

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE BEEF AND VEAL LABELLING (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 SSI/2008/418

Introduction

1. The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred upon Scottish Ministers by section 2 (2) of the European Communities Act 1972. It is subject to negative resolution procedure.
2. The Regulations revoke and replace the previous Beef Labelling (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2001 (S.S.I. 2001/252) and set out labelling requirements for both beef and veal.

Background

3. The Regulations provide for the enforcement of compulsory and voluntary beef labelling schemes, in implementation of the following Community Instruments¹:
 - Title II of Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council, which establishes a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products;
 - Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1825/2000 laying down detailed rules for the application of Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000 regarding the labelling of beef and beef products; and
 - Commission Regulations (EC) Nos. 1234/2007 and 566/2008, in particular the provisions in (EC) 566/2008 regarding the marketing of bovine animals aged 12 months or less.
4. The Scottish Ministers enforce these Regulations in slaughterhouses, cutting plants and wholesalers, the relevant local authority in all other places. Authorised officers have powers of entry and a number of inspection and sampling powers to enforce the Regulations (Schedule 2, paragraphs 1 and 2).
5. The effect of the Regulations is to introduce new compulsory labelling for meat, including offal, of bovine animals aged 12 months or less, divided into two sub-categories, namely meat from animals aged 8 months or less and meat from animals aged over 8 months but not more than 12 months.
6. All bovine animals aged 12 months or less must be appropriately classified on slaughter by the operators and it will only be possible to market the meat under the sales description laid down for the two categories for each Member State. Prior to the Regulations,

¹ A copy of the Community instruments are available in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe).

no statutory descriptions existed for this type of bovine meat and it had been possible to use the term 'veal' to describe meat from bovine animals slaughtered at over 8 months.

Consultation

7. A full 12 week consultation took place on the proposed Beef and Veal Labelling (Scotland) Regulations 2008. The consultation letter was sent to 8 stakeholders. Only one substantive response was received; this was from the National Farmers Union for Scotland, who were generally supportive.

Regulatory Impact Assessment

8. A Regulatory Impact Assessment has been produced for this instrument. Given the small scale of veal production in Scotland, the costs are expected to be minimal. The small number of veal suppliers might incur marketing costs in order to explain to consumers the effects of the regulatory changes; these are difficult to quantify but expected to be limited. Suppliers will also incur costs for verification of labelling associated with the new Regulation. Verification checks are carried out by private operators; they vary in cost but the annual charge is likely to be in the region of £300.

The Scottish Government Rural Directorate
December 2008