

(updated)
REGULATION – MINERAL HYDROCARBONS IN FOODSTUFFS

Published under Government Notice No. R. 230 of 18 February 1977

The Minister of Health has, in terms of section 15(1) of the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act, 1972 (Act No. 54 of 1972), made the following regulations which shall apply with effect from a date six months after the date of publication hereof:

“**chewing compound**” means chewing gum and other products of like nature and us;

“**dried fruit**” means prunes, currants, sultanas and raisins;

“**good manufacturing practice (GMP)**” means limited to such a maximum level that the product concerned will not be deleteriously affected or its conformity with legal requirements disturbed; and

“**mineral hydrocarbon**” means any hydrocarbon which is derived from any substance of mineral origin.

Any person shall be guilty of offence if he sells a foodstuff mentioned in column I of Annex I which -

- (a) when tested by the method laid down in the 1975 edition of the “Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists” is found to contain more of any mineral hydrocarbon than the amount indicated in the corresponding line of column II; or
- (b) contains any mineral hydrocarbons which does not comply with the specifications laid down in Annex II.

ANNEX I

FOODSTUFFS PERMITTED TO CONTAIN MINERAL HYDROCARBONS

I Foodstuff	II Limit mg/kg
Bread.....	1 000
Chewing compound.....	150 000
Dried fruit.....	2 500
Fermented flour confectionary products (buns, bun loaves).....	1 000
Gelatine based sugar confectionary.....	2 000
Jelly preparations.....	2 000
Rind of whole pressed cheese.....	GMP
Shell of eggs.....	GMP
Table jellies.....	2 000
Wine gums.....	2 000
All other sugar and chocolate confectionary.....	1 000
All other foodstuffs.....	1 000

ANNEX II**SPECIFICATIONS FOR MINERAL HYDROCARBONS**

1. Liquid mineral hydrocarbons -
 - (a) shall be transparent, almost colourless and tasteless at a temperature of 20°C;
 - (b) shall conform with the criteria for acidity or alkalinity, carbonisable substances and solid paraffins given in the monograph on liquid paraffin in the latest edition of the “British Pharmacopoeia”, as notified in the *Government Gazette*; and
 - (c) shall conform with the criteria for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons of Howard John ., Haenni, Edward O. and Joe, Frank L. Jr. (Journal of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, 1965, Vol. 48, Page 304).

2. Mineral hydrocarbons other than liquid hydrocarbons -
 - (a) shall be either a white translucent unctuous mixture, barely fluorescent in daylight, of low melting mineral hydrocarbons, or an almost odourless and tasteless mixture of solid mineral hydrocarbons;
 - (b) shall contain not more than 0,1 per cent by mass of sulphated ash;
 - (c) shall conform with the criteria for acidity or alkalinity given in the monograph on liquid paraffin in the latest edition of the “British Pharmacopoeia”, as notified in the *Government Gazette*; and
 - (d) shall conform with criteria for polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons equivalent in both scope and sensitivity to the criteria of Howard John W., Haenni, Edward O. and Joe, Frank L. Jr. (Journal of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, 1965, Vol 48, page 304).

