
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations make amendments to various rules regarding the operation and management of rural development schemes established originally pursuant to Regulation (EC) No 1257/1999 on support for rural development from the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF) (EUR 1999/1257), Regulation (EU) No 1698/2005 of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (EUR 2005/1698) and Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council on support for rural development by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) (EUR 2013/1305), in order to align more closely with equivalent schemes established under the Agriculture Act 2020 (c. 21).

Regulations 2 and 6 amend rules relating to the publication of information by the authority and agreement holders.

Regulations 3(2), 3(5) to 3(7), 4(2), 4(4), 4(7) and 4(8) and 8(4) to 8(6) provide for greater flexibility in the manner in which on-the-spot inspections and ex-post checks are undertaken and the processes for determining which agreement holders will be subject to on-the-spot inspections and ex-post checks.

Regulations 3(3) and (4), 4(3), 4(5) and (6), 4(9) and 7(3) and (4) amend various rules relating to the application of penalties, recoveries and similar options in relation to non-compliance with scheme rules.

Regulation 5 amends an administrative requirement in relation to payment rate ceilings.

Regulations 7(2) and 8(2) and 8(3) provide for greater flexibility in the form and content of payment claims.

A full impact assessment has not been produced for this instrument as no, or no significant, impact on the private, voluntary or public sector is foreseen.