



Information on tea and coffee

This leaflet contains a summary of the main requirements of weights and measures legislation enforced by the trading standards service, as applicable to retail sales of tea and coffee. This leaflet is intended to be a brief summary to help you understand what the law says about the way you are required to sell these products to the ultimate consumer.

General selling methods:

Tea in a tea bag, (that is a permeable sealed bag containing tea), when pre-packed, must be made up in the following prescribed quantities: **50g, 125 g, 250 g, 500 g, 750g, 1kg, 2kg, 2.5kg, 3kg, 4kg or 5kg**. The net quantity of the tea (without the weight of the teabag) must be marked on the outer container.

Tea, other than instant tea or tea in a tea bag, must be made up in the following prescribed quantities: **50g, 125 g, 250 g, 500 g, 750g, 1kg, 2kg, 2.5kg, 3kg, 4kg or 5kg**.

In the case of tea or tea in a tea bag packed in tins or glass or wooden containers there are additional permitted prescribed quantities of **100g, 200g and 300g**.

Coffee, coffee mixtures and coffee bags, when pre-packed, must be made up in the following prescribed quantities: **2 oz., 4oz, 8oz, 12oz, 1lb, 11/2lb or a multiple of 1lb or 75g, 125g, 500g, 750g, 1kg or a multiple of 500g**. The net quantity of the coffee must be marked on the outer container.

In the case of coffee bags the prescribed quantities and quantity marking relate to the actual contents.

The exceptions from prescribed quantities for all the above products is 25g or less or more than 5kg. The products would still need to be marked with the net weight. Anything less than 5g is exempt from quantity marking.

Infusions

Any other drink in a “tea bag”, such as fruit infusions, does not have to be made up in prescribed quantities unless it also contains tea.

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