EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

THE PLANT HEALTH (AMENDMENT) ORDER (Northern Ireland) 2014

SR 2014 No. 172

1. The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development makes the following Order**,** in exercise of the powers conferred on it by sections 2 and 3(1) of the Plant Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1967.

2. Description

2.1 This Order repeals the Plant Health (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2008, which was introduced as an emergency measure for the purpose of preventing the introduction or spread of *Diabrotica virgifera* Le Conte in Northern Ireland.

3. Matters of special interest to the Examiner of Statutory Rules

None

4. Legislative Background

4.1 The Statutory Rule will remove controls on an insect pest (*Diabrotica*) of maize and amends the Plant Health Order Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 to update the necessary references required by Commission Implementing Directive 2014/19/EU and Commission Implementing Decision 2014/62/EU.

5. Consultation

5.1 The Department conducted a limited 1 week consultation from 23 May to 30 May 2014. One response was received from the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU)**.** The UFU were supportive of the proposal.

6. Territorial Extent and Application

6.1 This Statutory Rule applies to Northern Ireland. Similar but separate legislation operates in England, Scotland and Wales.

7. European Convention on Human Rights

7.1 The proposed legislation has been screened for these issues and none were indentified.

8. Equality Impact

8.1 The proposed legislation will apply in equal measure to all Section 75 groups. It is not expected that any of these changes will impact differentially across any of the Section 75 groups.

9. Regulatory Impact

9.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this Statutory Rule as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

9.2 There is no impact on the public sector.

10. Financial Implications

10.1 There are no financial implications associated with this Order.

11. Policy background

11.1 This Order removes controls on an insect pest (*Diabrotica*) of maize.

12. Contact

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