



Food Information to Consumers (FIC)*

FAQ: How can Prepacked, Non-Prepacked and Prepacked for Direct Sale be defined?

ADVICE

Prepacked foods:

are presented for sale such that 'the contents cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging.' For the purposes of EU FIC these are foods packed before being offered for sale to the consumer or to a caterer. Prepacked foods do not include those packed on the same premises as where they are sold or foods sold loose.

Examples include:

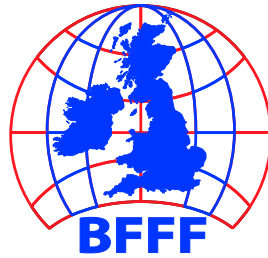
- Products that are sealed such that the seal has to be broken or the packaging integrity compromised to access the product inside
- Products that are packaged in modified atmosphere sealed packaging
- Product placed in an acetate or similar tray with a top or lid applied, sealed with tape or a label that has to be broken or damaged to access the product inside or which cannot be resealed
- Flow wrapped product crimp sealed

Non prepacked foods:

are those sold loose or in open or unsealed lidded trays, unsealed bags or packages where the contents can be altered without opening or changing the packaging.

'Non-prepacked foods' covers foods which are sold loose. In a physical retail environment this applies to foods which are sold loose such as self serve fruit and vegetables, foods served from a delicatessen counter (e.g. cold meats, cheeses, quiches, pies and dips), fresh pizza, salad bars, bread sold in bakery shops, meat from butchers, pick and mix confectionery (including individually wrapped sweets and chocolates), etc. In a catering environment this applies to foods which are not sold prepacked, for example food from a takeaway, or meals served in a canteen or a restaurant.

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Examples include:

- Product sold loose in open trays or bags or boxes with loose lids that are not sealed
- Product sold in a box, bag or tray which is not sealed so that it can be opened and the contents altered without changing or affecting the packaging integrity
- Bread in open ended sleeves, loose fruit and vegetables,

Products that are prepacked for direct sale:

are those wrapped, such that the contents cannot be altered without opening or changing the packaging, on the premises where the product is to be sold to the consumer. For the purposes of FIC this includes products packed at the request of the consumer.

Foods prepacked for direct sale are treated in the same way as non prepacked foods in EU FIC's labelling provisions. It is expected that the customer is able to speak with the person or colleagues, who made or packed the product to ask about ingredients.

Practically speaking this may be a colleague as the actual staff may not always be available in today's 24/7 society. Foods that could fall under this category could include meat pies made on site and sandwiches made and sold from the premises in which they are made and would also apply where non prepacked goods are wrapped and transferred to other stalls trading under the same name.

This category would include:

- Products that are received non prepacked at the sales premises then packed into new packaging meeting the definition of a prepacked product as long as they were destined for sale on the same premises.
- Products that are received prepacked in bulk or requiring some form of preparation at the sales premises then repacked into new packaging meeting the definition of a prepacked product as long as they were destined for sale on the same premises.
- Product packed by a retailer for sale on the premises where the food is packed or from a vehicle or stall used by him, e.g. at markets or from mobile shops.
- The special case of bread, *flour confectionery or edible ices that are packed by the producer then sold from other outlets trading under the producer's name.

*flour confectionery" means any cooked food which is ready for consumption without further preparation (other than reheating), of which a characterising ingredient is ground cereal, including shortbread, sponges, crumpets, muffins, macarons, ratafias, pastry and pastry cases, and also includes meringues, petits fours and uncooked pastry and pastry cases, but does not include bread, pizzas, biscuits, crispbread, extruded flat bread or any food containing a filling which has as an ingredient any cheese, meat, offal, fish or shellfish

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Examples:

Marketing Method	Category
Product supplied in a prepacked format from a different business	Prepacked
Product is prepacked in one operation and transferred to another location trading under the same name for sale, except for: Bread, flour confectionery or edible ices that are packed by the producer and sold from shops trading under the producer's name	Prepacked Prepacked for direct sale
Product is supplied in a prepacked format inside a multipack or mother bag. Prepacked product is removed for sale without altering individual inner pre-packaging	Prepacked
Product is supplied bulk, packaging is removed and the product is divided or prepared in some way then re-packed in sealed packaging for sale on the same premises	Prepacked for direct sale
Product is supplied bulk, packaging is removed and the product is sold loose	Non prepacked
Product is supplied bulk, packaging is removed and the product is packed at the request of the customer.	Non prepacked
Product is supplied in a non prepacked format e.g. loose in trays, or boxes and then packed such that it is prepacked for sale on the premises.	Prepacked for direct sale
Product is prepacked by a retailer and sold from a stall or vehicle operated by the retailer.	Prepacked for direct sale

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British Frozen Food Federation Primary Authority Partnership
Assured advice issued by Cambridge County Council under the Primary Authority partnership co-ordinated by the British Frozen Food Federation;
having legal backing for participating members.

