

To all Interested Parties

26 July 2000

Reference:

Dear Sir/Madam

## **FOOD LABELLING: APPLICATION OF QUID TO HAM, BACON, CHEESE, AND INGREDIENTS OF COMPOUND INGREDIENTS**

This letter reports the outcome of discussions in Brussels on the application of QUID (Quantitative Ingredient Declarations) to ham, bacon, certain cheeses, and ingredients of compound ingredients.

### **Ham and bacon**

At a meeting of the Standing Committee for Foodstuffs in Brussels on 26<sup>th</sup> June, the European Commission confirmed that QUID declaration of meat content should be given for any ham, bacon or similar product containing more than 5% added water. The EU guidance notes are to be updated to make this clear. We will be making similar amendments to the UK version as part of a general review of those guidance notes. The revised guidance notes will be issued in draft for public consultation later this year.

### **Cheese**

The European Commission also indicated that, in its view, where cheeses made from blends of milk from different species make reference to this in the name of the product, QUID declarations are needed for each of the different milks used.

### **Compound ingredients**

The Commission also indicated it would be seeking the views of member states on its view that, where ingredients of compound ingredients attract QUID declarations, the indication must be given as a percentage of the whole product rather than as a percentage of the compound ingredient. Our present guidance notes (copies of which are available on line from the Archive section of our website or from Janet McKenzie) permit such QUID declarations to be given either as a percentage of the compound ingredient or as a percentage of the whole product, provided the basis of the declaration is made clear to the consumer and is consistent with the method used for ingredient listing. We will be responding to the Commission on this basis and I will keep you informed of developments.

## **Further information**

Please feel free to pass this document to anyone with an interest in this issue, or alternatively you can send us their contact details and we will arrange for copies to be sent to them. A list of our existing consultees is available on request from Janet McKenzie.

If you need any further information about the issues covered in this letter, please contact me or Matthew Carden. Alternatively you can E-mail us or fax us. If the mailing information used to send you this letter has changed, please let Janet McKenzie have your new details.

## **Contact details**

<b>Keith Gregory:</b>	<b>020 7238 6253</b>
<b>Matthew Carden:</b>	<b>020 7238 6254</b>
<b>Janet McKenzie:</b>	<b>020 7238 6463</b>
<b>Fax:</b>	<b>020 7238 6763</b>
<b>E-mail:</b>	<b>labelling@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk</b>
<b>Website address:</b>	<b>www.foodstandards.gov.uk</b>

Yours faithfully

Keith Gregory