

EIRE (REPUBLIC OF IRELAND)

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4. EIRE**PETROLEUM WAXES****PETROLATUMS****SYNTHETIC HYDROCARBON WAXES**

(see note)

USAGE : In/on food - As additive or component
 - As food coating or surface treatment

REGULATIONS

Health (Mineral Hydrocarbons in Food) - Regulations, 1972; No. 45 of 1972. Issued by the Minister for Health.

(The general provisions of the "Sale of Food and Drugs Act 1875-1936" also apply - see page 4.3).

GENERAL TERMS OF REGULATIONS

The regulations apply to "any liquid, semi-liquid or solid hydrocarbon product derived from any substance of mineral origin" including "hard paraffin, liquid paraffin, microcrystalline wax, petroleum jelly and white oil".

Note

By comparison with the corresponding UK regulations (page 17.1 and 17.6), it appears that the above Irish regulations would be regarded as also applying to synthetic hydrocarbon waxes.

The general terms are effectively identical with those of the corresponding regulations in the UK (i.e. Statutory Instruments 1966 No. 1073 - see page 17.1) namely : - mineral hydrocarbons are forbidden in foods with certain exceptions specified as follows :

<u>Food</u>	<u>Maximum concentration of mineral hydrocarbon permitted</u>
1. Currants, prunes, raisins, sultanas	0.5 parts per weight per 100 of fruit
2. Citrus fruit	0.1 parts per weight per 100 of fruit
3. Sugar confectionery - containing mineral hydrocarbon only by reason of its use as a polishing or glazing agent	0.2 parts per weight per 100 of such confectionery
4. Any food	
a) by reason of the use in it of any or all of types 1, 2, 3	not in excess of the relevant quantities permitted for 1, 2, 3

b) by the reason only of the use of mineral hydrocarbon as a lubricant or greasing agent on some surface with which the food must necessarily come into contact during its preparation.	0.2 parts by weight per 100 of food
5. Chewing gum	60 parts by weight per 100 of chewing gum
6. Rind of pressed cheese	not specified
7. Preserved eggs	not specified
8. Any food intended for export or re-export	not specified

QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

The quality requirements are identical with those in the corresponding UK regulations (page 17.1), however it is worthy of note That in the Irish regulations no test procedure is indicated for the test for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) although the "light extinction of the extract per centimetre path length" is specified as not exceeding :

Wavelength (Millimicrons)	280-289,	290-299,	300-359,	360-400
Extinction limit	0.15	0.12	0.08	0.02

presumably therefore the same test procedure as in the UK regulations is intended.

4. EIRE**GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

USAGE : **In contact with food**

REGULATIONS

Irish legislation does not include any regulations specifically controlling materials in contact with food, however the general requirements of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act 1975-1936" apply.

(There is thus no counterpart to the UK "Materials and Articles in Contact with Food Regulations, 1978" - page 17.3).

GENERAL TERMS OF REGULATIONS

The "Sale of Food and Drugs Act 1875-1936" lays down broad principles concerning the nature, substance and quality of foods similar to those in the UK "Food and Drugs Act 1955" (page 17.3).

No detailed quality requirements are specified.

4. EIRE

PETROLEUM WAXES **NATURAL ESTER WAXES** **PETROLATUMS**

USAGE : **Pharmacy**

REGULATIONS

The Pharmacopoeia Act 1931, No. 22 of 1931.

GENERAL TERMS OF REGULATIONS

The Act clearly lays down that the British Pharmacopoeia currently in force in the United Kingdom, shall be the Pharmacopoeia for Ireland. It is specified that the authorities may make such modifications to the British Pharmacopoeia as may be considered necessary for adoption in Ireland, however it is understood that such modifications have not occurred.

QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

These are as in the British Pharmacopoeia :

Petroleum waxes	-	page 17.5
Natural ester waxes	-	page 17.8
Petrolatums	-	page 17.11

(Synthetic hydrocarbon waxes are not mentioned in the British Pharmacopoeia 1980).

4. EIRE**NATURAL ESTER WAXES**
(ADDENDUM)

USAGE : **Pharmacy**

REGULATIONS

The European Pharmacopoeia, 2nd Edition, includes monographs for white beeswax and yellow beeswax; for details refer to Section 19 - European Economic Community - as at August 1987 these are the only sections on waxes in the European Pharmacopoeia although it is understood that a monograph on carnauba wax is to be issued.

The Pharmacopoeia requirements for beeswax in all countries adopting the European Pharmacopoeia are therefore now identical and as given in Section 19; these requirements supersede those of the individual national pharmacopoeias.

It is understood that the following countries have agreed to adopt the requirements of the European Pharmacopoeia, either as original parties to the Convention on the Elaboration of a European Pharmacopoeia or through subsequent decisions (the European Pharmacopoeia has official status in the laws of the European Economic Community) :

Austria
Belgium
Denmark
EIRE
Finland
France

Germany
Greece
Italy
Luxembourg
Netherlands
Norway

Portugal
Spain
Sweden
Switzerland
United Kingdom