

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations, which come into force on 1st October 2001, prescribe that the Ministers (that is, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Scottish Ministers, the National Assembly for Wales, and the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture and Rural Development), acting jointly, shall exercise the functions of the “competent authority” (as described in Article 4(1) (a) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1258/1999 (OJ No. L160, 26.6.1999, p.103) and Article 1 of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1663/95 (OJ No. L158, 8.7.95, p.6), as amended and rectified) and the “co-ordinating body” (as described in Article 4(1)(b) of the Council Regulation and Article 2(1) of the Commission Regulation). The former is responsible for the issue and withdrawal of accreditation of paying agencies in respect of the common agricultural policy in the United Kingdom. The latter is responsible for bringing together and supplying required information to the Commission and for promoting the harmonised application of Community rules between paying agencies in the United Kingdom.