

L.N. 286 of 2003

**VETERINARY SERVICES ACT
(ACT NO. XXIII OF 2001)**

Pure-Bred Breeding Bovines Regulations, 2003

IN exercise of the powers conferred by article 34(a) of the Veterinary Services Act, 2001, the Minister for Rural Affairs and the Environment has made the following regulations:-

Title and scope.

1. (1) The title of these regulations is the Pure-Bred Breeding Bovines Regulations, 2003.

(2) The scope of these regulations is to implement the provisions found under the European Union Council Directive 77/504/EEC on pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species.

Definitions.

2. For the purposes of these regulations the following definitions shall apply -

(a) “Herd-book” means any book, register, file or data medium –

(i) which is maintained by a breeders' organisation or association officially recognised by the territory of Malta or a Member State in which the breeders organisation or association was constituted, or by a official department of the territory of Malta or of the Member State concerned;

(ii) in which pure-bred breeding animals of a given breed of the bovine species are entered or registered with mention of their ancestors.

(b) “Pure-bred breeding animal of the bovine species including buffalo” means any bovine animal the parents and grandparents of which are entered or registered in a herd-book of the same breed, and which is itself either entered or registered and eligible for entry in such a herd-book.

(c) “Trading Partner” in the meaning of article 2 of the Veterinary Services Act shall mean –

- (i) Member States of the European Community;
- (ii) Third countries to the European Community.

Prohibitions, restrictions or impediments which do not apply on zootechnical grounds.

3. In the territory of Malta, the following shall not be prohibited, restricted or impeded on zootechnical grounds –

- (a) intra-community trade in pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species,
- (b) intra-community trade in the semen and ova and embryos of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species,
- (c) the establishment of herd-books, provided that they comply with the requirements laid down pursuant to regulation 7,
- (d) the recognition of organisations or associations which maintain herd-books, in accordance with regulation 7, and
- (e) subject to regulation 4, trade with Member States in bulls used for artificial insemination.

The Veterinary Services Act, article 34(a).

4. Provisions for the approval of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species for breeding may be adopted in accordance with the requirements of the European Community and according to the procedure laid down in article 34(a) of the Veterinary Services Act.

Until the entry into force of such provisions, approval of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species for breeding and approval of bulls to be used for artificial insemination as well as the use of semen and ova and embryos shall remain subject to previous national regulations, on the understanding that that these regulations may not be more restrictive than that applicable to pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species, semen and embryos in the Member State of destination.

Entry into herd books of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species from Member States.

5. Breeders' organisations or associations officially recognised by the territory of Malta may not oppose the entry in their herd-books of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species from Member States provided that they satisfy the requirements laid down in accordance with regulation 7.

Pedigree certificate.

6. Pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species and the semen or ova and embryos from such animals shall be accompanied, in trade with Member States, by a pedigree certificate which complies with a specimen drawn up in accordance with the procedure laid down in regulation 7, particularly with regard to zootechnical performance

The Veterinary Services Act, article 34(a).

7. The following shall be determined in accordance with the requirements of the European Community and the procedure laid down in article 34(a) of the Veterinary Services Act –

- (a) performance monitoring methods and methods for assessing cattle's genetic value,
- (b) the criteria governing the recognition of breeders' organisations and associations,
- (c) the criteria governing the establishment of herd-books,
- (d) the criteria governing entry in herd-books,
- (e) the particulars to be shown on the pedigree certificate.

Conditions applicable to imports of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species from non-Member States of the European Union.

8. Until the implementation of European Community rules on the subject, the conditions applicable to imports of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species from non-EU Member State countries must not be more favourable than those governing intra-Community trade.

The Veterinary Services of the territory of Malta shall not authorise the import of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species from non-EU Member State countries unless they are accompanied by a pedigree certificate certifying that they

are entered or registered in a herd-book in the exporting non-EU Member State country. Proof must be provided that the animals are either entered or registered and eligible for entry in a herd-book in the European Community.