

## THE LABELLING OF SWEETS

If you sell sweets then the **Food Labelling Regulations (NI) 1996** apply to you.

### WHAT DOES THIS LEAFLET COVER?

The labelling of sweets which are on sale either:

- loose or unwrapped
- on pick 'n' mix sale
- prepacked by you on the premises
- prepacked by you for sale from your market stall or mobile vehicle.

### THE LEAFLET DOES NOT COVER...

- sweets prepacked for sale elsewhere
- chocolates and chocolate products to which special labelling requirements apply.

### WHAT LABELLING IS REQUIRED?

The following information must be given:

The true name of the sweets: and

If the sweets contain any of the following types of additives, the category name for those additives must be stated:-

- Antioxidants
- Sweeteners
- Colours
- Flavour Enhancers
- Flavourings
- Preservatives

For this purpose it is sufficient to state the category of additive without specifying its full name or 'E' number e.g. 'contains colour and flavouring'.

### HOW MUST THE INFORMATION BE GIVEN?

When sold to the consumer 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.

Sweets sold loose from boxes or jars will usually have been marked with this information by the manufacturer. This is sufficient, provided it can be easily read from the customer's side of the counter.

The responsibility for labelling rests with you the retailer and you may have to seek the relevant information from your supplier. Details may already have been given in invoices and similar documents or on an outer package.

### WHAT OTHER PITFALLS EXIST?

It is important to realise that the words 'flavoured' and 'flavour' have different meanings. For example, orange flavoured sweets derive their flavour from real oranges, but orange flavour sweets are synthetically flavoured.

Particular care must be taken when describing products as 'chocolate' or as containing chocolate. If the product has only the flavour of chocolate and is not made from chocolate then it must be made clear in the name e.g. 'Chocolate Flavour Easter Egg', and 'Peanuts with Chocolate Flavour Coating'.

The word 'choc' must only be used with products which contain chocolate.

### **WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE?**

**Failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence.**

**The maximum penalty on conviction in a magistrates court is a fine of £5,000.**

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