

L.N. 283 of 2002

**CONSUMER AFFAIRS ACT
(CAP. 378)**

Consumer Affairs Act (Price Indication) Regulations, 2002

In exercise of the powers conferred by article 7 of the Consumer Affairs Act, the Minister for Economic Services, after consulting the Consumer Affairs Council, has made the following regulations:

1. (1) The title of these regulations is the Consumer Affairs Act (Price Indication) Regulations, 2002. Citation and commencement.

(2) These regulations shall come into force on the 1st October, 2002.

2. (1) Any reference in these regulations to the “Act” is a reference to the Consumer Affairs Act 1994, and subject to the provisions of paragraph (2) of this regulation, the provisions of section 2 of the said Act shall apply to these regulations. Interpretation.

(2) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires:

“annual percentage rate” shall be the rate established in terms of regulations issued under subsection (f) of article 7 of the Act;

“consumer” shall include any final purchaser;

“price” means the purchase price, and in all cases, the price indication must be the final retail selling or unit price, including VAT and any other taxes or charges.

“products sold in bulk” mean products which are not pre-packaged and are weighed and measured at the request of the consumer.

3. (1) Consumers have the right to receive adequate, correct and unambiguous information regarding the price of goods sold or offered for sale to them, and to be able to make informed decisions on the basis of simple comparison. Rights of consumers.

(2) The provisions of subsection (1) shall not be directly enforceable in any court or tribunal, but shall be adhered to in the interpretation and implementation these regulations.

Obligation to
indicate prices of
goods.

4. Any trader who offers goods for sale on a retail basis to consumers shall display by means of appropriate marking, or by other methods clearly indicate the price of the goods so offered.

Price indications.

5. (1) Any trader shall exhibit conspicuously in his place of business a sample of every kind, size, type or brand of goods stocked by him, and each such sample shall bear a label or mark showing the price at which any goods are being offered for sale.

(2) Every indication of a price required in terms of these regulations shall be made and displayed in a manner which is unambiguous, easily identifiable and clearly legible.

(3) The figure denoting the price on the said label or mark shall be clearly and boldly printed or otherwise indicated in writing.

(4) Any kind, size, type or brand of goods displayed in the shop-window, or on the outside of the premises, shall bear the relative selling price label as required by the preceding paragraphs of this regulation:

Provided that, where more than one item of the same kind, size, type or brand of the same goods are so displayed, it will be sufficient for the price to be shown on only one of such items.

(5) In respect of any goods including foodstuffs which are sold or offered for sale to consumers per unit weight or volume, there shall be indicated –

(a) both the actual price (being the price for a given quantity of the good);

(b) and the unit price (being the final price for one kilogram, one litre, one metre, one square metre, or one cubic metre of the goods).

(6) Pre-packaged goods, including foodstuffs, sold in pre-established or variable quantities must show both the selling price and the unit price.

(7) Products sold in bulk must show the unit price.

(8) In the case of a pre-packaged solid food product presented in a liquid medium, the unit price shall refer to the net drained weight of the product. Where a unit price is also given with reference to the net weight of the product, it shall be clearly indicated which unit price relates to net drained weight and which to net weight.

(9) The indication of any charges for postage, package or delivery of a good shall be unambiguous, easily identifiable and clearly legible.

(10) The indication of the price and of the unit price as required under these regulations shall be in Maltese currency.

6. (1) The provisions of regulation 5 shall not apply to:

Exemption from regulations.

- (a) goods supplied for the purpose of re-selling;
- (b) goods sold in the course of the provision of a service;
- (c) sales by auction or sales of works of art or antiques;
- (d) an advertisement for such goods, unless the selling price is indicated in the advertisement.

(2) The Director may, from time to time, by notice published in the Gazette exempt any additional goods or categories thereof from any of the provisions of these regulations, which may include the exemption of categories of goods from the obligation to display also the unit price.

(3) The Director may, in particular circumstances where he is satisfied that adherence thereto would be excessively onerous, by notice published in the Gazette, exempt small retail businesses or such other categories of traders as shall be specified, generally or in respect of one or more goods as may be specified in the notice, from the obligation to display the unit price in terms of these regulations, subject to such conditions as he shall deem appropriate.

7. Without prejudice to any of the forgoing regulations, the Director may, in respect of any goods offered for sale to consumers, impose any such other additional specific requirements or conditions as he may deem fit regarding the manner in which prices and other information are indicated or displayed, including limitations on the information that may be indicated or displayed, and the trader concerned shall be obliged to comply accordingly.

Power of Director.

Submission of
information.

8. Traders shall produce to the Director or to any officer duly authorized by him in writing, such information as may be required by the Director acting in pursuance of any of his functions under these regulations, in such form and within such reasonable time as the Director may establish.

Offences.

9. (1) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any of the provisions of any of these regulations shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Proceedings in respect of an offence against these regulations shall be commenced within four months from the commission of the offence.

(3) Any person who contravenes any of these regulations shall, on conviction, be liable:

(a) in the case of a first conviction, to a fine of not less than Lm50 and not exceeding Lm500;

(b) in the case of a second or subsequent conviction, to a fine of not less than Lm50 and not exceeding Lm500 and to the suspension of any licence or other authorization, howsoever described, issued by the Director or any licence issued in terms of the Trading Licences Act, 2001 or any other law for a period not exceeding one week; and the Court may in case of a second or subsequent conviction order the publication in one or more daily newspapers of any judgment, or a statement or summary thereof, passed on the offender.

Responsibility of
traders.

10. Every trader shall take all necessary steps to ensure full compliance with these regulations; and even where any contravention of or non-compliance with any regulation may be attributed to any person in the employment of such trader, or in the exercise of any act or function authorized or permitted by the trader, proceedings shall also be taken against such trader.