

1981 No. 4

ANIMALS

Artificial Insemination (Sheep) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981

Made 7th January 1981

Coming into operation 2nd March 1981

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 5(1) and (2) of the Artificial Reproduction of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1975(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:

Title and commencement

1. These regulations may be cited as the Artificial Insemination (Sheep) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1981 and shall come into operation on 2nd March 1981.

Interpretation

2. In these regulations—

“approved” means approved by the Department;

“artificial insemination” means artificial insemination in connection with sheep;

“artificial insemination centre” means a centre from which a service for the artificial insemination of ewes is provided;

“approved artificial insemination centre” means an artificial insemination centre operated either by the Department or by a person licensed by the Department to operate an artificial insemination centre;

“authorised” means authorised by the Department;

“ewe” means a female sheep of breeding age;

“flock” means one or more sheep having the same owner;

“full-time employee” means a person normally engaged in work for not less than 30 hours per week;

“licence” means a licence granted by the Department;

“licensed operator” means a person to whom a licence to operate a private artificial insemination centre has been granted;

“pedigree” means entered, or accepted for entry or eligible for entry, in the flock book of the breed of sheep concerned;

“permit authority” means the authority in any country or place which issues a permit or licence authorising the entry into that country or place of semen from Northern Ireland;

“private artificial insemination centre” means an artificial insemination centre which is not operated by the Department;

“semen” means ram semen;

“veterinary surgeon” means a person lawfully qualified to practise veterinary surgery.

Control of private artificial insemination centres

3. A person shall not operate a private artificial insemination centre unless—
- (a) he is a licensed operator; and
 - (b) he does so in accordance with the conditions set out in the First Schedule and in the licence granted to him.

Control of artificial insemination

4. A person unless he is—
- (a) employed at an artificial insemination centre established and operated by the Department; or
 - (b) a veterinary surgeon in private practice who artificially inseminates a client's ewe for therapeutic reasons;

shall not, unless he has been granted in accordance with Regulation 5 a licence which permits him to practise artificial insemination, artificially inseminate a ewe with semen collected from a ram other than a ram belonging to the flock to which that ewe belongs.

Licences to practise artificial insemination

5.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person who applies for a licence permitting him to practise artificial insemination shall satisfy the Department that he has received approved instruction regarding artificial insemination and unless he shall so satisfy the Department it shall not grant such licence to him.

(2) A licence to practise artificial insemination shall not be granted other than to a person:

- (a) who is employed by a licensed operator;
- (b) who is the owner of a flock; or
- (c) who is a full-time employee of and nominated by a person who is the owner of a flock.

(3) A licence granted to a person referred to in sub-paragraph (2)(b) or (2)(c) shall be subject to the conditions set out in the Second Schedule and in that licence.

Collection and sale of semen

6.—(1) A person shall not, except in an approved artificial insemination centre, collect semen for the purpose of the sale thereof.

(2) Where semen is collected for the purpose of the sale thereof within Northern Ireland such semen shall be obtained only from an approved ram which has been kept continuously at an approved artificial insemination centre either for a period of 14 days immediately preceding the date of the first collection of semen from that ram or for such other period of time as it takes for that ram to pass all veterinary and other tests in respect of it which are required by the Department, whichever period is the longer.

(3) A person shall not sell semen which has been collected for the purpose of the sale thereof within Northern Ireland unless the ram from which such semen has been collected has passed all veterinary and other tests in respect of it which are required by the Department.

(4) Where semen is collected for the purpose of the sale thereof outside Northern Ireland such semen shall be obtained only from a ram which has been kept continuously at an approved artificial insemination centre either for a period of 28 days immediately preceding the date of the first collection of semen from that ram or for such other period of time as is required by the permit authority, whichever period is the longer.

(5) A person shall not sell semen which has been collected for the purpose of the sale thereof outside Northern Ireland unless the ram from which such semen has been collected has passed all veterinary and other tests in respect of it which are required by the Department.

(6) The Department may on behalf of the owner of a ram in Northern Ireland undertake the collection of semen from that ram.

Storage of semen

7.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person shall not store semen except at an approved artificial insemination centre or on the premises of a person who has been granted a licence to practise artificial insemination.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in the case of the owner of a flock who stores on his premises semen collected from a ram in that flock for use in ewes belonging to that flock.

(3) The Department may on behalf of the owner of a ram in Northern Ireland undertake the storage of semen collected from that ram.

Distribution and sale of semen

8. A person shall not except from an approved artificial insemination centre distribute or sell semen.

Use of semen

9. A person shall not use for the artificial insemination of ewes belonging to one flock semen which has been collected from a ram belonging to another flock whether or not the ram from which such semen has been collected is owned by the owner or joint owners of both flocks.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 7th January 1981.

(L.S.)

W. H. Parker

Assistant Secretary

FIRST SCHEDULE

Regulation 3

Conditions attaching to a licence granted for the operation of a private artificial insemination centre

The licensed operator shall ensure that—

1. an approved veterinary surgeon shall control and supervise all activities taking place in the centre;
2. a person employed at the centre to practise artificial insemination shall not do so until he has been granted a licence for that purpose;
3. such part of the centre as is used for the collection and storage of semen shall be constructed and maintained in such manner as the Department shall consider satisfactory;
4. such equipment as is used in the centre for the collection and storage of semen shall be of such type and maintained in such manner as the Department shall consider satisfactory;
5. the methods employed in the centre for the collection and storage of semen shall be such as the Department shall consider satisfactory;
6. a record is maintained of each ewe which has been artificially inseminated and that such record includes:
 - (i) the name and address of the owner of the ewe;
 - (ii) the identification number or marking and breed of the ewe;
 - (iii) the date of each artificial insemination (including repeat inseminations); and
 - (iv) detailed identification of the semen used;
7. where a pedigree ewe is artificially inseminated, in addition to the record required by paragraph (6) a record is maintained showing its tattoo or other pedigree mark and the date of birth and sex of each lamb born from such artificial insemination;
8. the Department is notified in writing of any abnormal birth of a lamb born to a ewe following upon its artificial insemination and that such notification is given within 28 days of any abnormal birth;
9. a record is maintained which shows in respect of each ram, the semen from which has been used in the artificial insemination of ewes, the date and place of each artificial insemination by such semen, the identification number or marking and breed of ewes artificially inseminated by such semen and the name and address of the owner of such ewes;
10. records maintained pursuant to paragraphs (6), (7) and (9) shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection by an authorised person who may take copies of, or of any entry in, any such records.

SECOND SCHEDULE

Regulation 5(3)

Conditions attaching to a licence to practise artificial insemination granted to a person who is the owner of a flock or his nominated full-time employee

The licensee shall—

1. practise artificial insemination only on ewes within the flock stated in the licence;
2. use for the artificial insemination of ewes only semen collected in accordance with Regulation 6 or semen brought into Northern Ireland under a licence granted by the Department;
3. ensure that the semen which is for use in the artificial insemination of ewes in the flock stated in the licence and which is stored on premises of the owner of the flock is kept in a container of a type satisfactory to the Department and is not moved elsewhere without the prior approval in writing of the Department;
4. where semen from a ram which is not the property of the owner of the flock is used for artificial insemination of ewes in the flock stated in the licence, maintain a record of the number of ewes which have been artificially inseminated and include in such records the identification number or marking and breed of each ewe, the date of each artificial insemination (including repeat inseminations) and detailed identification of the semen used;
5. where a pedigree ewe is artificially inseminated, in addition to the record required by paragraph (4) maintain a record showing its tattoo or other pedigree mark and the date of birth and sex of each lamb born from such artificial insemination;
6. ensure that the Department is notified in writing of any abnormal birth of a lamb born to a ewe following upon its artificial insemination and that such notification is given within 28 days of any abnormal birth;
7. permit an authorised person at all reasonable times to inspect the premises and the equipment;
8. ensure that records maintained pursuant to paragraphs (4) and (5) shall be available at all reasonable times for inspection by an authorised person who may take copies of, or of any entry in, any such records.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These regulations provide for:—

1. the licensing of persons to operate in respect of sheep private artificial insemination centres;
2. the licensing of persons who are owners of flocks of sheep (or full-time employees of such persons who are nominated by them) to practise artificial insemination of ewes in their own flocks;
3. the regulating of the collection, storage, distribution, sale and use of ram semen.

A contravention of, or failure to comply with, these regulations constitutes an offence under Article 10 of the Artificial Reproduction of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1975.