

2004 No. 115

FOOD

Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004

Made - - - - - *15th March 2004*

Coming into operation –

*except for regulations 5, 8(2),
11(a) and 12(2) 9th April 2004*

regulations 5, 8(2), 11(a) and 12(2) 1st July 2004

The Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety^(a) in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Articles 15(1), 16(1), 25(1)(a) and (3), 26(3), 32 and 47(2) of, and paragraph 1 of Schedule 1 to, the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991^(b) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf, having had regard, in accordance with Article 47(3A) of the said Order, to relevant advice given by the Food Standards Agency, and after consultation 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^(c), and in accordance with Article 47(3) and (3B) of the said Order, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), these Regulations shall come into operation on 9th April 2004.

(3) Regulations 5, 8(2), 11(a) and 12(2) shall come into operation on 1st July 2004.

Amendments to the Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999

2. The Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999^(d) shall be amended in accordance with regulations 3 to 14.

3. In paragraph (1) of regulation 2 (interpretation) –

(a) after the definition of “the Agency” there shall be inserted the following definition –

“ “authorised ozone-enriched air oxidation technique” means –

(a) Formerly the Department of Health and Social Services; *see* S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1), Article 3

(b) S.I. 1991/762 (N.I. 7) as amended by S.I. 1996/1633 (N.I. 12) and paragraphs 26 to 42 of Schedule 5 and Schedule 6 to the Food Standards Act 1999 c. 28

(c) O.J. No. L31, 1.2.2002, p. 1

(d) S.R. 1999 No. 301, as amended by S.R. 2000 No. 78 and S.R. 2003 No. 182

- (a) a treatment with ozone-enriched air authorised and carried out in accordance with Schedule 5; or
- (b) in the case of water brought into Northern Ireland from other parts of the United Kingdom or from another EEA State a treatment which complies with Article 5 of Directive 2003/40 as implemented in that part of the United Kingdom or that EEA State.”;

(b) after the definition of “Directive 98/83” there shall be inserted –

““Directive 2003/40” means Commission Directive 2003/40/EC establishing the list, concentration limits and labelling requirements for the constituents of natural mineral waters and the conditions for using ozone-enriched air for the treatment of natural mineral waters and spring waters.”.

4. In paragraph (1) of regulation 7 (treatments and additions), for sub-paragraph (a) there shall be substituted –

“(a) any treatment other than –

- (i) an authorised ozone-enriched air oxidation technique;
- (ii) a treatment referred to in sub-paragraph (a) or (d) of Article 4.1; or”.

5. After regulation 7 there shall be inserted –

“**7A.**—(1) No person shall bottle any natural mineral water which, at the time of bottling, contains any substance listed in Schedule 6 at a level which does not comply with the limit specified in relation to that substance in that Schedule.

(2) No person shall sell any natural mineral water bottled in contravention of paragraph (1).

(3) The methods used for detection of the substances listed in Schedule 6 shall conform to the performance characteristics for analysis in Schedule 7.

(4) For the purposes of paragraphs (1) and (2), where –

- (a) (i) the water concerned does not comply with the limits in Schedule 6,
- (ii) the water concerned was bottled in another EEA State,
- (iii) the EEA State concerned had not, at the time of bottling, implemented Article 2(1) of Directive 2003/40,
- (iv) the water was bottled prior to 1st January 2006 and at the date of bottling otherwise complied with Directives 80/777, 98/83 and the provisions of Directive 2003/40 which were in force in that EEA State; or
- (b) (i) the water concerned exceeds the maximum limits specified in Schedule 6 relating to nickel and fluoride,
- (ii) the water concerned was bottled in another EEA State,
- (iii) the EEA State concerned had not, at the time of bottling, implemented Article 2(1) of Directive 2003/40 in so far as it relates to limits for nickel and fluoride,
- (iv) the water was bottled prior to 1st January 2008 and at the date of bottling otherwise complied with Directives 80/777, 98/83 and the provisions of Directive 2003/40 which were in force in that EEA State,

that water shall be deemed not to exceed the maximum limits specified in Schedule 6.”.

6. After regulation 9 there shall be inserted –

“**9A.** No person shall bottle any natural mineral water, or sell natural mineral water which is bottled if it has been treated with ozone-enriched air unless that treatment is an authorised ozone-enriched air oxidation technique.”.

7. For paragraph (3) of regulation 10 (labelling of natural mineral water) there shall be substituted –

“(3) Natural mineral water shall be marked or labelled with –

- (a) where it has undergone the treatment of total or partial elimination of free carbon dioxide by exclusively physical methods, the indication “fully de-carbonated” or “partially de-carbonated” as appropriate;
- (b) where it has undergone an authorised ozone-enriched air oxidation technique, the words “water subjected to an authorised ozone-enriched air oxidation technique”, which shall appear in proximity to the analytical composition of characteristic constituents;
- (c) where its fluoride concentration exceeds 1.5 mg/l –
 - (i) the words “contains more than 1.5 mg/l of fluoride not suitable for regular consumption by infants and children under 7 years of age”, which shall appear in proximity to the trade name and in clearly visible characters,
 - (ii) the actual fluoride content in relation to the physico-chemical composition, which shall be included within the mandatory information referred to in paragraph (4); and
- (d) the mandatory information referred to in paragraph (4).”.

8.—(1) In regulation 10(5)(b), after “has undergone any of the treatments referred to in paragraph (3)(a)” there shall be added “or (b)”.

(2) In regulation 10(5), at the end of sub-paragraph (c) “or” shall be omitted, and at the end of sub-paragraph (d) there shall be added –

“or

- (e) does not bear the labelling indication set out in sub-paragraph (c) of paragraph (3) where required by that sub-paragraph.”.

9. In paragraph (1) of regulation 11 (spring water), at the end of sub-paragraph (d) “and” shall be omitted, and at the end of sub-paragraph (e) the following shall be inserted –

“and

- (f) where the water has undergone an authorised ozone-enriched air oxidation technique, the water is marked or labelled “water subjected to an authorised ozone-enriched air oxidation technique” which shall appear in close proximity to the particulars in paragraph 3.”.

10. After regulation 11 there shall be inserted –

“**11A.** No person shall cause any water to be bottled in a bottle marked or labelled with the description as spring water, or sell water which is described as spring water, if it has been treated with ozone-enriched air unless that treatment is an authorised ozone-enriched air oxidation technique.”.

11. In regulation 17 (offences and penalties) –

- (a) after “7,” there shall be inserted “7A(1) or (2),”;
- (b) after “9,” there shall be inserted “9A,”;
- (c) after “11(1), (2), (3) or (5),” there shall be inserted “11A,”.

12.—(1) In regulation 18 (defences), after paragraph (3) there shall be added the following paragraphs –

“(4) In any proceedings for an offence for contravening regulations 9A, 10(3)(b), 11(1)(f) or 11A it shall be a defence for the accused to prove that –

- (a) the water in respect of which the offence is alleged to have been committed was bottled and marked or labelled before 1st July 2004; and
- (b) the matters constituting the alleged offence would not have constituted an offence under these Regulations as they stood immediately before the coming into operation of the Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.”.

(2) In regulation 18, after paragraph (4) inserted by paragraph (1) there shall be added the following –

“(5) In any proceedings for an offence for contravening regulations 7A or 10(5)(e) it shall be a defence for the accused to prove that –

- (a) the water in respect of which the offence is alleged to have been committed was bottled and marked or labelled, as the case may be, before 1st July 2004; and
- (b) the matters constituting the alleged offence would not have constituted an offence under these Regulations as they stood immediately before the coming into operation of the Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.”.

13.—(1) In Schedule 1, Part I, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph (c), for the words following “contains no substance” there shall be substituted –

“listed in Schedule 6 at a level which exceeds the maximum limit specified in relation to that substance in that Schedule.”.

(2) In Schedule 1, Part II, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph (c), for the words following “contains no substance” there shall be substituted –

“listed in Schedule 6 at a level which exceeds the maximum limit specified in relation to that substance in that Schedule.”.

14. After Schedule 4 there shall be added Schedules 5, 6 and 7 contained in the Schedule.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on 15th March 2004.

(L.S.)

W. B. Smith

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

SCHEDULE

Regulation 14

SCHEDULES 5, 6 AND 7 TO BE ADDED TO THE NATURAL MINERAL WATER, SPRING WATER AND BOTTLED DRINKING WATER REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1999

“SCHEDULE 5 Regulations 7, 7A, 10, 11 and 11A

CONDITIONS FOR TREATMENT OF NATURAL MINERAL WATERS AND SPRING WATERS WITH OZONE-ENRICHED AIR

1. Treatment of natural mineral waters and spring waters with ozone-enriched air shall only be carried out if –

- (a) it is for the purpose of separating compounds of iron, manganese, sulphur and arsenic from water in which they occur naturally at source;
- (b) prior to treatment the water satisfies regulation 8;
- (c) the treatment does not have a disinfectant action.

2. Treatment of natural mineral waters and spring waters with ozone-enriched air shall not –

- (a) modify the physico-chemical composition of the water in terms of its characteristic constituents;
- (b) leave residues in the water which could pose a risk to public health, or, in the case of the substances listed below, above the levels specified:

<i>Treatment residue</i>	<i>Maximum limit (µg/l)</i>
Dissolved ozone	50
Bromates	3
Bromoforms	1

3. A person seeking to have a process of treatment with ozone-enriched air authorised shall –

- (a) make application in writing to the district council within whose area the water is extracted;
- (b) permit representatives of that district council to examine the proposed method of treatment, and place of treatment, and take samples for analysis in accordance with regulation 14;
- (c) provide such information in support of the application as is requested by the district council.

4. The district council shall assess the application and any information in its possession and shall authorise the treatment process, if it is satisfied that –

- (a) the treatment process is justified by the composition of the water at source;
- (b) the person carrying out the treatment is taking all necessary measures to ensure that the treatment is effective and safe;
- (c) the treatment process otherwise complies with paragraphs 1 and 2.

5. (a) Where the district council decides to authorise a treatment process pursuant to paragraph 4, it shall inform the operator of the treatment process in writing, and state the date on which the authorisation for commercial use of the process begins.

(b) Where the district council refuses to authorise a treatment process pursuant to paragraph 4, it shall inform the operator of the treatment process in writing, stating its reasons.

6. Where a treatment process has been authorised pursuant to paragraph 4, the person carrying out the treatment process must continue to allow periodic examination of the treatment process by the district council by the methods in paragraph 3(b) and (c), for the purpose of assessing whether the conditions in paragraph 4(a) and (b) continue to be satisfied.

7. If the district council is satisfied that the conditions in paragraph 4 are no longer fulfilled, it may withdraw its authorisation of a treatment process by giving the person operating that process a written notice stating the grounds for withdrawal.

8. (a) Where the district council decides either not to grant or to withdraw authorisation of a treatment process under paragraph 5(b) or paragraph 7, the person who wishes to carry out the treatment process may apply to the Agency for a review of that decision.

- (b) Upon receiving the application for review, the Agency shall make such inquiry into the matter as may seem to the Agency to be appropriate, and having considered the results of that enquiry and any relevant facts elicited by it, shall either confirm the decision or direct the district council to grant or restore, as appropriate, authorisation of the treatment process in operation. In the case of such a direction the district council shall thereupon comply with the said direction.

SCHEDULE 6

Regulation 7A

MAXIMUM LIMITS FOR CONSTITUENTS OF NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

<i>Constituents</i>	<i>Maximum limits (mg/l)</i>
Antimony	0.0050
Arsenic	0.010 (as total)
Barium	1.0
Cadmium	0.003
Chromium	0.050
Copper	1.0
Cyanide	0.070
Fluoride	5.0
Lead	0.010
Manganese	0.50
Mercury	0.0010
Nickel	0.020
Nitrate	50
Nitrite	0.1
Selenium	0.010

Note: The constituents described refer to constituents naturally present in the water at source and not to substances present as the result of contamination.

SCHEDULE 7

Regulation 7A

PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS FOR ANALYSING THE CONSTITUENTS IN SCHEDULE 6

<i>Constituent</i>	<i>Accuracy of parametric value in %</i>	<i>Precision of parametric value</i>	<i>Detection limit of parametric value in %</i>
Antimony	25	25	25
Arsenic	10	10	10
Barium	25	25	25
Cadmium	10	10	10
Chromium	10	10	10
Copper	10	10	10
Cyanide	10	10	10
Fluoride	10	10	10
Lead	10	10	10
Manganese	10	10	10
Mercury	20	10	20

<i>Constituent</i>	<i>Accuracy of parametric value in %</i>	<i>Precision of parametric value</i>	<i>Detection limit of parametric value in %</i>
Nickel	10	10	10
Nitrate	10	10	10
Nitrite	10	10	10
Selenium	10	10	10

Notes:

1. The method of analysis used to measure the concentration of the constituents in Schedule 6 shall be able to measure at least concentrations equal to the parametric value with the specified accuracy, precision and detection limits.

2. Regardless of the sensitivity of the method of analysis, the result must be expressed to the same number of decimal places as the maximum limit set out in Schedule 6 for the particular constituent being analysed.

3. Accuracy is the systematic error and represents the difference between the average value of a large number of repeated measurements and the exact value.

4. Precision represents the random error and is expressed in general as the standard deviation (within a batch and between batches) of a sample of results from the average.

5. Acceptable precision is equal to twice the relative standard deviation.

6. The detection limit is either –

(a) three times the relative standard deviation within a batch of a natural sample containing a low concentration of the parameter; or

(b) five times the relative standard deviation within a batch of a virgin sample.

7. The method used to detect cyanide must be such that it is possible to determine total cyanide in all its forms”.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations amend the Natural Mineral Water, Spring Water and Bottled Drinking Water Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 (“the principal Regulations”) in implementation of Commission Directive 2003/40 establishing the list, concentration limits and labelling requirements for the constituents of natural mineral waters and the conditions for using ozone-enriched air for the treatment of natural mineral waters and spring waters.

The Regulations –

- (a) prescribe a definition of authorised ozone-enriched air oxidation technique (regulation 3 and the Schedule);
- (b) allow, for the first time, treatment of natural mineral waters with an authorised ozone-enriched air oxidation technique (regulation 4);
- (c) set maximum limits for certain naturally-occurring substances in natural mineral water and standards for methods used to detect these substances (regulation 5 and the Schedule);
- (d) provide for a defence for products produced by other EEA States which do not yet conform to the limits, where the EEA State concerned has not yet implemented those limits and the deadline for implementation has not yet passed (regulation 5);
- (e) prohibit the treatment of natural mineral water with unauthorised ozone-enriched air oxidation techniques (regulation 6);
- (f) provide for an appropriate form of labelling indication on natural mineral water where it has undergone an authorised treatment with ozone-enriched air or where it contains a high level of fluoride (regulation 7);
- (g) prohibit the sale of natural mineral water without the applicable labelling indications (which will become an offence by virtue of the operation of regulation 17 of the principal Regulations the penalty for which is specified by regulation 17 of the principle Regulations as being a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale) (regulation 8);
- (h) provide for an appropriate labelling indication where a spring water has undergone an authorised ozone-enriched air oxidation technique and prohibit its sale without that labelling indication (which will become an offence by virtue of the operation of regulation 11(5) of the principal Regulations, the penalty for which is specified by regulation 17 of the principal Regulations as being a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale) (regulation 9);
- (i) prohibit bottling or sale of water described as spring water if treated with an unauthorised ozone-enriched air oxidation treatment (regulation 10);
- (j) create offences in relation to the prohibitions mentioned in paragraphs (c), (e) and (i) (subject to penalties provided for in the principle Regulations as being a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale) (regulation 11);
- (k) introduce a transitional defence to allow the use of stock products bottled and labelled before 1st July 2004, where the product would otherwise be legal under existing law (regulation 12);
- (l) provide that the maximum limits in the new Schedule 6 to be added to the principal Regulations shall be the relevant limits for recognition of a natural mineral water, replacing the limits in Schedule 3 to the principal Regulations for this purpose (regulation 13);
- (m) insert a new Schedule 5 into the principal Regulations, which sets down –
 - (i) conditions to be satisfied before an ozone-enriched air oxidation technique can be authorised;
 - (ii) a process for obtaining a written authorisation for a treatment from a district council;
 - (iii) a requirement to allow officers of the district council to conduct periodic examinations of the process in order to check that the treatment continues to be necessary and is effective and safe;

- (iv) the ability of a district council authority to withdraw authorisation by means of a written notice if conditions are not observed;
- (v) a mechanism for applying to the Food Standards Agency for review of a district council's decision not to grant or to withdraw authorisation (regulation 14 and the Schedule);
- (n) insert a new Schedule 6 into the principal Regulations, setting down maximum limits for certain naturally-occurring substances in natural mineral water (regulation 14 and the Schedule);
- (o) insert a new Schedule 7 into the principal Regulations, containing standards for scientific methods used to detect the substances specified in Schedule 6 (regulation 14 and the Schedule).

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