



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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Date: 27 March 2013

Dear Consultee,

Formal written consultation on the Jam and Similar Products (England) Regulations

1. I am writing to invite views on the proposed amendment to the Jam and Similar Products (England) Regulations 2003 on options to reduce the minimum permitted soluble solids (sugar) level for jams and similar category products such as jellies and marmalades.
2. As part of the Red Tape Challenge exercise covering the hospitality theme, a review of all existing rules covering food labelling and compositional standards was carried out. As a result one of the conclusions of this exercise was to review the Jam and Similar Products(England) Regulations 2003 and act upon requests from industry to lower the soluble solids content (sugar level) in order to bring our Regulations in line with recent changes made in some other European countries, particularly France and Germany. The other changes include the removal of the specific category for 'reduced sugar jams' and removing national provisions for curds and mincemeat. This consultation seeks the views of stakeholders on options for change that will be applied through a new Statutory Instrument for England.
3. **Options:** The options considered as part of the consultation are:

Option 1 – Reduce the permitted sugar level for jams from 60% to 50%. Remove the UK national limit for 'reduced sugar' jam and align this with the broader 'reduced sugar' definition under health claims rules. Remove national provisions for curds and mincemeat. Address the elements of gold plating in the current Regulations. Change the enforcement regime by introducing improvement notices.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Option 2 – Reduce the permitted sugar level for jams from 60% to 55% with an ingredient specific exemption for Bramley apples to a level of 50%. Other changes remain the same as in Option 1.

Preferred option: Option 1 is the preferred choice as this gives the greatest level of flexibility for jam manufacturers, a reduced burden for businesses and government. It will deliver a more consistent approach for the consumer in the use of product names as a wider range of ‘fruit spread’ products will be able to use the commonly understood term ‘jam’.

4. We would welcome comments both on the proposal to reduce the sugar level of jam and similar products and on the various deregulatory options set out above. These are detailed more fully in the consultation document and the accompanying Impact Assessment.

If you wish to obtain a hard copy of this consultation document please email foodpolicyunit@defra.gsi.gov.uk or telephone 020 7238 4352

5. The following documents relating to this consultation may be found on Defra’s website: www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/consult/open

- **This consultation letter**
- **Consultation document**
- **List of consultees**
- **Impact Assessment**
- **Draft Statutory Instrument for Option 1**
- **Draft Statutory Instrument for Option 2**

Responses

6. Please send responses to:

email: foodpolicyunit@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Alternatively, postal responses can be sent to

Paul Riches
Food Composition, Standards & Alcohol Team, Food Policy Unit
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Area 3 Nobel House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR

7. Responses should be received by **22 May 2013**.

Consultation Criteria

8. This consultation is in line with the consultation principles. This can be found at <http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/resource-library/consultation-principles-guidance>

9. When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under Freedom of Information legislation.
10. If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.
11. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone requests this information under Freedom of Information legislation. However, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential. We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult> This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not individual respondent's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact the library at:

Defra, Information Resource Centre
Lower Ground Floor, Ergon House
17 Smith Square
London SW1P 3JR
Telephone: 020 7238 6575
Email: defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk

Please give the library 24 hours' notice. There is a charge for photocopying and postage.

12. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra's Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 2D Ergon House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk.
13. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully



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