1967. No. 51 [C]

FOOD AND DRUGS

Composition

Control of Irradiation

REGULATIONS, DATED 13TH MARCH 1967, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES UNDER SECTIONS 4 AND 68 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1958.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by sections 4 and 68 of the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland) 1958(a), having consulted 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 Food (Control of Irradiation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967 and shall come into operation on 1st June 1967.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

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

"food" means food intended for sale for human consumption and includes—

(*a*) cream and any food containing milk, and

(*b*) drink, chewing gum and other products of a like nature and use, and

(*c*) articles and substances used as ingredients in the preparation of food or drink or of such products,

but except as provided in paragraph (*a*), does not include—

(i) water or milk,

(ii) live animals or birds, or

(iii) articles or substances used only as drugs;

"ionising radiation" means electromagnetic radiation (that is to say, X- or gamma-ray photons with a wave length below 500 angstroms) or corpuscular radiation (that is to say, electrons, positrons, protons, neutrons, alpha particles or heavy particles) being electromagnetic radiation or corpuscular radiation capable of producing ions and emitted from a radioactive substance or from a machine or apparatus that is intended to produce ionising radiation, or from a machine or apparatus in which charged particles are accelerated by a voltage of not less than five kilovolts.

Subjection of food to irradiation

3. No person shall in the preparation of any food subject it to ionising radiation:

(a) 1958. c. 27.

Provided that this regulation shall not prohibit the subjection of food to not more than ten rad of ionising radiation where the energy of the radiation delivered does not exceed five million electron volts.

Sale etc. of irradiated food

4. No person shall sell, have in his possession for sale, or offer, or expose for sale, or consign or deliver, food which has been subjected to ionising radiation prohibited by regulation 3.

Penalties

5. If any person contravenes or fails to comply with any of the foregoing provisions he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction—

(*a*) 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; and

(*b*) in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding five pounds for each day during which the offence continues after conviction.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland this 13th day of March 1967.

(L.S.) *S. H. O'Fee,*
Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(*This note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.*)

These regulations prohibit the application of ionising radiation (defined in regulation 2) to food intended for sale for human consumption. An exception is made in respect of the application of a low level of such radiation (regulation 3). This will permit the continued use of certain types of nucleonic equipment which are at present used as measuring instruments.

The regulations also prohibit the sale of food which has been subjected to ionising radiation other than that permitted by regulation 3.