

SCHEDULE 12

Additional provisions for Slaughter by a religious method

Part II

PROVISIONS RELATING TO THE SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS BY A RELIGIOUS METHOD

Slaughter of bovine animals by a religious method

3.—(1) Subject to sub-paragraph (3), no person shall slaughter, or cause or permit to be slaughtered, any bovine animal in a slaughterhouse by a religious method unless the animal is in an upright position in a restraining pen which has been approved by the Department and which the Department is satisfied has been installed in such a manner as to ensure that it will operate efficiently.

(2) The Department may, for the purposes of sub-paragraph (1), give its approval to a restraining pen, but it shall not give any such approval unless it is satisfied that the pen is of such a size and design, and is able to be so operated, as to protect a bovine animal from any avoidable pain, suffering, agitation, injuries or contusions while confined in it or while entering it and, in particular, unless it is satisfied that the pen—

- (a) contains an effective means of restraining any bovine animal confined in it (including a suitable head restraint for that purpose); and
- (b) contains means of support which will take the weight of the animal during and following slaughter in it.

(3) Sub-paragraphs (1) and (2) shall not apply where the bovine animal is stunned, or stunned and pithed, before slaughter, but in such cases any bovine animal shall be restrained before stunning in accordance with paragraph 3(a) of Schedule 4.

Use and maintenance of restraining pens

4. The occupier of a slaughterhouse in which there is a restraining pen shall ensure that—
- (a) the means of restraining and supporting a bovine animal confined in such a pen described in paragraph 3(2)(a) and (b) are used in respect of any bovine animal confined in it;
 - (b) the pen is kept in good working order; and
 - (c) if it has been modified after it has been approved by the Department, the pen is not used again until a fresh approval is given by the Department.

Handling of animals during slaughter

5. The occupier of a slaughterhouse where animals are slaughtered by a religious method and any person engaged in the slaughter of any animal by a religious method shall ensure that—

- (a) no bovine animal is placed in a restraining pen unless the person who is to carry out the slaughter is ready to make the incision immediately the bovine animal is placed in the pen;
- (b) no animal is shackled or hoisted until the appropriate period referred to in paragraph 7 has elapsed and unless the animal is unconscious;
- (c) any sheep or goat, or any calf which is small enough to be restrained manually on a cradle or table, is slaughtered only on a cradle or table and that only one such animal is placed on the cradle or table at any one time; and
- (d) where the slaughter is carried out in a slaughterhouse, a captive bolt instrument is kept close to the restraining pen, cradle or table for use in case of emergency and is immediately

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally made). This item of legislation is currently only available in its original format.

used where the animal is subjected to any avoidable pain, suffering or agitation or has any injuries or contusions.

Method of slaughter

6. Any person who slaughters by a religious method any animal which has not been stunned before bleeding shall—

- (a) before each animal is slaughtered, inspect the knife to be used and ensure that it is not used unless it is undamaged and of sufficient size and sharpness to be capable of being used to slaughter the animal in the manner described in sub-paragraph (b); and
- (b) ensure that each animal is slaughtered by the severance, by rapid uninterrupted movements of a knife, of both its carotid arteries and both its jugular veins.

Handling animals after slaughter by a religious method

7. The occupier of a slaughterhouse in which animals are slaughtered by a religious method and any person engaged in the slaughter by a religious method of any animal shall ensure that where the animal has not been stunned, or stunned and pithed, before bleeding it is not moved until it is unconscious and in any event not before the expiry of—

- (a) in the case of any sheep or any goat, a period of not less than 20 seconds; and
- (b) in the case of any bovine animal, a period of not less than 30 seconds,

after it has been slaughtered in the manner described in paragraph 6.

Slaughter by a religious method elsewhere than in a slaughterhouse

8. No person shall slaughter any animal by a religious method, or cause or permit any animal to be so slaughtered, elsewhere than in a slaughterhouse unless the slaughter is carried out in the presence of an authorised person.