1976 No. 60

DESTRUCTIVE ANIMALS

Mink (Importation and Keeping) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976

Made . . . . . *17th February* 1976

Coming into operation . . . *1st April* 1976

The Department(a) of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 2 of the Destructive Imported Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1933(b) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and with the approval of the Department(a) of Finance as to fees hereby makes the following Regulations:

Title and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Mink (Importation and Keeping) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1976.

(2) These Regulations shall come into operation on 1st April 1976.

Revocation

2. The Mink (Importation and Keeping) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968(c) are hereby revoked.

Interpretation

3.—(1) In these Regulations:—

"the Act" means the Destructive Imported Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1933;

"cage-trap" means a cage, trap or box designed or adapted for the catching alive of mink;

"mink" means the animal of the species designated Mustela vison and Mustela lutreola.

Importation of mink for keeping

4.—(1) An application for a licence to import mink for keeping shall be made in such form as the Department of Agriculture may require.

(2) The conditions attaching to the issue of a licence to import mink for keeping shall be as set out in Schedule 1 to these Regulations.

Keeping of mink

5.—(1) Application for a licence to keep mink shall be made in such form as the Department of Agriculture may require.

(a) Formerly Ministry *see* 1973 c. 36 Sch. 5 para. 8(1)
(b) 23 & 24 Geo. V. c. 5 (N.I.)
(c) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1968 No. 8 (p. 58)

(2) The conditions attaching to the issue or renewal of a licence to keep mink and the precautions to be taken against their escape shall be as set out in Schedule 2.

6. The conditions set out in Schedules 1 and 2 may be modified by the Department of Agriculture if it considers it appropriate to do so in any particular case.

Fees

7. A fee of £10 shall be paid on application for the issue or renewal of a licence to keep mink.

Licences

8.—(1) A Licence authorising the importation or keeping of mink, granted in accordance with Section 3 of the Act, shall be in the form set out in Schedule 3, and shall be valid for not more than 14 days from the date of issue.

(2) A Licence granted for keeping mink shall, subject to Section 3(*b*) of the Act, be granted for a period of 12 months.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 17th February 1976.

(L.S.) *W. H. Parker*
Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance hereby approves the fees prescribed in the foregoing Regulations.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance for Northern Ireland on 18th February 1976.

(L.S.) *A. J. Green*
Assistant Secretary

SCHEDULE 1

Conditions attaching to issue of licence to import mink for keeping

(1) The mink shall be accompanied in transit by the licence.

(2) No hay or straw shall accompany the mink into Northern Ireland.

(3) The mink shall be confined in cages, boxes or other containers constructed from such materials and in such manner as to prevent their escape.

(4) If any mink escape the importer shall as soon as practicable, notify the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Dundonald House, Belfast BT4 3SB.

(5) For the purpose of the licence the importer of the mink shall be deemed to be the person in charge of the mink during transit.

(6) The mink shall be moved to premises in respect of which a licence to keep mink is in force.

(7) The licence shall be surrendered upon demand to an authorised official of the Department of Agriculture or to a member of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise at the port of landing or border post. If such a licence is not surrendered it should be returned to the Department of Agriculture, Dundonald House, Belfast BT4 3SB.

SCHEDULE 2

Manner in which mink are to be confined and precautions to be observed

(1) Mink shall be kept in cages or other containers constructed from such materials and in such manner as to prevent escape. Such cages or other containers shall be kept within an enclosure or building which satisfies the requirements of these Regulations.

(2) Enclosures shall be bounded by a guard fence consisting of wire netting of not less than 18 gauge with a mesh not greater than 26 mm. The fence shall be not less than 1.50m. high above ground level. The base of the fence shall be buried in the ground to a depth of at least 300mm. and turned outwards at the bottom at right angles for at least 150mm. or shall be embedded in a trench of the same depth the bottom of which shall be provided with a foundation at least 150mm. wide on each side and at least 150mm. deep of either concrete or of consolidated hard core of brick or concrete rubble or of similar solid and durable material. At the top of the fence there shall be flat sheet metal at least 300mm. deep securely attached to the inside of the wire netting and to any fence posts inside the enclosure so as to form a continuous baffle leaving no gap between the wire and sheet metal.

(3) Such parts of buildings as are not constructed in such a manner and of such materials as to prevent the escape of mink shall be enclosed with wire netting of not less than 18 gauge with a mesh not greater than 26mm. The base of the wire netting shall be dealt with as required in paragraph (2) for the base of guard fencing.

(4) Gates and doors leading through guard fences surrounding enclosures or buildings shall close tightly on to a threshold or sill with a base consisting of wire netting buried in the ground and provided with a foundation as required in paragraph (2) for the base of guard fencing.

(5) No objects shall be placed within 1.50m. of the inside of the guard fence of any enclosure in which mink are kept other than—

(i) nest boxes or cages not more than 450mm. in height, or

(ii) cage-traps not more than 450mm. in height.

(6) In every enclosure or building in which mink are kept there shall be placed and maintained one or more, up to a maximum number of 10, cage-traps as follows:—

(i) where not more than 400 mink are so kept, one cage-trap, and

(ii) where more than 400 mink are so kept, one cage-trap for each complete number of 400 mink and one additional cage-trap for any remaining mink;

provided that, subject to the aforesaid maximum, this requirement shall not preclude the placing and maintaining of cage-traps in excess of those required as above.

(7) The area immediately outside a guard fence shall be kept clear of undergrowth to a distance of at least 1.50m. from the guard fence, except where it appears to the Department of Agriculture, that compliance with this requirement may for any reason be dispensed with.

(8) A strip of at least 1.20m. in width along the inside of the guard fence shall be kept clear of undergrowth.

(9) Where trees are growing within a guard fence, a baffle of sheet metal at least 300mm. deep shall encircle the trunk of each tree of which the branches overhang or are within 150m. of the guard fence. The bottom edge of the baffle shall be approximately 1.50m. from the ground and it shall be fixed in such a way as to prevent mink from climbing between the baffle and the tree trunk. The tree shall be kept trimmed of branches growing or hanging below the baffle.