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New Legislation and Official Literature Issued During 1977

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Lists are given of some of the documents of 1977 relating to legislation likely to be encountered in Public Analysts' laboratories. Reference is also made to some of the reports issued in 1977.

The word of regret about the apparent passing of the MAFF Food Standards Division's *LAA/Bulletins* which appeared in last year's review was premature. The bulletins, issued against the reference FS 4812, are marked, *for use by Food and Drugs authorities, Port Health authorities and Public Analysts only*. There is also a statement on them that they will normally be issued twice a year. In fact, they seem now to appear around April, once a year. *LAA/Bulletin* 9 was dated April 1977 and was in Public Analysts' hands in May. Number nine was quite the best summary of the food legislation of 1976 to have appeared anywhere, and it is a pity that the inhibiting notice about restricted availability continues to appear. Its removal and a little patience in awaiting its publication, would make this present review, to a large extent, unnecessary.

Rather easily confused with the *LAA/Bulletin* series are the MAFF *Information Bulletins for Public Analysts*. Those appear monthly, and are concerned with EEC Methods of Analysis. Unfortunately, across the country generally, local authority staffing offices seem inclined to allow staff expansion anywhere other than in laboratories, which means that much of the Ministry's effort in producing the *Information Bulletins* is wasted, because it is possible with existing laboratory facilities to check only a selected few of the methods of analysis which are being described.

In 1977 MAFF *Information Bulletins* numbers 15 to 26 were issued, their contents being essentially methods of analysis in the areas indicated below:

Bulletin number	Topics
15	Insoluble substances in instant coffee.
16	Chlorides in food. Preservatives. Metallic contaminants (mercury, lead, arsenic, cadmium, copper, zinc). Sodium and potassium. Weibull-Stoldt Fat Method. Sampling.
17	Cocoa and chocolate.
18	Milk and milk products.
19	Composition of honey.
20	Sugar products.
21	Natural mineral waters.
23	Further notes on honey.
24	Sugar methods (including the Luff Schoorl Method).
25	Purity of food additives.
26	Vinyl chloride monomer in foodstuffs.

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Two very good summaries of proposed food legislation appeared in the *Proceedings* of the Analytical Division of the Chemical Society for 1977. The writer's name did not appear, but both articles had an authoritative appearance. The present position of U.K. legislation appeared on page 237 of the September issue, and the EEC legislation is discussed on page 314 of the November issue.

The *MAFF Joint Announcements* in 1977 dealt with the following matters.

- No. 4 Re-appointment of Professor A. G. Ward, C.B.E., as Chairman of the Food Standards Committee.
- No. 80 Announcing the publication of a Food Standards Committee Report on Beer (in which OG is thought worth indicating by up to five X marks, and the amount of malted barley might be indicated).
- No. 102 Proposed Anti-oxidants in Food Regulations.
- No. 128 Announcing regulations making changes in the use of Preservatives in Food (implementing EEC Directives 76/462/EEC and 76/463/EEC).
- No. 132 Announcing regulations to limit the amount of erucic acid in edible oils and fats.
- No. 184 Announcing new regulations controlling the composition, description and labelling of condensed milk and dried milk products.
- No. 187 Announcing regulations to control the composition, description and labelling of fruit juices and concentrates.
- No. 192 Announcing a Food Additives and Contaminants Committee report on the use of sulphur dioxide, caustic soda and monosodium glutamate instead of artificial colouring in canned peas.
- No. 211 Stating that the EEC Council of Members had adopted a Directive on the composition and labelling of extracts containing coffee and those also containing chicory.
- No. 263 Announcing that a Food Standards Committee Report on the Use of Fructose in Foods for Diabetics had recommended no change for the time being, but inviting submissions in connection with a forthcoming review.
- No. 271 Delaying the change in declaring food energy values from calories to kilojoules.
- No. 278 Appointments to the Food Standards Committee.
- No. 298 Requesting comment in connection with a review of food sweetening agents.
- No. 355 Announcing that, in the summer of 1978, a consultative document will be issued to precede the drafting of a new Food and Drugs Act.
- No. 408 Explaining that in a second part of the Food Standards Committee Review of Food Labelling the committee recommends that exceptions to the general policy of labelling with full lists of ingredients should cease and that a revised list of generic terms should be made before harmonisation with European law is discussed.

New legislation in 1977 dealt with the following matters.

New Legislation Affecting Milk

The Milk and Dairies (General) (Amendment) Regulations 1977 (and circular FSH 2/77), SI 1977 No. 171. Removed a legal obstruction to the importation of bottles or cartons of cream in retail packs.

The Milk (Great Britain) (Amendment) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 859. Increased the retail prices for milk by a penny a pint from 22 May 1977.

The Milk (Great Britain) (Amendment) (No. 2) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 1441. Increased from 2 October 1977 the price of Channel Islands Milk by $\frac{1}{2}$ p per pint.

The Brucellosis Melitensis (Amendment) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 945. *The Brucellosis (Area Eradication) (England and Wales) (Amendment) Order 1977*, SI 1977 No. 949. *The Brucellosis (England and Wales) (Amendment) Order 1977*, SI 1977 No. 1751. *The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1977*, SI 1977 No. 1033. Revoked former regulations and restored them with the provision that the designation *untreated* shall be permitted, but only when the milk so described shall have come from a herd accredited as free from brucellosis.

Circular FSH 6/77. Guideline Figure for the Fat Content of Standardised Whole Milk Imported into the UK During the Milk Year Beginning 1 April 1977 (EEC Regulation No. 540/77). 3.77 per cent. fat (in fact Regulation (EEC) 648/77 made the 1977/78 Milk Year commence on 1 May 1977).

The Association of County Councils in 1977 considered a request from the National Institute for Research in Dairying, for county councils to participate in a project with the British Standards Institution to confirm a recognised standard freezing point for milk, to be used in calculating the amount of adulteration when there had been an addition of extraneous water. In April they hesitated, but in July they recommended that counties approached should participate in the project.

New Legislation Affecting Food

In reply to questions in Parliament, Mr Hattersley stated that from February 1974 to October 1977 food prices had risen by 90.6 per cent., and general retail prices had risen by 83.4 per cent.

The U.K. food legislation of 1977 was as follows.

The Preservatives in Food (Amendment) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 645. The regulations added another salt of propionic acid to preservatives for use in bread, Christmas puddings and flour confectionery, and made changes in purity criteria for some other food preservatives to bring them in line with Directive 76/463/EEC.

The Erucic Acid in Food Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 691. The regulations provided for a limit of 10 per cent. erucic acid in the total fatty acids in the oil or fat of food from 1 July 1977 to 1 July 1979, and thereafter for the limit to be reduced to 5 per cent. Erucic Acid is defined as *cis-docos-13-enoic* acid, which makes its chemical estimation complicated. Why only the *cis* acid should be considered harmful is not too clear.

The Fruit Juices and Fruit Nectars Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 927. The regulations control the composition, description and labelling of fruit juices including concentrated and dried juices, and an unfermented mixture of fruit, water and sugar which will be known as Fruit Nectar. There are prohibitions on medicinal claims and limits for permitted additives such as Vitamin C, sugar, acidulants, volatile flavouring oils, dimethyl polysiloxane and preservatives.

The Condensed Milk and Dried Milk Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 928. The regulations control the composition, description and labelling of certain condensed and dried milk products, making changes to harmonise with EEC practice. Thus, one now finds that whereas in Britain, Unsweetened Evaporated Milk was less concentrated than Condensed Milk, it is now Condensed Milk which is less concentrated than Evaporated Milk. In retail sales, only the products to which the reserved descriptions listed in Schedule 1 to the regulations apply may be sold (i.e. products preserved by heat treatment or with sugar). Schedule 2 to the regulations lists permitted additives.

Other Food Matters

The Sugar Board (Dissolution) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 224. Acting under powers in the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the MAFF issued this Statutory Instrument, which reads: "The Sugar Board established by section 1 of the Sugar Act 1956 is hereby dissolved". This follows the U.K. adoption of the EEC sugar arrangements in 1973 and the expiry of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement in 1975. The Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (Commencement No. 1) Order came into force on 14 February 1977.

The Poultry Meat (Slaughterhouse Checks on the Absorption of Water) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 1854. Imposed upon Food and Drugs Authorities an obligation to ensure that the steps taken at places of slaughter to prevent excessive inclusion of water in poultry carcasses are properly carried out.

Circular FSH 8/77. Poultry Meat Hygiene. The circular clarifies arrangements to overcome difficulties which arise as a result of the Poultry Meat (Hygiene) Regulations 1976.

MAFF letter ref. FSC 122 (20 April 1977) Water Content of Poultry Meat. Confirmed that the Annex III method involving the grinding of whole frozen chicken carcasses will be the method adopted in forthcoming regulations.

MAFF letter ref. FS 5616 and Codex Alimentarius paper CX/SB 77/9 referring to standards for soups. The paper set out a point of view in favour of considering no detailed standards for soups for a period of at least five years.

Institute of Trading Standards/UK Association of Frozen Food Producers Code of Practice on Reformed Meat (Code 3). "Packs containing Slices and Steaks made from reformed meat should clearly refer to the fact that the meat has been processed by including the words "Chopped and shaped" in and as part of the appropriate designation (other words, such as "and formed" may be used if desirable)".

MAFF letter ref. ADF 99 (enclosing Draft Circular letter to Enforcement Authorities concerning purity criteria for diacetyl tartaric acid esters of mono- and di-glycerides of fatty acids as prescribed in Schedule 1, Part II of the *Emulsifiers and Stabilisers in Food Regulations 1975*). Raises the acid value to 130.

MAFF letter ref. ADF 187. ORANGE G and CHOCOLATE BROWN FB. These colours are to be withdrawn from 1 January 1978. YELLOW 2G is probably to be deleted by the end of 1979. RED 2G is under review. Discussions are under way for the continued use of titanium dioxide and vegetable carbon.

MAFF letter ref. ADF 283A. Saccharin. Gives reasons for the U.K. delaying prohibiting use of saccharin (following Canadian questions into its safety) until further work has been carried out.

MAFF letter ref. FSC 330. Xylitol. Italian Chewing Gum on sale in Britain is thought to contain Xylitol, a carbohydrate which has been advertised in *Food Manufacture Ingredients Guide* as a sweetener but is considered by the Ministry to be a humectant now being evaluated by the Food Additives and Contaminants Committee and meanwhile prohibited by the Miscellaneous Additives in Food Regulations 1974. A discussion of xylitol appeared in the September and December issues of *Process Biochemistry* 1977.

MAFF letter ref. FS 4884. Cocoa and Chocolate Products. Referred to the need for a tolerant attitude to manufacturers caught by the two dates which had been put forward for changes in weight marking of certain products, and clarified the intention in Regulation 4 of the *Cocoa and Chocolate Product Regulations 1976*, which prohibits the use of reserved descriptions and then makes exceptions to the prohibition. The second and third of those relate to ingredients and to products which are clearly not chocolate products. Because of Regulation 11 of the *Labelling of Food Regulations* "Chocolate Sponge" might strictly need to be called "Chocolate Flavour Sponge" but current usage and the LAJAC Code of Practice might make "Chocolate Sponge" an acceptable designation.

MAFF letter ref. FS 6573. Demerara Sugar. Stated that discussions between the Ministry, the trade and ITSA had resulted in the general agreement (a) that "Demerara Sugar" be regarded as an indication of a type of sugar and not as an appropriate designation, (b) in addition to "Demerara Sugar" the prepacked Article should bear an appropriate designation and (c) the following designations as appropriate would be acceptable:

- (i) white sugar and cane molasses;
- (ii) raw cane sugar and cane molasses;
- (iii) raw cane sugar;

with lists of ingredients as necessary.

MAFF letter ref. FSC 39 C. Mineral Hydrocarbons on Dried Fruit. The specifications for the purity of the mineral oil used on fruit are, according to SI 1966 No. 1073 those of the B.P. The B.P. however, gives very different tolerances for liquid paraffin and semi-liquid paraffin. Although the trade uses only liquid paraffin, a new test method, namely that of the American

Society for Testing of Materials, ASTM D 2269-73, will soon be specified with a maximum absorbance of 0.1.

MAFF letter referring to an EEC Proposal relating to materials containing vinyl chloride monomer and which are intended to come into contact with food.

The proposed limits are as follows:

Maximum VC in vinyl chloride homopolymers	1 mg/kg
Maximum VC in vinyl chloride co-polymers used for containers for liquids	1 mg/kg
Maximum VC in vinyl chloride co-polymers for all other purposes	5 mg/kg
Maximum level of VC in food	0.05 mg/kg

MAFF letter ref. FS 5933. Milk Content of Ice-cream. Although Milk-solids-other-than-fat is not defined in the Ice-cream Regulations, the intention is that the proportions of lactose, protein and mineral matter should be those found in natural milk, and should not be interpreted to include whey or lactose ingredients.

MAFF letters ref. FS 6566. The Interpretation Act 1889. Questions on how the Interpretation Act 1889 should apply in regulations about foodstuffs arise from time to time, and local authority legal departments have been among those which have ruled that one cannot read the Meat Pie and Sausage Roll Regulations, 1967 for example, in such a way that Meat Pie (in the singular) may be interpreted as including the plural. In two letters from the MAFF Food Standards Division Branch B however, it has been stated that the Interpretation Act applies to all Acts and Regulations passed since 1850. There is a specific statement in Section 2 (2) of the Meat Pie and Sausage Roll Regulations that the Interpretation Act shall apply, which means that multiple groups of pies may be taken as "a sample". In the Fish and Meat Spreadable Product Regulations, the fact that Fish can be read as plural may mean that the Interpretation Act could operate to allow named fish (plural such as Salmon and Shrimp) to make up not less than 70 per cent. of a spread, rather than spreads being made from a single species, as the regulations are usually interpreted to require.

MAFF Circular FSH 14/77. Water Content of Poultry Meat. An explanation of how Regulation (EEC) 2867/76 is to be implemented.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Legislation

The reprinting of the whole of the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations for the sake of one change made to Untreated Milk leads one to wonder why an updated reprinting of the regulations connected with Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs could not have been undertaken, so that enforcement bodies might be spared the present doubts about whether one has found the relevant sections of the legislation. The new material to appear in 1977 was as follows.

✓ *The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Amendment) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 115.* The Regulations make changes in the definition of "preservative" and

substitute the words "permitted preservative" for "preservative" etc., in the principal regulations. Four schedules list permitted antioxidants, permitted emulsifiers, stabilisers and binders, increased allowances of Vitamin D in poultry feeds, and permitted preservatives.

MAFF letter ref. DW 272. Warned that the official method for the determination of Vitamin A is unreliable.

MAFF letter ref. DW 117. Enclosed document *Feed 1 Guide to the Method of Analysis Contained in Schedule 5 of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Amendment) Regulations 1976*. The *Guide* contained comments on parts of the EEC procedures considered to be too unsatisfactory for inclusion in present U.K. directions; it included advice on means by which satisfactory results might be obtained when using the new procedures, and it suggested sources of supply for certain reagents. The warnings involved aspects of the prescribed method for the determination of moisture, problems connected with the determination of oil, a U.K. insistence on subjecting British Chemists to the hazards of using mercury catalysts instead of the EEC safer, copper ones, and doubts about the methods for the determination of urea, biuret and uric acid. There was a warning that the prescribed EEC method of calibration in the prescribed phosphorus determination procedure needs scrupulous attention to detail, and there was a frank statement that the EEC methods for the determinations of fibre and of sugar are inferior to the older U.K. methods. Too much indicator has been prescribed in the water soluble chlorides determination, and the Laboratory of the Government Chemist has expressed reservations about the ashing procedure. There is a warning that the method of analysis for Vitamin A requires skilled operators who have made themselves conversant with the method, and some likely sources of error are listed. For Vitamin B, additional manipulation, as suggested in *Analyst*, 1951, p. 127, is recommended, and the method for Vitamin K is stated to be unreliable. The method for hydrocyanic acid is said to be too insensitive to check the limits which have been prescribed, and similarly an alternative method for volatile mustard oil is being sought. On the subject of the method of analysis for aflatoxins the *Guide* seems to suggest that more scrupulous handling precautions than most local authority laboratories can provide may be necessary.

- ✓ *The Fertilisers Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 1489*. The regulations supersede (insofar as they apply to fertilisers) Regulations 1, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 and Part I of Schedule 2, Part I of Schedule 4 and Part I of Schedule 5 of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Regulations 1973 and Regulation 1 2 (4), (5) and (6) and 3 (1), and Schedule 7 of the Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Amendment) Regulations 1976. The Regulations apply to a wider range of materials than formerly, and the names applied to fertilisers become more specific. The limits of variation allowed tend to be stricter, and will apply only in a negative direction. There will no longer be any offsetting of excesses against deficiencies, and phosphorus, potassium and magnesium will need to be declared both as oxide and as the element. The information required to be given in Statutory Statements will have to be given within 14 days of delivery. The problem with all these scraps of paper is not insurmountable, but one may appreciate the extent of the problem, if it is remarked that one

needs to turn to the 1973 Regulations for definitions of feeding stuffs, to the 1977 Regulations for definitions of fertilisers, back to the 1973 Regulations for the maximum amounts of trace elements allowed in feeding stuffs, but to the 1977 Amendment Regulations for the changes in vitamins, to the 1973 Regulations for when copper becomes a medicinal additive, or to the new Schedule I in the 1976 Amendment Regulations for the amount below which no declaration of copper is necessary: and in the background, one has all the present doubt about which tests are effective and whether finding no preservative or antioxidant that has been declared means that the quantity used is small, and whether finding excess silica means contamination with sand, or permitted use of bentonite.

The Medicines (Animal Feeding Stuff) (Enforcement) (Amendment) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 1584. The regulations correct misprints in the Medicines (Animal Feeding Stuff) (Enforcement) Regulations 1976 and change the form of the wording in the certificate of analysis forms required by the regulations.

MAFF letter, ref. DR 232 (enclosing a letter dated 7 June 1976 which analysts had not received) lists changes in the Product Licence for NITROVIN so that there was a prohibition on the mixing of the material with antibiotics after 31 December 1976.

The Compendium of Medicinal Feed Additives. This was updated during 1977 to include new medicaments such as AVOTAN.

New Medicines Legislation

The following items deserve attention.

The Medicines (Certificate of Analysis) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 1399. The regulations revoke the Medicines (Certificates of Analysis) Regulations 1976, and prescribe new forms of certificate on which results of analysis should be given.

THE B.P. 1973 ADDENDUM 1977

This Addendum, effective from 1 December 1977, amends the B.P. 1973 and the B.P. Addendum 1975, and is published on the recommendation of the Medicines Committee in accordance with Section 99 (b) of the Medicines Act.

The 57 additions include the following:

Anthelmintics:	bephenium hydroxynaphthoate, levanisole hydrochloride and thiabendazole.
Antibacterials:	furazolidone and nitrofurazone.
Antiemetic:	methochlopramide hydrochloride.
Antihistamine:	trimeprazine hydrochloride.
Hypotensive:	debrisoquine sulphate.
Migraine relief:	methsergide maleate.
Narcotic analgesic:	fentanyl citrate.

Nine monographs are transferred to the Addendum from the B.P.C. to give effect to the requirements of the European Pharmacopoeia, while 73 monographs of the B.P. 1973 and the Addendum 1975 are withdrawn in favour of the European Monographs.

The test for uniformity of weight of single dose preparations described in the European Pharmacopoeia has been adopted and applies to capsules, powders for injectable preparations, non-sugar-coated or non-enteric-coated tablets and suppositories. The European Pharmacopoeia requirements for uncoated tablets also applies to both uncoated and film coated tablets of the B.P. The term "citric acid" now refers to the anhydrous material and the material previously designated Citric Acid is now referred to as Citric Acid monohydrate; this is also in line with the European Pharmacopoeia requirements.

The new monograph for Digoxin Tablets includes a more reliable assay, a test for uniformity of content which is applicable to lower strength tablets, and an amplification of the dissolution rate.

High pressure liquid chromatography is used in the standardisation of Idoxurine eye drops (eye drops being included for the first time).

There are important changes in the use of infra-red spectroscopy for identification purposes. Comparison of identity is now made with a reference spectrum rather than by use of a reference substance for many substances, and it is hoped that all infra-red identification will be made by the use of a series of reference spectra as they become available. A single class of substances, known as "British Pharmacopoeia Chemical Reference Substances, suitable for assay and test purposes", is now available, and has replaced the two classes known as "British Pharmacopoeia Authentic Specimens" previously used for this purpose, and the more highly purified materials known as "British Chemical Reference Substances". The "British Pharmacopoeia Chemical Reference Substances" will be withdrawn in favour of the "European Pharmacopoeia Chemical Reference Substances" as these become available.

Amendments. A series of amendments to the B.P. 1973 and the Addendum 1977, also effective from 1 December 1977, was published by the DHSS in November 1977; these were mainly concerned with additional determinations of declared contents of sealed containers for injection purposes.

The British Pharmacopoeia (Veterinary) 1977. The first edition has also been published on the recommendation of the Medicines Commission in accordance with Section 99 (6) of the Medicines Act. There is now only one official compendium in the U.K. for medicinal substances, and this is the B.P., one part being for human medicines and one part for veterinary medicines. In general, the same analytical standards are applicable for articles that can be used for both human and for veterinary purposes. Less stringent standards regarding impurities for mass external application or for materials which are used as feed additives can be allowed. Special attention has been paid to the detection and limitation of impurities that may occur during manufacture or during storage, and allowances for these increases have been made. It is, however, up to manufacturers to maintain standards more exacting than the

minimum laid down by the Pharmacopoeia. High pressure liquid chromatography is used in the assay of the synthetic prostaglandins, cloprostenol sodium and fluprostenol sodium. The appendices include a general test for antibiotics in milk using triphenyltetrazolium chloride; this test which is non-specific, and is standardised using sodium benzyl penicillin, is used to differentiate between the intra-mammary injections used for lactating animals and the slow release injections used for non-lactating animals.

Martindale. The Extra Pharmacopoeia. 27th Edition. This new edition, published during 1977, has over 9000 more entries than the 26th Edition, and the international coverage has been considerably extended.

The Medicines (Bal Jivan Chamcho Prohibition) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 172. The order continued until 9 May 1977 the prohibition in the Medicines (Bal Jivan Chamcho Prohibition) Order 1976.

The Medicines (Bal Jivan Chamcho Prohibition) (No. 2) Order 1977, SI No. 670. This order continued the prohibition in the former orders.

The Medicines (Renewal Applications for Licences and Certificates) (Amendment) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 180.

The Medicines (Labelling) Amendment Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 996 (supplied with a correction slip which was in error). The regulations postponed by six months the date of commencement given in SI 1976 No. 1726, and require medicines to be labelled, "Keep out of the reach of children". Warning marks for some medicines, including aspirin, are required, together with markings (except on doctor's prescribed packs) which show that some medicines are "Prescription only" medicines and products to be sold only through a pharmacy. A full account of Medicine Labelling appeared in the *Pharmaceutical Journal* for 16 July 1977 (p. 55).

The Medicines (Medicines Act 1968 Amendment) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 1050. The regulations provide for certain EEC obligations relating to proprietary medicines to be implemented.

The Medicines (Pharmacy and General Sale) (Appointed Day) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 2126. After 1 February 1978 any drugs not on a General Sale list might only be sold from a Pharmacy.

The Medicines (Prescription Only) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 2127. Essentially a list of drugs which may only be supplied against a prescription. It should be read with Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Act. It incidentally replaced the Hexachlorophane Prohibition Order 1973 and the Phenacetin Prohibition Order 1974.

The Medicines Act 1968 (Commencement No. 7) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 2128. Fixed 1 February 1978 as the day on which Section 1 subsection (2) and subsection 3 (b) of the Food and Drugs Act 1978 were removed and replaced by Sections 63 and 64 of the Medicines Act 1968, prohibiting additions or abstractions with regard to drugs. By virtue of Section 12 (1) of the Poisons Act 1972 the Order also brought that Act into force to replace the parts of the Pharmacy and Poisons Act 1933 which related to non-medicinal poisons. The Pharmacy and Medicines Act and certain other legislation were also repealed.

The Medicines (Retail Sale or Supply of Herbal Remedies) Order 1977,

SI 1977 No. 2130. Limits the exemption given for herbal remedies in Section 56 of the Medicines Act.

The Medicines (Prohibition of Non-Medicinal Antimicrobial Substances) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 2131. Essentially takes the place of Part II of the Therapeutic Substances Act.

The Medicines (Sale or Supply) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 2132. Provided for the enforcement of the provisions of Sections 53, 54 and 66 of the Act by local authorities and the Pharmaceutical Society. These provisions related to restrictions on sale of drugs not on the General Sale list, and to supervision of premises. No order or regulations appeared to have been made under Section 108 of the Act for the enforcement of the Sections 63 and 64 which replaced the old legislation in the Food and Drugs Act 1955 however.

The Medicines (Pharmacy and General Sale—Exemption) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 2133. Provide in accordance with Section 52 of the Medicines Act for certain categories of persons to be supplied with drugs not on the General Sale list.

The Medicines (Exemptions from Restrictions on the Retail Sale or Supply of Veterinary Drugs) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 2167. Lists certain drugs exempt from restrictions when intended for use on animals.

The Medicines (Labelling) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 2168. Made provisions for modified labelling of drugs referred to in SI 1977 No. 2167.

The Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Modification) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 1243. This order brings under control certain tryptamine drugs and phenethylamine drugs.

The Misuse of Drugs (Designation) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 1379. Re-defines cannabis and makes changes in the list of drugs for which no medicinal use is likely.

The Misuse of Drugs (Amendment) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 1380. Modify the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1973 (as amended) to take account of the changes in the Modification Order.

Environmental Matters

The items in this section are merely shown in the form of a list.

The Control of Atmospheric Pollution (Exempted Premises) Regulation 1977, SI 1977 No. 18.

D of E Circular 2/77. Control of Pollution Act 1974. Part IV. Pollution of Atmosphere (lists the types of emissions likely to occur from different industries).

The Land Drainage (Election of Internal Drainage Boards) (Amendment) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 366.

D of E Seventeenth Progress Report of the Standing Technical Committee on Synthetic Detergents.

Building Research Establishment Digest No. 139. Control of Lichens, Moulds and Similar Growths.

Health and Safety Commission CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT: Hazardous Substances (Conveyance by Road) Tank Labelling Regulations.

The Control of Pollution (Licensing of Waste Disposal) (Amendment) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 1185.

D of E Circular 79/77. Control of Pollution Act 1974 Part 1 (Waste on Land) Licensing Amendments.

Consumer Protection. The Aerosol Dispensers (EEC Requirements) Regulation 1977, SI 1977 No. 1140 (prohibits vinyl chloride monomer and allows some indulgence on weight marking and declarations of origin).

House of Lords Session 1976-1977. 16th Report, R/1628/76. Commission Interim Report on some Persistent Organo-chlorine Compounds.

The Dutch Elm Disease (Local Authorities) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 1074 (lists all the local authorities to which previous orders applied).

The Dutch Elm Disease (Restriction on Movement of Elms) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 1075.

Plant Health. The Beet Cyst Nematode Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 988.

Draft CEN Standard BSI doc (76/60813 DC) Para. 4.5. The Toys (Safety) Regulations. Recommendation that printing inks on paper and board be tested for metals on a basis of metal present in the paper or board. (Method of extraction given in Institute of Trading Standards Administration Confidential Bulletin No. 60, 4 March 1977.)

Weights and Measures

Weights and Measures Act 1976. Includes in Section 12 a provision to waive Food and Drugs Act standards, etc., in time of food shortages.

The Bread Prices No. 2 Order (as amended), SI 1976 No. 2128, SI 1977 No. 360 and SI 1977 No. 1166.

The Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Honey) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 558.

The Measuring Container Bottles (EEC Requirements) Regulation 1977, SI 1977 No. 932.

The Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Cocoa and Chocolate Products) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 1332.

The Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Sugar) Amendment Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 1333.

The Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Cheese) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 1335.

The Price Marketing (Meat) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 1412.

The Weights and Measures (Marketing of Goods and Abbreviations of Units) (Amendment) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 1683.

The Alcoholometers and Alcohol Hydrometers (EEC Requirements) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 1753.

Bulletins—Consumer Safety, issued by Consumer Safety Unit of Department of Prices and Consumer Protection for TSO's and EHO's.

No. 1 Advertised the Government Laboratory's CHAIS (Consumer Hazards Analytical Information Service).

- No. 2 Referred to the EEC Directive on Packaging and Labelling of Dangerous substances and summarised an EEC Directive on Cosmetic Products
- No. 3 Referred to imitation cigarettes and Bal Jivan Chamcho Baby Tonic.
- No. 4 Mentioned childrens' harmonicas.
- No. 5 Referred to styrene vapour released from polystyrene toys.
- No. 6 Advertised the Government Laboratory and offered information about cosmetic analyses.
- No. 7 Contained January to June Index.
- No. 8 Suggested preferential sampling of toys with yellow and green pigmented paints.
- No. 9 Mentions caustic soda hair straighteners.

Health and Safety

The Health and Safety at Work Etc., Act 1974 (Commencement No. 4) Order 1977, SI 1977 No. 294.

Other Reports, etc.

The Council of the European Communities adopted the two following Directives:

Dietary Foods. Directive 77/94/EEC (see Official Journal L 26/77).

Coffee Extracts and Chicory Extracts Directive 77/436/EEC (see Official Journal L 172/77).

DRAFT EUROPEAN STANDARD FOR NATURAL MINERAL WATERS

Limits	milligrammes per litre
Copper	1
Manganese	2
Zinc	5
Borate (as H_3BO_3)	30
Organic matter (by $KMnO_4$)	3
Arsenic	0.05
Barium	1
Cadmium	0.01
Chromium VI	0.05
Lead	0.05
Mercury	0.001
Selenium	0.01
Fluoride	2
Nitrate (as NO_3)	45
Sulphide	0.05
Radium 226	30 pCi per litre
Cyanide (CN)	0.01
Nitrites (NO_2)	0.005

Other draft standards which have not yet been adopted include those on jams, on meat extracts, and on butter, margarine, natural yeasts, non-alcoholic beverages and pasta.

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Evaluation of Certain Food Additives. 20th Report of the Joint FAO/WHO Expert Committee on Food Additives. WHO Technical Report Series No. 599.

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The Composition of Mature Human Milk. Department of Health and Social Security Report on Health and Social Subjects 12 (ISBN 0 11 320244 X).

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Nutrition in Schools. Department of Education and Science (ISBN 0 11 270405 0).

Guide to Good Pharmaceutical Practice 1977 (ISBN 0 11 320662 3)

Understanding the British Butter Market (Milk Marketing Board).

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Customs and Excise. The Hydrocarbon Oil (Amendment) Regulations 1977, SI 1977 No. 1868. The regulations change the quantities and units used in testing hydrocarbon oils. This affects even the method of testing rebated oils for markers and colouring substances. The equivalents are not quite identical. Thus 60°F is replaced by 15°C and not by 15.5°C. The pressure unit "one atmosphere" is replaced by 1013.25 millibars, and the unit of volume becomes a litre instead of a gallon.

