



Notification Number: 2015/410/UK

## The Microchipping of Dogs (Scotland) Regulations 2016

Date received : 24/07/2015

End of Standstill : 26/10/2015

### Message

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2015) 02355

Directive 98/34/EC

Notificación - Oznámení - Notifikation - Notifizierung - Teavitamine - Γνωστοποίηση - Notification - Notification - Notifica - Pieteikums - Pranešimas - Bejelentés - Notifika - Kennisgeving - Zawiadomienie - Notificação - Hlásenie-Obvestilo - Ilmoitus - Anmälan - Нотификация : 2015/0410/UK - Notificare.

No abre el plazo - Nezahtuje odklady - Fristerne indledes ikke - Kein Fristbeginn - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délais - Non fa decorrere la mora - Neietekmē atlikšanu - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Nem nyitja meg a késések - Ma' jiftaħ il-perijodi ta' dawmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Nao inicia o prazo - Neotvorí oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Inleder ingen frist - Не се предвижда период на прекъсване - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare.

(MSG: 201502355.EN)

#### 1. Structured Information Line

MSG 001 IND 2015 0410 UK EN 24-07-2015 UK NOTIF

#### 2. Member State

UK

#### 3. Department Responsible

Department for Business, Innovation and Skills  
European Reform Directorate  
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#### 3. Originating Department

Scottish Government  
Directorate for Agriculture Food and Rural Communities  
Animal Health and Welfare Division  
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#### **4. Notification Number**

2015/0410/UK - C90A

#### **5. Title**

The Microchipping of Dogs (Scotland) Regulations 2016

#### **6. Products Concerned**

The proposed Microchipping of Dogs (Scotland) Regulations 2016 (the 'Regulations') require that, from April 2016, all keepers of dogs in Scotland must have their dog microchipped. The Regulations set standards for the microchips and databases that will need to be used to be compliant with the Regulations. The Regulations also set competency standards for those implanting microchips.

#### **7. Notification Under Another Act**

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#### **8. Main Content**

The draft Regulations require that, from 6 April 2016, all dogs older than 8 weeks normally resident in Scotland must be microchipped and registered on a database that meets the requirements set out in the Regulations. To be compliant with the Regulations, microchips must be compliant with the international ISO standards (FDX B operating at 134.2 kilohertz and meeting ISO standards 11784 and 11785). The Regulations also contain conditions that a database operator must meet for it to be a suitable database for the purposes of the Regulations. Implantation of microchips may only be carried out by a veterinarian or someone having received the appropriate training. Keepers will be required to keep their registered records up to date on the database. Dogs brought into the country must be microchipped within 30 days of arrival (if not already) and registered on a compliant database.

#### **9. Brief Statement of Grounds**

Over 100,000 stray dogs were handled in 2014 across the whole of the UK. Around 6,000 of those stray dogs were picked up by police, local authorities and animal welfare charities in Scotland. Around half of these dogs' keepers were untraceable and dog and keeper could not be reunited. It costs local authorities and charities a significant amount to feed, kennel and rehome stray dogs; over £50million across the UK. For a number of dogs that cannot find a new home, the alternative is often unfortunately euthanasia; in 2011/12 alone, some 9,000 healthy dogs were put down across the UK.

Requiring all dog keepers to have their dog microchipped is a simple, cheap and effective way of cutting down on the number of dogs that need to be kennelled, rehomed or put down because their keepers cannot be traced, and one that the Scottish Government has recommended owners take up voluntarily for some time. Most of these dogs could be returned to their keeper if they were microchipped. Introducing the legislation proposed will maximise the benefits of microchipping, improving the re-uniting of dogs with owners and reducing the considerable costs caused by stray dogs, by: making it a requirement for all dogs, requiring dogs and their owners to be registered on a database and their data to be kept up to date; standardising the type of microchip



to be used and therefore the type of scanner required; standardising the type of data to be held; and requiring data to be released to the appropriate authorities as required.

Although mandatory microchipping is primarily a welfare measure designed to re-unite lost dogs with their keepers, as puppies will be microchipped and registered by breeders before sale, there will also be traceability back to those breeders. This will help problems with health or genetics to be better dealt with. Traceability will also bring greater accountability as keepers of dogs that cause a nuisance or are dangerous and keepers of dogs in poor condition will be more traceable and can be better held to account. This will encourage responsible ownership by making it easier to bring those committing offences under legislation relating to responsible ownership to task.

In making microchipping of dogs mandatory for such purposes, it is important to apply established international standards to the quality of microchips to prevent poor quality chips entering the market, and either failing to work properly or having an adverse effect on the animal. For databases, it is important that databases operate to set standards so that dog owners can have the reassurance that their data will be kept secure and operative should their dog stray or become lost and that reunification of lost dog and owner can take place smoothly and efficiently.

#### **10. Reference Documents - Basic Texts**

No Basic Text exists

#### **11. Invocation of the Emergency Procedure**

No

#### **12. Grounds for the Emergency**

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#### **13. Confidentiality**

No

#### **14. Fiscal measures**

No

#### **15. Impact assessment**

No impact assessment available

#### **16. TBT and SPS aspects**

TBT aspect

No - The draft is in conformity with an international standard

SPS aspect

No - The draft is not a sanitary or phytosanitary measure



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European Commission

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