
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1992 No. 2037

The Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1992

PART V

**ADMISSION TO AND DETENTION IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND
FARMED GAME PROCESSING FACILITIES OF ANIMALS AND CARCASSES**

Alternative accommodation for dirty or dead animals

16.—(1) An official veterinary surgeon, or an inspector acting under the supervision of an official veterinary surgeon, may require the accommodation or alternative methods of operation and facilities referred to in sub-paragraphs 1(d) of Schedule 2 and 1(n) of Part II of Schedule 5 to be used for—

- (a) the slaughtering and dressing of any animal which is brought into a slaughterhouse and which is known to be, or suspected of being, diseased or injured;
- (b) the dressing of any slaughtered and bled animal which is brought into a slaughterhouse in accordance with regulation 19 below

and so long as any requirement to use alternative accommodation in such circumstances, or to prohibit the entry of a dirty animal in the circumstances set out in paragraph (2) below, is in effect, the licence in respect of the premises shall be treated as being altered by the addition of that requirement and the other provisions of the licence shall be subject to that requirement.

(2) An inspector or official veterinary surgeon may require the detention in a lairage, or may prohibit the slaughter of, any animal which in his opinion is so dirty as to be likely to prevent hygienic dressing operations if it is taken into the slaughterhall at that slaughterhouse.

(3) In the case of a slaughtered and bled animal which is brought into a slaughterhouse or farmed game processing facility in accordance with regulation 19 or sub-paragraph (1)(g) of Part I of Schedule 6, an inspector or official veterinary surgeon may give notice that in his opinion any such animal is so dirty as to be likely to prevent hygienic dressing operations if it is taken into the slaughterhall at that slaughterhouse or the dressing room at that farmed game processing facility, and if such notice is given the occupier of the premises shall not take the animal in.

(4) When an animal has been required to be detained in a lairage by an inspector or official veterinary surgeon under paragraph (2) above, the occupier of the slaughterhouse or farmed game handling facility shall, if the inspector or official veterinary surgeon requires, clean the animal and present it to an official veterinary surgeon for an ante-mortem inspection to be carried out in accordance with Schedule 8.

(5) No person shall, unless directed by an official veterinary surgeon or a veterinary officer, remove from a slaughterhouse an animal intended for slaughter for human consumption.

Period of time for keeping an animal in a lairage

17.—(1) Without prejudice to the provisions of the Movement and Sale of Pigs Order 1975(1) no person shall keep or permit to be kept in any lairage for a period exceeding 72 hours any animal intended for slaughter unless—

- (a) the official veterinary surgeon gives his consent to such animal being kept in a lairage for a period exceeding 72 hours, which consent shall only be given in exceptional circumstances; and
- (b) such animal is isolated from all other animals in respect of which no such consent has been given.

(2) In this regulation “lairage” means any covered part of a slaughterhouse used for the confinement of animals awaiting slaughter there, but does not include any field, pasture or other open lairage forming part of any slaughterhouse or otherwise.

Conditions on the admission of diseased or injured animals

18. No person shall bring into, or permit to be brought into, a slaughterhouse any animal which he knows or suspects to be diseased or injured unless—

- (a) he has already ensured that such animal is accompanied by a written declaration signed by the owner or person in charge of the animal containing the information specified in Schedule 18 and that declaration is handed to an inspector or an official veterinary surgeon on its arrival at the slaughterhouse; and
- (b) on arrival at the slaughterhouse the animal is either—
 - (i) slaughtered without delay; or
 - (ii) taken without delay under the direction of an inspector or the official veterinary surgeon to that part of the lairage provided for the isolation of such animals.

Conditions on the admission of dead or slaughtered animals

19.—(1) No person shall bring into, or permit to be brought into, or to remain in, a slaughterhouse the body of an animal which has died unless it died in transit to the slaughterhouse and is removed from the slaughterhouse immediately following the carrying out of any necessary examination performed under the Animal Health Act 1981.

(2) No person shall bring into, or permit to be brought into, a slaughterhouse the slaughtered body of an animal, unless—

- (a) it has been bled;
- (b) the animal has undergone an ante-mortem inspection by a veterinary surgeon in accordance with paragraphs 3 to 5 of Schedule 8;
- (c) the animal has been slaughtered as a result of an accident or because it is suffering from a serious physiological or functional disorder;
- (d) the body of the animal has not been dressed;
- (e) the body of the animal is accompanied to the slaughterhouse by the veterinary certificate referred to in Schedule 19, to be handed on arrival at the slaughterhouse to an inspector or official veterinary surgeon; and
- (f) the body of the animal is transported to the slaughterhouse in a container or vehicle under hygienic conditions and, if it cannot be delivered to the slaughterhouse within one hour

of slaughter, it is transported there in a container or vehicle under hygienic conditions in which the ambient temperature is between 0°C and +4°C.

(3) Paragraph (2) above shall not apply to the slaughtered and bled body of farmed game which comes from a farmed game handling facility in accordance with Part I of Schedule 6.