

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Beef and Veal Labelling (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018

S.R. 2018 No.191

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 section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

2. Purpose

- 2.1. These Regulations amend the Beef and Veal Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 which provide enforcement powers for EU legislation dealing with mandatory and voluntary labelling of beef and veal.
- 2.2. The voluntary labelling requirements were removed from the EU Regulations in 2014. It is therefore necessary to amend the existing domestic legislation to reflect these changes. Out of date references to other EU legislation are also being corrected at this time. The Beef and Veal Labelling (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2018 will give effect to these changes.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Beef and Veal Labelling Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2010 provide enforcement powers for EU legislation dealing with mandatory and voluntary labelling of beef and veal. The voluntary labelling requirements were removed from the EU Regulations in 2014. Voluntary labelling now falls under the general labelling principles of the Provision of Food Information to Consumers Regulations, which are the responsibility of the Food Standards Agency NI.
- 3.2. It is therefore necessary to amend the existing legislation to reflect these changes by removing the enforcement provisions for the original voluntary labelling scheme.

4. Consultation

- 4.1. A four week consultation with relevant stakeholders was undertaken during August 2018. No responses were received from the consultees.

5. Equality Impact

- 5.1. In accordance with the guidance produced by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland and in keeping with Regulation 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the proposals in this Statutory Rule have been screened for equality impact and it is concluded that a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

- 5.2. The record of the screening exercise has been placed on record with the DAERA Equality Unit as required.

6. Regulatory Impact

- 6.1. This amendment removes requirements from the industry and therefore no Regulatory Impact Assessment was considered necessary.
- 6.2. In accordance with section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act 2016, the proposals in these Regulations have been subjected to a Rural Needs Impact Assessment. This legislation affects organisations and individuals in the beef and veal supply chain, such as meat processors and retail outlets. It is not anticipated that the amended legislation will have any specific impact on the needs of people in rural areas. Rural needs were not therefore identified.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1. There are no financial implications associated with these Regulations.

8. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

- 8.1. The Statutory Rule complies with all of the provisions set out in Section 24, as amended by the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

9. EU Implications

- 9.1. The introduction of this Statutory Rule will bring domestic legislation into line with EU law in relation to the labelling of beef and veal.

10. Parity or Replicatory Measure

- 10.1. Equivalent legislation is being introduced in GB by the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

11. Additional Information

- 11.1. Not applicable.