**1984 No. 402**

**FOOD AND DRUGS**

**Food Hygiene**

# Meat Inspection Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984

| | |
|---|---|
| *Made* . . . . . | *22nd November 1984* |
| *Coming into operation* . . . | *21st January 1985* |

The Department of Health and Social Services(**a**) in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 13 and 68 of the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland) 1958(**b**) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf and after consultation in accordance with section 68(2) of that Act with such organisations as appear to it to be representative of interests substantially affected by these regulations, hereby makes the following regulations:—

*Citation and commencement*

**1.** These regulations may be cited as the Meat Inspection Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984 and shall come into operation on 21st January 1985.

*Interpretation*

**2.** In these regulations—

"the Act" means the Food and Drugs Act (Northern Ireland) 1958;

"animals" means cattle, swine, sheep, horses and goats; and "horses" includes asses and mules;

"authorised officer" means a person authorised or deemed to be authorised under the Act to act in relation to the examination and seizure of meat;

"blood" means blood derived from an animal;

"carcase" means the body of a dead animal;

"examine in detail" means examine by making multiple deep incisions;

"offal" means any part of a dead animal removed from the carcase in the process of dressing it but does not include the hide or skin;

"registered premises" means registered premises within the meaning of section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Meat Regulation and Pig Industry) Act (Northern Ireland) 1962(**c**);

"slaughterhouse" means premises, not being registered premises, in which animals are slaughtered, the flesh of which is intended for human consumption and includes premises available in connection therewith for the confinement of animals while awaiting slaughter there or for keeping, or subjecting to any treatment or process, products of the slaughtering of animals there; but does not include premises available in connection with a slaughterhouse and used solely for the manufacture of bacon, ham, sausages, meat pies or other manufactured meat products or for the storage of meat used in such manufacture.

---

(**a**) *See* S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964 No. 205 Art. 5 and Sch. 2 Part I
(**b**) 1958 c. 27 (N.I.)
(**c**) 1962 c. 13 (N.I.)

*Saving*

**3.** Nothing in these regulations shall affect or derogate from the operation of any order made under the provisions of the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981(a).

*Duty of inspection*

**4.** Each district council shall arrange for the inspection by an authorised officer in accordance with these regulations of—

(*a*) the carcase of every animal slaughtered within its district for sale for human consumption, not being a carcase which is removed from its district pursuant to the proviso to regulation 9(2), nor the carcase of an animal slaughtered in registered premises;

(*b*) every carcase removed to a place within its district pursuant to the proviso to regulation 9(2).

*Notice of slaughter*

**5.**—(1) Where by reason of accidental injury, illness, exposure to infection or other emergency affecting an animal a person intends to slaughter or has slaughtered an animal for sale for human consumption, that person shall notify the district council within whose district that animal is situated of the day, time and place on and at which the slaughter will take place, or has taken place, as soon as reasonably practicable, whether before or after the slaughter takes place.

(2) This regulation shall not apply in any case where an animal is slaughtered in a slaughterhouse or registered premises.

*Dressing of carcases*

**6.**—(1) Every person who slaughters, or causes to be slaughtered, in a slaughterhouse any animal for sale for human consumption shall ensure that the carcase is dressed immediately after the animal has been slaughtered and that the provisions of paragraph (2) are complied with.

(2) The carcase shall be dressed and treated in such a manner as not to prevent or hinder inspection in accordance with these regulations and in particular—

(*a*) where back bleeding ensues upon the slaughter of an animal the pleura shall not be completely detached from the carcase until an authorised officer authorises the removal of the pleura;

(*b*) no action shall be taken which might alter or destroy any evidence of disease except on the instructions of an authorised officer;

(*c*) the offal, other than the feet of any animal, shall after removal from the carcase be so kept as to remain readily identifiable with the carcase until that carcase has been inspected by an authorised officer; and the feet of any animal shall be kept available for inspection in the slaughterhouse until an authorised officer authorises their removal;

(*d*) any blood intended for human consumption shall be collected and placed in a clean receptacle provided for that purpose and shall be so kept as to remain readily identifiable with the carcases from which it was collected until those carcases have been inspected by an authorised officer.

(a) S.I. 1981/1115 (N.I. 22)

*Inspection of meat*

**7.**—(1) Every inspection made in pursuance of regulation 4 shall be made in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 1 and, so far as is practicable, shall be made while the carcase is being dressed.

(2) In determining whether he is satisfied that any carcase, part of a carcase, or any offal or blood is fit for human consumption the authorised officer shall have regard to the provisions of Schedule 2, and he may, if he thinks fit, require specimens from that carcase, blood or offal to be submitted for laboratory examination.

*Notification of disease or unsoundness*

**8.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), where on the slaughter of any animal for sale for human consumption it appears that any part of the carcase is or may be diseased or unsound, the person by whom or on whose behalf the animal was slaughtered shall forthwith inform the district council of that fact.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in any case where an animal is slaughtered in a slaughterhouse or registered premises.

*Restriction on removal of carcases*

**9.**—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person shall not remove, or cause or permit to be removed, from a slaughterhouse any blood intended for human consumption or any carcase or part of a carcase or any offal until it has been inspected in accordance with these regulations and, in the case of any carcase or part of a carcase which has been so inspected and passed as fit for human consumption by an authorised officer, until it has been marked in accordance with regulation 11.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), where by reason of accidental injury, illness, exposure to infection or other emergency affecting any animal, that animal has been slaughtered for sale for human consumption in any place other than a slaughterhouse or registered premises, a person shall not remove, or cause to be removed, from the place of slaughter the carcase of that animal or any part thereof or any offal removed therefrom, or any blood collected from the carcase and intended for human consumption, until it has been inspected in accordance with these regulations and, in the case of any carcase or part of a carcase which has been so inspected and passed as fit for human consumption by an authorised officer, until it has been marked in accordance with regulation 11:

Provided that where any animal to which this paragraph applies has been slaughtered in a place which is unsuitable for retaining a carcase, the carcase may be removed to some convenient place for inspection in accordance with these regulations, but the information required to be given under regulation 5 shall be given to the district council in whose district that place of inspection is situated, and regulation 5 and this paragraph shall have effect as if that place were substituted for the place of slaughter.

*Restriction on the use of slaughterhouse*

**10.** A person shall not use, or cause to be used, a slaughterhouse for the slaughter of any animal not intended for human consumption, or the dressing of the carcase of any such animal.

*Marking of carcases*

**11.**—(1) Where after inspection in accordance with these regulations an authorised officer is satisfied that a carcase or part of a carcase is fit for human consumption, he shall mark that carcase or, as the case may be, that part of the carcase, with a mark of the kind, and in the appropriate manner, described in Schedule 3:

Provided that in every case where an authorised officer is not so satisfied in relation to any part of a carcase he shall not mark any part of that carcase until the part in relation to which he is not satisfied has been removed.

(2) A person, other than an authorised officer, shall not, in relation to any carcase or part of a carcase, make use of any mark of the kind described in Schedule 3.

(3) A person shall not make use of any mark so resembling a mark used by an authorised officer in accordance with these regulations as to be calculated to deceive.

*Notification to district council and marking of certain meat placed in cold storage*

**12.**—(1) Every person who causes any part of a carcase or any offal to be placed in cold storage for the purposes of paragraph 7(*b*) of Schedule 2 shall, at the same time as he causes it to be so placed, give notice to the district council within whose district the cold store is situated, in such form as the district council may require, of the date of the placing and the period for which it is intended that the part of a carcase or offal, as the case may be, will remain in cold storage.

(2) Where an authorised officer is satisfied that the said part of a carcase is fit for human consumption, he shall mark it in accordance with regulation 11.

*Charges by district councils for meat inspection*

**13.**—(1) Subject to the provisions of this regulation, a district council may make charges for meat inspection carried out by authorised officers in pursuance of regulation 4 at rates not exceeding scales determined by them from time to time.

(2) If it appears to the Department of Health and Social Services that the amounts of any charges so determined are in any respect unreasonable, whether as respects their operation in the district generally or as respects their operation at particular premises within the district, it may, after consultation with the district council, direct them in relation to the operation of the charges in the district generally or in relation to their operation at particular premises within the district—

(*a*) to make such alterations in the amounts of the charges as it considers appropriate; and

(*b*) except with its approval, not to depart from those amounts so altered for such period as it may specify,

and the district council shall comply with the direction.

(3) Any charge payable to a district council by virtue of this regulation shall be payable—

(*a*) in respect of any animal slaughtered in a slaughterhouse, by the person on whose behalf the animal is slaughtered;

(*b*) in any other case, by the person who informs a district council of the slaughter in accordance with regulation 5.

(4) Any charge due to a district council by virtue of this regulation shall be recoverable by that council summarily as a civil debt.

*Notification to district council*

**14.** Any information or notice required to be given under regulation 5, 8 or 12 shall be given to the district council orally or in writing at such address as that council may direct, and, if given in writing, may be given by post.

*Responsibility, and assistance to authorised officers*

**15.** A person who slaughters, or causes to be slaughtered, any animal for sale for human consumption shall—

(*a*) take all practicable steps to ensure compliance by any person employed by him with the provisions of regulations 5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 12; and

(*b*) ensure that an authorised officer is given such reasonable assistance as he may require for the purpose of these regulations.

*Penalties and enforcement*

**16.**—(1) If any person contravenes any of the provisions of these regulations he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding £400 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both such fine and such imprisonment.

(2) Each district council shall enforce and execute the provisions of these regulations in its district.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services for Northern Ireland on 22nd November 1984.

(L.S.) *R. W. McQuiston*
Assistant Secretary