**1968. No. 8** **[NC]**

## DESTRUCTIVE ANIMALS

### Mink (Importation and Keeping) Regulations

REGULATIONS, DATED 16TH DAY OF JANUARY 1968, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 2 OF THE DESTRUCTIVE IMPORTED ANIMALS ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1933.

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

*Citation and Commencement*

**1.** These Regulations which may be cited as the Mink (Importation and Keeping) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1968 shall come into operation on the 16th day of January 1968.

*Interpretation*

**2.** In these Regulations:—

"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*

**3.** Application for a licence to import mink for keeping shall be made in the form prescribed in the Schedule. The conditions pertaining to the issue of a licence to import mink for keeping shall be as follows:—

(1) that the mink are accompanied in transit by the licence;

(2) that no hay or straw shall accompany the mink into Northern Ireland;

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

(4) that if any mink escape the importer shall, as soon as practicable, notify the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Dundonald House, Belfast BT4 3SB;

(5) that for the purposes of the licence the importer of the mink shall be deemed to be the person in charge of the mink during transit;

(6) that the mink are moved to premises in respect of which a licence to keep mink is in force;

(7) that the licence shall be surrendered upon demand to an authorised official of the Ministry 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 Ministry of Agriculture, Dundonald House, Belfast BT4 3SB;

(a) 23 & 24 Geo. 5. c. 5 (N.I.).

(8) that the licence shall be valid for not more than 14 days from the date of issue.

*Keeping of Mink*

**4.** Application for a licence to keep mink shall be made in the form prescribed in the Schedule. The conditions pertaining to the issue of a licence to keep mink shall be as follows:—

(1) The mink shall, when not in the course of being transported from place to place, be confined in accordance with the following requirements:—

(*a*) 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 in an enclosure or building which satisfies the requirements of these regulations;

(*b*) enclosures must be bounded by a guard fence consisting of wire netting of not less than 18 gauge with a mesh not greater than 1 inch. The total height of the fence shall be not less than 5 feet above ground level. The base of the fence shall be buried in the ground to a depth of at least 12 inches and turned inward at the bottom at right angles for at least 6 inches or the fence shall be embedded in a trench of the same depth, the bottom of which shall be provided with a foundation at least 6 inches wide on either side and at least 6 inches deep of concrete. The wire shall be securely fixed to the concrete base. At the top of the fence there shall be flat sheet metal at least 12 inches 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 the sheet metal;

(*c*) such parts of buildings as are not constructed in such a manner and of such materials as to prevent the escape of mink must be enclosed with wire netting of not less than 18 gauge with a mesh not greater than 1 inch. The base of the wire netting shall be dealt with as required in paragraph (*b*) for the base of guard fencing;

(*d*) gates and doors leading through guard fences surrounding enclosures or buildings must 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 (*b*) for the base of guard fencing;

(*e*) no objects shall be placed near the inside of the guard fence of any enclosure in which mink are kept other than:—

(i) nest boxes or cages not more than 18 inches high; and

(ii) cage-traps not more than 18 inches high;

(*f*) a strip of at least 4 feet in width along the inside of the guard fence must be kept clear of undergrowth;

(*g*) where trees are growing within a guard fence a baffle of sheet metal at least 12 inches deep must encircle the trunk of each tree of which the branches overhang or are within 5 feet of the guard fence. The bottom edge of the baffle shall be approximately 5 feet from the ground and it must be fixed in such a way as to prevent mink climbing between the baffle and the tree trunk. The tree must be kept trimmed of branches growing or hanging below the baffle;

(*h*) the area immediately outside a guard fence shall be kept clear of undergrowth to a distance of at least 5 feet from the guard fence;

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

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

(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. The requirement shall not preclude the placing and maintaining of cage-traps in excess of those required as above;

(*j*) steps shall be taken to destroy as far as practicable any rats on the premises of the licence holder in and adjoining any enclosure or building containing mink. Rat holes or other holes through which mink could escape from such premises shall be effectively blocked. Any drainage channels on such premises shall be adequately guarded to prevent mink from escaping;

(*k*) all cages or containers used for the keeping or transportation of mink shall be at all times kept securely closed by means of a suitable padlock;

(*l*) if any mink shall escape the licence holder shall immediately notify the Ministry of Agriculture, Dundonald House, Belfast BT4 3SB.

The above conditions may be modified in any particular case according to the nature and situation of the premises at which the mink are to be kept and in respect of premises at which the mink are being kept on the date when these regulations come into operation according to any existing precautions to prevent the escape of mink.

(2) The holder of a licence authorising the keeping of mink shall inform persons to whom he disposes of mink of their obligations to obtain a licence to keep them.

(3) The licence holder shall notify the Ministry of Agriculture, Dundonald House, Belfast BT4 3SB, of any change in the occupancy of any premises on which mink are being kept under the authority of a licence and if mink cease to be kept at any such premises.

(4) Within the period 1st January to 8th January each year the holder shall make a return to the Ministry of Agriculture, Dundonald House, Belfast BT4 3SB, in respect of mink in his possession on the 31st December of the preceding year and such a return shall state the number of each sex of mink kept and the address of the premises at which they are kept.

(5) The holder of a licence shall at all reasonable times permit any person duly authorised in that behalf by the Ministry of Agriculture upon production of his authority, if so required, to enter and inspect any land occupied by the holder at which he is entitled to keep mink under the authority of the licence.

(6) The licence may be revoked if it is shown to the satisfaction of the Ministry of Agriculture that the holder has failed to comply with any term of the licence or has been convicted of an offence under the Destructive Imported Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1933.

*Licences*

**5.**—(1) A licence issued for the keeping or importation for keeping of mink shall, except in the case of a licence issued under Section 7 of the Destructive Imported Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1933, be in the form set out in the Schedule to these Regulations and subject to the terms and conditions mentioned therein, and shall, in the case of a licence for the keeping of mink, remain in force for a period of 12 months beginning with the date on which it purports to come into effect.

(2) The fee which shall be paid when application is made for a licence to keep mink shall be £3.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 16th day of January 1968, in the presence of

(L.S.) *(Sd.) J. V. Bateman,*
Assistant Secretary.

The Ministry of Finance hereby approves the fees specified in Regulation 5(2) of this Order.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Finance for Northern Ireland this 17th day of January 1968, in the presence of

(L.S.) *(Sd.) James V. Morrison,*
Assistant Secretary.