

Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee

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The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement)(Wales) Order 2006

Purpose

At the request of the Business Committee, this paper brings the above Order to the attention of Members of the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee.

Background

Following the foot-and-mouth disease outbreak it was considered that stricter controls on the movement and identification of sheep and goats were needed as had already been done with bovine animals. Council Regulation 21/2004 (establishing a system for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals) introduces stricter controls on movement and registration of sheep and goats and adopted in the EU in July 2005. One of the controversial areas from the viewpoint of industry was the introduction of double tagging. UK negotiated a temporary derogation from the requirement to double tag through presenting a case to the European Commission that the identification systems in place, or proposed, in the UK met the disease control obligations of the Regulation. A provisional derogation was granted in July 2005 and was subject to the UK implementing the remaining requirements of the Regulation. Legislation was introduced in England in November 2005, Northern Ireland in December 2005 and is in the process of being introduced in Scotland

Consultation

Consultation has been ongoing with industry and the Welsh Assembly Government issued a formal consultation paper on the proposed changes to the legislation in November 2005 and the consultation closed in January 2006.

Legislation

The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) (Wales) Order 2006 makes provision for the administration and enforcement in Wales of Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 and amending Regulation EC No 1782/2003 and Directives 92/102/EC and 64/432/EC. The Order provides animals that are not involved in intra-community trade to be marked with a single eartag of the holding of birth or import and a national system of identification and tracing to operate when animals are moved within

the UK.

Financial Implications

A Regulatory Assessment (RA) has been prepared which sets out the costs and benefits associated with implementing the Regulations.

Press and Publicity

Keepers in Wales have been informed of the requirements of the European Regulations through direct mailing and articles in the Welsh Assembly Government GWLAD magazine. Further detailed guidance will be provided when the legislation comes into force.

Compliance

The Order is to be made under sections 1, 8(1) and 72 of the Animal Health Act 1981. Responsibility for issues relating to the contents of the Order has been delegated to the portfolio of the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside. There are no issues of regularity or propriety.

Carwyn Jones AM
Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside