



Government Gazette Staatskoerant

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
REPUBLIEK VAN SUID-AFRIKA

Regulation Gazette

No. 9787

Regulasiekoerant

Vol. 565

**Pretoria, 11 July
Julie 2012**

No. 35509

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CONTENTS • INHOUD*No.**Page
No. Gazette
 No.***GOVERNMENT NOTICE****Health, Department of***Government Notice*

R. 533	Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants (54/1972): Regulations relating to the reduction of sodium in certain foodstuffs and related matters	3	35509
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GOVERNMENT NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

No. R 533

11 July 2012

FOODSTUFFS, COSMETICS AND DISINFECTANTS ACT, 1972 (ACT 54 OF 1972)

REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE REDUCTION OF SODIUM IN CERTAIN FOODSTUFFS AND RELATED MATTERS.

The Minister of Health intends, under section 15 (1) of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act 54 of 1972), to make regulations set out in the Schedule hereto.

Interested persons are invited to submit any substantiated comments or representations on the proposed regulations to the Director-General of Health, Private Bag X828, Pretoria, 0001 (for the attention of the Director: Non-Communicable Diseases), within 3 months from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE

DEFINITIONS

1. In these regulations, any expression to which a meaning has been assigned in the Act shall bear such meaning and, unless inconsistent with the context –

“**bread**” means white bread, brown bread, whole-wheat bread and speciality bread as defined by the Regulations Relating to the Grading, Packing and Marking of Wheat Products intended for sale in the Republic of South Africa, R186 of 22 February 2008 under the Agricultural Products Standards Act 1990, (Act No 119 of 1990) and any future revision thereof, including buns and rolls, pre-packed, part-baked or baked, excluding rye bread where rye is the only or major cereal present;

“**butter spread**” means all categories of modified butter spreads referred to in the Regulations Relating to Dairy Products and Imitation Dairy Products, No. R. 2581 of 20 November 1987 which were published under the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990);

“fat spread” means any category of fat spreads referred to in Regulations Relating to the Classification, Packing and Marking of Fat Spreads Intended for Sale in the Republic of South Africa, R. 194 of 9 March 2012 published under agricultural Products Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990), excluding vanaspati and mixed vanaspati;

“processed meats” for the purpose of these Regulations means processed meat products in classes 6,7,10,11,12, and 14 of the South African National Standard SANS 885:2011, edition 3 or any future revision thereof, that has undergone any action that substantially altered its original state (including, but not limited to, heating, smoking, curing, fermenting, maturing, drying, marinating (surface application), extraction or extrusion or an combination of these processes), but excludes raw processed meat sausages;

“raw-processed meat sausages” means all types of raw-processed meat sausages from all species of meat animals and birds intended for human consumption in South Africa as per the Regulations Governing the Composition and Labelling of Raw Boerewors, Raw Species Sausage and Raw Mixed-species Sausage, R 2718 of 23 November 1990 and any updates hereafter, cured or uncured, or a combination thereof, that has not undergone any heat treatment and where any added ingredient and/or additive and added water, including brine, is retained in or on the product as sold, but exclude processed meats in sausage form as defined by these Regulations;

“ready-to-eat savoury snacks” means all savoury, flavoured extruded/expanded or puffed snacks made from potato, corn, rice or other cereals, savoury, flavoured snacks made from pellets, savoury, flavoured popcorn, filled and unfilled savoury biscuits, flavoured and/or salted peanuts and pretzels, excluding potato crisps.

“factory butter” means all categories of factory butter referred to in the Regulations Relating to Dairy Products and Imitation Dairy Products, No. R. 2581 of 20 November 1987 which were published under the Agricultural Product Standards Act, 1990 (Act No. 119 of 1990), which is not used or present as an ingredient in other composite foodstuffs;

“the Act” means the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act No. 54 of 1972);

“total Sodium” means Sodium from Sodium Chloride (table salt) and any other ingredient or additive sources.

REDUCTION OF TOTAL SODIUM CONTENT OF CERTAIN FOODSTUFFS

2. Any foodstuff, listed in column I of Table 1 of these Regulations, which are manufactured or imported on the dates mentioned in column III, shall comply with the reduced total Sodium levels mentioned in column II thereof.

LABELLING RELATED PROVISIONS

3. (1) These Regulations are in addition to the requirements of the Regulations Relating to the Labelling and Advertising of Foodstuffs as well as all other Regulations published under the Act.
- (2) In cases where a nutritional information table on the label is not required according to the provisions of the Regulations Relating to the Labelling and Advertising of Foodstuffs published under the Act, the analytical value for total Sodium content, expressed in milligram, shall be indicated on the label of the foodstuffs listed in Table 1 referred to in Regulation 2 above, per single serving and per 100 g, in a bold, easily legible, prominent font not smaller than 3 mm in height for capital letters.
- (3) Where applicable, all information related to the requirements of these Regulations shall be kept on record by the manufacturer, importer, or seller and failure to produce the relevant documentation within 2 (two) working days upon request by an inspector, or employee of the Department of Health shall constitute an offence.

METHODOLOGY

- 4 The Methodology to determine total Sodium content directly through chemical analysis by using a suitable potentiometric method or elemental analysis with AA (Flame atomic absorption spectroscopy) or ICP (Inductively Coupled Plasma) shall be applied for determining total Sodium content when testing foodstuffs listed in Table 1.

COMMENCEMENT

- 5 These regulations shall come into operation on the dates listed in column III of Table 1 below.

TABLE 1: REDUCTION OF TOTAL SODIUM (NA) CONTENT OF CERTAIN FOODSTUFFS

	Foodstuff category	Maximum Total Sodium per 100 g foodstuff	Date on which the total Sodium reduction becomes effective
	I	II	III
1.	Bread without "high salt" additions such as cheese, olives, processed meat, sundried tomatoes and other ingredients	400 mg Na	30 June 2016
		370 mg Na	30 June 2018
2.	Bread with "high salt" additions such as cheese, olives, processed meat, sundried tomatoes and other ingredients	480 mg Na	30 June 2016
		420 mg Na	30 June 2018
3.	All breakfast cereals, including dried, ready to-eat hot oat and other hot or cold instant porridges	500 mg Na	30 June 2016
		390 mg Na	30 June 2018
4.	All fat and butter spreads	550 mg Na	30 June 2016
		450 mg Na	30 June 2018
5.	Factory butter	600 mg Na	30 June 2016
		500 mg Na	30 June 2018
6.	Ready-to-eat savoury snacks	750 mg Na	30 June 2016
		680 mg Na	30 June 2018
7.	All flavoured potato crisps	650 mg Na	30 June 2016
		550 mg Na	30 June 2018
8.	Processed meats (as defined)	850 mg Na	30 June 2016
		600 mg Na	30 June 2018
9.	Raw-processed meat sausages (all types)	800 mg Na	30 June 2016
		600 mg Na	30 June 2018
10.	Dry soup and gravy powders, dry powder flavour mixes intended for, and sold with instant noodles, per dry weight	5500 mg Na	30 June 2016
		3500 mg Na	30 June 2018
11.	Stock cubes/powders/granules/emulsions/pastes	17000 mg Na	30 June 2016

	and savoury-enhancer sprinkles (flavoured or unflavoured)	11000 mg Na	30 June 2018
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DINA MOTSOLEDI, MP

MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 16/5/2012

Printed by and obtainable from the Government Printer, Bosman Street, Private Bag X85, Pretoria, 0001
Publications: Tel: (012) 334-4508, 334-4509, 334-4510
Advertisements: Tel: (012) 334-4673, 334-4674, 334-4504
Subscriptions: Tel: (012) 334-4735, 334-4736, 334-4737
Cape Town Branch: Tel: (021) 465-7531

Gedruk deur en verkrygbaar by die Staatsdrukker, Bosmanstraat, Privaatsak X85, Pretoria, 0001
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