

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 carcasses

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 carcasses from which it was collected until those carcasses have been inspected by an authorised officer.

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 carcasses

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 carcasses

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 carcass he shall not mark any part of that carcass 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 carcass or part of a carcass, 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 carcass 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 carcass 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 carcass 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

SCHEDULE 1

Regulation 7(1)

INSPECTION OF CARCASSES, OFFAL AND BLOOD

Part I. General Instructions

1. When examining the carcass of any animal, the authorised officer shall have regard to—
- (a) its state of nutrition;
 - (b) any evidence of bruising, haemorrhage or abnormal colour;
 - (c) any local or general oedema;
 - (d) the efficiency of bleeding;
 - (e) any swelling, deformity or other abnormality of bones, joints, musculature or umbilicus;
 - (f) the age and sex of the animal from which it was derived;
 - (g) any abnormal odour;
 - (h) the condition of the pleura and peritoneum;
 - (i) any other evidence of abnormality.

Part II. Detailed Instructions*Examination of the head*

2. In examining the head of any bovine animal or horse, the authorised officer shall —
- (a) examine the surface and substance of the tongue;
 - (b) inspect the palate and roof of the mouth and examine in detail the retropharyngeal, submaxillary and parotid lymphatic glands;
 - (c) examine the external and internal cheek muscles of a bovine animal by making several deep incisions parallel to the plane of the lower jaw, and in the case of a horse, make a similar examination if he considers it necessary;
 - (d) inspect the eyes:

Provided that in the case of the head of a young calf, the authorised officer may make such lesser examination as seems to him sufficient in the circumstances of the case.

3. In examining the head of any pig, the authorised officer shall examine, so far as is practicable, the lips, gums and tongue and shall examine in detail the submaxillary lymphatic glands.

4. In examining the head of any sheep or goat, the authorised officer shall examine, so far as is practicable, the lips, gums and tongue.

Examination of the abdominal cavity

5. In examining the abdominal cavity of any animal, the authorised officer shall—
- (a) examine the outer, and if he considers it necessary the inner, surfaces of the stomach and intestines and examine the surface and substance of the spleen and the surface of the omentum;
 - (b) examine in detail the gastrosplenic and mesenteric lymphatic glands of any bovine animal, horse or pig;
 - (c) examine the surface and substance of the liver in all cases and incise the thick end of the liver of any bovine animal;
 - (d) incise the bile ducts in any case in which he considers it necessary to do so;
 - (e) examine in detail the hepatic lymphatic gland of any bovine animal, horse or pig;
 - (f) examine in detail the renal lymphatic glands and, if he considers it necessary, expose and incise the kidneys and in the case of adult bovine animals examine the adrenal glands;

- (g) examine the substance and outer surface and, if he considers it necessary, the inner surface of the uterus;
- (h) examine the substance of the ovaries.

Examination of the thoracic cavity

6. In examining the thoracic cavity of any animal, the authorised officer shall—
- (a) examine the lungs by palpation as well as by observation and incise them at the base unless he is satisfied, without doing so, that they are diseased;
 - (b) examine in detail the bronchial and mediastinal lymphatic glands of any bovine animal, horse or pig unless he is satisfied, without doing so, that the glands are diseased;
 - (c) open the pericardium and examine the heart muscles, and—
 - (i) in the case of any adult bovine animal, open the heart by an incision through the left ventricle and, if he considers it necessary, make further incisions into the heart wall from the inside;
 - (ii) in the case of any animal other than an adult bovine animal, incise the heart wall if he considers it necessary to do so.

Examination of the udder

7. In examining the udder of—
- (a) a cow or sow, the authorised officer shall incise the udder and examine it by observation and palpation and shall examine in detail the supramammary lymphatic glands;
 - (b) any female animal other than a cow or sow, the authorised officer shall examine the udder by observation and palpation and, if he considers it necessary, incise the udder and examine in detail the supramammary lymphatic glands.

Examination of the testicles and penis

8. In examining the testicles and penis of any animal, the authorised officer shall—
- (a) examine their outer surface and substance;
 - (b) examine in detail the superficial inguinal lymphatic glands of a bull or boar;
 - (c) if he considers it necessary, examine in detail the superficial inguinal lymphatic glands of any other male animal.

Examination of the feet

9. In the case of any bovine animal or pig, the authorised officer shall examine the feet and, in any other case, shall examine the feet if he deems it necessary to do so.

Part III. Additional instructions where tuberculosis is suspected

10. Where the authorised officer has reason to suspect that any part of the carcase or offal of any animal is infected with tuberculosis, he shall, in addition to carrying out the provisions of Parts I and II—

- (a) in the case of any carcase, require the carcase to be split, examine the vertebrae, ribs, sternum, spinal cord and, if he considers it necessary, the brain, and expose, and if a lesion of a kidney is visible or suspected, incise, the kidney;
- (b) in the case of the carcase of any bovine animal or horse, examine in detail the following lymphatic glands (being glands not already examined by him in accordance with the provisions of Part II), namely, the superficial inguinal, supramammary, prepectoral, presternal, suprasternal, xiphoid, subdorsal, intercostal, prescapular, iliac, sublumbar, ischiatic, precrucial and popliteal, those glands which are least likely to show infection being examined first;
- (c) in the case of the carcase of any pig, examine in detail the following lymphatic glands (being glands not already examined by him in accordance with the provisions of Part II), namely, the superficial inguinal, supramammary, cervical, prepectoral, prescapular, subdorsal, sublumbar, iliac, precrucial and, if he considers it necessary, the popliteal.

Part IV. Additional instructions in the case of sheep or lambs suspected of being infected with caseous lymphadenitis or any other suppurative condition

11. Where the authorised officer has reason to suspect that caseous lymphadenitis or any other suppurative condition exists in the carcase of any sheep or lamb he shall, in addition to carrying out the provisions of Parts I and II—

- (a) examine by palpation as well as by observation such of the lymphatic glands as are readily accessible; and
- (b) examine in detail the prescapular, superficial inguinal, supramammary and precrural lymphatic glands of a sheep, and in the case of a lamb, examine those glands in detail if he has found evidence of disease in the course of visual examination or palpation.

Part V. Additional instructions in the case of pigs where an abscess is found or suspected

12. If an abscess is found in the carcase or in an organ of any pig, or if the authorised officer has reason to suspect the presence of any such abscess, he shall require the carcase to be split through the spinal column and shall examine in detail the lymphatic glands specified in paragraph 10(c).

SCHEDULE 2

Regulation 7(2)

INDICATIONS OF UNFITNESS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

1.—(1) If upon inspection of any carcase the authorised officer is satisfied that the animal was suffering from any of the following diseases or conditions, he shall regard the whole carcase and all the offal and blood removed or collected therefrom as being unfit for human consumption—

- Actinobacillosis (generalised) or actinomycosis (generalised)
- Anaemia (advanced)
- Anthrax
- Blackleg
- Bruising (extensive and severe)
- Caseous lymphadenitis with emaciation
- Caseous lymphadenitis (generalised)
- Cysticercus bovis (generalised)
- Cysticercus cellulosae
- Cysticercus ovis (generalised)
- Decomposition (generalised)
- Emaciation (pathological)
- Fever
- Foot and mouth disease
- Glanders
- Jaundice
- Malignant catarrhal fever
- Mastitis (acute septic)
- Melanosis (generalised)
- Metritis (acute septic)
- Abnormal odour associated with disease or other conditions prejudicial to health
- Oedema (generalised)
- Pericarditis (acute septic)
- Peritonitis (acute diffuse septic)
- Pleurisy (acute diffuse septic)
- Pneumonia (acute septic)
- Pyæmia (including joint-ill)
- Sarcocysts (generalised)
- Septicaemia or toxaemia
- Swine erysipelas (acute)
- Swine fever
- Tetanus
- Trichinosis
- Tuberculosis (generalised)
- Tuberculosis with emaciation
- Tumours
 - (a) malignant with secondary growths
 - (b) multiple
- Uraemia.

(2) The authorised officer shall regard as unfit for human consumption any stillborn or unborn carcase and any immature carcase which is oedematous or in poor physical condition, together with any offal or blood removed or collected therefrom.

2. The authorised officer shall regard the blood of any animal as unfit for human consumption if he is satisfied—

- (a) that the animal was affected with any infectious condition; or
- (b) that the blood is contaminated by stomach contents or other extraneous matter.

3. The authorised officer shall in determining for the purposes of this Schedule whether tuberculosis is generalised take into account the sum of the evidence of disease and the character of the lesions throughout the carcase and, in particular, shall regard evidence of any of the following conditions as evidence of generalised tuberculosis—

- (a) miliary tuberculosis of both lungs with evidence of tuberculosis elsewhere;
- (b) multiple and actively progressive lesions of tuberculosis;
- (c) widespread tuberculous infection of the lymphatic glands of the carcase;
- (d) diffuse acute lesions of tuberculosis of both the pleura and peritoneum associated with an enlarged or tuberculous lymphatic gland of the carcase;
- (e) active or recent lesions present in the substance of any two of the following — spleen, kidney, udder, uterus, ovary, testicle, brain and spinal cord or their membranes, in addition to tuberculous lesions in the respiratory and digestive tracts;
- (f) in the case of a calf, congenital tuberculosis.

4.—(1) Where the authorised officer is satisfied that a carcase or offal is affected with tuberculosis other than generalised tuberculosis or tuberculosis with emaciation, he shall regard the following parts of the carcase and offal as unfit for human consumption—

- (a) any part of the carcase infected with localised tuberculosis and any other part contiguous thereto;
- (b) the head including the tongue, when tuberculosis exists in any lymphatic gland associated with the head or tongue:

Provided that, where in a particular gland or glands the lesion is small and inactive and the gland is not enlarged, the authorised officer may at his discretion regard the head or tongue, or both, as fit for human consumption after the removal of the affected gland or glands and the surrounding tissue;

- (c) any organ or viscera when tuberculosis exists in the substance, or on the surface thereof, or in any lymphatic gland associated therewith.

(2) The authorised officer shall regard any part of a carcase and any offal or blood contaminated with tuberculous material as unfit for human consumption.

5. The authorised officer shall regard either of the following conditions as evidence of generalised caseous lymphadenitis for the purposes of this Schedule—

- (a) multiple, acute and actively progressive lesions of caseous lymphadenitis;
- (b) multiple lesions of caseous lymphadenitis which are inactive but widespread.

6. Where the authorised officer is satisfied that a carcase or offal is affected with caseous lymphadenitis or any other suppurative condition and that the said condition is not generalised nor associated with emaciation, he shall regard the following parts of the carcase and offal as unfit for human consumption—

- (a) any organ and its associated lymphatic gland, when the aforesaid condition exists on the surface or in the substance of that organ or gland;
- (b) in any case to which sub-paragraph (a) does not apply, the lesion and such of the surrounding parts as the authorised officer may think proper having regard to the age and degree of activity of the lesion. For the purposes of this sub-paragraph, an old lesion which is firmly encapsulated may be regarded as inactive.

7. Where the authorised officer is satisfied that any part of a carcase or any offal is affected with a localised infestation of *cysticercus bovis*, he shall regard the following parts of the carcase and offal as unfit for human consumption—

- (a) the part of the carcase or offal so infested;
- (b) the remainder of the carcase and offal unless he is satisfied that they have been kept in cold storage at a temperature not exceeding 20°F. (−7°C.) for a period of not less than three weeks or at a temperature not exceeding 14°F. (−10°C.) for a period of not less than two weeks.

8. Where the authorised officer is satisfied that the whole or any part of a carcass or any offal is affected by any disease or condition other than one mentioned in the foregoing paragraphs, he shall regard as unfit for human consumption the whole carcass and the offal or such lesser part thereof as he may think appropriate to the circumstances of the case.

9. Where the authorised officer is satisfied that a part of a carcass or any offal is affected by a slight localised infestation by a parasite not transmissible to man, he may at his discretion regard as unfit for human consumption the part of the carcass or offal so affected together with the tissue immediately surrounding it.

SCHEDULE 3

Regulation 11

MARKING

1. The mark referred to in regulation 11 shall be applied by an authorised officer and shall consist of a mark of the dimensions set out in paragraph 2.

2. The mark shall consist of an oval mark 6.5 cm. wide by 4.5 cm. high containing in legible form in letters 0.8 cm. high the identification of the district council by whom the authorised officer is employed.

3. The colouring matter used to apply the mark shall be Chocolate Brown HT. (Colour Index No. 20285 — Systematic Name of Description di Sodium 4,4'-(2,4-dihydroxy-5-hydroxymethyl-1, 3-phenylenebisazo) di (naphthalene-1-sulphonate).

4. Carcases weighing more than 60 kg shall have the mark applied in the colouring matter described in paragraph 3, or hot-branded, on each half carcase in at least the following places — external surface of the thigh, loins, back, breast, shoulder and pleura. Other carcases shall have the mark applied in the colouring matter described in paragraph 3, or hot-branded, in at least four places — on the shoulders and on the external surface of the thighs.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These regulations, which come into operation on 21st January 1985, provide for the inspection of meat intended for human consumption.

The regulations do not apply to inspection of animals in premises registered under section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Meat Regulation and Pig Industry) Act (Northern Ireland) 1962.

The regulations provide—

- (a) for the inspection by authorised officers of meat intended for human consumption, and for the marking of meat passed as fit after such inspection (regulations 4 and 11 and Schedule 3);
- (b) that carcases, blood or offal of animals slaughtered for sale for human consumption must not be removed from the place of slaughter until they have been inspected and, in the case of carcases passed as fit for human consumption, until they have been marked in the manner described in Schedule 3 (regulation 9);
- (c) for procedures to be followed in, and restrictions on the use of, slaughterhouses (regulations 6 and 10);
- (d) for notice of slaughter to be given in certain circumstances to a district council (regulation 5);
- (e) for notification to be given to district councils where certain meat is to be placed in cold storage and for the marking of such meat if passed as fit for human consumption (regulation 12);
- (f) for the making of charges for inspection (regulation 13);
- (g) for the manner in which authorised officers are to carry out inspections, and as to the circumstances in which meat is to be regarded as unfit for human consumption (regulation 7 and Schedules 1 and 2);
- (h) for notification of disease or unsoundness to be given to district councils where slaughter takes place in premises other than a slaughterhouse (regulation 8);
- (i) for enforcement of the regulations and penalties which may be imposed on summary conviction of offences (regulation 16).