1977 No. 139

FOOD AND DRUGS

Composition and Labelling

Preservatives in Food (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1977

Made . . . . . 13*th May* 1977
Coming into operation . . . . 4*th July* 1977

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 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) 1977 and shall come into operation on 4th July 1977.

(2) In these regulations "the principal regulations" means the Preservatives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975(d), as amended(e).

Amendment of principal regulations

2.—(1) Part I of Schedule 1 to the principal regulations shall be amended—

(*a*) by inserting in column 4 in relation to sodium salt of methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate the serial number "E 219" and in relation to potassium nitrite the serial number "E 249";

(*b*) by inserting in column 3 immediately after calcium propionate, as part of the item relating to the alternative forms in which propionic acid may be used, the entry "Potassium propionate" and in column 4, in relation thereto, the serial number "E 283".

(2) Part II of Schedule 1 to the principal regulations shall be amended—

(*a*) by substituting for the item referring to the specific purity criteria applicable to E 218 methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate the following item:—

"*E* 218 *Methyl* 4-*hydroxybenzoate*

Synonym Methyl *para*-hydroxybenzoate

The specific purity criteria for methyl *p*-hydroxybenzoate contained in Directive 65/66/EEC of the Council(f), as amended by Directive 76/463/EEC of the Council(g).";

(*b*) by substituting for the item referring to the specific purity criteria applicable to sodium salt of methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate the following item:—

(a) See S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964 No. 205 (p. 937) 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 (p. 1767)
(c) 1958 c. 27 (N.I.)
(d) S.R. 1975 No. 277 (II, p. 1291)
(e) S.R. 1976 No. 165, S.R. 1976 No. 357 and S.R. 1976 No. 368
(f) OJ No. 22, 9.2.65, p. 373 (OJ/SE 1965-1966, p. 25)
(g) OJ No. L126, 14.5.76 p. 33

"*E* 219 *Methyl* 4-*hydroxybenzoate, sodium salt*

Synonym Sodium methyl *para*-hydroxybenzoate

The specific purity criteria for sodium derivative of methyl *p*-hydroxybenzoate contained in Directive 65/66/EEC of the Council, as amended by Directive 76/463/EEC of the Council.";

(*c*) by substituting for the item containing the specific purity criteria applicable to potassium nitrite the following item:—

"*E* 249 *Potassium nitrite*

The specific purity criteria for potassium nitrite contained in Directive 65/66/EEC of the Council, as amended by Directive 76/463/EEC of the Council.";

(*d*) by inserting immediately after the item referring to the specific purity criteria applicable to E 282 calcium propionate the following item:—

"*E* 283 *Potassium propionate*

The specific purity criteria for potassium propionate contained in Directive 65/66/EEC of the Council, as amended by Directive 76/463/EEC of the Council.";

(*e*) by substituting for the item containing the specific purity criteria applicable to E 226 calcium sulphite the following item:—

"*E* 226 *Calcium sulphite*

The specific purity criteria for calcium sulphite contained in Directive 65/66/EEC of the Council, as amended by Directive 76/463/EEC of the Council.";

(*f*) by substituting for the item containing the specific purity criteria applicable to E 227 calcium hydrogen sulphite the following item:—

"*E* 227 *Calcium hydrogen sulphite*

Synonym Calcium bisulphite

The specific purity criteria for calcium hydrogen sulphite contained in Directive 65/66/EEC of the Council, as amended by Directive 76/463/EEC of the Council.";

(*g*) by substituting for the item containing the specific purity criteria applicable to E 233 2-(thiazol-4-yl) benzimidazole the following item:—

"*E* 233 2-(*Thiazol*-4-*yl*) *benzimidazole*

Synonym Thiabendazole

The specific purity criteria for 2-(4-thiazolyl) benzimidazole (thiabendazole) contained in Directive 65/66/EEC of the Council, as amended by Directive 76/463 EEC of the Council.";

(*h*) by substituting for the item containing the specific purity criteria applicable to E 239 hexamine the following item:—

"*E* 239 *Hexamine*

Synonym Hexamethylenetetramine

The specific purity criteria for hexamethylenetetramine contained in Directive 65/66/EEC of the Council, as amended by Directive 76/463/EEC of the Council.".

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland on 13th May 1977.

(L.S.) *G. Buchanan*
Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These regulations come into operation on 4th July 1977 and further amend the Preservatives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1975. They implement Council Directive 76/462/EEC (OJ No. L126, 14.5.76 p. 31) amending for the eleventh time Directive 64/54/EEC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning the preservatives authorised for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption and Council Directive 76/463/EEC (OJ No. L126, 14.5.76 p. 33) amending for the second time Directive 65/66/EEC laying down specific criteria of purity for the preservatives authorised for use in foodstuffs intended for human consumption.

The regulations—

(*a*) add potassium propionate to the list of alternative forms in which the permitted preservative propionic acid may be used and prescribe purity criteria for it (regulation 2(1) and (2));

(*b*) adopt the Community reference numbers for the permitted preservatives sodium salt of methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate and potassium nitrite (regulation 2(1));

(*c*) prescribe new purity criteria for methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate, sodium salt of methyl 4-hydroxybenzoate, potassium nitrite, calcium sulphite, calcium hydrogen sulphite, 2-(thiazol-4-yl) benzimidazole and hexamine (regulation 2(2)).