4KNO_4S$.
Molecular weight	201.2.
Description	White, odourless, crystalline powder or granules with an intensely sweet taste.
Content	Not less than 99.0% of $C_4H_4KNO_4S$ on a volatile matter-free basis.
Volatile matter	Not more than 1.0% (determined by drying at 105°C to constant weight).
pH of a 1% aqueous solution	Not less than 6.5 and not more than 7.5.
Potassium acetate	Not more than 0.5%.
Fluoride	Not more than 30 mg/kg.

Aspartame

Chemical name	(3S)-3-amino-N[(αS)-α-methoxycarbony-lphenethyl]-succinamic acid.
Synonym	L-aspartyl-L-phenylalanine methyl ester.
Empirical formula	$C_{14}H_{18}N_2O_5$.
Molecular weight	294.3.
Description	White, odourless, crystalline powder with an intensely sweet taste.
Content	Not less than 98.0% of $C_{14}H_{18}N_2O_5$ on a volatile matter-free basis.
Volatile matter	Not more than 4.5% (determined by drying at 105°C to constant weight).
Specific rotation, $[\alpha]_D^{20°C}$	Not less than +12.5° and not more than +17.5° (determined using a 4% weight/volume solution on a volatile matter-free basis in 15M formic acid).
pH of a 0.8% aqueous solution	Not less than 4.0 and not more than 6.5.
Sulphated ash	Not more than 0.2% after ignition at 800± 25°C.
5-Benzyl-3,6-dioxo-2-piperazine-acetic acid	Not more than 1.5%.

Hydrogenated glucose syrup

Synonym	Hydrogenated high maltose glucose syrup.
Description	Clear, colourless, sweet-tasting, aqueous solution of sorbitol, hydrogenated oligosaccharides and hydrogenated polysaccharides prepared by the catalytic hydrogenation of glucose syrup. When dried or crystallised the product is white and crystalline.
Content	D-glucitol: not more than 8%. 4-*O*-α-D-glucopyranosyl-D-glucitol: not less than 50% and not more than 90%. *O*-α-D-glucopyranosyl-[1→4]-*O*-α-D-glucopyranosyl-[1→4]-D-glucitol: not less than 5% and not more than 20%. Hydrogenated tetrasaccharides and hydrogenated higher polysaccharides: not less than 2% and not more than 30%. Hydrogenated polysaccharides containing 21 or more D-glucopyranosyl or D-glucitol units: not more than 3%. The percentages referred to are calculated on a dry weight basis in each case.

Water	Not more than 26% (Karl Fischer).
Reducing sugars	Not more than 0.3% on a dry weight basis, expressed as dextrose.
pH of a 40% aqueous solution	Not less than 4.0 and not more than 7.0.
Sulphur dioxide	Not more than 10 mg/kg on a dry weight basis.
Sulphated ash	Not more than 0.1% after ignition at 800±25°C, calculated on a dry weight basis.
Sulphate	Not more than 0.01% on a dry weight basis, expressed as SO_4.
Chloride	Not more than 50 mg/kg on a dry weight basis, expressed as Cl.
Nickel	Not more than 2 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.

Isomalt

Chemical description	An approximately equimolar mixture of 6-*O*-α-D-glucopyranosyl-D-glucitol and 1-*O*-α-D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol.
Empirical formula	$C_{12}H_{24}O_{11}$
Molecular weight	6-*O*-α-D-glucopyranosyl-D-glucitol ($C_{12}H_{24}O_{11}$): 344.3. 1-*O*-α-D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol ($C_{12}H_{24}O_{11}.2H_2O$): 380.3.
Description	White, odourless, crystalline, slightly hygrosopic solid with a sweet taste.
Content	Not less than 98.0% of 6-*O*-α-D-glucopyranosyl-D-glucitol and 1-*O*-α-D-glucopyranosyl-D-mannitol; each shall be present in a proportion of not less than 43% (on a dry weight basis in each case).
Water	Not more than 7.0% (Karl Fischer).
Specific rotation, $[\alpha]_D^{20°C}$	Not less than +91.5° (using a 4% weight/volume aqueous solution).
Reducing sugars	Not more than 1.5% on a dry weight basis, expressed as dextrose.
D-Mannitol	Not more than 0.5% on a dry weight basis.
D-Sorbitol	Not more than 0.5% on a dry weight basis.
Ash	Not more than 50 mg/kg after ignition at 800±25°C, calculated on a dry weight basis.
Nickel	Not more than 2mg/kg on a dry weight basis, expressed as Ni.
Lead	Not more than 1 mg/kg on a dry weight basis, expressed as Pb.

E421 Mannitol

The criteria for mannitol contained in Council Directive 78/663/EEC(**a**) and in article 6(1)(*a*) of Council Directive 74/329/EEC(**b**).

Saccharin

The criteria in the monograph for saccharin contained in the British Pharmacopoeia 1980 at page 393.

Sodium saccharin

The criteria in the monograph for saccharin sodium contained in the British Pharmacopoeia 1980 at page 394, as amended by the British Pharmacopoeia 1980 Addendum 1982 at page 99.

(a) O.J. No. L223, 14.8.78, p.7.
(b) O.J. No. L189, 12.7.74, p.1; relevant amending instrument is Council Directive 78/612/EEC (O.J. No. L197, 22.7.78, p.22)

Calcium saccharin

Chemical name	1,2-benzisothiazol-3(2*H*)-one 1,1-dioxide, calcium salt.
Empirical formula	$C_{14}H_8CaN_2O_6S_2$.
Molecular weight	404.4.
Description	White crystals or a white, crystalline powder; odourless or with a faint aromatic odour; with an intensely sweet taste.
Content	Not less than 99.0% of $C_{14}H_8CaN_2O_6S_2$ on a volatile matter-free basis.
Volatile matter	Not less than 11.0% and not more than 15.0% (determined by drying at 105°C to constant weight).
Free acid or alkali	Complies with the test in the monograph for saccharin sodium in the British Pharmacopoeia 1980.
Melting point of isolated saccharin	Complies with the test in the monograph for saccharin sodium in the British Pharmacopoeia 1980.
Related substances	Complies with the test in the monograph for saccharin sodium in the British Pharmacopoeia 1980.
Arsenic	Complies with the test in the monograph for saccharin sodium in the British Pharmacopoeia 1980.
Heavy metals	Complies with the test in the monograph for saccharin sodium in the British Pharmacopoeia 1980.

E420 Sorbitol

The criteria for sorbitol contained in Council Directive 78/663/EEC and in article 6(1)(*a*) of Council Directive 74/329/EEC.

E420 Sorbitol syrup

The criteria for sorbitol syrup contained in Council Directive 78/663/EEC and in article 6(1)(*a*) of Council Directive 74/329/EEC.

Thaumatin

Description	Odourless, cream coloured, proteinaceous powder with an intensely sweet taste obtained from aqueous extracts of the arils of the fruit of *Thaumatococcus daniellii* (Benth).
Specific absorption, $E^{1\%}_{1cm}$	Not less than 12.0 and not more than 12.5 (determined at the wavelength of maximum absorbance, about 279 nm, using a 0.1% weight/volume aqueous solution at pH 2.7).
Nitrogen	Not less than 16.0% on a volatile matter-free basis.
Carbohydrate	Not more than 3.0% on a volatile matter-free basis.
Volatile matter	Not more than 9.0% (determined by drying at 105°C to constant weight).
Sulphated ash	Not more than 2.0% after ignition at 800 ± 25°C, calculated on a volatile matter-free basis.
Aluminium	Not more than 0.01% on a volatile matter-free basis.

Xylitol

Chemical name	*meso*-xylitol.
Empirical formula	$C_5H_{12}O_5$.
Description	White, odourless, crystalline powder or crystals with a sweet taste.

Content	Not less than 98.0% of *meso*-xylitol, $C_5H_{12}O_5$, on a volatile matter-free basis.
Volatile matter	Not more than 0.5% (determined by drying at 60°C over phosphorus pentoxide in vacuum for 4 hours).
Reducing sugars	Not more than 0.2% on a volatile matter-free basis, expressed as dextrose.
pH of 10% aqueous solution	Not less than 5.0 and not more than 7.0.
Other polyols	Not more than 0.5% singly and not more than 1.0% in total on a volatile matter-free basis in each case.
Ash	Not more than 0.1% after ignition at 800 ± 25°C, on a volatile matter-free basis.
Nickel	Not more than 2 mg/kg on a volatile matter-free basis, expressed as Ni.
Lead	Not more than 1 mg/kg on a volatile matter-free basis, expressed as Pb.

PART III

General Purity Criteria applicable to Permitted Sweeteners except where otherwise provided by Specific Purity Criteria

A permitted sweetener shall not contain more than—

(*a*) 3 milligrams per kilogram of arsenic;
(*b*) 10 milligrams per kilogram of lead.

SCHEDULE 2 Regulation 10

Amendments

The Soft Drinks Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976

1.—(1) In regulation 2(1) of the Soft Drinks Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976(a), (in this paragraph called "the 1976 regulations")—

(*a*) the definition of "permitted artificial sweetener" shall be deleted;

(*b*) for the definition of "saccharin" there shall be substituted the following definition:—
"'saccharin' includes sodium saccharin and calcium saccharin;';

(*c*) in the definition of "sweetened" for the words "polyhydric alcohol or any permitted artificial sweetener" there shall be substituted the word "sweetener"; and

(*d*) after the definition of "sweetened" there shall be inserted the following definition:—
"'sweetener' has the meaning assigned to it by regulation 2(1) of the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983;'.

(2) Regulation 5(1) of the 1976 regulations shall be deleted.

(3) In regulations 5(2), (3), (4) and (5), 8 and 13 of the 1976 regulations and in Schedules 2 and 3 to those regulations for the words "permitted artificial sweetener" wherever they occur, there shall be substituted the word "saccharin".

(4) Schedule 1 to the 1976 regulations shall be deleted.

The Solvents in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967

2. In regulation 2(1) of the Solvents in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967(b)—

(*a*) the definition of "permitted artificial sweetener" shall be deleted;

(*b*) after the definition of "permitted stabiliser" there shall be inserted the following definition:—
"'permitted sweetener" means any sweetener inasmuch as its use is permitted by the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983;'; and

(*c*) in the definition of "solvent" the word "artificial" shall be deleted.

The Ice-Cream and Other Frozen Confections Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968

3.—(1) In regulation 2(1) of the Ice-Cream and Other Frozen Confections Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968(c) the definition of "artificial sweetener" shall be deleted.

(2) For regulation 4(8) of the Ice-Cream and Other Frozen Confections Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968 there shall be substituted the following paragraph:—

"(8) No ice-cream of any kind nor any Parev ice shall have in or on it any added acesulfame potassium, aspartame, saccharin, sodium saccharin, calcium saccharin or thaumatin.".

The Antioxidants in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1978

4. In regulation 2(1) of the Antioxidants in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1978(d)—

(*a*) in sub-paragraph (*a*) of the definition of "antioxidant" the word "artificial" shall be deleted;

(*b*) the definition of "permitted artificial sweetener" shall be deleted;

(*c*) in the definition of "permitted diluent" for the words "miscellaneous additive" there shall be substituted the word "sweetener"; and

(*d*) after the definition of "permitted stabiliser" there shall be inserted the following definition:—
"'permitted sweetener" means any sweetener in so far as its use is permitted by the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983;'.

(a) S.R. 1976 No. 357, to which there are amendments not relevant to these regulations
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1967 No. 282, to which there are amendments not relevant to this Schedule
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1968 No. 13, to which there are amendments not relevant to these regulations
(d) S.R. 1978 No. 112, to which there are amendments not relevant to this Schedule

The Preservatives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1980

5.—(1) In regulation 2(1) of the Preservatives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1980(**a**) (in this paragraph called "the 1980 regulations")—

(*a*) the definition of "permitted artificial sweetener" shall be deleted;

(*b*) after the definition of "permitted stabiliser" there shall be inserted the following definition:—

"'permitted sweetener" means any sweetener in so far as its use is permitted by the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983;';

(*c*) the definition of "polyhydric alcohol" shall be deleted;

(*d*) in sub-paragraph (*b*) of the definition of "preservative" the word "artificial" shall be deleted; and

(*e*) in the definition of "sweetened" for the words "polyhydric alcohol or any permitted artificial sweetener" there shall be substituted the words "permitted sweetener".

(2) In paragraph (*b*)(iii) of the proviso to regulation 4(1) of the 1980 regulations for the words "permitted artificial sweetener" there shall be substituted the words "saccharin, sodium saccharin or calcium saccharin".

(3) In column 1 of the item in Schedule 2 to the 1980 regulations relating to preparations of permitted artificial sweetener and water only for the words "permitted artificial sweetener" there shall be substituted the words "saccharin, sodium saccharin or calcium saccharin".

The Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981

6. In regulation 2(1) of the Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(**b**)—

(*a*) in sub-paragraph (iii) of the definition of "emulsifier" and "stabiliser" the word "artificial" shall be deleted;

(*b*) the definition of "permitted artificial sweetener" shall be deleted; and

(*c*) after the definition of "permitted solvent" there shall be inserted the following definition:—

"'permitted sweetener" means any sweetener in so far as its use is permitted by the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983;'.

The Miscellaneous Additives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981

7.—(1) In regulation 2(1) of the Miscellaneous Additives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(**c**) (in this paragraph called "the 1981 regulations")—

(*a*) in sub-paragraph (*c*) of the definition of "miscellaneous additive" the word "artificial" shall be deleted;

(*b*) the definition of "permitted artificial sweetener" shall be deleted; and

(*c*) after the definition of "permitted stabiliser" there shall be inserted the following definition:—

"'permitted sweetener" means any sweetener in so far as its use is permitted by the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983;'.

(2) In Parts I and II of Schedule 1 to the 1981 regulations the items relating to mannitol, sorbitol and sorbitol syrup shall be deleted.

(3) Paragraph 1(*d*) of Schedule 3 to the 1981 regulations shall be deleted.

The Food Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981

8. In regulation 2(1) of the Food Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981(**d**) at the end of the definition of "serial number" there shall be inserted the words "or Schedule 1 to the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983".

(**a**) S.R. 1980 No. 28, to which there are amendments not relevant to these regulations
(**b**) S.R. 1981 No. 194, to which there are amendments not relevant to this Schedule
(**c**) S.R. 1981 No. 193, to which there are amendments not relevant to this Schedule
(**d**) S.R. 1981 No. 305, to which there are amendments not relevant to these regulations

The Jam and Similar Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982

9.—(1) In regulation 2(1) of the Jam and Similar Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982(a) (in this paragraph called "the 1982 regulations") for the definition of "permitted artificial sweetener" there shall be substituted the following definition:—

"'permitted sweetener" means any sweetener in so far as its use is permitted by the Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1983;'.

(2) For regulation 13(2) of the 1982 regulations there shall be substituted the following paragraph:—

"(2) The permitted sweeteners acesulfame potassium, aspartame, saccharin, sodium saccharin, calcium saccharin and thaumatin may be used in the preparation of reduced sugar products.".

(3) In regulation 13(3) of the 1982 regulations for the words "artificial sweeteners and sorbitol" there shall be substituted the word "sweeteners".

(a) S.R. 1982 No. 105, to which there are amendments not relevant to these regulations

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These regulations, which come into operation on 18th October 1983, control the use of non-carbohydrate sweeteners in food. They supersede the Artificial Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969.

The regulations—

(*a*) specify permitted sweeteners and prescribe purity criteria for those sweeteners (regulation 2(1) and Schedule 1);

(*b*) prohibit the sale of food which contains any added sweeteners other than a permitted sweetener (regulation 4);

(*c*) prohibit the sale of sweeteners, other than permitted sweeteners, for catering purposes or table-top use (regulation 5(1));

(*d*) prohibit the sale and the advertisement for sale of sweeteners other than permitted sweeteners, for use as ingredients in the preparation of food (regulation 5(2));

(*e*) restrict the sale of food for babies or young children that contains added sweeteners (regulation 6);

(*f*) prescribe labelling requirements for permitted sweeteners in circumstances where their labelling is not controlled by the Food Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981; and

(*g*) revoke the Artificial Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969 (regulation 11) and lay down transitional provisions (regulation 12).

The principal changes as compared with the Artificial Sweeteners in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1969 are—

(*a*) the addition of nine substances to the list of permitted sweeteners (including mannitol, sorbitol and sorbitol syrup which were previously permitted miscellaneous additives under the Miscellaneous Additives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981); and

(*b*) the removal of the detailed controls on the composition and labelling of saccharin tablets.

Amendments are made—

(*a*) to the Jam and Similar Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982 to permit the use of acesulfame potassium, aspartame and thaumatin in reduced sugar jam, reduced sugar jelly and reduced sugar marmalade and the use of all permitted sweeteners in diabetic jams; and

(*b*) to the Soft Drinks Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976 to permit the use of all permitted sweeteners in soft drinks.

Certain consequential amendments are also made to other regulations.