

pulp, tobacco, viscose fibres, peas/beans, newsprint, salmon and potassium chloride.

Companies have established themselves in the Republic of Ireland in various forms — some with equity positions, some in joint ventures and others with subsidiaries. Most use Ireland as a manufacturing, assembly or service industry base within the EEC market because of the very generous incentives offered by the government. In addition, they can avail themselves of customs free access to other EEC markets.

National Regulations

Labelling. Country of origin is not required on the product unless lack of such information could mislead the consumer. Specific regulations relate to textiles (fibre labels), upholstered furniture (ignitability) and foodstuffs. Regulations governing foodstuffs are most comprehensive.

The Merchandise Marks Act, 1970, requires that prepacked goods be in standard quantities, and that containers bear the name and address of the packer or importer and be marked with an indication of quantity of contents by weight, measure or number.

Prepacked food labelling requirements are based on EEC Directive 79/112 and must show the following:

- name of food;
- net quantity in metric units;
- date of minimum durability, i.e., "best before" date;
- any special storage conditions or conditions of use;
- name and address of manufacturer or of a packager or seller based in the Community;
- particulars of the place of origin if the absence of this information might mislead the consumer;
- instructions for use where necessary;
- a list of ingredients under the heading "Ingredients";
- the "best before" date of minimum durability; and
- the name or business name and address of the manufacturer, packer or seller established within the EEC.

Consumer demand is for even more labelled information, e.g., salt levels. Consequently, new regulations covering a wide range of information are expected in the years ahead. Harmonization within the EEC will introduce a host of new regulations and standards.