

EXECUTIVE NOTE TO
THE DISEASE CONTROL (INTERIM MEASURES) (SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT
(No 3) ORDER 2007
SSI 2007 No. 423

The above instrument was made under sections 1, 7, 8(1) and 83(2) of the Animal Health Act 1981.

Policy Objective

The policy objective in introducing this legislation is to amend the Disease Control (Interim Measures) (Scotland) Order 2002.

The 2002 Order was introduced following the 2001 foot-and-mouth disease outbreak, to control movements of livestock, and to regulate the holding of some forms of animal gatherings.

The main movement control in the 2002 Order is the imposition of a standstill period, during which animals may not move off a holding onto which other animals have moved. This helps limit the spread of any disease that may be introduced to the premises by the incoming animals.

The application of the standstill period is however subject to several exceptions, which are intended to allow farmers to manage their businesses while preserving good biosecurity measures. One of these is that the animals being moved from a holding have been kept separate from animals moved onto the holding during the standstill imposed by the movement onto the premise.

The discovery of Foot and Mouth disease on 2 farms in Surrey in August 2007 caused the Scottish Ministers to declare a restricted zone in Scotland, under which all livestock movement was prohibited.

The zone restrictions were subsequently lifted on 24 August 2007 as the disease was brought under control. It was however appropriate to maintain some restrictions, and this was achieved by amending the 2002 Order.

The first of the three amending instruments made so far this year (SSI 2007/387) enabled movements of livestock in Scotland, subject to—

- an increase in the standstill period from 13 days to 20 days,
- suspension of various exceptions to the standstill requirement, including the separation exception
- closer supervision of animal gatherings.

The main effect of the second amending instrument (SSI 2007/400) was to reduce the standstill period in the Islands of Scotland from 20 days to 13 days, and to enable certain of the exceptions to the standstill period in the 2002 Order.

This third amending instrument is intended to re-instate the movement controls and regulation of animal gatherings to the position applying in Scotland before the restricted zone was declared. In particular, it reinstates a 13 day standstill for all of Scotland, and applies all the exceptions available to farmers before the current disease outbreak.

Consultation

No formal consultation was undertaken about this Order, as stakeholders were fully engaged about changes to livestock movement controls throughout the period of the disease outbreak.

Rural Directorate
September 2007