



Notification Number: 1995/268/UK

The Food Labelling Regulations

Date received : 25/08/1995
End of Standstill : 30/11/1995 (**30/08/1996**)
Issue of comments by : Spain
Issue of detailed opinion by : France
Postponement : Yes

Message

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TELEX 001

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (95) D/51331
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC

NOTIFIKATION - NOTIFIZIERUNG - NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICACION
NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICA - KENNISGEVING - NOTIFICACAO 95/0268/UK

FRISTERNE INDLEDES IKKE -KEIN FRISTBEGINN - DOES NOT OPEN THE
DELAYS - NO ABRE EL PLAZO - N'OUVRE PAS DE DELAIS - NON FA
DECORRERE LA MORA - GEEN TERMIJNBEGIN - NAO INICIA O PRAZO INLEDER
INGEN FRIST - MÄÄRÄAIKA EI ALA TÄSTÄ

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1. Structured Information Line

TLX 001 IND- 95 0268 UK- EN ----- 950825 --- ---



2. Member State

United Kingdom

3. Department Responsible

Department of Trade and Industry: Standards Policy Unit

3. Originating Department

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

4. Notification Number

95/268/UK, for 83/189/EEC; and 95/E001/UK for 79/112/EEC

5. Title

The Food Labelling Regulations

6. Products Concerned

Raw milk from sheep and goats. Food sold at catering establishments which is either not prepacked or prepacked for direct sale. Seasonal selection packs of biscuits and/or confectionery. Food sold from vending machines. Foods which carry a "use by" date. Fish. Previously frozen meat and poultry.

7. Notification Under Another Act

Council Directive 79/112/EEC of 18 December 1978 on the approximation of the laws of the member states relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs.

8. Main Content

The draft Regulations consolidate existing food labelling regulations and introduce the following amendments.

A) Raw cows drinking milk is already required to be marked of labelled with the words "This milk has not been heat-treated and may therefore contain organisms harmful to health" when it is sold prepacked. Catering establishments selling raw cows' drinking milk which is not prepacked must also label such milk, or display notices at the place where the milk is chosen, stating that "Milk supplied in this establishment has not been heat-treated and may therefore contain organisms harmful to health". These requirements are extended to the sale of raw sheep and goats' drinking milk (Regulation 33).

B) Regulation 28 now exempts food sold at catering establishments which is either not prepacked or which is prepacked for direct sale from all the general labelling requirements of regulation 5 unless it contains an ingredient which has been irradiated, in which case that fact must be declared.

C) The outer packaging of seasonal selection packs contain



chocolate products is already similarly exempt.
Regulation 29 extends that exemption to seasonal selection packs containing biscuits, confectionery (including flour confectionery) or any mixture of these.

D) Certain vending machines will by virtue of regulation 30, have to carry, or have displayed in their vicinity, additional nutrition and/or food reheating information.

E) Regulation 45 extends the existing offence for alteration of the indication of minimum durability or "use by" date to cover also the removal of such a date mark.

F) This list of mandatory fish in Schedule 1 has been reduced slightly.

G) The requirement in schedule 2 for previously frozen meat and poultry to carry the declaration "previously frozen" has been amended to permit other similar indications (such as "thawed").

The Food Labelling Regulations 1995 do not contain any EC or UK requirements for testing. Therefore no provision has been included in these regulations recognising equivalent testing as this would be inappropriate. Recognition of equivalent standards is provided for in a new provision, permitting non-compliance with national requirements under the principle of mutual recognition of products legally marketed in other Member States.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

These amendments have been made to:

A) reflect scientific advice that the warning is necessary also for raw drinking milk from sheep and goats;

B) remove unnecessary controls on catering establishments;

C) provide for the consistent treatment of foods of a similar nature which are offered for sale in fancy packaging with a seasonal, eg Christmas, design for a short period only;

D) extend the rules on nutrition labelling to foods sold from vending machines; and ensure that consumers are provided with the instructions necessary to make appropriate and safe use of foods which are intended for reheating that are dispensed by such machines;

E) clarify that the offence for the alteration of "use by" date, being an indication provided on grounds of food safety, also encompasses its removal;



F) update and simplify the list of fish names to take account of current consumer needs and current classifications of fish species; and

G) be less prescriptive by allowing the use of other suitability descriptive terms to indicate when meat and poultry meat has been previously frozen.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

The Food Labelling Regulations 1995

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

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D. WILLIAMSON
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