CHAPTER 2

Principal Periodical Publications on Food Standards of the United States

Several periodical publications issued regularly are basic and invaluable to thorough familiarity with food standards. These are:

1. Federal Register
2. Code of Federal Regulations
3. United States Code Annotated
4. Food · Drug · Cosmetic Law Reports

Federal Register

The Federal Register (F.R.) is published daily, except Sundays, Mondays, and days following official federal holidays by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Service, General Services Administration, pursuant to the authority contained in the Federal Register Act, as amended (49 Stat. 501, 50 Stat. 304, 67 Stat. 388; 44 U.S.C.A. Chapter 8B) under regulations prescribed by the Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, approved by the President (1 CFR Parts 10–19). Distribution is made only by the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

The various administrative agencies of the federal government are required to file with the Federal Register all documents issued by them which have general applicability and legal effect. Those which prescribe a penalty are deemed to have general applicability and legal effect. No document required to be published is valid and effective against any person who has not had actual notice of it until it has been filed with the Federal Register and a copy made available for public inspection.

The daily issues of the Federal Register contain the full text of current documents, including those pertaining to food standards, arranged as follows: (1) Presidential Proclamations, Executive orders, and other Presidential documents; (2) documents amending or supplementing the Code of Federal Regulations; (3) notices of proposed rule-making submitted under Section 4 (a) of the Administrative Procedure Act; (4) statements of agency organization under Section 8 (a) (1) of the Administrative Procedure Act, notices of administrative hearings, and similar nonregulatory documents of public interest.

Consequently, most of the pronouncements of the agencies of the
Federal Government pertaining to food standards are published in the Federal Register as they are issued. Some are not, e.g., permissive-ingredient approvals of the Meat Inspection Division, ARS, and of the Poultry Products Inspection Division, AMS, both of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the military specifications by the Military Subsistence Supply Agency of the Department of Defense, specifications by the General Services Administration and by the Veterans Administration.

It is surprising that the Federal Register has a circulation of only some 15,000 copies daily. Of these, about 50% go to government offices and some 600 copies to depository libraries across the country. The White House and all Senators and Congressmen receive copies. Thus, only some 6000 copies are sent on subscription to law offices, industrial associations, labor unions, consultants in related subjects, technical journals or other publications, consumer-group representatives, export-import specialists in the United States and abroad, and others. While many persons do not require day-to-day information, it is important that all concerned should know where to turn if occasion requires earliest information.

Daily issues of the Federal Register have varied in size from the usual 20-40 pages to one particular issue in 1946 which comprised approximately 1000 pages to describe the organizations and procedures of the various federal agencies as required by the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C.A. 1002). Back issues of the Federal Register through the last five or six years are usually available from the Superintendent of Documents, at a cost of 15-55 cents postpaid. The Federal Register office in the National Archives Building in Washington, D.C., makes its complete file of the Federal Register available for public reference uses during customary office hours. A few libraries, too, are believed to maintain a complete reference file of all issues. The new feature, the Cumulative Codification Guide, on the cover page of each issue of the Federal Register is very useful. In addition, there are monthly, quarterly, and annual subject indexes provided. The regular subscription price is $15.00 per year.

Code of Federal Regulations

The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is published by the Office of the Federal Register. Basically, it contains all of the documents published in the daily issues of the Federal Register under the "Rules and Regulations" Section, arranged according to Titles and Chapters, a list of which is set forth in full in the Appendix [A-1–A-8]. Those chapters which contain food standards are designated by asterisks. For example,
a person interested in the food standards issued by the Food and Drug Administration will find them in Title 21 CFR and those issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 7 CFR. A complete, official description of the Federal Register system, including a full explanation of the Code of Federal Regulations from the time of its inception is published in the General Preface to the 1949 edition of the Code of Federal Regulations, which appears in the volume of the Code containing Titles 1, 2, and 3. It is emphasized that the Code of Federal Regulations contains regulations issued by the various agencies of the Federal Government under the authority delegated to them by Statutes enacted by the Congress. "Cumulative Pocket Supplements" for each volume of CFR are published usually a few months following the end of each calendar year and are designed to cumulate the effective text of changes and amendments until such time as it seems necessary to revise and republish the entire book.

References to the food standards issued by a particular department, or branch of a department, as they are published in the CFR, are provided in later chapters. References to the Federal Register and to the Code of Federal Regulations along with those in other documents are cited in appropriate parts of this book.

United States Code Annotated


The U.S.C.A. provides excellent coverage of the laws. It does not provide a running account of food standards regulations under the laws.

Food • Drug • Cosmetic Law Reports

The essential features of all documents published in the Federal Register relating to food standards are published subject by subject on a
regular biweekly schedule by The Commerce Clearing House, Inc., 4025 West Peterson Ave., Chicago 46, Illinois, as a service to its subscribers to the Food • Drug • Cosmetic Law Reports. This is a loose-leaf, nongovernmental service providing revised sheets to its subscribers. Food • Drug • Cosmetic Law Reports provide prompt and codified information often required by lawyers whether in government, industry, or food law practice.