

Executive Note

The Sheep and Goats (Identification and Traceability) (Scotland) Regulations 2006 SSI/2006/73

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(a). The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

The purpose of this instrument is to introduce revisions to the current sheep and goat traceability system to fully comply with the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004 laying down rules for the identification of animals born after 9 July 2005 and for the keeping and supply of information.

The regulations also provide for the administration and enforcement of the identification and traceability system for animals born on or before 9 July 2005, which was previously contained in the Sheep and Goats Identification (Scotland) Regulations 2000 and the Sheep and Goats (Interim Measures) (Scotland) Order 2002..

Following the Foot and Mouth outbreak in 2001 the Commission began the preparation of more stringent and specific rules on the identification, registration and movement of sheep and goats. The outcome of this work was Council Regulation 21/2004.

This instrument makes provision for the administration and enforcement of a traceability system which enables sheep and goats to be traced on a batch basis from holding to holding from birth to slaughter. Should another disease outbreak occur, it also provides the basis for the individual identification of animals should that be required.

Consultation

To provide input to the development of Council Regulation (EC) No 21/2004, an industry stakeholder group was set up. They were actively involved in commenting on the practicalities of the EC proposals and played a key role in lobbying the Commission to achieve a system that was workable in Scotland.

In addition to the stakeholder group a formal consultation, in line with best practice guidance, was undertaken of all key interest groups in September 2005.

Financial Effects

The instrument has minimal additional costs for industry as it contains minor amendments to an existing system. An RIA is attached.

**Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department
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