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STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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**2009 No. 258**

**FOOD**

**The Food Irradiation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009**

*Made* - - - - *29th June 2009*  
*Coming into operation* *31st July 2009*

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety<sup>(1)</sup> makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 15(1) and (3), 16(1), 17(1)(c), 18(1)(b), 25, 26(3) and 47(2) of, and paragraphs 1 and 4(b) of Schedule 1 to, the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991<sup>(2)</sup>.

In accordance with Article 47(3A) of that Order, it has had regard to relevant advice given by the Food Standards Agency.

As required by Article 9 of Regulation EC No. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety<sup>(3)</sup> there has been open and transparent public consultation during the preparation of these Regulations.

**Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C1** Regulations applied (with modifications) (1.10.2023) by [The Windsor Framework \(Enforcement etc.\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1056\)](#), regs. 1(2), 9, [Sch.](#)

**Citation and commencement**

**1.** These Regulations may be cited as the Food Irradiation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009 and come into operation on 31st July 2009.

**Commencement Information**

**II** [Reg. 1](#) in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

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(1) Formerly the Department of Health and Social Services; see [S.I. 1999/283 \(N.I.1\)](#) Article 3(6)  
(2) [S.I. 1991/762 \(N.I.7\)](#) as amended by [S.I. 1996/1663 \(N.I.12\)](#), paragraphs 26 to 42 of Schedule 5 and Schedule 6 to the Food Standards Act 1999 [c.28](#) and [S.R. 2004 Nos. 482 and 505](#)  
(3) OJ No. L31, 1.2.2002, p.1, as last amended as by [Commission Regulation \(EC\) No. 202/2008](#) amending Regulation (EC) [No. 178/2002](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the number and names of the Scientific Panels of the European Food Safety Authority (OJ No. L60, 5.3.2008, p.17)

## Scope

2. These Regulations do not apply to—
- (a) irradiation by measuring or inspection devices at a maximum level of—
    - (i) 10MeV in the case of X-rays;
    - (ii) 14MeV in the case of neutrons; or
    - (iii) 5MeV in other cases,
 where the dose of ionising radiation absorbed does not exceed 0.01Gy in the case of inspection devices which utilise neutrons and 0.5 Gy in other cases; or
  - (b) irradiation of food prepared under medical supervision for patients requiring sterile diets.

### Commencement Information

**I2** [Reg. 2](#) in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

## Interpretation

- 3.—(1) In these Regulations—
- “the Agency” means the Food Standards Agency;
  - “approval” includes a licence;
  - “import” means to introduce from another member State or from a country outside the [F<sup>1</sup>European Union];
  - “ionising radiation” means any gamma rays, X rays or corpuscular radiations which are capable of producing ions either directly or indirectly;
  - “irradiated” means treated by ionising radiation;
  - “licence” save in regulation 7(a)(ii)(bb) means a licence granted by the Agency in accordance with Schedule 2 to a person and a facility to irradiate food;
  - “member State” means a member State of the [F<sup>1</sup>European Union];
  - “official reference number” in relation to a facility in a member State means the reference number allocated by the member State in connection with its approval as an irradiation facility (being the number shown for it in the list in Schedule 3);
  - “sell” includes possess, offer, expose and advertise for sale;
  - “the Order” means the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.
- (2) For the purposes of these Regulations—
- (a) “properly irradiated food” means food which—
    - (i) was either irradiated alone or as part of a batch of food in which each item was food which fell within the same permitted category of food; and
    - (ii) has not been over-irradiated;
  - (b) food falls within a permitted category of food when (excluding the weight of any added water) no less than 98 per cent of it by weight falls within that category, and “item”, in relation to a batch of food, means each item within that batch intended to be capable of being sold individually;
  - (c) the permitted categories of food are—
    - (i) fruit;

- (ii) vegetables;
  - (iii) cereals;
  - (iv) bulbs and tubers;
  - (v) dried aromatic herbs, spices and vegetable seasonings;
  - (vi) fish and shellfish; and
  - (vii) poultry;
- (d) in the permitted categories of food—
- (i) “fruit” includes fungi, tomatoes and rhubarb;
  - (ii) “vegetables” excludes fruit, cereals, bulbs and tubers and dried aromatic herbs, spices and vegetable seasonings but includes pulses;
  - (iii) “bulbs and tubers” means potatoes, yams, onions, shallots and garlic;
  - (iv) “fish and shellfish” includes eels, crustaceans and molluscs; and
  - (v) “poultry” means domestic fowls, geese, ducks, guinea fowls, pigeons, quails and turkeys;
- (e) food has been over-irradiated either when the overall average dose of ionising radiation absorbed by it, measured in accordance with Schedule 1, exceeds, in the case of—
- (i) fruit, 2 kGy;
  - (ii) vegetables, 1 kGy;
  - (iii) cereals, 1 kGy;
  - (iv) bulbs and tubers, 0.2 kGy;
  - (v) dried aromatic herbs, spices and vegetable seasonings, 10 kGy;
  - (vi) fish and shellfish, 3 kGy; or
  - (vii) poultry, 7 kGy,
- or in the circumstances described in paragraph (3).
- (3) The circumstances are that the maximum dose of ionising radiation absorbed by the food, or by any food in the same batch, measured in accordance with Schedule 1, is—
- (a) more than three times the minimum dose absorbed by it; or
  - (b) more than 1.5 times the overall average dose specified for the food in paragraph (2)(e).

**Textual Amendments**

**F1** Words in Regulations substituted (22.4.2011) by [The Treaty of Lisbon \(Changes in Terminology\) Order 2011 \(S.I. 2011/1043\)](#), arts. 2, 3-6

**Commencement Information**

**I3** [Reg. 3](#) in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

**Prohibition on treatment without a licence**

- 4.—(1) A person shall not in the preparation of any food irradiate it or any part of it unless—
- (a) that person has been licensed;
  - (b) it is in a suitably wholesome state; and
  - (c) it is irradiated in accordance with these Regulations and any conditions of the licence.

(2) Schedule 2 shall have effect in relation to licences.

#### Commencement Information

**I4** Reg. 4 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

#### Restrictions on importation

**5.—(1)** A person shall not import into Northern Ireland for the purpose of sale any irradiated food unless—

- (a) it falls within a permitted category of food;
- (b) it has been irradiated in one of the facilities listed in the Table in—
  - (i) Schedule 3, being in each case a facility in a member State approved for the irradiation of foods and food ingredients by the member State concerned; or
  - (ii) Schedule 4, being in each case a facility in a country outside the [F1European Union] and approved by the [F1European Union];
- (c) it is properly irradiated food; and
- (d) the requirements of paragraph (2) or (3) are complied with.

(2) Where the food was irradiated in another member State, it must be accompanied by documents containing—

- (a) either the name and address of the facility which carried out the irradiation, or its official reference number; and
- (b) the information specified in paragraph 9(1)(a) to (d) and (2)(d) of Part 3 of Schedule 2.

(3) Where the food was irradiated outside the European Community—

- (a) it is accompanied by documents containing the name and address of the facility in which it was irradiated and the information specified in paragraph 9(1) of Part 3 of Schedule 2; and
- (b) in the case of food other than dried aromatic herbs, spices or vegetable seasonings—
  - (i) it was irradiated by a person approved, under a reference by which the approval can be identified, by a competent authority in the country in which it was irradiated;
  - (ii) the approval requires the method of measurement specified in Schedule 1 relating to food to which the approval relates; and
  - (iii) the operation of the legislation in force in that country relating to the irradiation of food protects human health to an extent not less than human health is protected by the operation of these Regulations; and
- (c) it complies with the conditions which apply to the food.

(4) This regulation applies to food which has (as well as food which has not) become an ingredient of other food.

(5) In paragraph (3)(c) the expression “the conditions which apply to the food” is to be construed in accordance with the expression “the conditions which apply to those foodstuffs” in Article 9(1) of Directive [1999/2/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation(4) as amended.

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(4) OJ No. L66, 13.3.1999, p.16 as amended by Regulation (EC) No. 1882/2003 (OJ No. L284, 31.10.2003, p.1) and Regulation (EC) No. 1137/2008 (OJ No. L311, 21.11.2008, p.1)

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in Regulations substituted (22.4.2011) by [The Treaty of Lisbon \(Changes in Terminology\) Order 2011 \(S.I. 2011/1043\)](#), arts. 2, 3-6

#### Commencement Information

- I5** [Reg. 5](#) in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

### Restriction on storage or transport

6.—(1) A person shall not store or transport for the purpose of sale any irradiated food unless—

- (a) that person has been licensed in relation to the food; or
- (b) that person has not been licensed in relation to the food and—
  - (i) where the food has been imported into Northern Ireland, it is accompanied by the documents, or copies of the documents, required in relation to it by regulation 5(2) or 5(3)(a); or
  - (ii) where the irradiation took place in the United Kingdom, it is accompanied by documents containing a statement that the food has been irradiated and a document or copy containing the information specified in paragraph 9(1)(a) to (d) and (2) of Part 3 of Schedule 2.

(2) This regulation applies to food which has (as well as food which has not) become an ingredient of other food.

#### Commencement Information

- I6** [Reg. 6](#) in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

### Restriction on sale

7. A person shall not sell food which, or any part of which, has been irradiated unless—

- (a) either—
  - (i) the irradiation took place in Northern Ireland and regulation 4 and Schedule 2 and any conditions of the licence were complied with; or
  - (ii) the irradiation took place in England, Scotland or Wales and
    - (aa) provisions having effect there, corresponding to regulation 4 and Schedule 2; and
    - (bb) any conditions of a licence to irradiate food issued there, were complied with; or
  - (iii) the food was imported into Northern Ireland and regulation 5 was complied with; and
- (b) where it was stored or transported, regulation 6 was complied with.

#### Commencement Information

- I7** [Reg. 7](#) in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

### Documentation for food not ready for a final sale

8.—(1) A person shall not import into Northern Ireland, store or transport for the purpose of sale or sell irradiated food, or food containing an irradiated ingredient, which is not ready for delivery to the ultimate consumer or catering establishments unless the documents which accompany the food—

- (a) apply the word “irradiated” or the words “treated with ionising radiation” to the food or the ingredient, as the case may be; and
- (b) include either the name and address of the facility which carried out the irradiation, or its official reference number.

(2) In this regulation—

- (a) “catering establishment” means a restaurant, canteen, club, public house, school, hospital or similar establishment (including a vehicle or a fixed or mobile stall) where, in the course of a business, food is prepared for delivery to the ultimate consumer and is ready for consumption without further preparation;
- (b) “ultimate consumer” means any person who buys otherwise than—
  - (i) for the purpose of resale;
  - (ii) for the purposes of a catering establishment; or
  - (iii) for the purposes of a manufacturing business.

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#### Commencement Information

**18** [Reg. 8](#) in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

### Enforcement

9.—(1) The Agency shall enforce the provisions of these Regulations in so far as they fall to be observed by a licensee.

(2) The Agency or each district council within its district shall each enforce the provisions of regulation 4 in so far as they fall to be observed by any person other than a licensee.

(3) Each district council shall enforce within its district the provisions of these Regulations save in so far as they fall to be enforced under paragraph (1) or (2).

(4) Each authority concerned in the administration of these Regulations shall give to each other authority so concerned such assistance and information as that other authority may reasonably require for the purposes of its duties under these Regulations.

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#### Commencement Information

**19** [Reg. 9](#) in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

### Offences and penalties

10.—(1) Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of these Regulations or, for the purposes of these Regulations, makes any false statement or uses any document containing a false statement either recklessly or knowing it to be false, is guilty of an offence and is liable—

- (a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or both; and
- (b) on conviction on indictment to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or both.

(2) Any licensee who contravenes or fails to comply with any condition of the licence is guilty of an offence and is liable—

- (a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or both; and
- (b) on conviction on indictment to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or both.

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**Commencement Information**

**I10** [Reg. 10](#) in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

**Application of various provisions of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991**

**11.**—(1) The following provisions of the Order shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations with the modification that any reference in them to the Order shall be construed as a reference to these Regulations—

- (a) Articles 2(4) (extended meaning of sale) and 3 (application of food offered as prizes etc.);
- (b) Article 2(6) (which relates to territorial waters);
- (c) Article 4 (presumptions that food intended for human consumption);
- (d) Article 19 (offences due to fault of another person);
- (e) Article 20 (defence of due diligence), with the modification that paragraphs (2) to (4) shall apply in relation to an offence of contravening regulation 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 as they apply in relation to an offence under Article 13 or 14;
- (f) Article 30(8) (which relates to documentary evidence);
- (g) Article 34(1) (obstruction etc. of officers);
- (h) Article 36(1) (punishment of offences), in so far as it relates to offences under Article 34(1) as applied by sub-paragraph (g);

(2) Article 8 of the Order (inspection and seizure of suspected food) shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations as if food which it was an offence to sell under them were food which failed to comply with food safety requirements.

(3) Article 35 of the Order (which relates to time limits for the beginning of prosecutions) shall apply in relation to offences under these Regulations as it applies to offences punishable under Article 36(2) of the Order.

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**Commencement Information**

**I11** [Reg. 11](#) in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

**Revocation of existing Regulations**

**12.**—(1) The Food (Control of Irradiation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(5) are revoked.

(2) Regulations 2 to 12 of the Food Irradiation Provisions Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000(6) are revoked.

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(5) [S.R. 1992 No.172](#)

(6) [S.R. 2000 No.303](#)

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**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The  
Food Irradiation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009. (See end of Document for details)

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**Commencement Information**

**I12** [Reg. 12](#) in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on  
29th June 2009.



*Michael McBride*  
A senior officer of the Department of Health,  
Social Services and Public Safety



## SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 3(2)(e) and (3) and Schedule 2  
Part 1 paragraphs 1(g) and 2(l)

## METHOD OF MEASUREMENT OF IRRADIATION

*(This Schedule sets out (with a correction<sup>(7)</sup> in paragraph 1(5)) the provisions of Annex III to Directive 1999/2/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation<sup>(8)</sup> as amended)*

**Dosimetry: overall average absorbed dose**

1.—(1) It can be assumed for the purpose of the determination of the wholesomeness of foodstuffs treated with an overall average dose of 10kGy or less that all radiation chemical effects in that particular dose range are proportional to that dose.

(2) The overall average dose,  $\bar{D}$ , is defined by the following integral over the total volume of the goods:

$$\bar{D} = \frac{1}{M} \int p(x,y,z) d(x,y,z) dV$$

where:-

M = the total mass of the treated sample

p = the local density at the point (x,y,z)

d = the local absorbed dose at the point (x,y,z)

dV = dx dy dz, the infinitesimal volume element which in real cases is represented by the volume fractions.

(3) The overall average absorbed dose can be determined directly for homogeneous products or for bulk goods of homogeneous apparent density by distributing an adequate number of dosimeters strategically and at random throughout the volume of the goods. From the dose distribution determined in this manner an average can be calculated which is the overall average absorbed dose.

(4) If the shape of the dose distribution curve throughout the product is well determined, the positions of minimum and maximum dose are known. Measurements of the distribution of dose in these two positions in a series of samples of the product can be used to give an estimate of the overall average dose.

(5) In some cases, the mean value of the average values of the minimum dose ( $\bar{D}_{\min}$ ) and maximum dose ( $\bar{D}_{\max}$ ) will be a good estimate of the overall average dose: i.e., in these cases:

$$\text{overall average dose} \approx \frac{\bar{D}_{\max} + \bar{D}_{\min}}{2}$$

The ratio of  $\frac{\bar{D}_{\max}}{\bar{D}_{\min}}$  should not exceed 3

(7) The Directive omits the word “average” after “overall”

(8) OJ No. L66, 13.3.1999, p.16, as amended by Regulation (EC) No. 1882/2003 (OJ No. L284, 31.10.2003, p.1) and Regulation (EC) No. 1137/2008 (OJ No. L311, 21.11.2008, p.1)

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**Commencement Information**

**I13** Sch. 1 para. 1 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

**Procedures**

2.—(1) Before routine irradiation of a given category of foodstuffs begins at a radiation facility, the locations of the minimum and maximum doses are determined by making dose measurements throughout the product volume. These validation measurements must be carried out a suitable number of times (e.g. 3-5) in order to make allowance for variations in product density or geometry.

(2) Measurements must be repeated whenever the product, its geometry or the irradiation conditions are changed.

(3) During the process, routine dose measurements are carried out in order to ensure that the dose limits are not exceeded. Measurements should be carried out by placing dosimeters at the positions of the maximum or minimum dose, or at a reference position. The dose at the reference position must be quantitatively linked to the maximum and minimum dose. The reference position should be located at a convenient point in or on the product, where dose variations are low.

(4) Routine dose measurements must be carried out on each batch and at regular intervals during production.

(5) In cases where flowing, non-packaged goods are irradiated, the locations of the minimum and maximum doses cannot be determined. In such a case it is preferable to use random dosimeter sampling to ascertain the values of these dose extremes.

(6) Dose measurements should be carried out by using recognised dosimetry systems, and the measurements should be traceable to primary standards.

(7) During irradiation, certain facility parameters must be controlled and continuously recorded. For radionuclide facilities the parameters include product transport speed or time spent in the radiation zone and positive indication for correct position of the source. For accelerator facilities, the parameters include product transport speed and energy level, electron current and scanner width of the facility.

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**Commencement Information**

**I14** Sch. 1 para. 2 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

## SCHEDULE 2

Regulations 4(2), 5(2)(b) and (3)(a), 6(1)  
(b) and 7(a)(i) and (ii)(aa)

### LICENCES

#### Part 1

#### Grant of Licences

##### Application for licence

1. A person seeking a licence to irradiate food (“the applicant”) shall apply by sending to the Agency an application in writing containing—

- (a) the applicant’s name;
- (b) the applicant’s address;
- (c) the address of the facility at which the applicant proposes to irradiate food;
- (d) details of any licence or registration under any other legislation which enables the applicant to use ionising radiation at the facility in circumstances where, but for that licence or registration, that use would be unlawful;
- (e) a description of each food which the applicant proposes to irradiate which is sufficient to show that it falls within a permitted category of food;
- (f) in respect of each food described pursuant to sub-paragraph (e)—
  - (i) the purpose for which the applicant proposes to irradiate the food and how that would benefit consumers;
  - (ii) the method by which the applicant will ensure that the food is in a suitably wholesome state before irradiation;
  - (iii) the overall average dose, maximum dose and minimum dose of ionising radiation which the applicant proposes to apply to the food;
  - (iv) the method (including instrumentation and frequency) by which the applicant proposes to measure any dose of ionising radiation and the dosimetry standard which the applicant proposes to use to calibrate the dose meters used to measure it;
  - (v) whether or not the applicant proposes to irradiate that description of food in packaging in contact with the food and, if so, the packaging which the applicant proposes to use; and
  - (vi) whether or not the applicant proposes to apply temperature control to the food while irradiating it and, if so, the temperature at which the applicant proposes to keep the food during the application of temperature control;
- (g) in respect of each food described under sub-paragraph (e), particulars demonstrating that the irradiation will be in conformity with Schedule 1 and the Joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission Recommended International Code of Practice for the operation of irradiation facilities used for the treatment of foods (in this Part of this Schedule referred to as “the Code of Practice”), reference FAO/WHO/CAC, vol XV, edition 1(9);
- (h) a plan of the layout of the facility, details of its design and construction and a statement of the practices which the applicant proposes to apply, including—

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(9) A copy of the Code of Practice may be obtained from the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Viale della Terme di Caracalla, 0010, Rome

- (i) the proposed method of irradiating food;
- (ii) the type of radiation to be used;
- (iii) the proposed methods of business control and organisation, including the minimum qualifications (whether they are formal or are derived from skill, training or experience) of persons who will be involved in applying the practices;
- (i) the identity and qualifications of the person who has been designated to be responsible for compliance with the conditions necessary for application of the practices referred to in sub-paragraph (h) and that person's position within the applicant's management structure;
- (j) the date from which the applicant wishes the licence to run; and
- (k) any other particulars which the applicant wishes the Agency to consider in deciding whether to grant the licence.

#### Commencement Information

**I15** Sch. 2 Pt. 1 para. 1 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

#### Consideration of the application

2. The Agency may grant a licence where it is satisfied that—
  - (a) the facility specified in the application satisfies the requirements of the Code of Practice;
  - (b) each food described in the application falls within a permitted category;
  - (c) there is a reasonable technological need;
  - (d) the irradiation would present no health hazard and would be carried out under the conditions described in the application;
  - (e) the irradiation would be of benefit to the consumer;
  - (f) the irradiation would not be used as a substitute for hygiene and health practices or for good manufacturing or agricultural practice;
  - (g) the purposes of irradiation are only—
    - (i) to reduce the incidence of food-borne disease by destroying pathogenic organisms;
    - (ii) to reduce spoilage of foodstuffs by retarding or arresting decay processes and destroying spoilage organisms;
    - (iii) to reduce loss of foodstuffs by premature ripening, germination or sprouting; or
    - (iv) to rid foodstuffs of organisms harmful to plants or plant products;
  - (h) where the purposes of irradiation include reducing the incidence of food-borne disease by destroying pathogenic organisms, the applicant will use microbiological criteria in deciding whether to irradiate food;
  - (i) there is no significant risk that the applicant may irradiate food which for microbiological reasons cannot comply with food safety requirements, or cannot comply without being irradiated;
  - (j) every method specified under paragraph 1(f)(ii) is adequate to enable the applicant to ensure that the food is in a suitably wholesome state before irradiation;
  - (k) the overall average dose specified under paragraph 1(f)(iii) in relation to each description of food is consistent with each purpose specified in respect of that description of food under paragraph 1(f)(i);
  - (l) the method and standard specified under paragraph 1(f)(iv)—

- (i) comply with Schedule 1; and
- (ii) eliminate any significant risk that the overall average dose, measured by that method, will deviate significantly from the overall average dose as defined under paragraph 1 of Schedule 1;
- (m) the factors specified under paragraph 1(f) eliminate any significant risk that food, irradiated in any packaging specified under paragraph 1(f)(v), and at any temperature specified under paragraph 1(f)(vi), will fail to comply with food safety requirements; and
- (n) the practices and qualifications specified in the statement under paragraph 1(h) are adequate for ensuring that the requirements of these Regulations and any conditions of the licence will not be breached.

**Commencement Information**

**I16** Sch. 2 Pt. 1 para. 2 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

3. Where the Agency believes that—

- (a) it ought to take account of the practical operation of the facility before it finally determines the application; and
- (b) it would not prejudice safety if food was irradiated at the facility for the time being,

it may grant a licence for a period, or further period, not exceeding 6 months in total to enable it to take such account.

**Commencement Information**

**I17** Sch. 2 Pt. 1 para. 3 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

**Commencement Information**

**I16** Sch. 2 Pt. 1 para. 2 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

**I17** Sch. 2 Pt. 1 para. 3 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

**Refusal of application**

4.—(1) Where the Agency refuses to grant a licence, it shall give to the applicant a statement in writing of its reasons for doing so and shall invite the applicant to make representations to it in writing within 28 days after the statement is sent.

(2) After considering any such representations, the Agency—

- (a) may if satisfied as to the matters specified in paragraph 2 grant a licence; or
- (b) shall give to the applicant a statement in writing of its reasons for continuing to refuse a licence.

**Commencement Information**

**I18** Sch. 2 Pt. 1 para. 4 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

## Duration

5.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), a licence shall continue in effect unless cancelled or suspended in accordance with the provisions of Part 5 or surrendered by the licensee to the Agency.

(2) A licence under paragraph 3 shall continue in effect until—

- (a) the expiration of the period for which it was granted; or
- (b) the refusal by the Agency of a licence on its final determination of the application,

unless cancelled or suspended in accordance with the provisions of Part 5 or surrendered by the licensee to the Agency.

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### Commencement Information

**I19** Sch. 2 Pt. 1 para. 5 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

## Part 2

### Contents of Licence

#### Contents of licence

1. Every licence shall contain—

- (a) the name of the licensee;
- (b) the address of the licensed facility;
- (c) a licence number;
- (d) a description of each food to which the licence applies;
- (e) the date from which the licence is to run; and
- (f) in the case of a licence under Part 1 paragraph 3, the date of its expiry,

and may contain conditions.

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### Commencement Information

**I20** Sch. 2 Pt. 2 para. 1 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

## Part 3

### Requirements and prohibitions to be observed by a licensee

1.—(1) A licensee shall only irradiate food—

- (a) to which the licence applies; and
- (b) at the licensed facility.

(2) A licensee shall not irradiate any food received from another person unless the following particulars are attached to or accompany the food when it is received—

- (a) a description of the food and the name and address of its consignor;

- (b) a reference by which the food, or any batch, lot or consignment of food of the same description within which food falls, can be identified;
- (c) if the food is received by the licensee as a bailee—
  - (i) the name and address of its owner; and
  - (ii) the reason why its owner wants it to be irradiated; and
- (d) a statement as to whether the food or any part of it has been irradiated.

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**Commencement Information**

**I21** Sch. 2 Pt. 3 para. 1 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

2. Every licensee shall keep—
- (a) food which awaits irradiation at the licensed facility on a part of the facility which is separated by a wall or barrier from any part of the facility where food which has been irradiated is kept; and
  - (b) all food which is either awaiting irradiation or has been irradiated on parts of the facility which are separated by a wall or barrier from any part of the facility on which other food is kept in the course of the business.

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**Commencement Information**

**I22** Sch. 2 Pt. 3 para. 2 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

3.—(1) A licensee shall not irradiate food in combination with any chemical treatment having the same purpose as irradiating it.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), a licensee shall not irradiate food which, or any part of which, has previously been irradiated.

(3) The removal of food from, and its return to, the facility where irradiation takes place shall not constitute a breach of sub-paragraph (2) where they form part of a continuous process required by the design and construction of that facility.

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**Commencement Information**

**I23** Sch. 2 Pt. 3 para. 3 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

4. Every licensee shall number each batch of food irradiated by the licensee and, where any of the food has been received from another person, do so in such a way that the number can be linked to the reference specified in paragraph 1(2)(b).

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**Commencement Information**

**I24** Sch. 2 Pt. 3 para. 4 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

5. A licensee shall not irradiate food save with—
- (a) gamma rays from the radionuclide  $^{60}\text{Co}$ ;
  - (b) gamma rays from the radionuclide  $^{137}\text{Cs}$ ;
  - (c) X-rays generated from machine sources operated at or below an energy level of 5 MeV; or

- (d) electrons generated from machine sources operated at or below an energy level of 10MeV.

**Commencement Information**

**I25** Sch. 2 Pt. 3 para. 5 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

6. A licensee shall not irradiate food save by proper irradiation.

**Commencement Information**

**I26** Sch. 2 para. 6 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

7. Every licensee shall maintain such controls as shall at all times ensure that irradiation is consistent with the method of measurement specified under paragraph 1(f)(iv) of Part 1.

**Commencement Information**

**I27** Sch. 2 para. 7 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

8. Every licensee shall record, in relation to each batch of food irradiated by the licensee, the following information—

- (a) in the case of a radionuclide facility—
  - (i) in relation to each source configuration of ionising radiation available for use in the facility, such information as to its position as shows whether and if so when the batch of food was exposed to it;
  - (ii) either the speed at which the batch travels through the facility and the route which the batch travels while passing through it or the time which the batch spends in the radiation zone;
- (b) in the case of a machine source—
  - (i) its energy level;
  - (ii) its electron current;
  - (iii) its scanner width;
  - (iv) the characteristics of its beam;
  - (v) unless it has a scattering device, the frequency with which its beam scans the batch; and
  - (vi) the speed at which the batch travels through the facility.

**Commencement Information**

**I28** Sch. 2 para. 8 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

- 9.—(1) Every licensee shall record for each batch of food irradiated by the licensee—

- (a) the nature and quantity of food in the batch;
- [<sup>F2</sup>(b) its batch number;]
- (c) the name and address of each consignor and consignee of food within the batch;
- (d) the date on which the batch was irradiated;



- (e) any microbiological information relating to food within the batch;
  - (f) the type of packaging in contact with the food in the batch during irradiation;
  - (g) where the licensee has applied temperature control while irradiating it, the temperature of the food in the batch immediately before irradiation;
  - (h) the maximum, minimum and overall average dose of ionising radiation applied to the batch;
  - (i) the type of ionising radiation used;
  - (j) the data used for control of the irradiation including—
    - (i) the positioning of dose meters within the batch and the doses of ionising radiation recorded by them;
    - (ii) previous tests used for the purpose of validating that positioning; and
    - (iii) the method (including instrumentation and frequency) used for measuring the doses of ionising radiation applied during the irradiation, and in the previous tests, and the dosimetry standard used to calibrate the meters used to measure them.
- (2) A licensee shall not consign food irradiated by the licensee to another person unless it is accompanied by—
- (a) the licensee’s name;
  - (b) the licensee’s licence number;
  - (c) the information specified in sub-paragraph (1)(a) to (d); and
  - (d) the overall average dose required to be recorded by sub-paragraph (1)(h).

**Textual Amendments**

**F2** Sch. 2 Pt. 3 para. 9(1)(b) substituted (20.10.2010) by [The Food Irradiation \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2010 \(S.R. 2010/322\)](#), regs. 1, 3

**Commencement Information**

**I29** Sch. 2 para. 9 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

10. Every licensee shall keep for 5 years the information required to be recorded by paragraphs 8 and 9(1), even if the licensee ceases meanwhile to be licensed.

**Commencement Information**

**I30** Sch. 2 para. 10 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

11. Every licensee shall send to the Agency by the last day of February each year a return in writing in respect of the previous calendar year containing—

- (a) the licensee’s name;
- (b) the licensee’s licence number;
- (c) the year to which the return relates;
- (d) a description of each food which the licensee has irradiated during the year; and
- (e) the quantity, by volume or weight, of each such food.

**Commencement Information**

**I31** Sch. 2 para. 11 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

## Part 4

### Variation of Licence

1.—(1) Subject to paragraph 2, the Agency may at the request or with the consent of the licensee vary any condition of the licence.

**Commencement Information**

**I32** Sch. 2 Pt. 4 para. 1 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

2.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), the Agency shall not agree a variation which permits any act or omission a proposal for which would, had it been made in the application for a licence, have caused the Agency to refuse to grant a licence under paragraph 2 of Part 1.

(2) For the purposes of sub-paragraph (1) the Agency, in considering whether to vary a licence, shall treat all scientific knowledge which it has at that time as if it had had it at the time it granted the licence.

**Commencement Information**

**I33** Sch. 2 Pt. 4 para. 2 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

## Part 5

### Cancellation and Suspension of Licence

1. If the Agency considers that circumstances exist which, had it foreseen them (and possessed the same scientific knowledge it does now) at the time, it would have refused under paragraph 2 of Part 1 to grant the licence, it may give notice to the licensee —

- (a) explaining why it would have refused to grant the licence; and
- (b) informing the licensee that, unless the licensee persuades it in writing not to do so within a period of 28 days after the sending of the notice, or such longer period as it may allow, it will cancel the licence.

**Commencement Information**

**I34** Sch. 2 Pt. 5 para. 1 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

2. If by the expiration of the 28 day period or of any longer period allowed under paragraph 1(b) the Agency is not persuaded to the contrary, it shall give notice in writing to the licensee that the licence is cancelled from a date specified in the notice and shall state in the notice why it is not so persuaded; but if so persuaded it shall notify the licensee accordingly.

**Commencement Information**

**I35** Sch. 2 Pt. 5 para. 2 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

3. If cancelled, the licence shall cease to have effect on the date specified in the notice.

**Commencement Information**

**I36** Sch. 2 Pt. 5 para. 3 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

4.—(1) If the Agency considers that unless the licence is suspended there will or may be a risk of injury to health it may give notice in writing to the licensee suspending the licence from a date specified in the notice and, subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (3), the licence shall have no effect for the purpose of these Regulations during that period.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), where notice is given suspending the licence—

- (a) the suspension shall cease to have effect at the expiration of three days after notice of the suspension has been given unless notice has in the meantime been given to the licensee under paragraph 1; but
- (b) if notice has in the meantime been given to the licensee under paragraph 1, the suspension shall continue until either—
  - (i) the Agency is persuaded not to cancel the licence; or
  - (ii) the licence terminates.

(3) The Agency may, if it considers that in the absence of suspension there will not be a risk of injury to health, by further notice in writing to the licensee withdraw the notice suspending the licence.

**Commencement Information**

**I37** Sch. 2 Pt. 5 para. 4 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

## Part 6

### Other Provisions Concerning Licence

1. The Agency shall publish in the Belfast Gazette notice of—
  - (a) each licence granted;
  - (b) each suspension of a licence;
  - (c) each cancellation of a licence; and
  - (d) each agreed variation of the terms of a licence.

**Commencement Information**

**I38** Sch. 2 Pt. 6 para. 1 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

2. Any notice so published shall specify—
  - (a) the name of the licensee or former licensee;

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Food Irradiation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) the licensed or formerly licensed facility; and
- (c) their licence number,

and shall state in outline the effect of the matter to which it relates.

**Commencement Information**  
**I39** Sch. 2 Pt. 6 para. 2 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

3. Save as provided by Article 42 of the Order (continuance on death), a licence is not transferable.

**Commencement Information**  
**I40** Sch. 2 Pt. 6 para. 3 in operation at 31.7.2009, see [reg. 1](#)

<sup>F3</sup>SCHEDULE 3

Regulations 3(1) and 5(1)(b)(i)

LIST OF APPROVED FACILITIES IN MEMBER STATES

**Textual Amendments**  
**F3** Sch. 3 substituted (11.2.2019) by [The Food \(Miscellaneous Amendments and Revocations\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2019 \(S.R. 2019/5\)](#), reg. 1(1), [Sch. 4](#)

<i>Official reference number</i>	<i>Name and address</i>
2110/91/0004	Sterigenics SA Zoning Industriel 6220 Fleurus Belgium
01/23.05.2008	Bulgamma, Sopharma Ltd Iliensko Shosse 16 Sofia Bulgaria
2/26.10.2010	GITAVA Ltd ‘Kalina’ Town of Stamboliyski Hristo Botev str. Municipality Stamboliyski

<i>Official reference number</i>	<i>Name and address</i>
	Plovdiv district
	Bulgaria
IR-02-CZ	Bioster a.s. Tejny 621 664 71 Veverská Bítýška
	Czech Republic
SN 01	Synergy Health Radeberg GmbH Juri—Gagarin Strasse 15 01454 Radeberg
	Germany
BY FS 01/2001	Synergy Health Allershausen GmbH Kesselbodenstrasse 7 85391 Allershausen
	Germany
NRW-GM 01 and NRW-GM 02	BGS Beta-Gamma-Service GmbH & Co. KG Fritz-Kotz-Str.16 51674 Wiehl
	Germany
D-BW-X-01	Beta-Gamma-Service GmbH & Co. KG John-Deere-Strasse 3 76646 Bruchsal
	Germany
2835	Scandinavian Clinics Estonia OÜ Kurvi tee 406a, Alliku kula, 76403 Saue vald, Harjumaa

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Food Irradiation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009. (See end of Document for details)

<i>Official reference number</i>	<i>Name and address</i>
	Estonia
5.00001/CU	Ionmed Esterilización, SA C/Rocinante, Parc.50 (Polg. Ind. Tarancón) 16400 Tarancón (Cuenca)
	Spain
5.00002/B	Aerogamma S.L. Carretera Granollers a Cardeneu, Km. 3.5 08520 Les Franqueses del Vallés (Barcelona)
	Spain
5.00005/SO	Mevion Technology, S.L. Avda. De España, 1 Pol. Industrial Emiliano Revilla, 42110 Ólvega (Soria)
	Spain
13055 F	Synergy Health Rue Jean Queillau Marché des Arnavaux 13014 Marseille Cedex 14
	France
72 264 F	Ionisos SA Zone industrielle de l'Aubrée 72300 Sablé-sur-Sarthe
	France
85 182 F	Ionisos SA Zone industrielle Montifaud 85700 Pouzauges
	France
01 142 F	Ionisos SA

<i>Official reference number</i>	<i>Name and address</i>
10 093 F	Zone Industrielle les Chartinières 01120 Dagneux France Ionisos SA Zone Industrielle 10500 Chaumesnil France
541-02/03-IRB16-1	Institut Ruder Bošković, Bijenička 54, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia
EU-AIF-04-2002	AGROSTER Besugárzó Zártkörűen Működő Részvénytársaság Budapest Jászberényi út 5 1106 Hungary
RAD 1/04 IT	Gammarad Italia SPA Via Marzabotto 4 Minerbio (BO) Italy
GZB/VVB-991393 Ede	Synergy Health Morsestraat 3 6716AH Ede Netherlands
GZB/VVB-991393 Etten-Leur	Synergy Health Soevereinsstraat 2 4879 NN Etten-Leur

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Food Irradiation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009. (See end of Document for details)

<i>Official reference number</i>	<i>Name and address</i>
GIS-HZ-4434-W.-2/MR/03	Netherlands Institute of Applied Radiation Chemistry Technical University of Lodz 15 Wróblewskiego Str. 39-590 Łódź
GIS-HZ-4434-W.-3/MR/03	Poland Institute of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology 16 Dorodna Str. 03-195 Warsaw
RG016/2008	Poland Multipurpose Irradiation Facility IRASM Technological Irradiations Department Horia Hulubei National Institute for Research and Development of Physics and Nuclear Engineering Atomiştilor Str. No. 407 PO Box MG-6 Măgurele. Ilfov County
EW/04	Romania Synergy Health Moray Road Elgin Industrial Estate Swindon Wiltshire SN2 8XS United Kingdom]



<sup>F4</sup>SCHEDULE 4

Regulation 5(1) and 5(1)(b)(i)

LIST OF FACILITIES IN COUNTRIES OUTSIDE THE EUROPEAN UNION

**Textual Amendments**

**F4** Sch. 4 substituted (11.2.2019) by The Food (Miscellaneous Amendments and Revocations) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 (S.R. 2019/5), reg. 1(1), **Sch. 5**

<i>Official reference number</i>	<i>Name and address</i>
EU-AIF 01-2002	HEPRO Cape (Pty) Ltd 6 Ferrule Avenue Montague Gardens Milnerton 7441 Western Cape Republic of South Africa
EU-AIF 02-2002	Gammaster South Africa (Pty) Ltd PO Box 3219 5 Waterpas Street Isando Extension 3 Kempton Park 1620 Johannesburg Republic of South Africa
EU-AIF 03-2002	Gamwave (Pty) Ltd PO Box 26406 Isipingo Beach Durban 4115 Kwazulu-Natal Republic of South Africa
EU-AIF 05-2004	Gamma-Pak As Yünsa Yolu N: 4 0SB Cerkezköy/TEKIRDAG

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Food Irradiation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009. (See end of Document for details)

<i>Official reference number</i>	<i>Name and address</i>
	TR-59500
EU-AIF 06-2004	Turkey Studer Agg Werk Hard Hogenweidstrasse 2 Däniken CH-4658
EU-AIF 07-2006	Switzerland Thai Irradiation Centre Thailand Institute of Nuclear Technology (Public Organisation) 37 Moo 3, TECHNOPOLIS Klong 5, Klong Luang Pathumthani 12120
EU-AIF 08-2006	Thailand Synergy Health (Thailand) Ltd 700/465 Amata Nakorn Industrial Moo 7, Tambon Donhuaroh, Amphur Muang, Chonburi 20000
EU-AIF 09-2010	Thailand Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology Department of Atomic Energy BRIT/BARC Vashi Complex Sector 20, Vashi Navi Mumbai – 400 705 (Maharashtra)
EU-AIF 10-2010	India Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology

<i>Official reference number</i>	<i>Name and address</i>
	ISOMED  Bhabha Atomic Research Centre  South Site Gate, Refinery Road  Next to TATA Power Station, Trombay  Mumbai – 400 085 (Maharashtra)  India
EU-AIF 11-2010	Microtrol Sterilisation Services Pvt. Ltd  Plot No. 14 Bommasandra- Jigani Link Road Industrial Area  KIADB, Off Hosur Road  Hennagarra Post  Bengalooru – 562 106 (Karnataka)  India]

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

1. These Regulations restrict the treatment of food with ionising radiation (irradiation) and the importation, storage and transport for the purpose of sale, and sale, of irradiated food.
2. The Regulations revoke and re-enact the rules specified in paragraph 4(k) of this Explanatory Note with modifications which give complete effect to the provisions specified in paragraph 3.
3. The Regulations give effect to the provisions of—
  - (a) Directive [1999/2/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approximation of the laws of the Member States concerning foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation (OJ No.L66, 13.3.99, p.16);
  - (b) Directive [1999/3/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a Community list of foods and food ingredients treated with ionising radiation (OJ No. L66, 13.3.99, p.24);
  - (c) Commission Decision [2002/840/EC](#) adopting the list of approved facilities in third countries for the irradiation of foods (OJ No. L287, 25.10.2002, p.40);

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Food Irradiation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009. (See end of Document for details)

- (d) Commission List of 3 September 2004 of approved facilities for the treatment of foods and food ingredients with ionising radiation in the Member States<sup>(10)</sup>;
  - (e) Commission Decision [2004/691/EC](#) amending Decision [2002/840/EC](#) adopting the list of approved facilities in third countries for the irradiation of food (OJ No. L314, 13.10.2004, p.14); and
  - (f) Commission Decision [2007/802/EC](#) amending Decision 2002/840 as regards the list of approved facilities in third countries for the irradiation of foods (OJ No. L323, 8.12.87, p.40).
4. As well as making minor and drafting changes, the Regulations—
- (a) define “properly irradiated food” (regulation 3(2) and Schedule 1);
  - (b) prohibit the irradiation of food unless it is wholesome and is irradiated in accordance with the Regulations and with a licence (regulation 4(1));
  - (c) provide for the issue and contents of licences, the requirements to be observed by a licensee, and the variation, cancellation or suspension of licences (regulation 4(2) and Schedule 2);
  - (d) restrict the importation of irradiated food (regulation 5);
  - (e) restrict its storage or transport (regulation 6);
  - (f) restrict its sale (regulation 7);
  - (g) require the documents which accompany irradiated food to contain certain information (regulation 8);
  - (h) provide for their enforcement (regulation 9);
  - (i) create offences and prescribe penalties (regulation 10);
  - (j) apply various provisions of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 (regulation 11); and
  - (k) revoke the Food (Control of Irradiation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 ([S.R. 1992 No. 172](#)) and regulations 2 to 12 of the Food Irradiation Provisions Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 ([S.R. 2000 No. 303](#)).

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<sup>(10)</sup> Published on the Commission website via [http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/irradiation.comm\\_legisl\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/biosafety/irradiation.comm_legisl_en.pdf). A hard copy may be obtained from the European Commission, Directorate General for Health and Consumers, B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Food Irradiation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.