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# The Gazette of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka EXTRAORDINARY

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## PART I : SECTION (I) — GENERAL

### Government Notifications

L.D.B 11/80 [6]

#### FOOD ACT, No. 26 OF 1980

REGULATIONS made by the Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine, in terms of Section 32 of the Food Act, No. 26 of 1980 in consultation with the Food Advisory Committee.

DR. RAJITHA SENARATHNE,

Minister of Health, Nutrition and Indigenous Medicine.

Colombo,  
12th February, 2019.

#### Regulations

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Food (Preservatives) Regulation, 2019, and shall come into operation from 01.01.2020.
2. No person shall manufacture, import, store, transport, sell, offer for sale, distribute, use or advertise -
  - (a) any food preservative other than the preservatives specified in Schedule I hereto ;
  - (b) any food which has in or upon it any preservative, other than those specified in Schedule II hereto.



3. Any food specified in Column I of Schedule II (hereinafter referred to as a “specified food”) may have in or upon it, a preservative of the description specified in the corresponding entry of Column II thereof (hereinafter referred to as a “permitted preservative”) and the use of such preservative shall be in compliance with the proportions set out in the corresponding entry of Column III thereof.

4. Any specified food may have in or upon it, a mixture of two or more preservatives specified in Schedule II hereto, only if the sum total of the preservatives does not exceed one hundred percentage when the quantity of each of such preservative present in such food is expressed as a percentage of the maximum quantity of that preservative appropriate to the food as specified in that Schedule.

5. Any compounded food may contain any permitted preservative -

(a) introduced in the process of preparing such food using one or more specified foods, if the permitted preservative :-

(i) is present in any specified food used in the compounded food ; and

(ii) is present in the specified food used, in no greater proportion than the proportion specified in relation to the proportion specified in Column III of Schedule II.

(b) if the compounded food is a specified food and does not contain any permitted preservatives in any greater proportion than is specified in Column III thereto.

6. No person shall manufacture, import, store, transport, sell, offer for sale, distribute, use or advertise any permitted preservative (including any permitted preservative mixed with any other substance) for use as an ingredient in the preparation of food-

(a) unless such preservative conforms to the standards of purity prescribed by the standards prescribed by the Combine Compendium of Food Additives Monographs by JECFA of the Food and Agricultural Organization - (FAO)

(b) except in a container bearing a label in accordance with the requirements contained in paragraphs (1) and (2) of Schedule III hereto.

7. All proportions mentioned in these regulations are proportions calculated by the weight of the product unless a contrary intention is expressed.

8. The label on every container or package of food, to which a permitted preservative as specified in these regulations has been added, shall have a declaration as set out in the Food (Labelling and Advertising) Regulation 2005 published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 1376/9 of January 19, 2005 as amended from time to time or replaced.

9. The Food (Preservatives) Regulations 1989 published in the *Gazette Extraordinary* No. 615/11 of 19th June 1990 are hereby rescinded.

10. In these Regulations -

“Preservative” means a food additive, which prolongs the shelf-life of a food by protecting against deterioration caused by microorganisms.

“Compounded food” means food containing two or more ingredients.

SCHEDULE I

Permitted Preservatives

<i>Permitted Preservative</i>	<i>Column I</i>		<i>Column II</i>	
	<i>International Numbering System INS No.</i>	<i>Alternative form in which the permitted preservative may be used (to be calculated as the permitted preservative shown in Column I)</i>	<i>International Numbering System INS No.</i>	
1. Sorbic acid	200	Sodium sorbate Potassium sorbate Calcium sorbate	201 202 203	
2. Benzoic acid	210	Sodium benzoate Potassium benzoate Calcium benzoate	211 212 213	
3. Sulphur dioxide	220	Sodium sulphite Sodium hydrogen sulphite Sodium metabisulphite Potassium metabisulphite Potassium sulphite Potassium hydrogen sulphite Calcium sulphite Calcium hydrogen sulphite	221 222 223 224 225 228 226 227	
4. Orthophenylphenol	231	Sodium orthophenylphenate	232	
5. Nisin	234			
6. Potassium nitrite	249			
7. Sodium nitrite	250			
8. Propionic acid	280	Sodium propionate Calcium propionate Potassium propionate	281 282 283	

SCHEDULE II

**Articles of Food which may contain permitted preservatives in Column I and Column II & Schedule I and the nature and quantity of permitted preservative in each case**

<i>Column I Specified Food</i>	<i>Column II Permitted Preservatives</i>	<i>Column III Maximum Permitted Level (milligram per kilogram) (mg/kg)</i>
<b>1.0 Dairy Products</b>		
(a) Dairy based drinks, flavoured and/or fermented (e. g. chocolate milk cocoa, drinking yoghurt, whey-based drinks) [*for use in flavoured products heat treated after fermentation only]	Sorbates or Propionates	1000* GMP
(b) Cheese, prepacked, sliced	Sorbates	1000
(c) Cheese, ripened Cheese, processed Cheese spread and Cheese paste	Sorbates or Nisin or Propionates	3000 12 GMP
(d) Desserts, dairy based non heat treated (e. g. flavoured yoghurt) (*curd, fruit, flavoured, jelly yoghurt and yoghurt with “x” only) (** for fruit yoghurt only)	Sorbates or Sulphites or Nisin or Propionates	300* 50** 12 GMP
(e) Renneted milk (plain)	Sorbates	1000
(f) Beverage whiteners	Sorbates	200
(g) Clotted cream (plain)	Nisin or Propionates	10 GMP
(h) Unripened cheese	Sorbates or Propionates	1000 GMP
(i) Cheese powder (for reconstitution)	Propionates	GMP
(j) Whey cheese	Sorbates	1000
(k) Whey protein cheese	Sorbates or Nisin or Propionates	3000 12 3000
(l) Liquid whey and whey products	Propionates	GMP

<i>Column I</i> <i>Specified Food</i>	<i>Column II</i> <i>Permitted Preservatives</i>	<i>Column III</i> <i>Maximum Permitted Level</i> <i>(milligram per kilogram)</i> <i>(mg/kg)</i>
2.0 Fat emulsions mainly of type water-in-all		
(a) Fat spreads, dairy fat spreads and blended fat spreads	Sorbates	2000
(b) Vegetables and nut purees & spreads (e. g. peanut butter) (*for use in energy reduced products only)	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	1000* 300 GMP
3.0 Fruits, vegetables and artificially flavoured drinks		
3.1 Fruits and fruit products		
(a) Surface treated fresh fruits	Sulphites or Orthophenyl phenol or Sodium orthophenol phenate	30 12 12
(b) Dried Fruits	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	500 1000 GMP
(c) Frozen fruit	Sulphites or Propionates	500 GMP
(d) Candied, crystallized or glazed fruits and citrus peel	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	500 100 GMP
(e) Fruits in vinegar, oil or brine	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	1000 100 GMP
(f) Fruit based spreads e. g. chutney	Sorbates or Propionates	300 GMP
(g) Fruit preparations, including pulp, puree, fruit topping and coconut milk	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	1000 100 GMP
(h) Jams, Jellies, marmalades	Sorbates or Sulphites (as residual SO <sub>2</sub> ) or Propionates	300 100 GMP
(i) Jams, Jellies and marmalades, low in sugar or sugar free	Sorbates or Sulphites (as residual SO <sub>2</sub> ) or Propionates	500 100 GMP

<i>Column I</i> <i>Specified Food</i>	<i>Column II</i> <i>Permitted Preservatives</i>	<i>Column III</i> <i>Maximum Permitted Level</i> <i>(milligram per kilogram)</i> <i>(mg/kg)</i>
(j) Fruit-based desserts, including fruit-flavoured water-based desserts and jelly cups	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	300 50 GMP
(k) Fermented fruit products	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	1000 100 GMP
(l) Fruit filling for pastries	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	1000 100 GMP
(m) Fruit juices	Sorbates or Sulphites	300 50
(n) Fruit juice concentrates (as served to consumer)	Sorbates or Sulphites	300 50
(o) Fruit nectar (as served to consumer)	Sorbates or Sulphites	300 50
(p) Concentrates for fruit nectar (as served to consumer)	Sorbates or Sulphites	300 50
(q) Fruit cordials and squashes containing not less than 25% fruit juice except 15% for “nelli”, ginger and lime and not less than 40% m/m total soluble solids, for consumption after dilution.	Sorbates or Sulphites	1500 250
(r) Fruit squach concentrates containing not less than 50% m/m fruit juice except 30% for “nelli”, ginger and lime and not less than 62% m/m total soluble solids, for consumption after dilution.	Sorbates or Sulphites	3000 500
(s) Fruit drinks for consumption without dilution containing not less than 5% m/m fruit juice and not more than 16% total soluble solids	Sorbates or Sulphites	300 50

<i>Column I</i> <i>Specified Food</i>	<i>Column II</i> <i>Permitted Preservatives</i>	<i>Column III</i> <i>Maximum Permitted Level</i> <i>(milligram per kilogram)</i> <i>(mg/kg)</i>
(t) Concentrated fruit juice for industrial use	Sulphites	1500
3.2 Water based flavoured drinks		
(a) Artificially flavoured cordials, containing not less than 25% sugar (calculated as sucrose) for consumption after dilution	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	1500 250 GMP
(b) Artificial flavoured drinks ready for consumption without dilution, containing not less than 5% sugar (calculated as sucrose)	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	300 50 GMP
(c) Water based flavoured drinks, carbonated	Sorbates or Benzoates or Sulphites or Propionates	300 120 50 GMP
(d) Artificially flavoured syrup concentrates	Sorbates or Benzoates or Sulphites or Propionates	1500 600 250 GMP
3.3 Vegetable products (including mushrooms, roots, tubers, pulses, legumes and nuts)		
(a) Peeled, cut or shredded fresh vegetables, (*for use in potatoes only)	Sulphites	50*
(b) Frozen vegetables (*for use in potatoes only)	Sulphites	50*
(c) Dried/Dehydrated Vegetables	Sulphites or Propionates	500 GMP
(d) Vegetables in vinegar, oil brine or soy sauce	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	1000 100 GMP
(e) Vegetables pulps and preparations (e. g. vegetables desserts and sauces, candied vegetables) (*for use in potatoes only)	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	1000 300* GMP

<i>Column I Specified Food</i>	<i>Column II Permitted Preservatives</i>	<i>Column III Maximum Permitted Level (milligram per kilogram) (mg/kg)</i>
(f) Vegetables, fermented except fermented soybean products	Sorbates or Sulphites	1000 500
(g) Vegetables juices	Sulphites	50
(h) Vegetables juices Concentrates (as served to consumer)	Sulphites	50
(i) Vegetable nectar (as served to consumer)	Sulphites	50
(j) Concentrates for vegetables nectar (as served to consumer)	Sulphites	50
(k) Vegetables juice for industrial use	Sulphites	1000
(l) Concentrated vegetables juice for industrial use	Sulphites	1500
(m) Pickles	Sorbates or Sulphites	1000 100
(n) Desiccated coconut and coconut paste	Sulphites	50

#### 4.0 Carbohydrates, cereals and their products

##### 4.1 Carbohydrates

(a) Starches (excluding starches for weaning foods, follow on formula and infant formula)	Sorbates or Sulphites	1000 50
(b) Flours	Sulphites	200
(c) White sugars, fructose, glucose, icing sugar, powdered dextrose	Sulphites	15
(d) Plantation and mill white sugar	Sulphite	70
(e) Brown sugar	Sulphites	40
(f) Sugar solutions and syrups, also (partially) inverted sugars including treacle and molasses	Sulphites	70



<i>Column I Specified Food</i>	<i>Column II Permitted Preservatives</i>	<i>Column III Maximum Permitted Level (milligram per kilogram) (mg/kg)</i>
(g) Other sugars and syrups (e. g. xylose, maple syrup, sugar topping)	Sulphites	40
(h) Glucose syrup and dried glucose syrup	Sulphites	20
(i) Glucose syrup for manufacturing purpose	Sulphites	400
(j) Dried Glucose syrup for manufacturing purpose	Sulphites	150
4.2 Cereals and cereal products		
(a) Cereal and starch based desserts	Sorbates, or Nisin or Propionates	300 3 GMP
(b) Bread and other bakery products	Propionates	GMP
(c) Biscuits and crackers excluding sweet crackers	Sorbates or Propionates	1000 GMP
(d) Cakes, cookies, pies, doughnuts and related products	Sorbates or Propionates	300 GMP
4.3 Confectionery		
(a) Confectionery, glucose syrup base	Sulphites or Propionates	50 GMP
(b) Chewing gum and bubble gum	Sorbates or Propionates	1000 GMP
5.0 Egg, fish, poultry, meat and their products		
5.1 Egg, fish and their products		
(a) Dried and/or heat-coagulated egg product	Sorbates or Propionates	1000 GMP
(b) Crustacean, mollusks and Echinoderm, fresh	Sulphites	100
(c) Mollusks, crustaceans and echinoderms, frozen	Sulphites	100

<i>Column I Specified Food</i>	<i>Column II Permitted Preservatives</i>	<i>Column III Maximum Permitted Level (milligram per kilogram) (mg/kg)</i>
5.2 Poultry and meat and their products		
(a) Ham and bacon	Nitrites	80
(b) Meat and poultry products, heat treated, processed, comminuted including meat balls, sausage, burger, chicken roll, luncheon meat	Nitrites	80
(c) Canned corned meat	Nitrites	80
6.0 Sauces, soups and miscellaneous items		
6.1 Sauces and like products		
(a) Emulsified sauces (e. g. salad dressings, mayonnaise)	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	1000 300 GMP
(b) Non emulsified sauces (e. g. ketchup cheese sauce, cream sauce, brown gravy) mixes for sauces and gravies and clear sauces (e. g. fish sauce)	Sorbates or Sulphites or Propionates	1000 300 GMP
(c) Sandwich spreads, excluding cocoa based spreads and vegetable and nut spreads	Sorbates or Propionates	300 GMP
6.2 Soups		
Soup Mixes	Sorbates or Propionates	300 GMP
6.3 Miscellaneous		
(a) Herbs and spices	Sulphites	150
(b) Dietetic foods intended for special medical purposes	Sorbates or Propionates	1500 GMP
(c) Dietetic formulae for slimming purposes and weight reduction	Sorbates or Propionates	1500 GMP

<i>Column I</i> <i>Specified Food</i>	<i>Column II</i> <i>Permitted Preservatives</i>	<i>Column III</i> <i>Maximum Permitted Level</i> <i>(milligram per kilogram)</i> <i>(mg/kg)</i>
(d) Dietetic foods (e. g. supplementary foods for dietary use) except foods for infants and young children	Sorbates or Propionates	1500 GMP
(e) Food supplements	Sorbates or Propionates	2000 GMP
(f) Soyabean products, (e. g. tofu soya sauce)	Sorbates or Propionates	1000 GMP
(g) Spice pastes	Sorbates or Sulphites	300 100
(h) Snacks and bites - potato, cereal, flour or starch based (from roots and tubers, pulse and legumes)	Sorbate or Sulphites or Propionates	1000 50 GMP
(i) Processed nuts, including coated nuts and nut mixtures (with e. g. dried fruit)	Propionates	GMP
(j) Snacks meat and fish based	Propionates	GMP

### SCHEDULE III

- Each container of package to which regulation 3 applies shall bear a label indicating a statement -
  - of each permitted preservative, the common name and INS number ;
  - where more than one substance is present, the common names and INS numbers ;
  - where a permitted preservative is admixed with a diluent the proportions of the diluent and the preservative present, in the diluted preparation.
- Any statement required to be printed/attached in terms of paragraph 1-
  - shall be clear and legible ;
  - shall be in a conspicuous position on the label which shall be securely attached/printed to the container or package in such a manner that the statement shall be easily read and understood by a prospective buyer ;
  - shall not be in any way hidden or obscured by any other matter.