



Notification Number: 1995/285/UK

The draft Cheese and Cream Regulations 1995

Date received : 06/09/1995
End of Standstill : 06/12/1995 (**06/03/1996**)
Issue of comments by : Netherlands, Spain
Issue of detailed opinion by : Greece

Message

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TELEX 001

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (95) D/51388
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC

NOTIFIKATION - NOTIFIZIERUNG - NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICACION
NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICA - KENNISGEVING - NOTIFICACAO - ILMOITUS
ANMÄLAN : 95/0285/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
MÄÄRÄAIKA EI ALA TÄSTÄ - INLEDER INGEN FRIST.

- 3B1 : 9501388.EN

1. Structured Information Line

TLX 001 IND- 95 0285 UK- EN ----- 950905 --- ---



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

95/0285/UK for directive 83/189/EEC and 95/E002/UK for 79/112/EEC

5. Title

The draft Cheese and Cream Regulations 1995

6. Products Concerned

Cheese, Cream

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 Cheese and Cream Regulation 1995 revoke existing separate Regulations on Cheese and Cream and replace them with much simpler, less restrictive, provisions.

The draft Regulations comprise:

- (i) a definition of cheese,
- (ii) compositional requirements for 7 different types of cream, identical to those in existence since 1970,
- (iii) a totally new requirement for all cheeses and all creams to be labelled, with a declaration of the fat content of the product, in the same field of vision as the name of the food,
- (iv) restrictions on the use of enzymes in the manufacture of cheese, identical to those that have been in existence in the UK since 1984,
- (v) enforcement and penalties provisions,
- (vi) a provision recognising equivalent standards in other Member States and EEA countries.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

Grounds for making the draft Cheese and Cream Regulations 1995.

As part of a commitment to deregulate unnecessary legislation in many sectors, the United Kingdom has reviewed its national



legislation on food composition, most of which predates entry to the European Community. This review has concluded that much of the detailed "vertical" legislation is unnecessary. Most of the provisions are now adequately governed by Community "horizontal" legislation such as on labelling, and additives or the provisions are too restrictive and prevent product innovation. Much of the national food compositional legislation is therefore being revoked or replaced by much simpler provisions. The Cheese and Cream Regulations 1995 fall into the latter category.

The United Kingdom is concerned about the high intake levels of fat (particularly saturated fat) in the national diet and the Government is currently involved with a number of initiatives to encourage the population to shift the balance of its diet away from high fat foods. To achieve this desired shift, consumers need to be aware of the fat content of products they eat, particularly products, such as cheese and cream, which have high levels of saturated fat which consumers are generally unaware of. The United Kingdom has therefore decided to require that these products should carry a declaration of the fat content. This is similar to the provision recently adopted by the European Community in Article 3(1) (b) of Council Regulation 2991/94, laying down standards for spreadable fats, which requires a fat content declaration on the products covered by Regulation, that is butter, margarine and other fat spreads.

Restrictions on enzymes used in the manufacture of cheese have been in existence since 1970. It is understood that there is no intention, in the near future, of the European Commission proposing that this area should be harmonised. As the possible safety implications of deregulation in this area have not yet been considered, the United Kingdom has decided to retain exactly the same provisions as in the Cheese Regulations 1970, as amended.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

The draft Cheese and Cream Regulations 1995

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

No

12. Grounds for the Emergency

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13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

No



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
GROWTH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Single Market for goods
Prevention of Technical Barriers

D. WILLIAMSON
COMEUR
NNNN