
 STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1978 No. 1800

ANIMALS

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

The Welfare of Livestock (Intensive Units) Regulations 1978*Laid before Parliament in draft*

Made - - - - 7th December 1978

Coming into Operation - 1st January 1979

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales, acting jointly in exercise of powers conferred by section 2 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968(a) and now vested in them(b), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, and after consultation with such persons appearing to them to represent any interests concerned as they have considered appropriate, hereby make the following regulations, of which a draft has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament:—

Title, extent, commencement and interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations, which may be cited as the Welfare of Livestock (Intensive Units) Regulations 1978, apply to Great Britain and shall come into operation on 1st January 1979.

(2) The Interpretation Act 1889(c) applies for the interpretation of these regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(3) In these regulations—

“defect”, in relation to the automatic equipment of an intensive unit, includes a total or partial failure of that equipment due to a cause other than a fault in the equipment itself;

“intensive unit” means a building in which livestock is kept under a husbandry system that, for the purpose of providing for the care of the livestock, relies on automatic equipment to such an extent that failure of that equipment will cause the livestock to suffer unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress unless the failure is rectified or other provision is made for the care of the livestock;

“stock keeper”, in relation to livestock, means the owner of that livestock or any person engaged or employed in its care.

Daily inspections to safeguard livestock in intensive units

2.—(1) A person who keeps in an intensive unit any livestock for the time being situated on agricultural land, or who causes or permits any such livestock to be so kept, shall comply with the following provisions of this regulation.

(a) 1968 c. 34.

(b) In the case of the Secretary of State for Wales, by virtue of S.I. 1978/272.

(c) 1889 c. 63.

(2) The livestock shall be thoroughly inspected by a stock keeper not less than once each day to check that it is in a state of well-being.

(3) Where livestock is found not to be in a state of well-being (whether on inspection of the livestock in accordance with the preceding paragraph or at any other time), such measures shall immediately be taken as are required to safeguard the livestock from suffering unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress.

(4) The automatic equipment of the intensive unit shall be thoroughly inspected by a stock keeper, or other competent person, not less than once each day to check that there is no defect in it.

(5) Where a defect is found in the automatic equipment of the intensive unit (whether on inspection of the equipment in accordance with the preceding paragraph or at any other time),—

(a) the defect shall be rectified forthwith; or,

(b) if this is impracticable, such measures shall immediately be taken and shall be maintained until the defect is rectified, as are required to safeguard the livestock from suffering unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress as a result of the defect.

Offences

3. A person who fails to comply with the provisions of the preceding regulation shall be guilty of an offence under section 2 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968.

In Witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed on 1st December 1978.

(L.S.)

John Silkin,
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Bruce Millan,
Secretary of State for Scotland.

5th December 1978.

John Morris,
Secretary of State for Wales.

7th December 1978.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations make provision for the welfare of agricultural livestock kept in intensive units as defined in the Regulations. They require the livestock and the automatic equipment of the intensive units each to be thoroughly inspected not less than once daily by the owner or other specified persons. Where the livestock is found not to be in a state of well-being (whether on the prescribed inspection or at any other time), the Regulations require that measures shall immediately be taken to safeguard the livestock from suffering unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress. Where a defect is found in the automatic equipment (whether on the prescribed inspection or at any other time) the Regulations require that the defect shall be rectified forthwith or, if this is impracticable, that measures shall be maintained until the defect is rectified, to safeguard the livestock from suffering unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress as a result of the defect.

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