

## 1976 No. 430

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

## The Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Edible Fats) Order 1976

*Laid before Parliament in draft*

<i>Made - - - -</i>	<i>16th March 1976</i>
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<i>Coming into Operation</i>	<i>1st January 1977</i>
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Whereas the Secretary of State pursuant to section 54(2) of the Weights and Measures Act 1963(a) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") has consulted with organisations appearing to her to be representative of interests substantially affected by this Order and considered the representations made to her by such organisations with respect to the subject matter of this Order:

And whereas a draft of this Order has been laid before Parliament and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament pursuant to section 54(3) of the Act:

Now, therefore, the Secretary of State, in exercise of powers conferred by section 21(2), (3) and (5) of the Act and now vested in her(b) and of all other powers enabling her in that behalf, hereby makes the following Order:—

1.—(1) This Order may be cited as the Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Edible Fats) Order 1976 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1977.

(2) In this Order "edible fats" means—

- (a) butter, margarine, any mixture of butter and margarine, and low fat spreads (butter or margarine substitutes);
- (b) dripping and shredded suet;
- (c) lard and compound cooking fat, and substitutes therefor;
- (d) solidified edible oil (except in gel form).

(3) The Interpretation Act 1889(c) shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

2. Parts IX and XI of Schedule 4 to the Act shall cease to apply to edible fats.

3. Edible fats which are not pre-packed shall be sold by retail only by net weight.

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(a) 1963 c. 31.  
(c) 1889 c. 63.

(b) S.I. 1970/1537 (1970 III, p. 5293).

4. Subject to Article 5, edible fats shall be pre-packed—

- (a) except where made up in a quantity exceeding 10kg, only if they are made up in one of the following quantities by net weight, that is to say—
- (i) 2oz, 4oz, 8oz, 12oz, 1lb, 1½lb or a multiple of 1lb; or
  - (ii) 50g, 125g, 250g, 500g or a multiple of 500g up to and including 4kg, or thereafter a multiple of 1kg up to and including 10kg; and
- (b) only if the container is marked with an indication of quantity by net weight.

5. Edible fats described in Article 1(2)(a) pre-packed in a quantity not exceeding 25g shall be exempted from the requirements of Article 4 of this Order.

*Alan Williams,*  
Minister of State,

Department of Prices and Consumer  
Protection.

16th March 1976.

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Order.)*

This Order provides that Part IX of Schedule 4 to the Weights and Measures Act 1963 relating to butter, compound cooking fat, dripping, lard, margarine, shredded suet, and any mixture of butter and margarine, and Part XI as applicable to low fat spreads (butter or margarine substitutes), substitutes for lard and compound cooking fat, and solidified edible oil (except in gel form) shall cease to apply to those products on 1st January 1977 when the provisions in the Schedule relating to those products are replaced by the provisions of this Order.

Edible fats may be pre-packed only in a prescribed range of imperial or metric weights except where the quantity exceeds 10 kg (approximately 22 lbs). Containers in which such goods are pre-packed must be marked with an indication of quantity by net weight. Pre-packs of butter, margarine, any mixture of butter and margarine, and low fat spreads (butter or margarine substitutes) made up in a quantity not exceeding 25 g (approximately  $\frac{9}{16}$  oz) are exempt from the requirements of the Order relating to pre-packed goods.

Edible fats which are not pre-packed may be sold by retail only by net weight. The reference to metric units is new.



SI 1976/430  
ISBN 0-11-060430-X



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