

AMIRI DECREE ON THE SPECIFICATIONS AND STORING
CONDITIONS OF IMPORTED CANNED AND OTHER FOODSTUFFS

(16th June 1977)

An Amiri Decree was issued last Monday on selling of food and related stores. The Decree also included a supplement containing conditions which must be observed by bakeries, restaurants, hotels, cafes, candie stores, soft drinks plants, farms and food plants.

The decree contained 24 Articles specifying good and harmful foodstuff and the role of the Municipality and the Ministries of Health and Public Works in application of these conditions as well as penalties and fines for their violation.

Here follows an unofficial translation of this Decree to be implemented as of next week, except the first paragraph of Article (6) which will be applied after one month.

Article (1)

Food is whatever man eats or drinks, excluding pharmaceutical preparations.

Article (2)

Food additions include every stuff which is not considered a food or a natural composition of any foodstuff, which is added to the food for giving it a colour, a taste or a smell or to preserve it or for any other purpose allowed for manufacturing, preparation or filling.

Article (3)

Food must enjoy the following conditions:-

- a) Must be of value
- b) Must be suitable for human consumption
- c) Must not be harmful to health either directly or indirectly
- d) Must be allowed by the Islamic Shariat
- e) Must enjoy technical and hygienic specifications and conditions imposed by the Municipality in agreement with the Ministries of Commerce and Health.

Article (4)

Food is considered dangerous to health in the following cases :-

- a) If it contains poisonous material or if it is polluted with microbes which cause illness to man.
- b) If it contains materials not permitted hygienically for use.
- c) If it is the produce of a dead or sick animal.
- d) If it is mixed with earth.
- e) If it were taken by a man suffering from a fictitious disease.
- f) If it contained dead or live worms or insects.
- g) If its containers have materials harmful to health.

Article (5)

Food addition should not be harmful to health and they should be in line with specifications decided by the Municipality in cooperation with the Ministries of Commerce and Health.

Article (6)

A label in Arabic must be placed on canned or packed foods containing details of its contents, characteristics, date of its manufacture and its validity. The announcement should not contain details contrary to its specifications or actual contents.

Article (7)

Circulation of food is banned in the following cases :-

- a) If it didn't enjoy conditions stated in Article (3).
- b) If one of its elements is eradicated partly or fully without any clarification on the special label.
- c) If it is contrary to the commercial statement.
- d) If one of its contents is partly or fully replaced by another.
- e) If its validity has expired.
- f) If it contained artificial sweeteners or other materials not allowed by the Health Ministry.
- g) If it contained alcohol, mineral material, pork or pig fat.
- h) If it is rotten.

Article (8)

Owners of stores, factories, plants, hotels, and restaurants which manufacture, prepare or sell food must abide by technical and hygienic specifications and conditions decided by the Municipality and they should observe cleanliness of the materials, methods of preparations and instruments.

Article (9)

They should also inform the Municipality in case there is any rotten material at their places or any material whose date of validity has expired, so that the Municipality be able to destroy such material.

Article (10)

Imported food can't be sold or shown for sale before testing by the Municipality according to conditions stated in Article (3). In case of lack of the said conditions, the importer could either destroy or re-export them and he has to inform the Municipality of his wish in writing within a month after the Municipal notice.

The Municipality could extend this period for another but not exceeding two months. And if this extra period passes without the owner submitting a verbal wish, the Municipality will keep the merchandise, awaiting a hearing of the case.

Article (11)

Importers and retail dealers of vegetables, fresh fruit and eggs can't sell or exhibit these materials before testing by the Municipality and stamping them. These dealers should also register imported quantities at the Central Market and to inform about consequent sold quantities.

Article (12)

Imported frozen meat, chicken or those produced locally must all enjoy technical and hygienic specifications and conditions. Local plants can't manufacture these materials before checking and reporting their suitability for human consumption.

Article (13)

Materials mentioned in Article (12) can't be sold as fresh materials and frozen meat can't be sold in butcheries without Municipal permission.

Article (14)

Frozen meat or poultry can't be owned, sold or established if not slaughtered according to the Islamic Laws.

Article (15)

Food stores will be subject to rules stated in the Decree on public places regarding cases not mentioned in this Decree.

Article (16)

Food stores must abide by special conditions stated in these appendix. Municipality direct or could close down any store which endangers the public health till this store applies required conditions.

Article (17)

Means of food transportation must enjoy technical and hygienic conditions and specifications applied by the Municipality in cooperation with the Ministries of Interior and Health. Other materials not stated in the licence can't be transported in the conveyance.

Article (18)

Any person involved in food preparation, industry, selling, distribution, circulation, cooking, transporting and storing must obtain a certificate from the Health Ministry. This certificate must be renewed in time and the Employer can't employ workers without this certificate and he should stop any worker if he gets any disease outlined by the Health Ministry.

Article (19)

The proprietor must provide the said workers with uniforms decided by the Municipality. They are not permitted to work without wearing this uniform.

Article (20)

Officers assigned with establishing crimes committed in violation of this Decree, must take three specimens from the food in the presence of the concerned persons and they must be sealed till a decision is taken on the case.

Article (21)

Not ruling out a higher punishment, violators of articles :-

(Paragraph A) 3, 5 and 6 (Paragraph A) 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16 of this Decree, will be subject to a penalty not less than K.D. 50/- and not more than K.D. 200/- in addition to confiscating the material in question. Moreover, the store could also be closed for a period not exceeding six months.

Article (22)

Not ruling out any higher punishment any person violating rules of Articles 6, 11, 17 and 18 will be subject to a penalty of not less than K.D. 50/- and not more than K.D. 100/- and the penalty will be multiplied by number of workers in case of violation of Article (18).

Article (23)

Violators of Article 8, 18 and 19 will be subject to a penalty not less than 5 Dinars and not more than 25 Dinars. The penalty will be multiplied by number of workers in case of any violation of Article (19).

Article (24)

All concerned Ministries are to execute this Decree which will be effective as from the date of publication except Article (6) which will be workable after 30 days.

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