

1978 No. 360

WELFARE OF ANIMALS

Welfare of Livestock (Intensive Units) Regulations
(Northern Ireland) 1978

Made 30th November 1978

Coming into operation 1st January 1979

The Department(a) of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 2 of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972(b) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act") and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and after consultation with such persons appearing to it to represent any interests concerned as it has considered appropriate, hereby makes the following regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Welfare of Livestock (Intensive Units) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1978 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1979.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations:

"defect", in relation to the automatic equipment of an intensive unit, includes as well as a fault in the equipment a total or partial failure of that equipment due to a cause other than a fault in the equipment itself;

"intensive unit" means a building in which livestock is kept under a husbandry system that relies on automatic equipment to such an extent that any defect of that equipment will cause the livestock to suffer unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress unless the defect is rectified or other provision is made for the care of the livestock;

"stock keeper", in relation to livestock, means the owner of that livestock or any person engaged or employed in its care.

Daily inspections to safeguard livestock in intensive units

3. A person who keeps in an intensive unit any livestock for the time being situated on agricultural land, or who causes or permits any such livestock to be so kept, shall ensure that:—

(1) the livestock is thoroughly inspected by a stock keeper not less than once each day to check that it is in a state of well-being;

(2) where livestock is found not to be in a state of well-being (whether on inspection of the livestock in accordance with the preceding paragraph or at any other time), such measures are immediately taken as are required to safeguard the livestock from suffering unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress;

(a) Formerly Ministry: see 1973 c. 36 Sch. 5 para. 8(1)

(b) 1972 c. 7 (N.I.)

(3) the automatic equipment of the intensive unit is thoroughly inspected by a stock keeper, or other competent person, not less than once each day to check that there is no defect in it;

(4) where any defect is found in the automatic equipment of the intensive unit (whether on inspection of the equipment in accordance with the preceding paragraph or at any other time),—

(a) the defect is immediately rectified; or

(b) if this is impracticable such measures are forthwith taken and maintained until the defect is rectified, as are required to safeguard the livestock from suffering unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress as a result of the defect.

Offences

4. A person who fails to comply with the provisions of the preceding regulation shall be guilty of an offence under section 2 of the Act.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 30th November 1978.

(L.S.)

S. R. Armstrong

Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the regulations but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

These regulations make provision for the welfare of agricultural livestock kept in intensive units as defined in the regulations. They require the livestock and automatic equipment of the intensive units each to be inspected not less than once daily by the owner or other specified persons. Where the livestock is found not to be in a state of well-being (whether on the prescribed inspection or at any other time) the regulations require that measures are taken to safeguard the livestock from suffering unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress. Where a defect is found in the automatic equipment of the intensive unit (whether on the prescribed inspection or at any other time) the regulations require that the defect is immediately rectified or, if this is not practicable, that measures are maintained until the defect is rectified, to safeguard the livestock from suffering unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress as a result of the defect.