1995 No. 470

FOOD

The Mechanically Recovered Meat Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995

Made . . . . . *15th December 1995*

Coming into operation . . *18th December 1995*

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 15(1) and (2)(i) of the Food (Northern Ireland) Order 1989(**a**) and now vested in it(**b**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, and after consultation, in accordance with Article 72(2) of that Order, with such organisations that appear to it to be representative of interests substantially affected by the Regulations, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Mechanically Recovered Meat Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 and shall come into operation on 18th December 1995.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland;

"mechanical means" does not include the use of hand held powered knives which do not use powered pressure or suction; and

"vertebral column" means the whole or any part thereof and includes the sacrum but does not include the coccygeal vertebrae.

Prohibitions applying to vertebral column

3.—(1) A person shall not use the vertebral column of a bovine animal in the recovery of meat by mechanical means.

(2) A person shall not use, in the preparation of food for sale for human consumption, any meat which has been recovered by mechanical means from the vertebral column of a bovine animal.

(3) A person shall not use the vertebral column of a bovine animal, from which meat has been cut, to produce food other than fat or gelatin for sale for human consumption.

(a) S.I. 1989/846 (N.I. 6)
(b) S.R. 1990 No. 394

Registration of premises on which meat is recovered by mechanical means from bovine animals

4.—(1) A person shall not on any premises recover meat by mechanical means from a bovine animal unless his name and the address of those premises are registered with the Department.

(2) The Department shall keep a register for the purposes of paragraph (1).

(3) An application for registration shall be in writing and in such form and manner as the Department may require.

(4) The Department shall refuse to register the name of any person in respect of any premises unless the following particulars are notified to it in writing:

(*a*) the business name, if any;

(*b*) the name and address of the person who carries on the business;

(*c*) the address and telephone number of the business;

(*d*) the address of each premises at which meat is recovered by mechanical means from a bovine animal in the course of the business.

(5) A person whose name is registered shall notify the Department in writing of any change in the particulars previously notified to it within 14 days of any such change.

Offences

5. A person who contravenes these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum.

6. Any requirement under regulation 4 shall not have effect until 31st January 1996.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture on 15th December 1995.

(L.S.) *L. Sinclair*

Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations impose certain restrictions on the use of the vertebral column of bovine animals (regulation 3) and a registration requirement, effective from 31st January 1996, for those premises on which meat is recovered by mechanical means from bovine animals (regulation 4). The Regulations also specifically exclude from the expression "mechanical means" hand held powered knives which do not use powered pressure or suction (regulation 2).

Any person who contravenes any provision of the Regulations shall be guilty of an offence under the Food (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 (regulation 5). The penalty, on summary conviction, is a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum (currently £5,000).

A Compliance Cost Assessment has been prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.