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SCOTTISH STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

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**2004 No. 525**

**The Contaminants in Food (Scotland) Regulations 2004**

**Application of various sections of the Act**

7.—(1) The following provisions of the Act shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations with the modification that any reference in those provisions to the Act or Part thereof shall be construed as a reference to these Regulations—

- (a) section 3 (presumptions that food intended for human consumption);
- (b) section 20 (offences due to fault of another person);
- (c) section 21 (defence of due diligence), as it applies for the purposes of section 8, 14 or 15 of the Act;
- (d) section 30(8) (which relates to documentary evidence);
- (e) section 33 (obstruction etc. of officers);
- (f) section 35(1) to (3) (punishment of offences), in so far as it relates to offences under section 33(1) and (2), as applied by sub-paragraph (e);
- (g) section 36 (offences by bodies corporate);
- (h) section 36A (offences by Scottish partnerships); and
- (i) section 44 (protection of officers acting in good faith).

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), section 9 of the Act (inspection and seizure of suspected food) shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations as if it read as follows—

“9.—(1) An authorised officer of a food authority may at all reasonable times inspect any food intended for human consumption which—

- (a) has been placed on the market; or
- (b) is in the possession of, or has been deposited with or consigned to, any person for the purpose of placing it on the market,

and subsections (2) to (8) shall apply where, on such an inspection, it appears to the authorised officer that the placing on the market of any food contravenes regulation 3(a)(i) or (b)(i) of the Contaminants in Food (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (“the Regulations”).

(2) The authorised officer may either—

- (a) give notice to the person in charge of the food that, until the notice is withdrawn, the food or any specified portion of it—
  - (i) is not to be used for human consumption; and
  - (ii) either is not to be removed or is to be removed to a place at which there are facilities to carry out the sampling required by Directive [98/53/EC](#), Directive [2001/22/EC](#), Directive [2002/26/EC](#), Directive [2002/69/EC](#), Directive [2003/78/EC](#) and Directive [2004/16/EC](#), as appropriate; or
- (b) seize the food and remove it in order to have it dealt with by the sheriff.

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**Changes to legislation:** *The Contaminants in Food (Scotland) Regulations 2004, Section 7 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 02 January 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

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(3) Where an authorised officer exercises the power conferred by subsection (2)(a), that officer shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within 21 days, determine whether or not that officer is satisfied that the food complies with the requirements of regulation 3(a)(i) or (b)(i) of the Regulations, as appropriate and—

- (a) if that officer is so satisfied, shall forthwith withdraw the notice;
- (b) if that officer is not so satisfied, shall seize the food and remove it in order to have it dealt with by the sheriff.

(4) Where an authorised officer exercises the powers conferred by subsection (2)(b) or (3)(b), that officer shall inform the person in charge of the food of the intention to have it dealt with by the sheriff and any person who under regulation 3(a)(i) or (b)(i) of the Regulations might be liable to a prosecution in respect of the food shall, if that person attends before the sheriff by whom the food falls to be dealt with, be entitled to be heard and to call witnesses.

(5) If it appears to the sheriff, on the basis of such evidence as the sheriff considers appropriate in the circumstances, that any food falling to be dealt with under this section fails to comply with the requirements of regulation 3(a)(i) or (b)(i) of the Regulations the sheriff shall condemn the food and order—

- (a) the food to be destroyed or to be so disposed of as to prevent it from being used for human consumption; and
- (b) any expenses reasonably incurred in connection with the destruction or disposal to be defrayed by the owner of the food.

(6) If a notice under subsection (2)(a) is withdrawn, or the sheriff by whom any food falls to be dealt with under this section refuses to condemn it, the food authority shall compensate the owner of the food for any depreciation in its value resulting from the action taken by the authorised officer.

(7) Any disputed question as to the right to or the amount of any compensation payable under subsection (6) above shall be determined by a single arbiter appointed, failing agreement between the parties, by the sheriff.

(8) Any person who knowingly contravenes the requirements of a notice under subsection (2)(a) shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.”

(3) The expressions “placing on the market”, “Directive 98/53/EC”, “Directive 2001/22/EC”, “Directive 2002/26/EC”, “Directive 2002/69/EC”, “Directive 2003/78/EC” and “Directive 2004/16/EC” which are used in section 9 of the Act so far as it applies for the purposes of these Regulations by virtue of paragraph (2), shall, for those purposes, bear the meaning that those expressions respectively bear in these Regulations.

**Changes to legislation:**

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**Changes and effects yet to be applied to :**

- Instrument rev (1.1.2006) by [S.S.I. 2005/606 reg 8](#)