

POLICY NOTE

THE CATTLE IDENTIFICATION (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT REGULATIONS 2017

SSI 2017/133

The Cattle Identification (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2017 have been made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972. The legislation will apply in Scotland only. The instrument is subject to negative procedure.

Policy Objectives

This statutory instrument amends the Cattle Identification (Scotland) Regulations 2007 (SSI 2007/174). Its primary purpose is to introduce measures to support cattle keepers who move cattle within their business using a new online holding register known as “ScotMoves”. The new register also means that cattle keepers no longer require to report these moves to the central database known as the “Cattle Tracing System” (“CTS”) which is operated by the British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) on behalf of Scottish Ministers.

Cattle keepers may use a number of different holdings, on a regular basis, for the holding, keeping or handling of their animals. Under the new policy being delivered by ScotMoves, keepers can register additional holdings to their principal holding and move cattle between these holdings, whilst recording these moves in the ScotMoves register. This bespoke register for moves within a business enhances traceability, ensures more efficient and effective disease control, better supports disease eradication and provides a greater degree of protection of public health. The ScotMoves system was developed with industry, to ensure that the rules are feasible for businesses, meet EU legislative requirements, do not impede trade and are fit for purpose. A number of requirements placed on keepers by the Cattle Identification (Scotland) Regulations 2007 are also adjusted where the move in question is to or from an additional holding. The movement of cattle to or from an additional holding no longer requires to be recorded on the cattle passport, passports need not accompany cattle when they undertake such a move, nor need the passport remain with the animal on the additional holding. The keeper can identify any calves born on an additional holding with either their own home herd mark or the herd mark of the additional holding. These moves to and from additional holdings can be notified electronically, by telephone or fax or by post. The time allowed to update the holding register or cattle passport changes from 36 hours to 48 hours, and brings these reporting deadlines for cattle into line with those for other livestock species. The amendment also removes the requirement for keepers to record the dam identity of cattle they buy in. The requirement is considered to be unnecessary, as this information is already recorded centrally on CTS and in the holding register of the animal’s holding of birth.

Further changes to the Cattle Identification (Scotland) Regulations 2007 update references in that instrument to articles of Regulation (EC) 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a system for the identification

and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97. These amendments are necessary following the amendment of that Regulation by Regulation (EU) No 653/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council. Much of that Regulation of 2014 amends the original Regulation as regards the electronic identification of bovine animals (“bovine EID”). This instrument does not, however, fully implement all the requirements of Regulation (EU) No 653/2014. Member States have until July 2019 to prepare for and introduce systems for bovine EID.

Consultation

The proposals for the ScotMoves system were taken forward with industry stakeholders through a joint Scottish Government/ Industry Working Group. The working group was established in late 2014, and met on numerous occasions between then and the end of 2016. A sub group was set up early May 2016 to develop workable business rules to support businesses operating the ScotMoves system. The business rules were agreed and signed off by the main working group in September 2016. No formal consultation was therefore required.

Joint Scottish Government/Industry Working Group Members:

Scottish Government Animal Health and Welfare Division	Institute of Auctioneers and Appraisers Scotland
Scottish Government Rural Payments and Inspections Division	Livestock Health Scotland
Animal and Plant Health Agency	National Farmers Union of Scotland
EPIC – Centre of Expertise on Animal Disease Outbreaks	National Sheep Association Scotland
John Cameron – independent farmer	Scottish Crofting Federation
Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers	Scottish Dairy Cattle Association
Scottish Beef Association	Scottish Dairy Hub
Scottish Land and Estates	ScotEID
Quality Meat Scotland	

Impact Assessments

There are no equality impact issues.

Financial Effects

The legislative amendments places no new or additional burden on keepers simply recording moves online where they previously recoded them in their on-farm holding register. A Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment was therefore not necessary

Scottish Government

Directorate for Agriculture and Rural Economy
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