EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO

The Plant Protection Products (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

SR 2012 No. 12

1. Introduction

1.1. This Explanatory Memorandum has been prepared by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to accompany the Statutory Rule (details above) which is laid before the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1.2. The Statutory Rule is made under powers conferred on it by section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 and is subject to the negative resolution procedure.

1.3. The rule is due to come into operation on 29 February 2012.

2. Purpose

2.1. The Plant Protection Products Regulations (Northern Ireland) transposed EC Regulation EC 1107/2009, concerning the placing of plant protection products on the market. This statutory rule is being amended to streamline administration procedures between the Chemicals Regulation Directorate and DARD with regards to adjuvants.

3. Background

3.1. The Statutory Rule will streamline administration procedures between the Chemical Regulation Directorate and DARD with regards to adjuvants. This should have no impact on local industry. In addition Regulation 24(4) has been removed from the principal Regulations due to the revocation of the Protection of Animals Act 1911.

4. Matters of Special Interest to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

4.1. N/A

5. Consultation

5.1. The Department has not consulted as this is a technical amendment which does not have any material effect on the Regulations.

6. Position in Great Britain and Ireland

6.1. N/A

7. Equality Impact

7.1. In accordance with DARD's obligations under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the equality implications of the proposed Regulations have been assessed. No adverse equality impacts have been identified under the Equality and Human Rights screening procedures. The Department considers the regulations will not result in any equality differentials amongst Section 75 groups.

8. Regulatory Impact

8.1. This amendment Regulation has no material effect on the Regulation. This approach is in line with DARD's commitment to better regulation and to the Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to reduce the administrative burden on the agri-food sector. Therefore, it is not necessary for a regulatory impact assessment to be carried out for these regulations.

9. Financial Implications

9.1. None

10. Section 24 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

10.1. These Regulations are compliant with Section 24 of the NI Act 1998.

11. EU Implications

11.1. N/A

12. Additional Information

12.1. Not applicable

13. Contact

13.1. Brian Ervine with any queries regarding the Regulations. Tel:02890 525570 or e-mail brian.ervine@dardni.gov.uk