
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2004 No. 386

**The Genetically Modified Animal Feed
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004**

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Genetically Modified Animal Feed Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 and shall come into operation on 8th October 2004.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations –

“the Act” means the Agriculture Act 1970(1);

“the Department” means the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;

“inspector” means a person appointed by the Department under section 67(2) of the Act(2);

“Regulation 1829/2003” means Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council on genetically modified food and feed(3);

“specified community provision” means a provision of Regulation 1829/2003 specified in Column 1 and described in Column 2 of the Schedule.

(2) In these Regulations –

(a) any reference to a numbered Article is a reference to the Article so numbered in Regulation 1829/2003;

(b) any reference to a numbered regulation is, unless the contrary is indicated, a reference to the regulation so numbered in these Regulations;

(c) any reference to a Schedule is a reference to the Schedule to these Regulations.

(3) Other expressions used in these Regulations and in Regulation 1829/2003 have the same meanings in these Regulations as in Regulation 1829/2003.

(4) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954(4) shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Submission of applications for authorisation to market products

3. The national competent authority for the purposes of Chapter III of Regulation 1829/2003 shall be the Food Standards Agency(5).

(1) 1970 c. 40

(2) Section 67, in its application to Northern Ireland, is substituted by section 86(3) of the Agriculture Act 1970

(3) O.J. No. L268, 18.10.2003, p. 1

(4) 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)

(5) The address of the Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland is 10B Clarendon Road, Belfast BT1 3BG

Enforcement

4. The Department shall enforce and execute the provisions of these Regulations and Chapter III of Regulation 1829/2003.

Offences and penalties

5.—(1) Any person, after the date on which these Regulations come into operation, who contravenes the specified Community provision in Part I of the Schedule shall be guilty of an offence and liable –

- (a) on summary conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum, or to both; or
- (b) on conviction on indictment to a term of imprisonment not exceeding two years or to a fine, or to both.

(2) Any person who, after the date on which these Regulations come into operation, contravenes any of the specified Community provisions contained in Part II of the Schedule shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to both.

(3) Any person guilty of an offence under regulation 8(2) shall be liable on summary conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding three months or to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, or to both.

Application of various provisions of the Act

6.—(1) The provisions of the Act listed in paragraph (2) shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations and Regulation 1829/2003 as if –

- (a) any reference in them to feeding stuff were a reference to feed;
- (b) any reference in them to the Act or any Part of it were a reference to these Regulations and Regulation 1829/2003;
- (c) any reference in them to samples taken in a prescribed manner were a reference to samples taken in a manner prescribed in Part II of Schedule 1 to the Feeding Stuffs (Sampling and Analysis) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999(6);
- (d) any reference in them to a prescribed method of analysis were a reference to –
 - (i) in relation to detecting the use of a particular, authorised genetically modified organism the method described in Article 17(3)(i) for detection and identification of the transformation event, or
 - (ii) where no such method exists, or where the particular genetically modified organism is unauthorised, any method that satisfies regulation 5(4)(b) of the Feeding Stuffs (Sampling and Analysis) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999.

(2) The provisions referred to in paragraph (1) are –

- (a) section 76 (inspector's power to enter premises and take samples), with the modification that paragraph (b) of subsection (2) shall be construed as if it gave the inspector power to take copies of any documentation relating to the feed;
- (b) section 77 (division of samples and analysis by agricultural analyst);
- (c) section 78(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (10) (further analysis by Chief Agricultural Analyst);

(6) [S.R. 1999 No. 296](#); the relevant amending Regulations are [S.R. 2002 No. 263](#) and [S.R. 2003 No. 287](#)

- (d) section 79(4), (5), (6), (8) and (10) (supplementary provisions relating to samples and analysis);
- (e) section 80 (institution of prosecutions);
- (f) section 81 (offences due to fault of other person);
- (g) section 82 (defence of mistake, accident, etc.);
- (h) section 83 (exercise of powers by inspectors);
- (i) section 110 (offences by bodies corporate).

Application of various provisions of the Feeding Stuffs (Sampling and Analysis) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999

7.—(1) The provisions of the Feeding Stuffs (Sampling and Analysis) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations and Regulation 1829/2003 subject to the modifications set out in that paragraph and as if any reference in those provisions to a feeding stuff were a reference to feed.

- (2) The provisions referred to in paragraph (1) are –
 - (a) regulation 3(a) (manner of taking, preparing, marking, sealing and fastening samples);
 - (b) regulation 4 (methods of sending part of a sample), which shall apply as if the reference to “subsection (1)(b) or (2) of section 77 of the Act” were a reference to these Regulations and Regulation 1829/2003;
 - (c) regulation 5(4) (application of methods of analysis), which shall apply as if the reference to “the Act” were a reference to these Regulations and Regulation 1829/2003;
 - (d) regulation 6 (form of certificate of analysis), which shall apply as if the reference to “section 77(4) of the Act” were a reference to section 77(4) of the Act as applied by these Regulations;
 - (e) regulation 7 (period within which analysis of the oil content of a feeding stuff must be carried out) which shall apply as if the reference to a sample taken in “the prescribed manner” were a reference to a sample taken in accordance with these Regulations;
 - (f) Schedule 1 (manner of taking, preparing, marking, sealing and fastening of samples);
 - (g) Schedule 3 (form of certificate of analysis) which shall apply as if the reference to “Part IV of the Agriculture Act 1970” were a reference to the Genetically Modified Animal Feed Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.

Inspection, seizure and detention of suspected animal feed

8.—(1) An inspector may at all reasonable times inspect any material intended for use as animal feed which –

- (a) has been placed on the market;
- (b) is in the possession of, or has been deposited with or consigned to, any person for the purpose of placing on the market or of preparation for placing on the market,

and paragraphs (2) to (9) shall apply where, on such an inspection, or upon analysis of samples taken, it appears to him that the material may fail to comply with a specified Community provision.

- (2) The inspector may either –
 - (a) give notice to the person in charge of the material that, until the notice is withdrawn, the material or any specified portion of it –
 - (i) is not to be used as feed; and

- (ii) either is not to be removed or is not to be removed except to some place specified in the notice; or
- (b) seize the material and remove it in order to have it dealt with by a justice of the peace; and any person who knowingly contravenes the requirements of a notice under sub-paragraph (a) shall be guilty of an offence.
- (3) Where the inspector exercises the powers conferred by paragraph 2(a), he shall, as soon as is reasonably practicable and in any event within 21 days, determine whether or not he is satisfied that the material complies with the specified Community provisions and –
- (a) if he is so satisfied, shall forthwith withdraw the notice;
- (b) if he is not so satisfied, shall seize the material and remove it in order to have it dealt with by a justice of the peace.
- (4) Where the inspector exercises the powers conferred by paragraphs 2(b) or 3(b), he shall inform the person in charge of the material of his intention to have it dealt with by a justice of the peace and –
- (a) any person who under regulation 5 might be liable to a prosecution in respect of the material shall, if he attends before the justice of the peace by whom the material falls to be dealt with, be entitled to be heard and to call witnesses; and
- (b) that justice of the peace may, but need not, be a member of the court before which any person is charged with an offence in relation to that material.
- (5) If it appears to a justice of the peace, on the basis of such evidence as he considers appropriate in the circumstances, that any material falling to be dealt with by him under this regulation fails to comply with a specified Community provision then, subject to paragraph (6), he shall condemn the material and order –
- (a) the material to be destroyed or to be so disposed of as to prevent it from being used for human consumption, or for animal feed; and
- (b) any expenses reasonably incurred in connection with the destruction or disposal to be defrayed by the operator.
- (6) In the case of material referred to in Article 15.1 which is the subject of an authorisation granted under Regulation 1829/2003 and has been produced in accordance with any conditions relating to that authorisation but does not bear the appropriate labelling as required by Article 25, the justice of the peace may, at his discretion, order –
- (a) that the material be labelled properly as soon as is reasonably practicable and at the expense of the operator; and
- (b) the release of the material into the custody of the operator.
- (7) If a notice under paragraph 2(a) is withdrawn, or the justice of the peace by whom any material falls to be dealt with under this regulation refuses to condemn it or to make an order for the proper labelling of the material, the Department shall compensate the owner of the material for any depreciation in its value resulting from the action taken by the inspector.
- (8) Where any material which fails to comply with a specified Community provision is part of a batch, lot or consignment of feed of the same class or description, it shall be presumed for the purposes of this regulation, until the contrary is proved, that all of the feed in that batch, lot or consignment fails to comply with that specified Community provision.
- (9) Any disputed question as to the right or the amount of any compensation payable under paragraph (7) shall be determined by a single arbitrator appointed, failing agreement between the parties, by the Department; and the provisions of the Arbitration Act 1996(7) shall apply accordingly.

Notices

9. Any notice to be given under regulation 8 –
- (a) must be signed on behalf of the Department by either –
 - (i) an inspector acting on behalf of the Department; or
 - (ii) any officer of the Department authorised by it in writing to sign such notices, or that particular notice, on its behalf;
 - (b) if purporting to bear the signature (which includes a facsimile of a signature by whatever means reproduced) of an officer who is expressed to be an inspector, or other officer duly authorised to sign the notice, shall be deemed, unless the contrary is proven, to have been duly issued by authority of the Department;
 - (c) shall be served on the person in charge of the material.

Time Limit for prosecutions

10. No prosecution for an offence under these Regulations shall be begun after the expiry of –
- (a) three years from the commission of the offence; or
 - (b) one year from its discovery by the prosecutor,
- whichever is the earlier.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on 10th September 2004.

L.S.

Leslie Frew
A senior officer of the
Department of Health, Social Services and
Public Safety