1995 No. 454

AGRICULTURE

Large Farmed Game Meat (Production and Marketing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995

Made . . . . . *5th December 1995*

Coming into operation . . *8th January 1996*

The Department of Agriculture, being a Department designated(**a**) for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(**b**) in relation to the common agricultural policy of the European Community, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the said section 2(2) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Large Farmed Game Meat (Production and Marketing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 and shall come into operation on 8th January 1996.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

"authorised officer" means an officer of the Department authorised by it to exercise functions under these Regulations;

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland;

"the Directive" means Council Directive 91/495/EEC(**c**) concerning public health and animal health problems affecting the production and placing on the market of rabbit meat and farmed game meat; and

"veterinary surgeon" means a veterinary surgeon or veterinary practitioner registered or recognised under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966(**d**).

(2) Other expressions used in these Regulations have the same meaning as in the Directive.

(3) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(**e**) shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

(**a**) S.I. 1972/1811
(**b**) 1972 c. 68; section 2 is subject to Schedule 2 to that Act and is to be read with S.I. 1984/703 (N.I. 3) and S.I. 1994/2795 (N.I. 15)
(**c**) O.J. No. L268, 24.9.91, p. 41
(**d**) 1966 c. 36
(**e**) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

Exclusion

3. These Regulations shall not apply in relation to rabbits or birds or to any meat therefrom.

Production, marketing and consignment of farmed game meat

4.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person shall not in Northern Ireland produce or market farmed game meat unless it fulfils the relevant conditions of the Directive and, in particular, those referred to in Article 6(1) thereof.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) shall prevent the production and marketing of farmed game meat by reason only that the animal from which the meat was produced was slaughtered on the holding where it originated provided that the Department authorised that slaughter in the circumstances mentioned in, and subject to the conditions set out in, Article 6(2) of the Directive.

Health Surveys

5.—(1) The Department may require an authorised officer to conduct a survey of the health of farmed game kept on any holding and upon being so required the officer shall carry out such examinations and tests on any farmed game kept on that holding as may be necessary for the purpose of detecting in those animals the presence of any disease transmissible to humans and animals or of any residues.

(2) In exercising its powers under paragraph (1), the Department shall ensure that all holdings on which farmed game are kept are subject to survey at regular intervals.

(3) If an authorised officer, on reasonable grounds, suspects that a relevant disease exists on any holding on which farmed game are kept he shall immediately notify the Department of the fact.

(4) Upon being notified under paragraph (3) of the suspected existence of a relevant disease on any holding, the Department shall carry out, or cause to be carried out, such tests on game animals on the holding as are necessary to detect the presence of any such disease.

(5) In this regulation, "relevant disease" means any disease referred to in Annex I to Directive 82/894/EEC(**a**).

Powers of authorised officer

6.—(1) For the purposes of carrying out functions under regulation 5, an authorised officer may at any time, and upon production if so required of his authority, enter on to any land where farmed game animals are kept.

(2) The owner or occupier of any land entered by an officer under paragraph (1) shall give that officer such assistance as is reasonably required by him to pen, restrain or otherwise secure any farmed game animals kept thereon.

(a) O.J. No. L378, 31.12.82, p. 58