
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

Article 4c of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 805/68 (inserted by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2066/92 and amended by Council Regulation (EEC) No. 125/93, Council Regulation (EEC) No. 424/95, Council Regulation (EC) No. 2417/95 and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1588/96) provides for the payment to beef and veal producers of a deseasonalisation premium. Detailed rules for administration of the premium are laid down in Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 3886/92, Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 3887/92, Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 3888/92 as amended by Commission Regulations (EEC) No. 538/93, Commission Regulation (EEC) No. 1909/93 and Council Regulation (EC) No. 1648/95.

Northern Ireland satisfies the conditions for the granting of the premium in 1997 and it will therefore be paid on eligible animals slaughtered during the period 1st January 1997 to 10th June 1997.

These Regulations supplement the relevant provisions of the Council and Commission Regulations in respect of 1997. A producer may lodge an application with the Department of Agriculture (the Department) during the period 1st July 1997 to 12th September 1997 (regulation 3). The Regulations specify the circumstances in which premium may be recovered by the Department (regulation 4) and the rate of interest payable when a wrong payment is recovered (regulation 5). The Regulations also provide for offences relating to the making of false statements which are punishable on summary conviction with a fine not exceeding level 5 (currently £5,000) on the standard scale or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or both, or on conviction on indictment with a fine or with imprisonment not exceeding 2 years or both (regulation 6). These Regulations revoke the Deseasonalisation Premium (Protection of Payments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993.