

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Title: The Pig Carcase (Grading) (Amendment) (England) Regulations SI 2004/1505

Laying Authority and Purpose:

This explanatory memorandum is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

Department responsible:

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Description:

This instrument amends the Pig Carcase (Grading) Regulations 1994 by implementing a Commission Decision authorising certain methods to be used for grading pig carcasses in the UK.

Legislative background:

The instrument is being made pursuant to section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972. It implements Commission Decision 2004/370/EC which has replaced Commission Decision 88/234/EEC and various amending Decisions.

Extent:

The instrument applies to England only.

Policy background:

Pig carcase grading is controlled by Council Regulation 3220/84 (EEC) and Commission Regulation 2967/85 (EEC), which set out a Community scale for carcase classification. The purpose of this EC legislation is to ensure the uniform grading of carcasses in order to facilitate fair payment to producers and to improve the transparency of the market in pig carcasses. The legislation means that Member States must have authorised grading methods for determining estimated lean meat percentages in pig carcasses.

The Meat and Livestock Commission evaluated the accuracy of UK approved grading methods last year and found that the formulae applied to predict lean meat percentages did not achieve the accuracy requirements of EC legislation. Revised formulae which meet these requirements have now been set out in Commission Decision 2004/370/EC.

Industry was consulted and was keen that this change to EC legislation, and consequently to domestic legislation, was made.

This change is neither politically nor legally controversial. It is, however, of importance to the industry as it enables it to use the new more accurate formulae.

Impact:

A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on the costs of business.

Contact:

Duncan Prior

Defra

Pigs, Eggs & Poultry Branch

Livestock Products Division

Area 5E, 9 Millbank, c/o 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR

Tel: 020 7238 3100