STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

1996 No. 428

FOOD SAFETY

The Heads of Sheep and Goats (Treatment and Disposal) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996

Made - - - -	*14th September 1996*
Coming into operation	*16th September 1996*

Whereas it appears to the Department of Agriculture acting as the Department concerned that it is necessary or expedient—

(a) for the purposes of ensuring that food complies with food safety requirements or in the interests of public health; or

(b) for the purposes of protecting or promoting the interests of consumers,

to make the following Regulations;

Now therefore the said Department concerned, in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 15(1) and (3), 16(1), 18(1), 25, 26(3) and 47(2) of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991(**1**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, and after consultation, in accordance with Article 47(3) of that Order, with such organisations that appear to it to be representative of interests substantially affected by the Regulations, hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Heads of Sheep and Goats (Treatment and Disposal) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996 and shall come into operation on 16th September 1996.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"feeding stuff" means feeding stuff as defined in section 66(1) of the Agriculture Act 1970(**2**);

(**1**) S.I. 1991 No. 762 (N.I. 7) as amended by S.I. 1996 No. 1633 (N.I. 12)

(**2**) 1979 c. 40, the definition of "feeding stuff" in section 66 was substituted by regulation 20(1) of the Feedingstuffs Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (S.R. 1995 No. 451); regulation 3 of those Regulations prescribes descriptions of animals for the purpose of the definition

"non-scheme animals" means bovine animals other than those slaughtered pursuant to the purchase scheme introduced under Commission Regulation (EC) No. 716/96(**3**);

"the HSG Order" means the Heads of Sheep and Goats Order (Northern Ireland) 1996(**4**);

"the Order" means the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991;

"the SBM Order" means the Specified Bovine Material Order (No. 2) (Northern Ireland) 1996(**5**);

"the SBMTD Regulations" means the Specified Bovine Material (Treatment and Disposal) (No. 3) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996(**6**);

"specified bovine material" has the same meaning as in the SBMTD Regulations;

"stain" in relation to any material means treat (either by immersion, spraying or other application) with a 0.5% weight/volume solution of the colouring agent Patent Blue V (E131, 1971 Colour Index No. 42051)(**7**) in such a way that the colouring is clearly visible over the whole surface of the material.

Heads of sheep and goats for human consumption

3.—(1) A person shall not sell for human consumption any part of the head of a sheep or goat, or any food containing any part of the head of a sheep or goat.

(2) A person shall not use any part of the head of a sheep or goat in the preparation of food for sale for human consumption.

(3) A person shall not sell any part of the head of a sheep or goat for use in the preparation of food for human consumption.

(4) For the purposes of this regulation "the head of a sheep or goat" includes any product derived from it but does not include the tongue where this has been removed immediately after slaughter but before the staining of the head.

(5) This regulation shall not apply to the head of a sheep or goat born, reared and slaughtered in Australia or New Zealand.

Initial treatment of heads of sheep and goats in a slaughterhouse

4.—(1) When a sheep or goat is slaughtered in a slaughterhouse, or slaughtered elsewhere than in a slaughterhouse but brought immediately to a slaughterhouse to be dressed for human consumption, the occupier of the slaughterhouse (in this regulation referred to as "the occupier") shall ensure that the head is removed from the rest of the carcase.

(2) Subject to paragraph (4) and regulation 6, the occupier shall ensure that any head removed from the carcase of a sheep or goat in accordance with paragraph (1) is stained immediately after removal, and in any event before it is frozen, except that, if the tongue is to be removed, this shall be done immediately after slaughter of the animal and the head shall be stained immediately after removal of the tongue.

(3) Subject to regulation 7, the occupier shall ensure that any head removed from the carcase of a sheep or goat does not come into contact with any other animal material, while in the slaughterhouse and that it is consigned in accordance with Article 4 of the HSG Order and disposed of in accordance with these Regulations.

(**3**) O.J. No. L99, 19.4.96, p. 14
(**4**) S.R. 1996 No. 427
(**5**) S.R. 1996 No. 360
(**6**) S.R. 1996 No. 361
(**7**) Colour Index is published by the Society of Dyers and Colourists at Perkin House, 82 Grattan Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1 2JB