

QUANTITATIVE INGREDIENT DECLARATIONS (QUID)

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

WHAT DOES THIS FACT SHEET COVER?

This leaflet applies to the labelling and marking of pre-packed food which is ready for delivery to the ultimate consumer or to a catering establishment. It does not apply to a food displayed for sale in a loose or unwrapped state or food pre-packed by a retailer for direct sale at their premises (except in the case of meat products eg sausages sold loose in a butcher shop).

WHAT IS A "QUID" DECLARATION?

A QUID declaration shows the percentage of an ingredient or category of ingredients in a product. Such a declaration enables a consumer to make a more informed choice from similar products.

WHEN IS A "QUID" DECLARATION REQUIRED?

A QUID declaration will be required in the following circumstances:

- i. When an ingredient appears in the name of the food, e.g.
 - pork in a "pork sausage"
 - peaches in a "peach yoghurt"
 - mushrooms in a "mushroom pizza"

- ii. When the category of ingredients appears in the name of the food. Categories of ingredients will include cheese, fish, fruit, nuts and vegetables, e.g.
 - vegetables in a "vegetable pastry"
 - fish in "fish fingers"
 - meat in a "meat pie"

- iii. When a product is identified by a customary name alone, i.e. a name, which is sufficient for customers to know what the food is without further explanation, then a QUID declaration may still be required even though no ingredients have been identified in the name. A declaration will be required where an ingredient or category of ingredients is usually associated with the food by the consumer, e.g.
 - a declaration for "fruit" in "summer pudding"
 - a declaration for "mutton" in "Lancashire hot pot"

- iv. Where the ingredient or category of ingredients is emphasised on the label in words or pictures that ingredients or category of ingredients will require a QUID declaration, e.g.
 - flashes such as "with extra cream" or "made with real butter"
 - a picture showing just one or a few ingredients, e.g. the label of a mixed fruit yoghurt only showing strawberries

- v. When the name of a compound ingredient appears in the name of the food then that ingredient will require a QUID declaration. A compound ingredient is an ingredient which itself is made up of a number of ingredients, e.g. seafood, mayonnaise etc. If a compound ingredient appears in the name of a food then it will require a QUID declaration, e.g. "seafood lasagne" will require a QUID declaration for the amount of seafood in the product. Where an individual ingredient of a compound ingredient is named, then this other ingredient will require a QUID declaration, e.g. "biscuits with a cream filling"

(contains butter)", the cream filling is the compound ingredient which will require a QUID declaration. As the butter has been specifically mentioned in the name then this will also require a QUID declaration.

The following would not require a QUID declaration:-

- serving suggestion
- pictures showing all the ingredients
- warnings for allergy sufferers

WHEN WILL A "QUID" DECLARATION NOT BE REQUIRED?

A QUID declaration will not be required in the following circumstances:-

- i. Where a product in a liquid medium (i.e. water, fruit juice, vinegar, ice, brine etc) shows, both the drained weight and the net weight. The exemption will not apply if the product is a mixture of ingredients, e.g. mixed vegetables, mixed herbs, where one ingredient is emphasised or predominates by weight.
- ii. Where the quantities of an ingredient or category of ingredients has already been given under:-
 - The Fruit Juices and Fruit Nectars Regulations (NI) 2003
 - The Jam and Similar Products Regulations (NI) 2003
 - The Spreadable Fats (Marketing Standards) Regulations (NI) 1996 (as amended)
- iii. Where the ingredient or category of ingredients is used in small quantities for the purposes of flavouring (e.g. garlic, herbs or spices). Small quantities are deemed to be 2% or less by weight at the mixing bowl stage. The exemption is not limited to flavourings which are additives. Products covered by this exemption would include:-
 - "Dry London Gin" with a picture of juniper berries on the label
 - "Lemon/Orange ade" and other similar soft drinks where the flavour comes wholly or mainly from the use of other flavourings
 - "Cinnamon Danish" and other products which refer to herbs or spices either specifically or generically in their name
- iv. When an ingredient or category of ingredients appears in the name of the food, but the quantity of the ingredient will not govern the consumer's choice or distinguish one product from another. This exemption will only apply if the ingredient appears in the name of the food. It will not apply if the ingredient is emphasised elsewhere on the label, e.g. pictorially. Cases where this will apply include:-
 - wholemeal bread
 - single cereal breakfast cereals, e.g. cornflakes
 - highly processed sauces and pickles
 - products which mention several minor ingredients in the name
 - where the food is a mixture of fruit, vegetables, nuts, spices or herbs with no ingredient predominating significantly by weight
 - where the level of vitamins or minerals, or other nutritional information, e.g. fat, fibre, etc, is given in a nutritional panel then a QUID declaration is not required for these items

A QUID declaration cannot replace any requirement for nutritional labelling.

ARE MEAT PRODUCTS AFFECTED BY “QUID”?

Yes – meat products are affected by QUID in the same way as other products. Therefore any ingredients that appear in the name of the food must bear a QUID declaration, e.g. the percentage of beef in a “beef burger”.

HOW ARE “QUID” DECLARATIONS CALCULATED?

There are two methods for calculating a QUID declaration:-

i. the mixing bowl method:

The weight of the ingredient is divided by the total weight of all the ingredients, minus the weight of water or other volatile ingredients lost during manufacture, e.g. the fish content of a fish finger;

Ingredient	Weight
flour	100g
sugar	35g
butter	50g
eggs	10g
Total mixing bowl	195g
Total after baking	169g

Formula $\frac{50}{169} \times 100 = 29.6\%$ butter

WHERE SHOULD THE “QUID” DECLARATION BE SHOWN?

The indication may accompany the name of the food or be in the ingredients list. The declaration may be rounded to the nearest whole number or to the nearest 0.5 decimal place where it is below 5%.

WHAT HAPPENS IF THE FOOD I SELL FAILS TO COMPLY WITH THE ABOVE LEGISLATION, WILL I BE COMMITTING AN OFFENCE?

Yes. Failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence. The maximum penalty on conviction is a fine of £5,000 for each offence and/or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months.

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