Animal By Products Trader Notice   No. 3 /2008
Returning antibiotic positive milk to Northern Ireland

1. Background
Milk, which is no longer intended for human consumption, is an animal by-product (ABP). The movement of ABP between Member States of the EU is subject to European Regulations. This notice sets out the arrangements for returning antibiotic positive milk, classified as Category 2 ABP, to Northern Ireland.

This notice is intended as practical guidance. It is not a legally binding interpretation of the legislation, which is set out in Regulation (EC) No. 1774 of 2002.

2. Notification of Dispatch
The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) has authorised the return of Category 2 milk from the Republic. The following arrangements apply when a trader, such as a milk plant, wishes to return antibiotic positive milk to Northern Ireland.

Before dispatching the milk, the trader should send a fax to DARD Trade Section (Veterinary Service) in Belfast - Fax: 04890 525472. In case of any difficulties, DARD can be contacted on Tel: 04890 524664.

The fax should detail:
- Approval number, name, address and contact details of the trader sending the milk
- The destination(s) in Northern Ireland of the milk
- The name, address and contact details of the haulier, including the registration number of the vehicle being used to carry the milk
- The quantity of milk being returned
- The date of dispatch
- The name(s) and addresses of the farmers who supplied the milk, if available

3. Commercial Documents
The milk should be accompanied by a Commercial Document, which conforms with EU Regulation No. 1774/2002. These documents are in 4 copies. One copy is retained by the
sender of the milk. Three copies travel with the milk. One copy is retained by the haulier, one by the place of destination and the final copy should be signed by the receiver and returned to the sender as proof of arrival of the milk.

Books of these documents are available, free of charge, from the Animal By-products Section of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in Portlaoise, contact details below.

4. **Record Keeping**

Traders despatching this milk to Northern Ireland must keep records for at least 2 years. These should include:

- The date of dispatch
- A description of the material
- The quantity of the material
- The name and address of the carrier
- The name and address of the receiver.

Traders should also keep:

- The original fax
- First and returned 4th copies of the Commercial Document

The 1st & 4th copies of the Commercial Documents should be collated with the faxes. Official Veterinarians and Dairy Produce Inspectors will examine these documents during their visits to milk plants.

5. **Contact Persons**

If you have any queries regarding any of the issues raised in this notice, please contact the Animal By-Products Section, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Grattan Business Centre, Pavilion B, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.

Phone number: 057-8694344, 057-8694343 or 057-8694349.

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