

SCHEDULE 6

Regulations 2, 4(1), 5, 12 and 19

SPECIFIED RISK MATERIAL, MECHANICALLY RECOVERED MEAT AND SLAUGHTERING TECHNIQUES

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Explanatory Note

Appointment of the Food Standards Agency as the competent authority

1.—(1) The Food Standards Agency shall, except in butcher shops, carry out the obligations on the member State in point 12 of Part A of Annex XI of the Community TSE Regulation in relation to this Schedule and shall grant authorisations for the purposes of point 10(a) of that Part.

(2) For the purposes of this Schedule, within a slaughterhouse or cutting plant, an inspector is—

- (a) an official veterinarian who is qualified in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific rules for the

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- organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption⁽¹⁾ to act in such a capacity and is appointed by the Food Standards Agency;
- (b) an official auxiliary who is qualified in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004 to act in such a capacity, is appointed by the Food Standards Agency and works under the authority and responsibility of an official veterinarian; or
 - (c) any other person appointed for the purpose by the Food Standards Agency.
- (3) The powers and duties of a person appointed as an inspector are limited to those specified in the appointment.
- (4) Any person exercising the powers of an inspector under this Schedule has the protection specified in regulation 14(3).

District council obligations with regards to butcher shops

2. A district council shall carry out the obligations on the member State in point 12 of Part A of Annex XI to the Community TSE Regulation in relation to this Schedule in so far as it relates to the removal in butcher shops of those parts of the vertebral column of bovine animals that are specified risk material and shall grant authorisations and effect registrations for the purposes of point 10(b) of that Part.

Training

3. The occupier of any slaughterhouse, cutting plant or butcher shop where specified risk material is removed must—
- (a) ensure that staff receive the training necessary to ensure that the occupier complies with his duties in this Schedule; and
 - (b) keep records of each person’s training for as long as that person works there,
- and failure to do so is an offence.

Mechanically recovered meat

4.—(1) Any person who contravenes point 3 of Part A of Annex XI of the Community TSE Regulation (use of bovine, ovine and caprine bones for the production of mechanically recovered meat) is guilty of an offence.

(2) Any person who uses any mechanically recovered meat produced in contravention of that point in the preparation of any food for sale for human consumption or of any feedingstuff is guilty of an offence.

(3) In this paragraph “mechanically recovered meat” means the product derived from residual meat on animal bones by mechanical means other than meat produced using hand held powered knives that do not use powered pressure or suction.

Pithing

5. Any person who contravenes point 4 of Part A of Annex XI of the Community TSE Regulation (pithing) is guilty of an offence.

(1) O.J. No. L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 206. The revised text of Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004 is now set out in a Corrigendum (O.J. No. L226, 25.6.2004, p.83)

Tongue harvesting

6. Any person who contravenes point 6 of Part A of Annex XI of the Community TSE Regulation (tongue harvesting) is guilty of an offence.

Head meat harvesting

7. Any person who contravenes points 7 or 9 of Part A of Annex XI to the Community TSE Regulation (head meat harvesting) is guilty of an offence.

Removal of specified risk material

8.—(1) Any person who removes specified risk material in any premises other than premises in which that specified risk material may be removed under point 5, point 10(a) or point 10(b) of Part A of Annex XI of the Community TSE Regulation is guilty of an offence.

(2) In the case of a cutting plant, it is an offence to remove—

- (a) (i) any part of the vertebral column that is specified risk material from any bovine animal over 30 months of age at slaughter; or
- (ii) in circumstances where the meat containing the specified risk material has been brought into Northern Ireland from Great Britain or a member State, any part of the vertebral column that is specified risk material from any bovine animal of 30 months of age or less at slaughter,

unless the plant is authorised under paragraph 13(1)(a); or

- (b) the spinal cord from any sheep or goat over 12 months of age at slaughter or which has a permanent incisor erupted through the gum, unless the plant is authorised for the purpose of such removal under paragraph 13(1)(b).

(3) In the case of a butcher shop, it is an offence to remove any part of the vertebral column that is specified risk material from a bovine animal, if the shop is not authorised and registered for that purpose under paragraph 14, or the meat containing the specified risk material has been brought into Northern Ireland from Great Britain or a member State.

Bovine animals in a slaughterhouse

9.—(1) When a bovine animal is slaughtered in a slaughterhouse or slaughtered elsewhere and brought to a slaughterhouse, the occupier of the slaughterhouse must remove all specified risk material, other than those parts of the vertebral column that are specified risk material, as soon as is reasonably practicable after slaughter and in any event before post-mortem inspection.

(2) The occupier of the slaughterhouse must, as soon as is reasonably practicable, consign any meat containing those parts of the vertebral column that are specified risk material—

- (a) in the case of any animal that is over 30 months of age at slaughter, to a cutting plant authorised under paragraph 13(1)(a) or to Great Britain, or to a member State in accordance with the second paragraph of point 13 of Part A of Annex XI to the Community TSE Regulation; or
- (b) in the case of any animal that is 30 months of age or less at slaughter, to a cutting plant, or to a butcher shop authorised and registered under paragraph 14 or to Great Britain, or to a member State in accordance with the second paragraph of point 13 of Part A of Annex XI to the Community TSE Regulation.

(3) The occupier of the slaughterhouse must identify meat containing vertebral column that is not specified risk material in accordance with point 14(a) of Part A of Annex XI of the Community TSE Regulation and provide information in accordance with point 14(b) of that Part.

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(4) A person shall not include a blue stripe in the label referred to in Article 13 of Regulation (EC) No. 1760/2000 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and regarding the labelling of beef and beef products and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No. 820/97(2) except in accordance with point 14(a) of Part A of Annex XI to the Community TSE Regulation.

(5) Contravention of this paragraph is an offence.

Sheep and goats in a slaughterhouse

10.—(1) When a sheep or goat is slaughtered in a slaughterhouse or slaughtered elsewhere and brought to a slaughterhouse, the occupier of the slaughterhouse must remove all specified risk material, other than the spinal cord, as soon as is reasonably practicable after slaughter and in any event before post-mortem inspection.

(2) In the case of a sheep or goat aged over 12 months at slaughter, or which has a permanent incisor erupted through the gum, the occupier of the slaughterhouse must as soon as is reasonably practicable after slaughter—

- (a) remove the spinal cord at the slaughterhouse before the post-mortem inspection; or
- (b) send the meat to a cutting plant authorised under paragraph 13(1)(b); or
- (c) in accordance with the first paragraph of point 13 of Part A of Annex XI of the Community TSE Regulation send the meat to a cutting plant in Great Britain or, where the Food Standards Agency has entered into a written agreement with the competent authority of the receiving member State and the dispatch is in accordance with that agreement, to a cutting plant in a member State.

(3) In sub-paragraph (2)(c), “cutting plant” means premises—

- (a) approved or conditionally approved as such under Article 31(2) of Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules(3); or
- (b) operating as such under Article 4(5) of Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin(4) pending such approval.

(4) Contravention of this paragraph is an offence.

Young lamb and goat stamps

11.—(1) An inspector may stamp a sheep or goat carcass in a slaughterhouse with a young lamb stamp or a young goat stamp if the animal does not have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum and the documentation, if any, relating to the animal does not indicate that it is over 12 months of age at slaughter.

(2) The stamp shall mark the meat with a circular mark 5 centimetres in diameter with the following in capital letters 1 centimetre high—

- (a) “VS”; and

(2) O.J. No. L. 204, 11.8.2000, p.1, as last amended by the Act concerning the conditions of accession of the Czech Republic, the Republic of Estonia, the Republic of Cyprus, the Republic of Latvia, the Republic of Lithuania, the Republic of Hungary, the Republic of Malta, the Republic of Poland, the Republic of Slovenia and the Slovak Republic and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the European Union is founded (O.J. No. L 236, 23.9.2003, p.33)

(3) (O.J. No. L 165, 30.4.2004, p.1. The revised text of Regulation (EC) No.882/2004 is now set out in Corrigendum (O.J. No. L191, 28.5.2004, p.1)

(4) (O.J. No. L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 55. The revised text of Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 is now set out in a Corrigendum (O.J. No. L226, 25.6.2004, p.22)

- (b) in the case of a sheep, “YL”; or
- (c) in the case of a goat, “YG”.

(3) It is an offence for any person other than an inspector to apply the stamp or a mark resembling the stamp or to possess equipment for applying it.

(4) It is an offence to mark a sheep or goat with a stamp that is or resembles a young lamb stamp or a young goat stamp unless it is an animal permitted to be marked in accordance with subparagraph (1).

Removal of spinal cord from sheep and goats

12. It is an offence, other than for the purposes of veterinary or scientific examination, to remove the spinal cord or any part of it from a sheep or goat over 12 months of age at slaughter or that had one or more permanent incisors erupted through the gum except by—

- (a) longitudinally splitting the whole vertebral column; or
- (b) removing a longitudinal section of the whole vertebral column including the spinal cord.

Authorisation of cutting plants by the Food Standards Agency

13.—(1) The Food Standards Agency shall authorise a cutting plant to remove—

- (a) those parts of the vertebral column that are specified risk material from bovine animals over 30 months of age at slaughter; or
- (b) spinal cord from sheep and goats over 12 months of age at slaughter or which have a permanent incisor erupted through the gum,

if the Agency is satisfied that the provisions of Part A of Annex XI to the Community TSE Regulation and this Schedule will be complied with.

(2) Regulations 6, 8, 9 and 10 apply to any authorisation under this paragraph as it applies to an authorisation by the Department as if all references in those regulations to the Department were references to the district council concerned.

Authorisation and registration of butcher shops by District Councils

14.—(1) A district council shall authorise a butcher shop to remove those parts of the vertebral column that are specified risk material from bovine animals 30 months of age or less at slaughter and register the shop for that purpose, if the council is satisfied that the provisions of Part A of Annex XI to the Community TSE Regulation and this Schedule will be complied with.

(2) Regulations 6, 8, 9 and 10 apply to any authorisation under this paragraph as it applies to an authorisation by the Department as if all references in those regulations to the Department were references to the district council concerned.

Removal of specified risk material at a cutting plant authorised under paragraph 13(1)

15. The occupier of a cutting plant authorised under paragraph 13(1) commits an offence unless he removes from the carcase as soon as reasonably practicable after its arrival at the plant and in any event before the meat is dispatched from the plant—

- (a) all specified risk material to which the authorisation relates; and
- (b) where the carcase is derived from a bovine animal 30 months of age or less at slaughter, those parts of the vertebral column that are specified risk material.

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Removal of bovine vertebral column that is specified risk material at a cutting plant not authorised under paragraph 13(1)(a)

16. In the case of carcasses derived from a bovine animal of 30 months of age or less at slaughter that has not been brought into Northern Ireland from Great Britain or a member State, the occupier of a cutting plant not authorised under paragraph 13(1)(a) commits an offence unless he removes from the carcass as soon as reasonably practicable, and in any event before the meat is dispatched from the premises those parts of the vertebral column that are specified risk material.

Removal of bovine vertebral column that is specified risk material at a butcher shop authorised and registered under paragraph 14

17. In the case of meat derived from a bovine animal of 30 months of age or less at slaughter that has not been brought into Northern Ireland from Great Britain or a member State, the occupier of a butcher shop authorised and registered under paragraph 14 commits an offence unless he removes from the meat those parts of the vertebral column that are specified risk material before the meat is removed from the premises.

Meat from Great Britain or a member State

18. For the purposes of point 13 of Part A of Annex XI of the Community TSE Regulation, where meat containing those parts of the vertebral column of a bovine animal that are specified risk material is brought into Northern Ireland from Great Britain or a member State, the importer must send it directly to a cutting plant authorised under paragraph 13(1)(a) and failure to do so is an offence.

Staining and disposal of specified risk material

19.—(1) The occupier of any premises where specified risk material is removed who contravenes point 11 of Part A of Annex XI of the Community TSE Regulation (staining and disposal of specified risk material) is guilty of an offence.

(2) For the purposes of that point—

(a) staining means treating the material (whether by immersion, spraying or other application) with—

(i) a 0.5% weight/volume solution of the colouring agent Patent Blue V (E131, 1971 Colour Index No. 42051(5)); or

(ii) such other colouring agent as may be approved in writing by the Department or the Food Standards Agency; and

(b) the stain must be applied in such a way that the colouring is and remains clearly visible—

(i) over the whole of the cut surface and the majority of the head in the case of the head of a sheep or goat; and

(ii) in the case of all other specified risk material, over the whole surface of the material.

(3) This paragraph does not apply in relation to any specified risk material which is destined for use as provided in Article 1.2(b) and (c) of the Community TSE Regulation.

Scheme animals

20.—(1) After the specified risk material has been removed from a bovine animal slaughtered for the purposes of Commission Regulation (EC) No. 716/96 adopting exceptional support measures

(5) Colour Index is published by the Society of Dyers and Colourists at Perkin House, 82 Grattan Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 2JB.

for the beef market in the United Kingdom⁽⁶⁾, the remainder, excluding the hide, must immediately be stained in accordance with paragraph 19 in such a way that the colouring is and remains clearly visible over the whole surface of the material.

(2) Failure to comply with this paragraph is an offence.

Security of specified risk material

21.—(1) Pending consignment or disposal from the premises on which it was removed, the occupier of the premises must ensure that specified risk material is adequately separated from any food, feedingstuff or cosmetic, pharmaceutical or medical product and held in an impervious covered container that is labelled as either—

(a) containing specified risk material; or

(b) Category 1 animal by-products and including the words “For disposal only”.

(2) He must ensure that each time the container is emptied it is thoroughly washed, as soon as reasonably practicable, and disinfected before use for any other purpose.

(3) Failure to comply with this paragraph is an offence.

Prohibition on the supply of specified risk material for human consumption

22. It is an offence to sell or supply—

(a) any specified risk material or any food containing specified risk material for human consumption; or

(b) any specified risk material for use in the preparation of any food for human consumption.

(6) O.J. No. L 99, 20.4.1996, p. 14, as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No. 2109/2005 (O.J. No. L 337, 22.12.2005, p.25)