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Animal, plant fees to rise

FEES for examining plants and moving animals will double in some cases, the Agriculture and Fisheries Department said yesterday.

The increases follow amendments to three pieces of legislation.

But the department said the new fees did not reflect the cost of the service and might have to be reviewed in 1990.

The fees for the phytosanitary examination of plants and the issue of a certificate, payable under the Plant (Importation and Pest Control) Ordinance

will go up from \$20 to \$500 for each export consignment to between \$45 and \$700.

The fee charged for visiting an applicant's premises for these examinations will go up from \$25 to \$45.

The annual licence fee of \$150 per site area of 100 square metres or less or renewal of a licence for a fish culture farm under the Marine Fish Culture Ordinance will be adjusted to \$300.

The animal removal fees, under the Public Health (Animals and Birds) Ordinance, will be

increased from \$1 to \$4 an animal in the case of cattle, from 80 cents to \$2 in the case of pigs, and from 50 cents to \$2 in the case of sheep and goats.

Notices about these increases, approved by the Executive Council last week, were published in the gazette yesterday.

A department spokesman said the fees were revised to cover costs of the services.

He said although increases might seem high in percentage terms, they were insignificant in money terms.