

**EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO
THE SEED MARKETING (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN
IRELAND) 2017**

SR No. 222

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- 1.2 The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred on it by sections 1(1), (2A) and 2 of the Seeds Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.
- 1.3 The Rule will come into operation on 11 December 2017.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 To transpose Commission Implementing Directive 2016/2109, changing the botanical name of hybrid ryegrass.

3. Background

- 3.1 The International Seed Testing Association has recently changed the botanical name of hybrid ryegrass from *Lolium x boucheanum* Kunth to *Lolium x hybridum* Hausskn. Consequently, Commission Implementing Directive 2016/2109 has made the same change in Directive 66/401/EEC on the marketing of fodder plant seeds. The Seed Marketing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 need to be amended to take this change into account.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 In accordance with section 1(1) of the Seeds Act (Northern Ireland) 1965 a two week informal consultation with industry representatives was conducted. There was no response to the consultation.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1 A Section 75 assessment was completed for the Regulations. No negative impact on any section 75 group was identified. Therefore, the Regulations were screened out.

6. Regulatory Impact

6.1 No impact is foreseen for business, charities or voluntary bodies and there is no impact on the public sector. Therefore, an Impact Assessment has not been prepared for these Regulations.

7. Financial Implications

7.1 As this is a minor, technical amendment and current procedures will not change there will be no additional costs to the seed industry.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

8.1 This Statutory Rule will ensure the Department complies fully with its obligations under European law. The Regulations do not have any human rights implications, nor are they incompatible with EU law. It is therefore deemed to comply with the requirements of section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

9. EU Implications

9.1 This Statutory Rule transposes Commission Implementing Directive 2016/2109, which amends Directive 66/401/EEC, on the marketing of fodder plant seed.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

10.1. Similar legislation will implement the EU Directive in the UK and the Republic of Ireland

11. Additional Information

11.1 Not applicable.