

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE VEGETABLE SEEDS AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2007 SSI/2007/305

Introduction

1. The above instrument is made by the Scottish Ministers in exercise of powers conferred by section 16(1), (1A), (2) and (3) and 36 of the Plant Varieties and Seeds Act 1964. The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objective

2. To amend the Vegetable Seeds Regulations 1993 (S.I. 1993/2008) (“the 1993 Regulations”) in order to transpose Commission Directive 2006/124/EC (O.J. No. L 339, 6.12.2006, p.12) (“the Directive”), which has to be implemented from 1st July 2007.

Background

3. The Directive, adds maize (popcorn and sweet corn) to the species of vegetable seed which are subject to marketing control for quality. The UK has been granted a derogation in relation to some other species specified in this directive (Shallot, Japanese bunching Onion/Welsh Onion, Garlic, Chives and Rhubarb) on the grounds that there is little seed production of such species in the UK.

4. Although implementing the Directive will bring popcorn and sweet corn within the scope of the 1993 Regulations, the seed certification requirements are minimal and most of the seed will be imported.

5. The addition of sweet corn and popcorn to the 1993 Regulations requires the provision of minimum standards for seeds of sweet corn and popcorn as regards certification and dimensions for the equipment to be used when taking samples to be prescribed. These Regulations achieve this.

6. As well as implementing the Directive the Regulations also make a minor amendment to ensure that the common name of species must appear on labelling. Whilst Latin remains optional, in addition, it cannot be used as an alternative to the common name.

Consultation

7. The main seed trade organisations: National Farmers’ Union Scotland; Scottish Seed Trade Association; Scottish Seed Timothy Growers Association; Agricultural Industries Confederation, were consulted on the 16 March 2007. No responses were received by the Scottish Executive.