

## LABELLING FOR GREENGROCERS

### **The Food Labelling Regulations (NI) 1996 (as amended)**

#### **WHO DOES THIS FACT SHEET APPLY TO?**

Any person who sells fresh fruit and vegetables at retail level.

#### **WHAT DOES THIS FACT SHEET COVER?**

The labelling of fruit and vegetables which are:-

- Displayed for sale in a loose or unwrapped state, or
- Pre-packed for "direct" sale, i.e. pre-packed by a retailer and offered for sale to the consumer on the same premises or from a vehicle (e.g. mobile van) or stall (e.g. market stall)

#### **WHAT LABELLING IS REQUIRED?**

A notice on the food which is clear and conspicuous to customers stating:-

- The true name of the food. If the food is irradiated the name should be accompanied by the word "irradiated" or with the words "treated with ionising radiation".
- The variety Potatoes and melons must be marked with their variety, e.g. "Maris Piper" potatoes, "Ogen" melons.
- Country of origin of the product (mandatory if omission would mislead the consumer to the true origin or provenance of the food).
- Quality class EEC Grading legislation requires this marking, e.g. "Class1". Beware that produce correctly labelled "Class 1" may become misdescribed if its quality deteriorates while on display. Also, self-selection displays can become misdescribed because the continual selection of the best items tends to increase the number of sub-standard items remaining. It is also an offence to sell potatoes that do not meet the standard of the British Potato Council.

#### **WHERE SHOULD THE DETAILS APPEAR?**

The required information must be marked:-

- On a label attached to the food, or
- On a label, ticket or notice that can easily be seen and read by the purchaser at the place where they choose the food.

The information given must be easy to understand, clearly legible, indelible and marked in a conspicuous place that is easily visible. It must not be hidden, obscured or interrupted by any other written or pictorial matter.

#### **ARE THESE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS?**

Yes. Failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence. The maximum penalty on conviction is a fine of £5000 and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months for each offence.

**PLEASE NOTE, THIS LEAFLET HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR THE GUIDANCE OF TRADERS BY BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL. IT IS NOT AN AUTHORITATIVE DOCUMENT ON THE LAW AND IS ONLY INTENDED FOR GUIDANCE. IT IS NOT NECESSARILY COMPREHENSIVE AND IS SUBJECT TO REVISION IN THE LIGHT OF FURTHER INFORMATION. FOR FURTHER GUIDANCE PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**