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## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These Regulations further amend the Sheep Annual Premium Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992 (“the 1992 Regulations”) to provide for the period in which to apply for sheep annual premium in respect of any marketing year. A producer shall submit his application on or after 3rd December in the preceding calendar year and not later than 3rd January in the marketing year. Previously the producer was required to submit his application in the period from 4th December 2001 to 4th January 2002.

The Regulations also enable applications to be submitted in electronic form.

The 1992 Regulations continue to supplement the rules on the payment of sheep annual premium in Council Regulation (EC) No. 2529/2001 on the common organisation of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat (O.J. No. L341, 12.12.2001, p. 13), Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2550/2001 laying down detailed rules for the application of Council Regulation (EC) No. 2529/2001 on the common organisation of the market in sheepmeat and goatmeat as regards premium schemes (O.J. No. L341, 22.12.2001, p. 105) and Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2419/2001 laying down detailed rules for applying the integrated administration and control system for certain community aid schemes established by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 3508/92 (O.J. No. 327, 12.12.2001, p. 11).