

1971. No. 161

[C]

**FOOD AND DRUGS****Composition and Labelling****Preservatives in Food**

REGULATIONS, DATED 4TH JUNE 1971, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES UNDER SECTIONS 4 AND 68 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1958.

The Ministry of Health and Social Services, in exercise of the powers conferred upon it by Sections 4 and 68 of the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland) 1958(a), having consulted with such organisations as appear to it to be representative of interests substantially affected by these regulations, hereby makes the following regulations:—

*Citation and commencement*

1. These regulations may be cited as the Preservatives in Food (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1971 and shall come into operation on 1st September 1971.

*Amendment of principal regulations*

2. The Preservatives in Food Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1962(b) shall be amended as follows:—

(a) by substituting for paragraph (c) of the proviso to regulation 3(1) the following paragraph:—

“(c) any specified food in relation to which two or more permitted preservatives are specified in Schedule 1 may contain an admixture of those preservatives—

(i) (in the case of bacon, ham or pickled meat) to the maximum quantity of each such preservative appropriate thereto in accordance with that Schedule, but

(ii) (in the case of any specified food other than bacon, ham or pickled meat) only if, when the quantity of each such preservative present in that food is expressed as a percentage of the maximum quantity of that preservative appropriate to that food in accordance with that Schedule, the sum of those percentages does not exceed one hundred;”;

(b) by deleting paragraphs (f), (g) and (i) from the proviso to regulation 3(1);

(c) by inserting in Schedule 1 immediately before the item relating to beer the following item:—

<i>“Column 1 Specified Food</i>	<i>Column 2 Permitted Preservative</i>	<i>Column 3 Parts per Million Not exceeding—</i>
Bacon . . . . .	Sodium nitrate Sodium nitrite	500 200”;

- (d) by inserting in Schedule 1 immediately after the item relating to grape juice products (unfermented, intended for sacramental use) the following item:—

<i>"Column 1 Specified Food</i>	<i>Column 2 Permitted Preservative</i>	<i>Column 3 Parts per Million Not exceeding—</i>
Ham . . . . .	Sodium nitrate Sodium nitrite	500 200";

- (e) by substituting in Schedule 1 for the items relating to meat, pickled, cooked and meat, pickled, uncooked the following item:—

<i>"Column 1 Specified Food</i>	<i>Column 2 Permitted Preservative</i>	<i>Column 3 Parts per Million Not exceeding—</i>
Meat, pickled . . . . .	Sodium nitrate Sodium nitrite	500 200";

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland this 4th day of June 1971.

(L.S.)

*F. A. Elliott,*  
Assistant Secretary.

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)*

These amending regulations, which come into operation on 1st September 1971—

- (a) impose limits on the amounts of sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite which may be added to bacon and ham;
- (b) impose a limit on the amount of sodium nitrate which may be added to pickled meat; and
- (c) impose in respect of all pickled meat, the limit on the amount of added sodium nitrite, which formerly applied only to cooked pickled meat.

By the principal regulations, subject to the same limits, potassium nitrate and potassium nitrite are permitted alternatives for sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite respectively.