1971. No. 61 **[C]**

POULTRY

Mycoplasma gallisepticum Control Scheme

SCHEME*, DATED 11TH FEBRUARY 1971, MADE BY THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE UNDER SECTION 1 OF THE POULTRY IMPROVEMENT ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1968.

The Ministry of Agriculture in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 1 of the Poultry Improvement Act (Northern Ireland) 1968(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and after such consultation as is required by Section 12(1) of the said Act hereby makes the following Scheme.

Citation and commencement

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Mycoplasma gallisepticum Control Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1971 and shall come into operation on 1st March 1971.

Interpretation

2. In this Scheme:

"Blood test" means a test for the presence or absence of Mycoplasma gallisepticum antibodies in the blood.

"Certificate of clearance" means a certificate issued by the Ministry under Article 9(1).

"Certified flock" means a flock of poultry in respect of which a certificate of clearance has been issued.

"Commercial chicks" means chicks intended for the production of eggs for consumption or of poultry meat or poults intended for the production of turkeys for consumption.

"Commercial hatchery" means any hatchery which may be registered as a commercial hatchery in accordance with Article 5(3).

"Commercial stock" means commercial chicks and hatching eggs intended for the production of commercial chicks.

"Elite stock" means poultry breeding stock maintained for the production and distribution of grandparent stock or parent stock whether as hatching eggs or chicks.

"Grandparent stock" means poultry breeding stock maintained for the production and distribution of parent stock whether as hatching eggs or chicks.

"Mycoplasma" mean Mycoplasma gallisepticum.

"Parent hatchery" means any hatchery which may be registered as a parent hatchery in accordance with Article 5(6).

(a) 1968. c. 12 (N.I.).

*This Order was approved by a Resolution of the Senate on 25th February 1971 and by a Resolution of the House of Commons on 25th February 1971.

"Parent stock" means poultry breeding stock or hatching eggs intended for the production of poultry breeding stock maintained primarily for the production and distribution of commercial stock.

"Registered" means entered in the register of hatcheries to be maintained by the Ministry in accordance with Article 4.

"Supervised flock" means a flock of poultry on which testing for the purposes of determining the presence or absence of Mycoplasma infection is currently being carried out by the Ministry.

Purpose

3. The Ministry shall in accordance with this Scheme provide facilities for the testing of elite stock, grandparent stock and parent stock to determine the presence or absence of Mycoplasma.

Register

4. The Ministry shall in accordance with this Scheme maintain a Register of Hatcheries (hereinafter called "the Register"). A hatchery may be registered as a commercial hatchery or a parent hatchery.

5.—(1) Any person operating a hatchery may apply to have such hatchery registered.

(2) The Ministry may publish the register or any extract therefrom in such manner as it sees fit.

(3) Subject to the provisions of paragraph (4) the Ministry may register a hatchery as a commercial hatchery where, but only where, it is satisfied that all necessary arrangements have been made for the supply to that hatchery of hatching eggs from parent stock in certified flocks which are the progeny of elite stock or grandparent stock in certified flocks and that only hatching eggs from such parent stock in certified flocks (or from parent stock in certified flocks which are the progeny of elite stock or grandparent stock in respect of which such certificate as is mentioned in paragraph 4 has been issued) are brought into that hatchery.

(4) The Ministry may register a hatchery as a commercial hatchery where it is satisfied that all necessary arrangements have been made for the supply to that hatchery of hatching eggs from parent stock in certified flocks which are the progeny of elite and grandparent stock in respect of which a certificate issued by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Irish Republic stating that the stock has been tested for Mycoplasma gallisepticum with negative results has been lodged with the Ministry and that only hatching eggs from such parent stock in certified flocks or from parent stock which are the progeny of elite stock or grandparent stock in certified flocks are brought in to that hatchery.

(5) A commercial hatchery shall sell, supply or distribute only commercial chicks which have been taken from certified flocks and which are the progeny of parent stock in certified flocks.

(6) The Ministry may register a hatchery as a parent hatchery where, but only where, it is satisfied that all necessary arrangements have been made for the supply to that hatchery of hatching eggs from elite stock or grandparent stock in certified flocks and that only hatching eggs from elite stock or grandparent stock in certified flocks are brought in to that hatchery.

(7) A parent hatchery shall sell, supply or distribute only parent stock which are the progeny of elite stock or grandparent stock in certified flocks and in the case of chicks which have been taken from a certified flock.

Application

6. An application to have a hatchery registered shall be made by the person operating such hatchery and the applicant shall inform the Ministry which flocks of elite, grandparent and parent stock he requires to be tested under this Scheme and shall provide such information as the Ministry may require in respect of such flocks and the premises on which they are kept.

7. Before a flock of elite stock or grandparent stock or parent stock is accepted for testing under this Scheme the premises on which it is kept shall be inspected by an authorised officer who shall advise the occupier of the premises on which the birds are kept as to what measures, if any, he considers are necessary to ensure that the necessary health standards are attained before testing is carried out and the Ministry shall not accept any such flock for testing until such measures have been carried out.

Certified flocks

8.—(1) To be eligible to become a certified flock all birds in a supervised flock of elite stock or grandparent stock shall between the ages of 16 and 24 weeks be submitted to a blood test with negative results. Blood samples shall be taken by authorised officers.

(2) To be eligible to become a certified flock 20 per cent. of all birds in a supervised flock of parent stock shall between the ages of 16 and 24 weeks be submitted to a blood test with negative results, except that parent stock in supervised flocks accepted into the Scheme under Article 5(4) shall have all birds in such flocks between the ages of 16 and 24 weeks submitted to a blood test. The samples in each case shall be taken by authorised officers after the stock has been for not less than 3 weeks on the premises where the test is carried out.

9.—(1) Where a flock of poultry has been tested under this Scheme for the presence of Mycoplasma with negative results the Ministry shall issue a certificate called a certificate of clearance, to that effect. Only stock from another certified flock may be brought on to premises on which there is a certified flock.

(2) A certificate of clearance shall be revoked if Mycoplasma infection is subsequently found in the certified flock in respect of which it was issued.

Routine blood testing

10. At intervals of 2 months 10 per cent. of all birds in certified flocks of elite stock or grandparent stock shall be submitted to a blood test. Parent stock in certified flocks or by agreement between the Ministry and the person operating a commercial hatchery such chicks in such hatchery as are progeny of such stock shall be submitted to such blood tests at such intervals as the Ministry may from time to time determine. Samples for testing in each case shall be taken under the supervision of persons operating the hatchery or under arrangements approved by the Ministry but the Ministry may if it thinks fit require the samples to be taken by an authorised officer and forwarded at the expense of the person operating the hatchery to the Veterinary Research Laboratories of the Ministry for testing.

11.—(1) Where the Ministry has reason to suspect the existence of Mycoplasma infection in a certified flock it shall carry out without charge such additional tests on that flock as it shall deem necessary.

(2) Until the Ministry is satisfied that suspected infection in a certified flock is not present no person shall sell, supply or distribute hatching eggs from such flock to a registered hatchery.

(3) Where infection is confirmed in elite or grandparent stock in a certified flock the certificate of clearance shall be suspended in respect of any certified flocks of grandparent or parent stock into which progeny of the stock of such first mentioned flock has been introduced since the last negative test of such stock and the Ministry shall carry out without charge such tests as it shall deem necessary of such grandparent or parent flocks in order to determine whether infection exists. Where the Ministry is satisfied that infection is not present in such grandparent or parent flocks the certificate of clearance shall be restored.

(4) Where infection is confirmed in parent stock in a certified flock the Ministry shall revoke the certificate of clearance in respect of such flock and hatching eggs from such flock may not thereafter be sent to a registered hatchery.

(5) Where infection is suspected or confirmed in a certified flock the Ministry may require any person operating a hatchery receiving hatching eggs from such certified stock or any other persons with whom arrangements have been made under Article 5(3)(6) and (7) to take such measures as the Ministry considers necessary to improve the health standard of the flock and to prevent the further spread of infection and such person shall comply with such requirements.

Advertising

12. Commercial chicks sold, supplied or distributed by a registered commercial hatchery may be advertised as "Certified MG tested by Ministry of Agriculture" and no other chicks shall be so advertised.

Charges

13. The following scales of fees shall be payable by the person operating a hatchery in respect of blood samples tested by the Ministry under this Scheme.

For each blood sample taken by an authorised officer	5p
For each blood sample not so taken	3p

Removal from register and withdrawal from Scheme

14. The Ministry may cease to carry out tests on a supervised flock where it is satisfied during testing that the standards of husbandry and disease control maintained on the premises where the flock is kept are such that freedom from Mycoplasma infection is unlikely to be achieved.

15.—(1) The Ministry may remove any hatchery from the Register if the person operating the hatchery or any person acting on his behalf contravenes or fails to observe any of the provisions of this Scheme or fails to comply with any requirement duly made by the Ministry in pursuance of this Scheme.

(2) A person operating a registered hatchery may withdraw such hatchery from the Scheme at any time upon giving one month's notice in writing to the Ministry. All charges due to the Ministry in respect of such hatchery under this Scheme shall be paid up to the date of expiration of such notice and on the expiration of such notice the hatchery shall be removed from the Register.

16. The Ministry shall not be responsible for any loss or damage sustained by any person howsoever caused in consequence of the taking of samples or testing carried out under this Scheme or otherwise in consequence of the operation thereof.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Ministry of Agriculture for Northern Ireland this 11th day of February 1971 in the presence of

(L.S.)

J. Parke,
Assistant Secretary.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note does not form part of the Scheme but is intended to indicate its general purport).

This Poultry Improvement Scheme enables the Ministry to provide a voluntary fee paying Scheme to test for the presence or absence of Mycoplasma gallisepticum (PPLO) in layers, broilers and turkeys.

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As these Orders have been classified as local they are not printed at length in this volume. Summaries are given in the List of Statutory Rules and Orders of a Local Character under the heading ROAD TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES.