

# Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee

## EPC(2) 13-06(p3)

**Date: 11 October 2006**

**Venue: Committee room 2, Senedd**

**Title: Subordinate Legislation**

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

### **Purpose:**

For Committee Members to scrutinise the proposed Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2006.

### **Summary / Recommendations**

The Committee identified The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2006 for detailed scrutiny.

It is recommended that the Committee approve the draft amendment Order that improves the existing national system of identification for sheep and goats to aid traceability of sheep and goat movements supporting both disease control and veterinary public health.

Failure to implement this legislation by 1 January 2007 is likely to result in the UK being required to implement double tagging of sheep and goats.

### **Background**

This Order amends the The Sheep and Goats (Records, Identification and Movement) (Wales) Order 2006 (SI 2006/1036 (W.106) by inserting into it further provisions for the administration and enforcement in Wales of Council Regulation (EC) 21/2004. Following the Foot and Mouth 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. Regulation 21/2004 establishes a system for the identification and registration of ovine and caprine animals and introduces stricter controls on movement and registration of sheep and goats and was adopted in the EU in July 2005.

One of the controversial areas of the Regulation from an industry viewpoint was the requirement that all sheep and goats born after 9 July 2005 be double tagged. The UK negotiated a temporary

derogation in July 2005 that originally ran until April 2006, which enables it to continue with its existing national system. This temporary derogation has been extended until 30 June 2007 subject, in part to this amending legislation being introduced. England Scotland and Northern Ireland will introduce similar amending legislation by the end of this year.

This Order makes the following three changes to the current system

- keepers to replace lost or illegible eartag within 28 days of noticing the loss or illegibility
- all animals for export or intra community trade must be double tagged with identicle holding of birth tags
- the introduction of administrative sanctions in the event of non-compliance with the law.

Failure to introduce these changes by 1 January 2007 may damage the decision on extending the temporary derogation from the requirement to double tag and is likely to result in the UK being required to implement double tagging.

## **Consultation**

The Commission did not agree to extend the derogation until 19 July 2006, this did not allow sufficient time to undertake a consultation exercise in relation to this Order as the legislation is required to be introduced by January 2007. Informal consultation with the Industry took place in June this year and agreement in principle was given to these changes. The Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside wrote to key stakeholders in August 2006 advising them of the proposed changes and no concerns were raised at this stage.

This Order was notified to Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee in the Minister's oral report of 13 July 2006. Unfortunately agreement to the tightening of the requirements for export animals was sought after this date whilst the Assembly was in recess. However, on 24 July 2006 the Minister sent a letter to the Chair of Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee informing of this additional provision to the Order and confirming that the industry had been made aware of this proposed change and was content that it be introduced in order to maintain the existing UK identification system.

## **Financial Implications**

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

## **Compliance**

The Order is to be made under sections 1, 8(1) and 83(2) 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**  
**Contact point:**