



THE FOOD ACT 1996

THE SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS REGULATIONS 1998

Approved by Tynwald *1998*

Coming into operation *1st March 1998*

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Department of Local Government and the Environment by sections 4 and 41 of, and paragraphs 3 and 7 of Schedule 2 to, the Food Act 1996^(a), and of all other enabling powers, and after consulting such organisations as appear to it to be representative of interests likely to be substantially affected thereby, the following Regulations are hereby made:-

PART 1

GENERAL

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Slaughter of Animals Regulations 1998 and shall come into operation on the 1st March 1998.

Interpretation

2. (1) In these Regulations —

"animal" includes bird;

"adverse weather condition" means any weather condition, including direct sunlight, which has an adverse affect on the welfare of an animal;

"container" means any transport crate in which an animal is delivered to a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard;

"the Department" means the Department of Local Government and the Environment;

"horse" includes any hinny, ass or mule;

^a 1996 c.8

"killing", in relation to an animal, means causing the death of the animal by any process other than slaughter;

"knacker's yard" includes any facilities for moving or lairaging animals and associated with a knacker's yard;

"lairaging", in relation to an animal, means keeping the animal in a stall, pen, covered area or field used by a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard in order to confine it until it is slaughtered or killed or to give it any necessary attention before it is slaughtered or killed;

"movement", in relation to an animal, means unloading it or driving it from an unloading place, stall or pen at a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard to the premises or place where it is to be lairaged, slaughtered or killed;

"pithing", in relation to an animal, means the destruction of its brain tissue after stunning to the extent that irreversible loss of consciousness is ensured;

"restraint", in relation to an animal, means the application of any procedure designed to restrict its movements in order to facilitate effective stunning or killing;

"slaughter", in relation to an animal, means causing the death of the animal by bleeding;

"stunning", in relation to an animal, means any process which causes immediate loss of consciousness which lasts until death;

"stunning pen" means a pen or compartment which is suitable for confining adult bovine animals while they are being stunned and which is so constructed that it —

- (a) permits one animal at a time to be confined in it without discomfort;
- (b) prevents any substantial movement forwards, backwards or sideways of an animal confined in it;
- (c) restricts the movement of the head of any animal confined in it without causing the animal any avoidable excitement so as to permit accurate stunning and allows the head of the animal to be released immediately after the animal has been stunned; and
- (d) allows unimpeded access to the forehead of the animal confined in it.

(2) For the purposes of these Regulations, a person permits any act or omission if he knows of, or might reasonably be expected to know of, that act or omission.

(3) Any provision in these Regulations which applies to an animal awaiting slaughter or killing applies until that animal is dead.

Application and exemptions

3. These Regulations apply to the delivery, movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter and killing of animals in a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard.

Humane treatment of animals

4. (1) No person engaged in the delivery, movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter or killing of animals shall —

- (a) cause any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering to any animal; or
- (b) permit any animal to sustain any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering.

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph 1 of the Schedule to the Slaughter of Animals Act 1936^(b), no person shall engage in the delivery, movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter or killing of any animal unless he has the knowledge and skill necessary to perform those tasks humanely and efficiently in accordance with these Regulations.

(3) Parts 2 and 3 are without prejudice to the generality of paragraphs (1) and (2).

Safeguarding the welfare of animals

5. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure that at all times when there are live animals on the premises a person (whether or not himself) is available who is competent, and who has authority to take whatever action may be necessary, to safeguard the welfare of the animals in accordance with these Regulations.

Animal welfare legislation and codes

6. (1) The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure that any person who is involved in any of the activities governed by these Regulations —

- (a) is acquainted with the provisions of the legislation, and of any welfare codes, relevant to the operations that that person carries out;

^b XIV p.389

- (b) has access to a copy of any such welfare code at the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard;
- (c) has received instruction and guidance on the requirements of such legislation and any such welfare code.

(2) In this regulation "welfare code" means any current code issued under regulation 7.

Codes of practice

7. (1) The Department may from time to time, after consultation with such organisations as appear to it to represent the interests concerned —

- (a) prepare and issue codes of practice for the purpose of providing guidance in respect of these Regulations; and
- (b) revise any such code by revoking, varying, amending or adding to the provisions of the code.

(2) A code prepared in pursuance of this regulation, and any such code as revised under paragraph (1)(b), shall be laid before Tynwald.

(3) The Department shall cause any code issued or revised under this regulation to be printed and distributed, and may make such arrangements as it thinks fit for its distribution, including causing copies of it to be put on sale to the public at such reasonable price as the Department may determine.

(4) A failure on the part of any person to follow any guidance contained in a code issued under this regulation shall not of itself render that person liable to proceedings of any kind.

PART 2

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS' YARDS

Construction, equipment and maintenance of slaughterhouses and knackers' yards.

8. Schedule 1 shall have effect in relation to the construction, equipment and maintenance of slaughterhouses and knacker's yards.

Slaughter of animals in slaughterhouses and knackers' yards

9. Where any soliped, ruminant, pig, rabbit or bird is brought into a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard for slaughter, that animal shall be —

- (a) moved and lairaged in accordance with Schedule 2;
- (b) restrained in accordance with Schedule 3;
- (c) stunned before slaughter in accordance with Parts I and II of Schedule 4; and
- (d) bled or pithed in accordance with Schedule 5.

Killing of animals in slaughterhouses and knackers' yards

10. Where any soliped, ruminant, pig, rabbit or bird is brought into a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard for killing, that animal shall be —

- (a) moved and lairaged in accordance with Schedule 2;
- (b) restrained in accordance with Schedule 3; and
- (c) subject to regulation 11, killed in accordance with Parts I and III of Schedule 4.

Killing of pigs and birds by exposure to gas mixtures

11. Schedule 6 shall have effect in relation to the killing of pigs and birds by exposure to gas mixtures.

Additional provisions for the slaughter or killing of horses

12. Without prejudice to regulations 9 and 10, Schedule 7 shall have effect in relation to the slaughter or killing of horses.

PART 3

EXECUTION, OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Offences and penalties

13. (1) Any person who contravenes any provision of these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence.

(2) Any person guilty of an offence by virtue of regulation 4(2) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000 or to custody for a term not exceeding 6 months or to both.

(3) A person guilty of any other offence under these Regulations shall be

liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £5,000 or to custody for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both.

(4) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to anything done or omitted by the Department or an authorised officer in exercise of functions conferred by these Regulations.

Defence

14. A person who contravenes any provision in these Regulations shall not be guilty of an offence in respect of such contravention if he proves that by reason of accident or other emergency the contravention was necessary for preventing injury or suffering to any person or animal.

Responsible authority

15. The Department shall be responsible for the enforcement of these Regulations.

PART 5

AMENDMENTS ETC. OF SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1936

Amendment and repeal

16. In the Slaughter of Animals Act 1936 —

(a) for section 4 substitute —

"4. The Schedule to this Act shall have effect with respect to the licensing of slaughtermen.";

(b) for the Schedule substitute the provisions set out in Schedule 8;

(c) sections 2, 3 and 5 to 12 are repealed.

SCHEDULE 1

CONSTRUCTION, EQUIPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND
KNACKERS' YARDS

PART I

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND KNACKERS' YARDS

General requirements for all slaughterhouses and knackers' yards

1. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure that —
 - (a) its construction, facilities, equipment and operation are such as to spare animals any avoidable excitement, pain, injury or suffering;
 - (b) it has suitable equipment and facilities available for the purpose of unloading animals from means of transport;
 - (c) there are no sharp edges or protrusions in the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard with which any animal may come into contact;
 - (d) the place of slaughter or killing is sited in such a way as to minimise handling of the animal at any time up to the point of slaughter or killing;
 - (e) any instrument, restraining equipment, other equipment or installation which is used for stunning, slaughter or killing is designed, constructed and maintained so as to facilitate rapid and effective stunning, slaughter or killing in accordance with these Regulations; and
 - (f) for emergency use, suitable spare equipment and instruments for stunning, slaughter or killing are kept at the site within the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard where stunning, slaughter or killing takes place and —
 - (i) such equipment and instruments are properly maintained and thoroughly inspected regularly by the occupier or by a competent person acting on his behalf in order to ensure that there is no defect in any of them; and
 - (ii) any defect found at any time in such equipment or instruments is rectified forthwith.

PART II

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SLAUGHTERHOUSES OR KNACKERS' YARDS TO
WHICH ANIMALS ARE DELIVERED OTHERWISE THAN IN CONTAINERS

Additional requirements for slaughterhouses or knackers' yards to which animals are delivered otherwise than in containers

2. In addition to requirements of paragraph 1, the occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard to which animals are delivered other than in containers shall ensure that —
 - (a) any equipment for unloading such animals is of a suitable height and design for that purpose, has non-slip flooring and, if necessary, is provided with lateral protection;
 - (b) any bridge, ramp and gangway is fitted with sides, railings or some other means of protection to prevent animals falling off them;

- (c) any exit and entry ramp has the minimum possible incline;
- (d) all passageways are so constructed as to minimise the risk of injury to any animal and so arranged as to take account of the gregarious tendencies of the animals which use them; and
- (e) where the knacker's yard is one in which horses are slaughtered or killed, a separate room or bay is provided there for use for the slaughter or killing of horses.

Additional requirements relating to lairages other than field lairages

3. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard to which animals are delivered other than in containers shall ensure that —

- (a) the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard is equipped with a sufficient number of pens for adequate lairaging of the animals with protection from the effects of adverse weather conditions;
- (b) any lairage has —
 - (i) a floor which minimises the risk of slipping and which does not cause injury to any animal which is in contact with it;
 - (ii) adequate ventilation to ensure that temperature, air relative humidity and ammonia levels are kept within limits that are not harmful to any animal, taking into account the extremes of temperature and humidity which may be expected;
 - (iii) where such ventilation is provided other than naturally, a replacement means of maintaining adequate ventilation available for use if the original source of ventilation fails;
 - (iv) adequate lighting (whether fixed or portable) to enable the animals to be thoroughly inspected at any time;
 - (v) where necessary, suitable equipment for tethering animals; and
 - (vi) drinking facilities and racks, mangers or other equipment adequate in number and size for the watering and feeding of all animals confined in the lairage, fixed where practicable, and so constructed and placed that they are easily accessible to all the animals, can readily be filled and cannot readily be fouled; and
- (c) where the lairage is one in which any horses are confined, the lairage contains at least one loose box which is so constructed as to minimise the danger of any horse injuring itself or any other animal confined in that lairage.

Additional requirements for field lairages

4. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure that any field lairage —

- (a) if it is without natural shelter or shade and is used during adverse weather conditions, has appropriate protection against such conditions for any animal using it;
- (b) is maintained in such condition as to ensure that no animal is subjected to any physical, chemical or other health hazard;
- (c) where necessary, has suitable equipment for tethering animals;

- (d) has adequate lighting (whether fixed or portable) available to enable the animals to be thoroughly inspected at any time; and
- (e) is provided with drinking facilities and, if necessary, with racks, mangers or other equipment adequate in number and size for the watering and feeding of all animals confined in the field lairage, fixed where practicable, and so constructed and placed that they are easily accessible to all the animals, can readily be filled and cannot readily be fouled.

PART III

SHACKLE LINES

Additional requirements for slaughterhouses containing shackle lines for birds

5. Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph 1, the occupier of a slaughterhouse where birds are slaughtered or killed shall ensure that —

- (a) any shackle line is designed and positioned in such a way that —
 - (i) any bird suspended on it is kept clear of any obstruction; and
 - (ii) disturbance is reduced to a minimum;
- (b) the whole length of the shackle line up to the point of entry into the scald tank is immediately accessible to any person so that any bird may, if necessary, receive attention; and
- (c) there is ready access to any processing equipment used for live birds and to any controls of such equipment.

SCHEDULE 2

REQUIREMENTS FOR ANIMALS AWAITING SLAUGHTER OR KILLING

PART 1

INTRODUCTORY

Interpretation

1. In this Schedule "animal" means any soliped, ruminant, pig, rabbit or bird.

PART II

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

General requirements

2. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and any person engaged in the movement or lairaging of animals shall ensure that —
 - (a) every animal is unloaded as soon as possible after its arrival and, if delay in unloading is unavoidable, it is protected from adverse weather conditions and is provided with adequate ventilation;
 - (b) when unloaded, every animal is protected from adverse weather conditions and is provided with adequate ventilation;
 - (c) if any animal has been subjected to high temperatures in humid weather, it is cooled by appropriate means;
 - (d) any animals which might injure each other on account of their species, sex, age or origin or for any other reason are kept and lairaged apart from each other;
 - (e) pending the slaughter or killing of any sick or disabled animal in the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard, it is kept apart from any animal which is not sick or disabled; and
 - (f) no person drags any animal which has been stunned or killed over any other animal which has not been stunned or killed.

Inspection of animals

3. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure that the condition and state of health of every animal is inspected at least every morning and evening by him or by a competent person acting on his behalf.

Slaughter or killing of animals which have experienced pain or suffering and unweaned animals

4. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and any person engaged in the movement or lairaging of any animal shall ensure that —
 - (a) any animal which has experienced pain or suffering during transport or following its arrival at the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard; and
 - (b) any animal which is too young to take solid feed,is slaughtered or killed immediately.

Emergency slaughter and killing

5. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and any person engaged in the movement or lairaging of any animal shall ensure that any animal which is unable to walk is not dragged to its place of slaughter or killing but —

- (a) is slaughtered or killed where it lies; or
- (b) if it is possible and to do so would not cause any unnecessary pain or suffering, is transported on a trolley or movable platform to a place of emergency slaughter or killing where it is then immediately slaughtered or killed.

PART III

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ANIMALS DELIVERED OTHERWISE THAN IN CONTAINERS

Treatment of animals delivered otherwise than in containers

6. In addition to the requirements of Part II above, the occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and any person engaged in the movement of animals which are delivered other than in a container shall ensure that —

- (a) care is taken not to frighten, excite or mistreat any animal;
- (b) no animal is overturned;
- (c) if any animal is not slaughtered or killed immediately on arrival at the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard, it is lairaged; and
- (d) no animal is taken to the place of slaughter or killing unless it can be slaughtered or killed without delay.

The lifting or dragging of animals

7. No person shall lift or drag, or cause or permit to be lifted or dragged, any animal by the head, horns, ears, feet, tail, fleece or any other part of its body in such a way as to cause it unnecessary pain or suffering.

The driving of animals

8. No person shall, in any slaughterhouse, knacker's yard or lairage, lead or drive, or cause or permit to be led or driven, any animal over any ground or floor the nature or condition of which is likely to cause the animal to slip or fall.

Moving animals with care

9. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and any person engaged in the movement of any animals shall ensure that every animal is moved with care and, when necessary, that animals are led individually.

Instruments for guiding animals

10. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and any person engaged in the movement of any animal shall ensure that any instrument intended for guiding any animal is used solely for that purpose and only for short periods on individual animals.

Instruments to make animals move

11. No person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, to make any animal move any instrument which administers an electric shock, except that such an instrument which has been designed for the purpose of making an animal move may be used on adult bovine animals and adult pigs which refuse to move, provided that —

- (a) the shocks last no more than two seconds each and are adequately spaced out;
- (b) the animal has room ahead of it in which to move; and
- (c) such shocks are applied only to the muscles of the hindquarters.

Treatment of animals

12. (1) No person shall strike, or apply pressure to, any particularly sensitive part of the body of any animal.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-paragraph (1) above, no person shall crush, twist or break the tail of any animal or grasp the eyes of any animal.

(3) No person shall inflict any blow or kick to any animal.

(4) No person shall cause or permit any animal to be treated in contravention of sub-paragraph (1), (2) or (3).

Lairaging of animals

13. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and any person engaged in the lairaging of any animal shall ensure that —

- (a) an adequate supply of suitable bedding material is provided for all animals kept in the lairage overnight, unless the lairage has a slatted or mesh floor;
- (b) any animal which is kept in a lairage has drinking water available to it from appropriate facilities at all times;
- (c) a sufficient quantity of wholesome food is provided for an animal on its arrival at the lairage and twice daily thereafter, except that no animal need be fed within 12 hours of the time at which it is slaughtered or killed;
- (d) food is provided in a way which will permit the animals to feed without unnecessary disturbance;
- (e) any animal which is lairaged untethered is able to lie down, stand up and turn round without difficulty; and
- (f) any animal which is lairaged tethered is able to lie down and stand up without difficulty.

PART IV

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ANIMALS DELIVERED IN CONTAINERS

Handling of animals delivered in containers

14. In addition to the requirements in Part II, the occupier of a slaughterhouse shall ensure that —

- (a) a container in which an animal is transported is handled with care and is not thrown, dropped or knocked over;
- (b) where possible, it is unloaded horizontally and mechanically;
- (c) any animal delivered in a container with a perforated or flexible bottom is unloaded with particular care in order to avoid injury; and
- (d) where appropriate, animals are unloaded from the containers individually.

Slaughter or killing of animals delivered in containers

15. The occupier of a slaughterhouse shall ensure that —

- (a) any animal which has been transported in a container is slaughtered or killed as soon as possible; and
- (b) if slaughter or killing is delayed and it is necessary, —
 - (i) the animal has drinking water available to it from appropriate facilities at all times; and
 - (ii) a sufficient quantity of wholesome food is provided for the animal on its arrival at the lairage and twice daily thereafter, except that no animal need be fed within 12 hours of the time at which it is slaughtered or killed.

PART V

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BIRDS

Birds awaiting slaughter or killing at place of purchase

16. The occupier or person in charge of any premises at which birds are offered or exposed for sale prior to being slaughtered or killed there shall ensure that, on arrival at the premises, the birds are forthwith —

- (a) placed in accommodation in which they are able, without difficulty, to stand upright, turn around and stretch their wings; and
- (b) provided with a sufficient supply of wholesome food and clean drinking water.

SCHEDULE 3

RESTRAINT OF ANIMALS BEFORE STUNNING, SLAUGHTER OR KILLING

1. In this Schedule "animal" means any soliped, ruminant, pig, rabbit or bird.
2. No person shall stun, slaughter or kill, or cause or permit to be stunned, slaughtered or killed, any animal without restraining it in an appropriate manner in such a way as to spare it any avoidable pain, suffering, agitation, injury or contusions.
3. Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph 2 above, no person shall —
 - (a) in any slaughterhouse, stun, or cause or permit to be stunned, any adult bovine animal, unless at the time it is stunned it is confined in a stunning pen which is in good working order; or
 - (b) in any knacker's yard, stun, or cause or permit to be stunned, any adult bovine animal, unless at the time it is stunned it is either confined in a stunning pen which is in good working order or its head is securely fastened in such a position as to enable it to be stunned without the infliction of avoidable excitement, pain or suffering.
4. No person shall —
 - (a) place, or cause or permit to be placed, any adult bovine animal in a stunning pen; or
 - (b) fasten, or cause or permit to be fastened, the head of any adult bovine animal, unless the person who is to stun the animal is ready to do so as soon as the animal is placed in the stunning pen or its head is fastened.
5. No person shall tie, or cause or permit to be tied, the legs of any animal.
6. (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), no person shall suspend, or cause or permit to be suspended, any animal before stunning or killing.
 - (2) The prohibition in sub-paragraph (1) above shall not apply in the case of birds which may be suspended for stunning or killing provided that —
 - (a) no bird is suspended in such a manner as to cause it avoidable pain or suffering;
 - (b) appropriate measures are taken to ensure that, at the point of being stunned or killed, the bird is in a sufficiently relaxed state for stunning or killing to be carried out effectively and without undue delay; and
 - (c) no bird is suspended for more than 6 minutes in the case of a turkey or 3 minutes in other cases before being stunned or killed.
 - (3) For the purposes of this paragraph, any animal which is held in a restraint system is not regarded as being suspended.
7. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and any person engaged in the stunning or killing of any animal shall ensure that any animal which is to be stunned or killed by mechanical or electrical means applied to the head is presented in such a position that the equipment can be applied and operated easily, accurately and for the appropriate time.
8. No person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, any electrical stunning or killing equipment or any other instrument which applies an electric current to animals —
 - (a) as a means of restraining any animal;

- (b) as a means of immobilising any animal; or
 - (c) except in accordance with paragraph 11 of Schedule 2, as a means of making any animal move.
- 9. (1) No person shall operate, or cause or permit to be operated, any shackle line unless —
 - (a) each bird suspended from it is kept clear of any object which may cause it avoidable excitement, pain or suffering, including when its wings are outstretched, until it is stunned;
 - (b) it is possible to relieve any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering which a bird suspended from a shackle appears to be suffering or to remove such a bird from the shackle; and
 - (c) the speed at which the shackle line is operated is such that any act or operation intended to be performed in relation to, or on, any bird suspended from it can be performed without undue haste and with proper regard for the welfare of the bird.
- (2) No person shall, in connection with the slaughter or killing of any bird, use, or cause or permit to be used, any shackle line, machine or other equipment unless —
 - (a) there is ready access to any such equipment used on live birds and its controls; and
 - (b) except in an emergency to relieve suffering, it is used in connection with the slaughter or killing of birds of the type, size and weight for which it was designed.

Regulations 9 & 10.

SCHEDULE 4

STUNNING OR KILLING OF ANIMALS

PART I

GENERAL

Interpretation

1. In this Schedule "animal" means any soliped, ruminant, pig, rabbit or bird.

General provision

2. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and any person engaged in the stunning or killing of any animal shall ensure that any instrument, restraining equipment and other equipment, and any installation, which is used for stunning or killing is used in such a way as to facilitate rapid and effective stunning or killing in accordance with these Regulations.

PART II

STUNNING

Stunning of animals

3. No person shall stun, or cause or permit to be stunned, any animal unless it is possible to —
 - (a) bleed or pith it without delay and in accordance with Schedule 5; or
 - (b) kill it without delay and in accordance with Part III of this Schedule.

Permitted methods of stunning animals

4. No person shall stun any animal, or cause or permit any animal to be stunned, except by one of the following methods —
 - (a) captive bolt;
 - (b) concussion; or
 - (c) electronarcosis.

Specific requirements for stunning by use of a captive bolt instrument

5. (1) No person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, a captive bolt instrument to stun any animal unless —
 - (a) subject to sub-paragraph (3), the instrument is positioned and applied so as to ensure that the projectile enters the cerebral cortex; and
 - (b) the correct strength of cartridge or other propellant is used, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions, to produce an effective stun.
- (2) No person shall shoot, or cause or permit to be shot, any bovine animal in the back of the head.

(3) No person shall shoot, or cause or permit to be shot, any sheep or goat in the back of its head, unless the presence of horns prevents use of the top or the front of its head, in which case it may be shot in the back of the head provided that —

- (a) the shot is placed immediately behind the base of the horns and aimed towards the mouth; and
- (b) bleeding is commenced within 15 seconds of shooting or the sheep or goat is killed within 15 seconds of shooting in accordance with Part III of this Schedule.

6. Any person who uses a captive bolt instrument shall check that the bolt is retracted to its full extent after each shot and if it is not so retracted shall ensure that the instrument is not used again until it has been repaired.

Specific requirements for stunning by concussion

7. (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2), no person shall stun, or cause or permit to be stunned, by concussion any animal except by an instrument which is applied in the proper position and which is used with the correct strength of cartridge or other propellant, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions to produce an effective stun without fracture to the skull by administering a non-penetrative blow to the skull.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) shall not apply to small batches of rabbits, which may be stunned using a non-mechanical blow to the skull provided that the operation is carried out in such a way that the animal is immediately rendered unconscious and remains so until it is dead.

Specific requirements for stunning by electroneurosis—electrodes

8. No person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, electrodes to stun any animal unless —

- (a) the electrodes are so placed that they span the brain, enabling the current to pass through it;
- (b) appropriate measures are taken to ensure that there is good electrical contact; and
- (c) the strength and duration of the current used is such that the animal is immediately rendered unconscious and remains so until it is dead.

9. No person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, electrodes to stun any animal individually unless the apparatus —

- (a) incorporates a device which —
 - (i) measures the impedance of the load; and
 - (ii) prevents operation of the apparatus unless a current can be passed which is sufficient to render an animal of the species being stunned unconscious until it is dead;
- (b) incorporates an audible or visible device indicating the length of time of its application to an animal; and
- (c) is connected to a device indicating the voltage and the current under load, positioned so as to be clearly visible to the operator.

Specific requirements for stunning by electroneurosis—waterbath stunners

10. No person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, a water bath stunner to stun any bird unless —

- (a) the level of the water in the waterbath has been adjusted in order to ensure that there is good contact with the bird's head;
- (b) the strength and duration of the current used is such that the bird is immediately rendered unconscious and remains so until it is dead;
- (c) where poultry are stunned in groups in a waterbath, a voltage sufficient to produce a current strong enough to ensure that every bird is stunned is maintained; and
- (d) appropriate measures are taken to ensure that the current passes efficiently, in particular that there are good electrical contacts and the shackle-to-leg contact is kept wet.

11. No person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, any waterbath stunner unless —

- (a) it is adequate in size and depth for the type of bird being slaughtered;
- (b) it does not overflow at the entrance, or, if an overflow is unavoidable, measures are taken to ensure that no bird receives an electrical shock before it is stunned; and
- (c) the electrode which is immersed in the water extends the length of the waterbath.

12. No person shall use, or cause or permit to be used, any waterbath stunner unless a person is available to ascertain whether it has been effective in stunning the birds and who, where it has not been effective, will either stun and slaughter or kill any bird without delay.

PART III

KILLING

Methods of killing animals

13. No person shall kill, or cause or permit to be killed, any animal except by one of the following methods —

- (a) free bullet;
- (b) electrocution;
- (c) for birds only, decapitation or dislocation of the neck; or
- (d) exposure of pigs and birds to gas mixtures in accordance with Schedule 6.

Specific requirements for killing by electrocution

14. No person shall kill, or cause or permit to be killed, any animal by electrocution unless —

- (a) the strength and duration of the current used are sufficient to kill immediately an animal of that species; and
- (b) the animal has been stunned in accordance with paragraph 5 or with paragraphs 8 and 9 or with paragraphs 10 and 11.

Regulation 9.

SCHEDULE 5

BLEEDING OR PITHING OF ANIMALS

1. In this Schedule "animal" means any soliped, ruminant, pig, rabbit or bird.
2. (1) The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure that any animal that has been stunned before bleeding or pithing is bled or pithed without delay after it has been stunned.
(2) Any person engaged in the bleeding or pithing of any animal which has been stunned shall ensure that the animal is bled or pithed without delay after it has been stunned.
(3) No person shall bleed any bull, cow, heifer, steer, calf, sheep, goat or pig in a slaughterhouse, knacker's yard or lairage within sight of any other such animal.
(4) Paragraph (3) shall not apply in the case of any such animal which is slaughtered or killed in accordance with paragraph 5 of Schedule 2 (which relates to emergency slaughter and killing).
3. (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), any person engaged in the bleeding of any animal that has been stunned shall ensure that —
 - (a) the bleeding is rapid, profuse and complete;
 - (b) the bleeding is completed before the animal regains consciousness; and
 - (c) the bleeding is carried out by severing at least one of the carotid arteries or the vessels from which they arise.
(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), after severance of at least one of the carotid arteries or the vessels from which they arise of any animal that has been stunned before bleeding, no person shall cause or permit any further dressing procedure or any electrical stimulation to be performed on the animal before the bleeding has ended and in any event not before the expiry of--
 - (a) in the case of a turkey or goose, a period of not less than 2 minutes;
 - (b) in the case of any other bird, a period of not less than 90 seconds;
 - (c) in the case of bovine animals, a period of not less than 30 seconds; and
 - (d) in the case of sheep, goats and pigs, a period of not less than 20 seconds.
(3) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply to any animal which has been pithed.
4. (1) Where one person is responsible for the stunning and pithing, or for the stunning, shackling, hoisting and bleeding, of animals other than birds or rabbits, or for some of those operations, such operations must be carried out by him consecutively in respect of one animal before being so carried out by him in respect of another animal.
(2) Where one person is responsible for the stunning and bleeding of birds or rabbits, those operations must be carried out by him consecutively in respect of one bird or rabbit before being so carried out by him in respect of another bird or rabbit.

Manual back up of automatic machinery

5. (1) The occupier of a slaughterhouse shall ensure that no bird is slaughtered by means of automatic neck cutters unless, whenever the neck cutters are operated, a person is present who is able to ascertain whether or not the neck cutters have effectively severed at least one of the carotid arteries or the vessels from which they arise.

(2) In the event of the machinery not being effective in severing at least one of the carotid arteries or the vessels from which they arise, the occupier of the slaughterhouse in which the neck cutters are situated shall ensure that the bird is slaughtered or killed immediately.

SCHEDULE 6

KILLING PIGS AND BIRDS BY EXPOSURE TO GAS MIXTURES

PART I

GENERAL

Application

1. This Schedule shall apply only to pigs and birds.

Interpretation

2. In this Schedule "bird" means any domestic fowl or turkey.

PART II

KILLING OF PIGS BY EXPOSURE TO CARBON DIOXIDE

Killing of pigs by exposure to carbon dioxide

3. (1) Subject to paragraphs 4 to 6, pigs may be killed at a slaughterhouse by exposure to carbon dioxide gas mixture in a chamber provided for the purpose (hereinafter referred to as "a chamber").

(2) For the purposes of this Part, a carbon dioxide gas mixture (hereinafter referred to as the "gas mixture") shall mean at least 70% carbon dioxide by volume in atmospheric air.

Construction of the chamber

4. The occupier of a slaughterhouse at which a chamber is used shall ensure that —
 - (a) the chamber and the equipment used for conveying any pig through the gas mixture are designed, constructed and maintained--
 - (i) so as to avoid injury to any pig;
 - (ii) so as to avoid compression of the chest of any pig;
 - (iii) so as to enable each pig to remain upright until it loses consciousness;
 - (iv) so as to enable the pigs to see each other as they are conveyed in the chamber; and
 - (v) so that once a pig enters the chamber, it is conveyed to the point in the chamber of maximum concentration of the gas mixture within a maximum period of 30 seconds;
 - (b) there is a means of visually monitoring pigs which are in the chamber;
 - (c) adequate lighting is provided in the conveying mechanism and the chamber to allow pigs to see other pigs or their surroundings;
 - (d) the installation has an apparatus which maintains the required concentration by volume of carbon dioxide in the gas mixture in the chamber;
 - (e) the chamber is fitted with devices which —

- (i) measure the concentration by volume of carbon dioxide in the gas mixture at the point of maximum exposure;
 - (ii) when the chamber is in operation, continuously display the concentration by volume of carbon dioxide as a percentage of the gas mixture at the point of maximum concentration in the chamber; and
 - (iii) give clearly visible and audible warning signals if the concentration by volume of carbon dioxide falls below 70%;
- (f) there is a means of flushing the chamber with atmospheric air with the minimum of delay; and
- (g) there is a means of access to any pig with the minimum of delay.

The operation of the chamber

5. The occupier of a slaughterhouse at which a chamber is used shall ensure that —

- (a) each pig is exposed to the gas mixture for long enough to ensure that it is killed;
- (b) any such chamber is properly maintained; and
- (c) every person engaged in the killing is properly instructed as to —
 - (i) the method of operation of the chamber;
 - (ii) the procedures for any necessary flushing of the chamber with atmospheric air; and
 - (iii) the procedures for any necessary evacuation of pigs from the chamber.

6. The occupier of a slaughterhouse at which a chamber is used and any person engaged in the killing of pigs by exposure to carbon dioxide shall ensure that —

- (a) no pig enters the chamber if the displayed concentration by volume of carbon dioxide in the gas mixture falls below 70%; and
- (b) no pig is passed through or allowed to remain in the chamber at any time when the visible and audible warning signals provided for in paragraph 4(e)(iii) above have been activated or when there is any defect in the operation of the chamber.

PART III

KILLING BIRDS BY EXPOSURE TO GAS MIXTURES

Killing of birds by exposure to gas mixtures

7. (1) Subject to paragraphs 8 to 10, birds may be killed at a slaughterhouse by exposure to an anoxic gas mixture which rapidly renders birds insensible to pain or distress in a chamber provided for the purpose (hereinafter referred to as "a chamber").

- (2) In this Part "gas mixture" means either —
 - (a) a maximum of 2% total oxygen by volume and 90% argon (or other inert gas) by volume in atmospheric air; or
 - (b) 25% to 30% carbon dioxide by volume and 60% argon (or other inert gas) by volume in atmospheric air.

Construction of the chamber

8. The occupier of a slaughterhouse at which a chamber is used shall ensure that —
- (a) the chamber and the equipment used for conveying any bird through the gas mixture are designed, constructed and maintained —
 - (i) so as to avoid injury to any bird; and
 - (ii) so that once a bird enters into the chamber it is conveyed to the point in the chamber of maximum concentration of the gas mixture within a maximum period of 10 seconds;
 - (b) the installation has an apparatus which maintains the required concentration by volume of oxygen or carbon dioxide, as appropriate, in the chamber;
 - (c) the chamber is fitted with devices which —
 - (i) measure the concentration by volume of oxygen or carbon dioxide in the gas mixture, as appropriate, at the point of maximum concentration;
 - (ii) when the chamber is in operation, display continuously the concentration by volume of oxygen or carbon dioxide, as appropriate, as a percentage of the total gas mixture at the point of maximum concentration in the chamber; and
 - (iii) give clearly visible and audible warning signals —
 - (aa) where the gas mixture used is that mentioned at paragraph 7(2)(a), if the concentration by volume of oxygen rises above 5% for more than 30 seconds; and
 - (bb) where the gas mixture used is that mentioned at paragraph 7(2)(b) above, if the concentration by volume of carbon dioxide falls below 25% or rises above 30%;
 - (d) there is a means of visually monitoring birds which are in the chamber;
 - (e) there is a means of flushing the chamber with atmospheric air with the minimum delay; and
 - (f) there is a means of access to any bird in any part of the chamber with the minimum of delay.

The operation of the chamber

9. The occupier of a slaughterhouse at which a chamber is used shall ensure that —
- (a) the birds are exposed to the gas mixture for long enough to ensure that they are killed;
 - (b) the chamber is properly maintained; and
 - (c) every person engaged in the gas killing is properly instructed as to —
 - (i) the method of operation of the chamber;
 - (ii) the procedures for any necessary flushing of the chamber with atmospheric air; and
 - (iii) the procedures for any necessary evacuation of birds from the chamber.

10. The occupier of a slaughterhouse at which a chamber is used and any person engaged in the killing of birds by exposure to the gas mixture shall ensure that —

- (a) any bird which arrives at the installation in a transport crate and which is removed from the crate before it enters the chamber is handled with care and in such a way that the bird is not caused avoidable pain or suffering;**
- (b) no bird enters the chamber if, as appropriate —**
 - (i) the displayed concentration of oxygen is above 2% by volume, except that the concentration of oxygen may occasionally rise to a concentration of not more than 5% by volume for not more than 30 seconds; or**
 - (ii) the displayed concentration of carbon dioxide is below 25% by volume or above 30% by volume;**
- (c) no bird is passed through or allowed to remain in the chamber at any time when the visible and audible warning signals provided for in paragraph 8(c)(iii) above have been activated or when there is any defect in the operation of the chamber; and**
- (d) no bird is shackled before it is dead.**

SCHEDULE 7

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS FOR THE SLAUGHTER OR KILLING OF HORSES IN
KNACKERS' YARDS

1. Subject to paragraph 3, no person shall slaughter or kill, or cause or permit to be slaughtered or killed, any horse in a knacker's yard except in a room or a bay which has been provided for the slaughter or killing of horses by the occupier of the knacker's yard in accordance with paragraph 2(e) of Schedule 1 (which relates to additional provisions for horses).
2. Subject to paragraph 3, no person shall slaughter or kill, or cause or permit to be slaughtered or killed, any horse in a knacker's yard —
 - (a) in a room or bay in which there are the remains of a horse or other animal; or
 - (b) within sight of any other horse.
3. Paragraphs 1 and 2 shall not apply in the case of a horse slaughtered or killed in accordance with paragraph 5 of Schedule 2 (which relates to emergency slaughter and killing).

SCHEDULE 8

SUBSTITUTED SCHEDULE TO THE SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT 1936

"SCHEDULE

LICENSING OF SLAUGHTERMEN

Licensing of slaughtermen

1. (1) No person shall carry out at a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard any of the operations specified in sub-paragraph (2) unless he is the holder of a licence under paragraph 2 specifying that operation.

(2) The operations mentioned in sub-paragraph (1) for which a licence is required are any of the following —

- (a) the restraint of any animal for the purpose of stunning, slaughtering or killing that animal;
- (b) the stunning of any animal;
- (c) the slaughter of any animal;
- (d) the killing of any animal;
- (e) the pithing of any stunned animal;
- (f) the assessment of effective stunning, pithing or killing of any animal by any person whose duty it is to make such an assessment;
- (g) the shackling or hoisting of any stunned animal; and
- (h) the bleeding of any animal which is not dead.

Licences

2. (1) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph, where a person applies to the Department in writing for a licence to carry out any of the operations specified in paragraph 1(2), the Department shall grant him such a licence.

(2) The Department shall not grant a licence to carry out any of the operations specified in paragraph 1(2) unless —

- (a) it is satisfied, by a certificate of a veterinary surgeon nominated for the purpose by the Department, that the applicant —
 - (i) is competent to carry out all the operations mentioned in paragraph 1(2) in respect of which he is applying for a licence without causing avoidable pain, excitement or suffering to any animal; and
 - (ii) has sufficient knowledge of the provisions of all the relevant legislation and of any relevant code of practice issued by the Department relating to those operations;
- (b) it is satisfied that the applicant —
 - (i) is a fit and proper person to hold a licence;

- (ii) is not below the age of 18; and
- (iii) has provided any information required under sub-paragraph (3); and
- (c) such fee (if any) as is prescribed under the Fees and Duties Act 1989 has been paid in respect of the application.
- (3) The applicant for a licence shall state in his application —
 - (a) if he has previously been refused a licence, or a licence or permit to slaughter animals in the Island or any part of the United Kingdom;
 - (b) if he has had any such licence or permit revoked or suspended by a public authority in the Island or any part of the United Kingdom, and if so, by which authority; and
 - (c) if he has been convicted of any offence mentioned in sub-paragraph (4)(b).
- (4) The Department may refuse to grant a licence if the applicant has been convicted of an offence under —
 - (a) this Act;
 - (b) regulations made under paragraph 3 or 7 of Schedule 2 (slaughterhouses and knackers' yards) to the Food Act 1996;
 - (c) any order made under the Animal Health Act 1996^(c) regulating the transport of animals; or
 - (d) any other statutory provision concerning the welfare of animals.
- (5) A licence shall specify the matters which it covers, namely--
 - (a) the relevant operations mentioned in paragraph 1(2);
 - (b) the species of animals; and
 - (c) the relevant equipment or instruments.
- (6) A licence shall remain in force for such period (not exceeding 3 years) as is specified in it.

Amendment of licences

- 3 (1) Where the holder of a licence wishes it to be amended in respect of any of the matters set out in paragraph 2(5), he may apply to the Department in writing for such amendment.
- (2) Paragraph 2(1) to (4) applies with any necessary modifications to an application for the amendment of a licence as it applies to an application for a licence.

Suspension and revocation of licences

- 4. (1) The Department may suspend or revoke a licence if —
 - (a) it is satisfied that the holder of the licence is no longer a fit and proper person to hold it;

^c 1996 c.22

- (b) it is satisfied that the holder of the licence is not, or is no longer, competent to carry out the operations which the licence authorises; or
- (c) the holder has been convicted of an offence under any of the provisions specified in paragraph 2(4).

Appeals

5. (1) Where the Department —
- (a) refuses to grant or amend a licence; or
 - (b) suspends or revokes a licence;

it shall, as soon as reasonably practicable, give to the applicant or holder of the licence, as the case may be, notice in writing of its reasons for the refusal, suspension or revocation.

(2) Any person to whom a notice under sub-paragraph (1) is given may appeal to the High Bailiff against the refusal, suspension or revocation.

(3) Sections 59 and 60 of the Local Government Act 1985^(d) apply to an appeal under sub-paragraph (2) with the substitution, for references to a local authority, of references to the Department.

Offences

6. (1) Any person who —
- (a) contravenes paragraph 1, or
 - (b) in an application for a licence or the amendment of a licence, makes any statement which he knows to be false in a material particular or recklessly makes any statement which is false in a material particular,

is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to custody for a term not exceeding 6 months or to a fine not exceeding £5,000, or to both.

(2) In proceedings for an offence under sub-paragraph (1)(b) it shall be a defence for the person accused to show that, by reason of an accident or emergency, the contravention was necessary for preventing injury or suffering to any person or animal.

Interpretation

7. In this Schedule —

"animal" includes bird;

"the Department" means the Department of Local Government and the Environment;

"killing", in relation to an animal, means causing the death of the animal by any process other than slaughter;

"knacker's yard" and "slaughterhouse" have the same meanings as in the Food Act 1996;

"licence" means a licence under paragraph 2;

"pithing", in relation to an animal, means the destruction of its brain tissue after stunning to the extent that irreversible loss of consciousness is ensured;

^d 1985 c.24

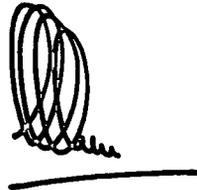
"slaughter", in relation to an animal, means causing the death of the animal by bleeding;

"stunning", in relation to an animal, means any process which causes immediate loss of consciousness which lasts until death."

MADE

14th January

1998



Minister for Local Government and the Environment

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations provide for the protection of animals at the time of slaughter and killing. They apply to the delivery, movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter and killing of animals both at slaughterhouses (for human consumption) and at knackers' yards (otherwise than for human consumption).

The Regulations —

- (a) prevent persons without the necessary knowledge and skill engaging in the lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter and killing of animals;
- (b) prohibit persons engaged in those activities causing the animals avoidable excitement, pain or suffering;
- (c) require occupiers of slaughterhouses and knackers' yards to ensure (i) that there is a person available with authority to take any action necessary to safeguard the welfare of live animals on the premises, and (ii) that any person engaged in the above activities is acquainted with the relevant legislation and welfare codes and, where necessary, is licensed;
- (d) provide for the Department of Local Government and the Environment to make statutory codes of practice;
- (e) specify requirements for the construction, equipment and maintenance of slaughterhouses and knackers' yards;
- (f) regulate the movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter and killing of animals in specified circumstances; and
- (g) impose welfare requirements on the occupiers of premises where birds are kept for slaughter at the point of sale.

The Regulations also amend the provisions of the Slaughter of Animals Act 1936 relating to the licensing of slaughtermen, and repeal the remainder of the Act (which is superseded by the foregoing provisions of the Regulations).