



Notification Number: 1997/858/UK

The Beef Bones Regulations 1997

Date received : 15/12/1997

End of Standstill :

Message

MINISTERE DE L'INDUSTRIE ET DE LA RECHERCHE
ATT. M. SERRIS

INSTITUT BELGE DE NORMALISATION,
ATT. M. CROON

SERVICE DE L'ENERGIE DE L'ETAT, LUXEMBOURG
ATT. M. J.P. HOFFMANN

MINISTERE DE L'INDUSTRIE
ATT. M. CAVANNA

DEPT. OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, QUALITY AND EDUCATION DIVISION,
ATT. MRS. B. O'GRADY

GOVERNMENT SERVICE OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, NSAI
ATT. MR. O. BYRNE

MINISTERIE VAN ECONOMISCHE ZAKEN, (DEPT OR),
ATT. MR. VAN DER HEIDE

ERHVERVSFREMME STYRELSEN
INDUSTRIMINISTERIET
ATT. MR. KELD DYBKJAER

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY
ATT. MR. Z.P. MAVROUKAS

HELLINIKOS ORG. TYPOPISOES
ATT. MR. MELAGRAKIS

BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUER WIRTSCHAFT (BMW)
ATT. DR. WINKEL

BUNDESMINISTERIUM FUER WIRTSCHAFTLICHE ANGELEGENHEITEN
ATT. ABT I/A/4 FRAU GREGORICH / FRAU HASLINGER-FENZEL

MIN PARA RELACIONES CON LA COMUNIDA



ATT M. LUIS ANTONIO RICO URIOS

INSTITUTO PORTUGUES DA QUALIDADE
ATT MR. CANDIDO DOS SANTOS, PORTUGAL

KOMMERSKOLLEGIUM
ATT. MS. KERSTIN CARLSSON

MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
ATT. MS. NIEMINEN

DGS INTERNATIONAL BELGIUM

REP PERMANENTE ROYAUME UNI

REP PERMANENTE IRLANDE

REP PERMANENTE GRECE

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

EUROPEAN FREE TRADE ASSOCIATION
ATT. MS. BAKKE-D'ALOYA

TELEX 001

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION - SG (97) D/53513
DIRECTIVES 83/189/EEC, 88/182/EEC AND 94/10/EC

NOTIFIKATION - NOTIFIZIERUNG - NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICACION
NOTIFICATION - NOTIFICA - KENNISGEVING - NOTIFICACAO - ILMOITUS
ANMÄLAN : 97/0858/UK.

FRISTERNE INDLEDES IKKE -KEIN FRISTBEGINN - DOES NOT OPEN THE
DELAYS - NO ABRE EL PLAZO - N'OUVRE PAS DE DELAIS - NON FA
DECORRERE LA MORA - GEEN TERMIJNBEGIN - NAO INICIA O PRAZO
MÄÄRÄAIKA EI ALA TÄSTÄ - INLEDER INGEN FRIST.

- 3B1 : 9703513.EN

1. Structured Information Line

TLX 001 IND- 97 0858 UK- EN ----- 971215 --- ---

2. Member State

United Kingdom

3. Department Responsible

Department of Trade and Industry: Standards and Technical
Regulations Directorate



3. Originating Department

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

4. Notification Number

97/0858/UK

5. Title

The Beef Bones Regulations 1997

6. Products Concerned

Products covered are all bovine bones, whether from home supplies or removed in the UK from imported beef, coming from cattle over 6 months old. Bones include bone marrow and the bones of the tail and the feet. Cartilage is excluded. (It is already the case that no meat from cattle over thirty months of age may be sold for human consumption on the domestic market.)

7. Notification Under Another Act

Notification under Council Directive 89/663/EEC concerning veterinary checks in intra-Community trade with a view to the completion of the internal market.

8. Main Content

A. On 2 December 1997, Ministers received advice from the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) that under experimental conditions, BSE infectivity has been detected in the dorsal root ganglia (which lie each side of the vertebral column) of cattle, 3 months before clinical signs of BSE developed at age 39 months. There are also indications, which still have to be substantiated by further investigations, that infectivity may also be found in bone marrow of cattle exhibiting clinical signs of BSE. Given these findings, Ministers have decided to follow one of the options recommended by SEAC, which is to make legal provision to require that no beef with the bone in from cattle over 6 months old should be sold to consumers. Beef would continue to be imported on the bone, but would be required to be deboned before sale to the ultimate consumer. Given the urgent need to introduce this legislation to protect public health, it is not possible to meet the normal requirement for a minimum three month standstill between notification and coming into force of the legislation - which is anticipated to be 16 December 1997.

The Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland are to introduce similar legislation and this will be notified in due course.



The UK will fulfil its obligation under Article 12 of Directive 83/189/EEC (as amended) when these regulations are officially published?

B. The United Kingdom would like to be informed by other Member States of their own standards or regulations offering an equivalent level of safety and security.

9. Brief Statement of Grounds

The UK Government considers it necessary to introduce this legislation to ensure that we maintain the highest possible public health controls. The Government does not consider it acceptable to allow any infective material to enter the human food chain, no matter how low the risk.

10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts

i. A copy of the GB Statutory Instrument [/97] is attached. The equivalent legislation for Northern Ireland will be transmitted separately.

ii. -

iii. -

11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure

Yes

12. Grounds for the Emergency

Ministers received the advice from SEAC on 2 December 1997 concerning the new research findings on possible BSE infectivity in bovine bones, and taking account of the Chief Medical Officer concluded that further action should be taken as a matter of urgency. Accordingly rapid consultations were begun with interested parties on 5 December 1997 and concluded at 4.00 p.m. on 12 December 1997. In the light of those consultations, Ministers confirmed their intention to introduce legislation to require that no beef with the bone in from cattle over six months old should be sold to the consumer. It is intended that the legislation will come into force on 16 December 1997. Given the urgent reasons for this legislation which relate to public health, and which could not have been foreseen, it has been necessary to use the emergency procedure.

13. Confidentiality

No

14. Fiscal measures

No

C. TROJAN
COMEUR
NNNN



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
GROWTH DIRECTORATE-GENERAL

Single Market for goods
Prevention of Technical Barriers

