STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1999 No. 2933

AGRICULTURE

The Organic Farming (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1999

Made - - - - -	*3rd November 1999*
Laid before Parliament	*3rd November 1999*
Coming into force - -	*24th November 1999*

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, being a Minister designated(**a**) for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(**b**) in relation to the common agricultural policy of the European Community, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by that section, and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations—

Title and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Organic Farming (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 1999 and shall come into force on 24th November 1999.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulation "the principal Regulations" means the Organic Farming Regulations 1999(**c**).

Amendment of the principal Regulations

3. The principal Regulations shall be amended in accordance with the following provisions of these regulations.

4. In regulation 6A ("Closing date for accepting applications for aid") of the principal Regulations—

(a) in paragraph (1), for "5th October" there shall be substituted "1st December"; and

(b) after paragraph (3), there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

"(4) For the purpose of calculating the period of three months referred to in regulation 6(2) in relation to any application which, prior to 24th November 1999, the Minister was precluded from accepting by virtue of paragraph (1), the Minister shall not take into account the period beginning on 5th October 1999 and ending on 23rd November 1999 "or" (if earlier) the date on which the application is received.".

Elliot Morley
Parliamentary Secretary,
3rd November 1999 Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

(**a**) S.I. 1972/1811.
(**b**) 1972 c. 68.
(**c**) S.I. 1999/590 as amended by S.I. 1999/2735.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations amend the Organic Farming Regulations 1999 (as amended) ("the principal Regulations") which provide for the payment of aid to farmers who undertake to introduce organic farming methods and comply with certain environmental management conditions, pursuant to Article 2(1)(a) and (d) of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2078/92 (OJ No. L215, 30.7.92, p. 85) ("the Agri-environment Regulation"). The Agri-environment Regulation was repealed by Article 55(1) of Council Regulation (EC) No. 1257/99 (OJ No. L160, 26.6.99, p.80), but, by virtue of Article 55(3) of the latter Regulation, the Agri-environment Regulation continues to apply to actions approved by the Commission before 1st January 2000.

The principal Regulations were amended by the Organic Farming (Amendment) Regulations 1999 (S.I. 1999/2735), which came into force on 5th October 1999, to provide that the Minister shall not, subject to the limited exception contained in regulation 6A(2), accept any application for aid unless it was received before 5th October 1999.

These Regulations further amend the principal Regulations to extend the application period by postponing the final date for receipt of applications to 1st December 1999 *(regulation 4(a))*. The period between the coming into force of S.I. 1999/2735 and the coming into force of these Regulations is not to be taken into account in calculating the three month period prescribed by regulation 6(2), that is to say the period beginning with the issue of a certificate of registration, and within which applications must be received by the Minister *(regulation 4(b))*.

No regulatory impact assessment has been prepared in respect of these Regulations.

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