

**Rationing order, 1918 : instructions for the use of the New Ration Card.  
(N.86) / Ministry of Food.**

**Contributors**

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# RATIONING ORDER, 1918.

## Instructions for the use of the New Ration Card. (N.86.)

1. During the autumn and winter you will require a Ration Card in place of the present Ration Book.
2. If any member of your household does not receive his Ration Card (by the time when registration begins in your district) he should make enquiries at the Food Office.
3. If any Card is sent to your house which you cannot deliver to the owner, send it back at once to your Food Office with a note explaining why it cannot be delivered.
4. See that your name and address and the name of your Local Food Office are correctly entered in the spaces at the top of your Card. If there is any mistake, ask the Food Office to correct it.
5. You will be required to register afresh, by means of the counterfoils on the Ration Card, for Meat, Butter and Sugar, with the retailers you choose. Unless you do this you will not be able to get proper supplies of these foods during the winter.
6. Your Food Office will announce, publicly, the week during which you must register, and any retailer will be able to tell you.
7. To register, write your name and address on the counterfoils A (Meat), B (Butter), and C (Sugar) on the lower part of the Ration Card, and give them to the retailers you choose.
8. See that your retailers stamp or write their names and addresses on the spaces A, B and C on the top of your Card, and also on the right hand side of the counterfoils.
9. The Food Office will require a short interval to ascertain the supplies which retailers will require for the customers who have registered with them by means of this Card. The new registration will, therefore, not come into force till Monday, October 13th, 1919: until this date you must continue to deal with the retailers with whom you are at present registered. After that date, you will, normally, unless you are the holder of an Emergency Ration Document, be able to obtain supplies of rationed food only from the retailers with whom you have registered by means of the counterfoils from the Ration Card.
10. The spare spaces D, E, and F, at the top of the Card, and the spare counterfoil, D, are for use in case other foods are rationed. Keep these spaces and the spare counterfoil blank until you receive instructions how to use them. Till then do not detach the spare counterfoil.
11. **The top portion of the Card will take the place of the Ration Book. You must keep it carefully. You must produce it to your Retailer if he asks you to do so.**
12. Supplies may be drawn only from the retailers whose names appear at the top of the Card and only so long as the holder of the Card is living in Great Britain, is not drawing Government Rations, is not staying in an hotel or boarding house, or is not living in an Institution (hospital, asylum, workhouse, etc).
13. If you are the person making purchases on behalf of the household you will either at the time when you give your retailers the counterfoils of the household, or at any time before October 13th, receive from each of the retailers with whom the household is registered a "Purchaser's Shopping Card." Each retailer must write or stamp his name and address on the Card and will enter on it the number of persons in the household who are registered with him for the food or foods in question. You must write your name and address on each card and must produce it to the retailer who issued it to you when making purchases from him. The cards will have spaces, one for each week, to be marked by the retailer when you make purchases. There will be two forms of Shopping Cards. One with spaces for meat which you will receive from the butcher, and one with spaces for butter and sugar. If you are registered with different retailers for butter and sugar you will receive a card from each, and each retailer must cross out the set of spaces which do not apply to him.
14. **The "Purchaser's Shopping Card" will be valid only for purchases from the retailer whose name and address is on it. A Card which bears no retailer's name and address is not valid. The card will be valid only in respect of the members in each household registered with the retailer at the time of each purchase, and only for a food for which they are registered with him. When a household removes and changes its retailers it will get new cards from the new retailers.**
15. **If any member of a household removes or registers with another retailer since the Shopping Card has been issued to you, you must inform the retailer so that the number of persons stated on the card as being registered with him is altered. It will be an offence to make purchases on the card in respect of such members of the household.**
16. **PERSONS ENTERING INSTITUTIONS.**—If the holder of a Ration Card enters an institution, the Ration Card must be given up to the head of the Institution.



17. **PERSONS JOINING H.M. FORCES.**—If the holder joins the Forces, the Card must be given up to the Naval, Military, or Air Force Authorities. If the holder, being a member of H.M. Forces, is taken on the ration strength of a ship or unit, he must surrender the Card to the officer commanding.

18. **PERSONS LEAVING GREAT BRITAIN.**—If the holder is leaving Great Britain for any place other than the Channel Islands, Ireland, or the Isle of Man for more than four weeks, the Card must be given up to the Aliens' Officer on embarkation. In all other cases when the holder is leaving the country the Card must be kept by him, but must be shown to the Alien's Officer or other Inspector on demand.

19. **DEATH.**—If the holder of this Card dies, the Card must be immediately given up to the Registrar of Deaths by the person registering the death. Any Card not given up to the proper authorities in any of the above cases must be sent at once to the nearest Food Office.

20. **PERSONS REMOVING TO A NEW DISTRICT.**—Always take your Ration Card with you if you go to stay away from home.

21. **TEMPORARY REMOVALS.**—If you are going away from home for less than a month and are going to stay in an hotel, or boarding house, you must give up your Card to the proprietor of the hotel, or boarding house, if called upon to do so, and in any case you may not use it to buy rationed food from retailers. If you are going away from home for less than four weeks and are going to stay in a private house, or lodgings, you will be able to buy rationed food for a month from the retailers in the district by using your Ration Card and Visitors' Declaration Forms, which you can obtain from any Post Office. You will be required to produce your Ration Card on the occasion of each purchase of rationed food. While you are using a Visitors' Declaration Form you may not draw supplies, and your household may not draw supplies on your behalf, from the retailers with whom you are registered at home. On returning home, however, you will be able to deal with them as before without formality.

22. **CHILDREN IN BOARDING SCHOOLS.**—Children going to Boarding Schools for the Autumn term will have to take their Ration Cards and the Counterfoils attached with them. Their Cards should not, therefore, be registered with a retailer before the beginning of the term. When returning home for Christmas or any other holidays, the children will bring back their Ration Cards without the counterfoils, and visitors' Declaration Forms should be filled up for them and lodged with retailers.

23. **PERMANENT REMOVALS.**—If you go to stay in a district for more than four weeks, go to the Food Office of your new district and take your Ration Card (N. 86). The Food Office will give you a new Card and new Counterfoils, and you will have free choice of retailers, so far as supplies allow. If it is impossible for you to go to the Food Office at once, you may post your old Card to the Food Office, who will send you a new Card and Counterfoils; **before posting, however, you must take care to write your name and your new address legibly on the back of the card;** your application will not, however, be dealt with as quickly as if you went personally. Your better course would be to obtain Visitors' Declaration Forms as under the last paragraph, and then, before a month has expired, to apply personally to the Food Office.

24. **PERMANENT RESIDENTS IN HOTELS AND BOARDING HOUSES.**—If you remove for more than four weeks to an Hotel or Boarding House, you will in any case be required to give up your Ration Card to the head of the establishment. When you leave, your Ration Card will be returned to you without the counterfoils, and you must apply to the Food Office under the permanent removals procedure (see para. 23 above) for a new card.

25. **LOST CARDS.**—You must take the **greatest care** of your Ration Card and of the spare Counterfoil, which you must not detach from the Card until told to do so. If you lose your Card you must apply to your Food Office for instructions.

26. It is a summary offence punishable by fine up to £100 or six months' imprisonment, or both, for any person—

- (a) to apply for or hold more than one Ration Card;
  - (b) to retain a Ration Card which ought to be given up;
  - (c) to use a Ration Card for purchases when it may not be used;
  - (d) to use a Ration Card of another person except for or on behalf of that person, or to lend or to give his own Ration Card to any other person;
  - (e) to obtain supplies from a retailer with whom the holder is registered by means of one of the counterfoils from the Ration Card, if the holder of the Card is at the time registered with another retailer by means of a Visitors' Declaration Form; or is staying in a residential or catering establishment or institution;
  - (f) to deface a Ration Card or without authority alter any entry made thereon;
- or otherwise to contravene any of these instructions or any of the provisions of the Rationing Order, 1918, under which this Card is issued.

August, 1919.

MINISTRY OF FOOD.