1970. No. 102 **[C]**

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Marking and Abbreviations of Units of Measurement

REGULATIONS, DATED 14TH MAY 1970, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE UNDER SECTIONS 8 AND 15 OF THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1967.

The Ministry of Commerce, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by sections 8(1) and 15(4) of the Weights and Measures Act (Northern Ireland) 1967(a) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

PART I

GENERAL

Citation, Commencement and Revocation

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Weights and Measures (Marking and Abbreviations of Units of Measurement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970 and shall come into operation on 14th May 1970.

(2) The Weights and Measures (Marking) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967(b) and the Weights and Measures (Abbreviations of Units of Measurement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967(c) are hereby revoked.

PART II

ABBREVIATIONS OF UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

Use for trade of abbreviation of units of measurement

2. This Part shall apply as respects the use for trade (other than for the purpose of marking weighing and measuring equipment) of symbols for, and abbreviations of, units of measurement.

3.—(1) Any symbol or abbreviation set out in Schedule 1, or that symbol or abbreviation with the letter "s" added thereto where it is thought appropriate to indicate the plural, may be used for trade to indicate the relevant unit of measurement so set out:

Provided that nothing in this paragraph shall permit the addition of the letter "s" in relation to any symbol for, or abbreviation of, any metric unit set out in column 2 of Part I of Schedule 1 if the marking is applied after 31st December 1971.

(2) No symbol or abbreviation other than such a symbol or abbreviation as may be usable by virtue of paragraph (1) shall be used for trade to indicate any unit of measurement set out in the said Schedule.

(a) 1967. c. 6 (N.I.).
(b) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1967, No. 219.
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1967, No. 220.

PART III

MARKING

Marking of Containers

4. This Part shall apply as respects the manner of marking any container required by any provision of Schedule 2, 4, 5 or 6 of the Act to be marked with information as to the quantity of goods made up therein.

5.—(1) The marking shall include the number of the relevant units of measurement (which may be or include a vulgar or decimal fraction of a single unit) expressed in words or figures and a reference to that unit either by words or by means of any symbol or abbreviation which may lawfully be used pursuant to Part II.

(2) Any indication of quantity by gross weight shall include the word "gross" or the words "including container" or other words which indicate that the marked weight includes the weight of the container.

(3) No abbreviation of the word "net" or "gross" shall be employed in any marking.

(4) Fractions shall not be expressed in a manner in which the figures are likely to be read as referring to whole units.

Imperial and metric units

6.—(1) In the case of perfumes and toilet preparations other than soap, the marking may be by quantity in metric or imperial units or both.

(2) In the case of any goods other than goods to which paragraph (1) applies, the marking shall be by quantity in imperial units but may, in addition, include an indication of quantity in metric units.

(3) Where goods are marked with indications of quantity in both imperial and metric units, the indications shall be distinct but in close proximity to each other.

Position of Markings etc.

7.—(1) A marking shall be clear, legible and conspicuous.

(2) A marking shall be in a prominent position in which it can be read easily and shall not be obscured in any way whether by a stamp, sticker, outer wrapping or otherwise.

(3) In the case of any container other than—

(i) a food container, or

(ii) a container of any such toilet preparations as are described in paragraph 1(*c*) of Part V of Schedule 5 to the Act (preparations for external use other than perfumes, toilet waters, preparations for the hair and scalp and soap),

the marking shall not be solely on the base of the container if there is other wording on or visible through the container.

(4) A marking which is not upon the actual container or on a label securely attached thereto shall be so placed that it cannot be removed without opening the container.

8.—(1) Except in the case of a marking embossed in high or low relief on any container which bears no other wording in any colour which contrasts with its background or which only bears wording in such a colour upon a stopper, lid or closure whose maximum dimension is not more than 2 inches, markings shall be upon a plain background and in a colour which is in distinct and conspicuous contrast thereto.

(2) In relation to any marking upon any transparent material, the matter which is visible through the material in the immediate vicinity of the marking when the goods are made up in or on the container shall be treated for the purposes of this Regulation as the background of the marking.

Size of markings

9.—(1) This Regulation shall apply as respects the marking of containers other than food containers.

(2) All the characters employed in marking any such container shall be at least of the height specified in relation to a container of its size in the table set out in Schedule 2.

(3) All the symbols indicating a vulgar fraction shall be treated as a single character and the size of any such container shall be treated as equal—

(*a*) in the case of a rectilinear or approximately rectilinear container to its height, length or width whichever is the greatest, and

(*b*) in the case of a container with a curvilinear or approximately curvilinear cross-section, its height or maximum diameter, whichever is the greater.

Restriction on units to be employed

10.—(1) No marking indicating any quantity in excess of 1 ounce shall be entirely in terms of imperial units of weight smaller than the ounce.

(2) No marking indicating any quantity—

(*a*) in excess of 48 ounces in the case of any goods to which paragraph 1(*c*)(ii) of Part VI of Schedule 5 to the Act applies (soap not in tablet, cake, bar or liquid form) and any such goods as are mentioned in paragraph 1(*c*) of Part IX of that Schedule (non-liquid detergents), or

(*b*) in excess of 16 ounces in the case of any other goods,

shall be entirely in terms of imperial units of weight smaller than the pound.

(3) No marking indicating any quantity in excess of 40 fluid ounces shall be entirely in terms of imperial units of capacity measurement smaller than the pint.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Commerce for Northern Ireland this 14th day of May 1970.

(L.S.)

F. T. Mais,
Assistant Secretary.

SCHEDULE 1

Permitted symbols for and abbreviations of units of measurement which may be used for trade

PART I

METRIC UNITS

Unit of Measurement	Symbol of the Système Internationale d'Unités ("S.I units")	Alternative abbreviations which may be employed
metre	m	—
decimetre	dm	—
centimetre	cm	—
millimetre	mm	—
cubic mètre	m^3	—
cubic centimetre	cm^3	c.c. or cu. cm
litre	l	lit
decilitre	dl	—
centilitre	cl	—
millilitre	ml	—
kilogramme	kg	kilo or kilog or kilogram
hectogramme	hg	hectogram
gramme	g	grm or gram
milligramme	mg	milligram

PART II

IMPERIAL UNITS

yard	yd
foot	ft
inch	in
cubic yard	cu. yd or cub. yd
cubic inch	cu. in or cub. in
gallon	gal or gall
quart	qt
pint	pt
fluid ounce	fl. oz
hundredweight	cwt
quarter	qr
pound	lb
ounce	oz
dram	dr
grain	gr

SCHEDULE 2

Size of container (as determined in accordance with Regulation 9)	Minimum size of characters to be employed in marking
Not exceeding 2 inches	$\frac{1}{16}$ inch
Exceeding 2 inches but not exceeding 12 inches	$\frac{3}{32}$ inch
Exceeding 12 inches but not exceeding 18 inches	$\frac{5}{32}$ inch
Exceeding 18 inches but not exceeding 24 inches	$\frac{5}{16}$ inch
Exceeding 24 inches	$\frac{1}{2}$ inch

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These Regulations replace the Weights and Measures (Marking) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967 and the Weights and Measures (Abbreviations of Units of Measurement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1967.

Part II and Schedule 1 make provision as respects the abbreviations of certain units of measurement which may lawfully be used for trade.

Part III makes provision as respects the manner of marking of quantities on those containers of goods required to be marked by virtue of Schedule 2, 4, 5 or 6 of the Weights and Measures Act (Northern Ireland) 1967. These Schedules require that most varieties of goods when made up ready for retail sale shall be marked with an indication of quantity.

The principal changes are that:—

(*a*) additional symbols for certain metric units are prescribed for use for trade;

(*b*) the addition of the letter "s" to indicate the plural is prohibited in the case of certain metric symbols after 31st December 1971; and

(*c*) soap powders and detergent powders can be marked with an indication of quantity in ounces unless they are packed in a quantity exceeding 3 lb.