1970. No. 306 [C]

POULTRY

Poultry Stock Licences (Breeding and Rearing Farms)

REGULATIONS, DATED 17TH NOVEMBER 1970, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTIONS 3, 4 AND 5 AND THE SCHEDULE OF THE POULTRY IMPROVEMENT ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1968.

The Ministry of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Sections 3, 4 and 5 and the Schedule of the Poultry Improvement Act (Northern Ireland) 1968(a) and of all other powers enabling it in that behalf and after such consultation as is required by Section 12(1) of the said Act and with the approval of the Ministry of Finance, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

Citation and Commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Poultry Stock Licences (Breeding and Rearing Farms) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1970 and shall come into operation on 1st January 1971.

Definitions

2. In these Regulations:—

"breeding farms" means any licensed premises used for the production for sale, supply or distribution of eggs for hatching or for the operation of an incubator for the production of day-old chicks incubated from eggs produced on the said premises;

"commercial flock" means a flock of poultry kept for the production of eggs for consumption or of poultry meat;

"day-old" means not more than 48 hours old;

"disease" includes any disease which in the opinion of the Ministry would constitute a hazard to the health of poultry in Northern Ireland whether or not within the definition of disease contained in the Diseases of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1958(b);

"licence" means a Poultry Stock Licence issued for Breeding and Rearing Farms;

"licensed premises" means any premises where poultry are kept under the authority of a licence;

"poultry" means domestic fowl;

"poultry quarantine station" means premises used or approved by the Ministry for the importation and rearing of day-old chicks or for the incubation and hatching of imported eggs and the rearing of poultry hatched therefrom;

"rearing farms" means any licensed premises used for the rearing of poultry for sale, supply or distribution, before they attain the age of six months, either to breeding farms or to premises having commercial flocks.

Use of Licensed Premises

3.—(1) (*a*) No commercial flock shall be kept on breeding farms or on rearing farms which sell, supply or distribute poultry to breeding farms.

(a) 1968. c. 12 (N.I.). (b) 1958. c. 13.

(*b*) From 1st January 1974 no commercial flock shall be kept on rearing farms which sell, supply or distribute poultry to premises having commercial flocks.

(*c*) Rearing farms which sell, supply or distribute poultry to breeding farms shall not at the same time rear poultry for sale, supply or distribution to premises having commercial flocks.

(2) All poultry on breeding farms and on rearing farms which sell, supply or distribute poultry to breeding farms shall be confined within buildings approved by the Ministry.

(3) No avian species may be kept on any licensed premises in such a manner as to constitute in the Ministry's opinion a risk of disease to the poultry on such premises.

Bringing in of Eggs and Poultry

4.—(1) No poultry or eggs may be brought on to licensed premises except from a poultry quarantine station or another licensed premises or any other source approved by the Ministry.

(2) From 1st January 1974 no poultry or eggs may be brought on to or taken away from licensed premises except in new containers or in containers which have on each occasion prior to use been cleansed and disinfected to a reasonable standard approved by the Ministry.

(3) Vehicles used for the transportation of such containers to licensed premises shall be cleansed and disinfected to a reasonable standard approved by the Ministry.

(4) Any person engaged in driving or unloading any vehicle used for the transportation of such containers to licensed premises shall wear suitable protective clothing which has been cleansed and disinfected.

Identification of Eggs and Poultry

5. A licence-holder shall adopt a system whereby he is able to identify each separate flock or group of poultry and each separate batch of eggs for hatching on his premises.

Records

6.—(1) A licence-holder shall keep records of:—

(*a*) all movements of poultry and eggs for hatching from or on to his licensed premises such records to show the names and addresses of persons to whom such poultry or eggs were sent or from whom such poultry or eggs were received and the number of poultry or eggs sent or received;

(*b*) the production of eggs in each poultry house;

(*c*) deaths and culling of poultry in each poultry house;

(*d*) visits by any persons other than the regular attendants of the poultry; and

(*e*) any medication, vaccination or therapeutic treatment given to the poultry.

(2) The records required by this Regulation shall be retained for not less than six months after the date on which the flock to which they refer was removed from the farm.

Notification of Disease

7.—(1) A licence-holder if he has reason to suspect that disease exists on the farm or if in any four-week period after the first week of life the number of deaths in his flock other than by accident exceeds three per hundred birds shall immediately notify the Ministry and if requested supply to the Veterinary Research Laboratories, Stormont, Belfast, BT4 3SD, a representative sample of specimens together with a history of flock symptoms and any other relevant information.

(2) A licence-holder shall observe such standards of husbandry and hygiene as may be necessary to maintain in good health and free from disease all poultry in his premises and shall in particular take all reasonable prophylactic or other preventive measures available against infection.

Disposal of Carcases, Faeces and Infective Material

8. A licence-holder shall comply with any general or specific instructions issued by the Ministry as to the method of disposal of diseased or suspected poultry, poultry carcases, eggs, faeces and any other infective material on the premises.

Submission of Poultry or Carcases

9. A licence-holder shall on request submit to an authorised officer such poultry or poultry carcases as may be reasonably required for the diagnosis of disease.

Cleansing and Disinfection

10. A licence-holder shall comply with any general or specific instructions issued by the Ministry as to the cleansing and disinfection of premises and of any plant, equipment or utensils therein.

Siting and Structure of Poultry Houses

11.—(1) From 1st January 1973 no new building and no existing building not previously used for the housing of poultry on the premises of the licence-holder may be so used unless such building is situated at a distance of not less than 50 metres from the boundary of any premises on which poultry are kept.

(2) Any building which is used for the housing of poultry on licensed premises and which is situated at a distance of less than 50 metres from the boundary of any premises on which poultry are kept shall not be altered or modified without the prior approval of the Ministry.

(3) Any building used for the housing of poultry on licensed premises shall:—

(*a*) be so constructed that access may only be gained to the feed store and to any egg store without entry to the building or section of the building where the poultry are housed;

(*b*) be capable of being properly cleansed and disinfected;

(*c*) be protected against unauthorised access to the poultry by locked doors or gates and any person entering such building shall wear clean protective clothing, head gear and footwear;

(*d*) have windows or other openings protected by a suitable screen against the entry of wild birds or vermin;

(*e*) have a water supply drawn from a public water main or from a source approved by the Ministry;