

1978 No. 368

## ANIMALS

**Transplantation of Ova (Animals) Regulations  
(Northern Ireland) 1978**

*Made* . . . . . 6th December 1978

*Coming into operation* . . . . . 16th January 1979

The Department of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 5 of the Artificial Reproduction of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1975(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf hereby makes the following regulations:

*Citation and commencement*

1. These regulations may be cited as the Transplantation of Ova (Animals) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1978 and shall come into operation on 16th January 1979.

*Interpretation*

2. In these regulations—

“animals” means cattle, sheep, goats, swine, horses, domestic fowl, turkeys, geese and ducks;

“approved” means approved by the Department;

“Artificial Insemination Centre” means a centre from which a service of artificial insemination for animals is provided;

“approved Artificial Insemination Centre” means an Artificial Insemination Centre operated by or licensed by the Department;

“donor animal” means a female animal from which ova are removed for transplantation in other animals;

“ova” means ova, whether fertilised or unfertilised, at any stage of development;

“ova transplantation” means the removal of ova from a donor animal and/or implantation in other animals;

“Ova Transplantation Centre” means a centre in which ova transplantation and associated procedures including the fertilisation of the donor animal, collection, preparation and storage of ova take place;

“approved Ova Transplantation Centre” means an Ova Transplantation Centre operated by or licensed by the Department;

“licensed operator” means the person to whom a licence to operate a Private Ova Transplantation Centre has been issued by the Department;

“Private Ova Transplantation Centre” means an Ova Transplantation Centre which is not operated by the Department;

“recipient animal” means the female animal into which ova removed from a donor animal are transplanted;

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(a) S.I. 1975/1834 (N.I. 17)

"semen" means semen from a male animal of the same species as the donor animal;

"sire" means the male animal from which the semen is obtained.

#### CONTROL OF PRIVATE OVA TRANSPLANTATION

##### *Private Ova Transplantation Centre*

3. A person shall not operate a Private Ova Transplantation Centre in Northern Ireland except under the authority of a licence issued by the Department and subject to the conditions set out in the Schedule and to such other conditions as may be specified in the licence.

##### *Licence to practise Ova Transplantation*

4. A person shall not practise ova transplantation unless—

(a) he has been issued by the Department with a licence to undertake such practice; or

(b) he is the owner of a herd or flock and the ova transplantation involves a donor animal and recipient animal in that herd or flock.

5. A person shall not be issued with a licence to practise ova transplantation using surgical procedures unless he is a veterinary surgeon.

##### *Collection, preparation and sale of ova*

6.—(1) The collection and preparation of ova for sale is prohibited, except in an approved Ova Transplantation Centre.

(2) Semen used for the artificial insemination of a donor animal shall be obtained through an approved Artificial Insemination Centre and such semen shall be stored in an approved cryogenic container until required for use.

(3) Where ova are to be collected for sale in Northern Ireland only a donor animal approved by the Department shall be used.

(4) The Department may undertake the collection and preparation of ova on behalf of the owner of an animal in Northern Ireland.

##### *Storage of ova*

7.—(1) Storage of ova other than the storage on his own premises of ova collected by the owner of an animal for transplantation in another animal in the same herd or flock is prohibited except at an approved Ova Transplantation Centre.

(2) Only storage facilities which have been approved by the Department shall be used.

(3) The Department may undertake the storage of ova on behalf of the owner of an animal in Northern Ireland.

##### *Distribution and sale of ova*

8.—(1) The distribution and sale of ova in Northern Ireland is prohibited except from an approved Ova Transplantation Centre.

(2) Frozen ova shall only be transported in an approved cryogenic container:

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 6th December 1978.

(L.S.)

W. H. Parker  
Assistant Secretary

## SCHEDULE

**Conditions for the operation of a Private Ova Transplantation Centre**

1. The operation of a Private Ova Transplantation Centre shall be under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon approved by the Department for the purpose.
2. A person employed by a Private Ova Transplantation Centre shall not be permitted to practise ova transplantation unless he has been issued with a licence by the Department for that purpose.
3. Only premises constructed and maintained in a manner approved by the Department shall be used for the collection, preparation and storage of ova.
4. Only equipment and methods approved by the Department shall be used for or employed in the collection, preparation and storage of ova.
5. All animals shall, before entering the Ova Transplantation Centre, pass all such veterinary and other tests as the Department may require.
6. The licensed operator shall ensure that all ampoules or straws containing ova are clearly marked identifying the date of the collection of the ova, the age of the ova at the time of collection and freezing and the identity of the donor animal and, when the ova are fertilised, the name of the sire used.
7. The licensed operator shall keep a record showing, in respect of each ova transplantation, the dates of service of the donor animal or other fertilisation of the ova, the breed and name and other sufficient identification of the sire, donor, and recipient animals used, the date and number of ova collected and the date frozen, the blood type of the sire and donor animal, the dates of transplantation, and the date of birth, sex, blood type and sufficient identity of the resultant progeny. All abnormal births shall be notified to the Department immediately. Such records shall be available at all reasonable times to inspection by any authorised officer of the Department, who shall be at liberty to make any copy or extract therefrom.
8. A licence shall be valid only for the period stated therein.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

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

These Regulations provide for:—

1. The licensing of Private Ova Transplantation Centres.
2. Control over the collection, preparation, storage, distribution and sale of ova.

A contravention of these Regulations constitutes an offence under Article 10 of the Artificial Reproduction of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1975.