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Trader Notice No. 3/2010

To: Each Importer of Feed
Irish Grain and Feed Association

26th January 2010

Commission Regulation (EC) No 669/2009 on increased level of official controls on imports of certain feed and food of non-animal origin

Background:

Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 on official food and feed controls provides for the drawing up of specific rules to govern the importation, into the EU, of certain food and feed products which present additional risks to the food chain. These new rules, and the specific food and feed products involved, are set out in EU Commission Regulation 669/2009. The controls came into effect on **25th January 2010**.

While the list of products (Annex I to the Commission Regulation) can be added to or deleted from on a quarterly basis, the only products of relevance to animal feed on the list at present are: Groundnuts for feed imported from Argentina, Brazil, Ghana, India or Vietnam; and certain trace elements for feed imported from China. Currently there are very little imports of these products from the names countries.

Procedure

However, as an importer you are advised that if you propose to import any of the listed products from the countries of origin stated you should follow these procedures:

- (i). import the products via Dublin, Ringaskiddy, Tivoli (Cork), or Foynes ports;
- (ii). submit a prior notification of the importation to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (DAFF), along the lines of the form currently being used by importers of feed materials at least 5 days prior to the arrival of the consignment;
- (iii). complete a Common Entry Document form (CED) for each consignment being imported and submit it at least 1 day prior to the arrival of the consignment; (form attached to above Regulation); and
- (iv). refrain from splitting consignments until all the official controls have been carried out at the port of entry and the CED form is endorsed by (DAFF).

The complete consignments will be detained by Custom officials at the designated port of entry until DAFF officials have carried out the required checks. A documentary check will be carried out on all consignments and an identity and physical check (including sampling and analysis) will be carried out on some consignments at the frequency specified in the annex for the imported feeds. In the case of consignments selected for physical checks, these consignments cannot be released in to free circulation until the analysis results become available and do not indicate contamination. Consignments just requiring a documentary check can be released in to free circulation once DAFF confirm to the Revenue's Customs Service that the documentary checks are in order.

Fee:

The Commission Regulation also obliges the competent authorities to put in place a fee charging scheme to cover the cost of these additional controls. The trade will be informed of the fee structure in due course.

Failure to comply with the requirements set out above will be regarded as a breach of SI 432 of 2009.

Further information:

Any enquiries to John Canny (Agriculture Inspector) at 01/5058772 or john.canny@agriculture.gov.ie

Further information can be found on the Department's website at www.agriculture.gov.ie

Yours sincerely



Caroline Nevin

Crop Production and Safety Division.