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FOOD AND DRUGS

LABELLING, DESCRIPTION AND SALE BY WEIGHT

THE PRE-PACKED FOOD (WEIGHTS AND MEASURES:

MARKING) REGULATIONS, 1957

The Board of Trade announce that they have made new Regulations* which come into effect on January 1, 1958, and which replace the Pre-Packed Food (Weights and Measures: Marking) Order, 1950, as amended.

The new Regulations maintain the basic principle of the Order of 1950 in requiring the wrappers or containers of all pre-packed foods, with certain exceptions, to be marked with a statement of the minimum quantity of the food contained therein expressed, either in terms of weight or measure, or, in certain cases, of number.

By comparison with the terms of the Order of 1950, the new Regulations show the following principal changes:—

- (a) Poultry has been added to the list of pre-packed articles which, subject to certain limitations on the weight of the wrapper or container, may be marked with the minimum gross weight.
- (b) The exemption from the Regulations of food pre-packed by a retailer for sale on his premises is now limited to food pre-packed in certain specified weights only.
- (c) The exemption from the Regulations of food sold in certain petty amounts no longer applies to the articles of food listed in the Third Schedule to the Regulations, all of which, except poultry, are subject to the petty amounts provisions of Section 8 and 13 of the Sale of Food (Weights and Measures) Act, 1926.
- (d) The right to deliver pre-packed food unmarked, provided that an invoice or other document containing the requisite particulars is furnished to the buyer within 14 days, is now only available to a person selling to a wholesaler.
- (e) The requirements with respect to the proper marking of wrappers and containers have been reduced and simplified.

- (f) The Regulations do not now apply to fish cakes, meat puddings, sausage rolls, water ices, or to sausages which are not packed in metal, glass, or rigid plastic containers.

The safeguards to traders contained in sub-sections (1) (2) and (3) of Section 12 of the Sale of Food (Weights and Measures) Act, 1926, are applied to offences against these Regulations; and these safeguards together with the defences contained in the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (in Scotland, the Food and Drugs (Scotland) Act, 1956) substantially correspond to these contained in the Order of 1950.

The Regulations prescribe penalties for offences, including continuing offences.

November 6th, 1957.

Board of Trade,
Horse Guards Avenue,
London, S.W.1.

* The Pre-Packed Food (Weights and Measures: Marking) Regulations, 1957 (S.I. 1957, No. 1880. Price 6d., by post 8d.). Copies can be obtained from H.M. Stationery Office, London, W.C.2, and branches.

The Minister of Labour and National Insurance, with the approval of the Prime Minister, has appointed Mr. William James Arthurs, a Principal Officer in the Ministry of Finance, to be an Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance with effect from the 25th November, 1957.

The National Assistance Board have appointed Mr. W. J. Arthurs to be Secretary to the Board, on transfer from the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance, with effect from the 25th November, 1957, in succession to Mr. William Mahaffey who, at his own request, is resuming his former post in the Ministry of Labour and National Insurance.

APPOINTMENT

The Ministry of Commerce has appointed Sidney Whitfield Murray to be Secretary to the Donaghadee Harbour Commissioners in the place of Alexander Patrick Campbell Riddell, as from 12th November, 1957.