STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

2026 No. 139

ANIMALS

ANIMAL WELFARE

The Mandatory Use of Closed Circuit Television in Slaughterhouses Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

Laid before the Assembly in draft

Made - - - - 7th July 2026

Coming into operation in accordance with regulation 1

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs(**a**) makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 11(1) and (3) of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011(**b**).

In accordance with section 11(5) of that Act, the Department has consulted such persons appearing to it to represent any relevant interests as it considers appropriate.

Citation and commencement

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Mandatory Use of Closed Circuit Television in Slaughterhouses Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026.

(2) These Regulations come into operation as follows:-

(a) Regulations 1 to 4 come into operation on 1st August 2026.

(b) Regulations 5 to 11 come into operation on 1st February 2027.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

"business operator" has the meaning given in Article 2(1) of the EU Regulation;

"a CCTV system" means a closed circuit television system and a system for processing images or information obtained by such a system;

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs;

"EU Regulation" means Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing;(**a**)

(**a**) Formerly the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD see Article 3(4) of the Departments (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 (S.I. 1999/283 (N.I 1)). DARD was renamed the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) by section 1(2) of the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 c. 5 (N.I)

(**b**) 2011 c. 16 (N.I)

"inspector" means a person appointed under regulation 27 of the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014(**b**) or a person appointed under section 45 of the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland 2011;

"killing" has the meaning given in Article 2(a) of the EU Regulation;

"premises" includes any land, building, shed, pen, receptacle or vehicle of any description;

"processing" means

(a) receiving, recording, storing, checking, and retrieving; and

(b) disclosure by transmission, dissemination or otherwise making available;

"slaughterhouse" has the meaning given in Article 2(k) of the EU Regulation.

Duty to install and operate a CCTV system

3.—(1) A business operator of a slaughterhouse must ensure that a CCTV system is installed that provides a complete and clear image of killing and related operations in all areas of the slaughterhouse where live animals are present.

(2) The business operator must ensure that the CCTV system referred to in paragraph (1)—

(a) is capable of producing images or information for inspection and seizure without interrupting the operation of the system; and

(b) is capable of processing images or information of the same quality as the original images and information.

(3) The business operator must ensure that the CCTV system referred to in paragraph (1) is operational and kept in good working order at all times when live animals are present at the slaughterhouse.

(4) In this regulation "related operations" has the meaning given in Article 2(b) of the EU Regulation.

Duty to retain CCTV images or information

4.—(1) The business operator must make arrangements for the retention and storage of any images or information obtained by a CCTV system referred to in regulation 3 for 90 days beginning with the date the images or information are obtained.

(2) The business operator must ensure that the arrangements under paragraph (1) are appropriate to maintain the integrity and quality of the images or information retained.

Power to inspect and seize images or information

5.—(1) An inspector who has entered premises for the purposes of executing and enforcing the Welfare at the Time of Killing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 or the EU Regulation or the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006(**c**) may for those purposes or for the purposes of executing and enforcing these Regulations—

(a) inspect a CCTV system referred to in regulation 3 on those premises and any images or information obtained by such a CCTV system;

(b) seize or take a copy of any images or information obtained by such a CCTV system;

(c) seize any CCTV equipment, including computers and associated equipment, installed as part of such a CCTV system which does not comply with regulation 3(2)(a), for the purposes of copying images or information;

(**a**) OJ L 303, 18.11.2009, pp. 1-30, as last amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2018/723 pp.11-13 (OJ L 122 17.05.2018)
(**b**) S.R. 2014 No.107
(**c**) S.R. 2006 No.538

(d) require any person to provide access to a CCTV system referred to in regulation 3 on request for purposes of viewing images or information obtained by that system;

(e) require any person to produce or make available for inspection any images or information retained and stored as required by regulation 4 on request;

(f) make any enquiries, and take recordings or photographs;

(g) require the production of any document or record without delay and inspect and take a copy or extract from such document or record; and

(h) require any person to provide such assistance, information, facilities or equipment as is reasonable, without delay.

(2) An inspector must—

(a) as soon as reasonably practicable, provide to the person appearing to be responsible for any items that the inspector seizes under paragraph (1) a written receipt identifying those items; and

(b) as soon as reasonably practicable after deciding that those items are no longer required, return them to that person, apart from those to be used as evidence in court proceedings.

(3) Where an inspector has seized items under paragraph (1) for use in evidence in court proceedings and—

(a) it is subsequently decided—

(i) that no court proceedings are to be brought; or

(ii) that those items are no longer needed as evidence in court proceedings; or

(b) the court proceedings are completed and no order in relation to those items has been made by the court,

an inspector must return the items to the person appearing to be responsible for them as soon as is reasonably practicable.

Enforcement notices

6.—(1) An enforcement notice is a notice in writing—

(a) requiring a person to take specified steps to remedy a contravention of these Regulations;

(b) requiring a person to reduce the rate of operation of a slaughterhouse to such an extent as is specified in the notice until that person has taken specified steps to remedy a contravention of these Regulations; or

(c) prohibiting a person from carrying on such an activity, process or operation, or using facilities or equipment, as may be specified in the notice until the person has taken specified steps to remedy a contravention of these Regulations.

(2) An inspector who is of the opinion that a person has contravened or is contravening these Regulations may serve on that person an enforcement notice.

(3) An enforcement notice must—

(a) state that the inspector is of the opinion that a person has contravened or is contravening these Regulations;

(b) state the time and date of service of the notice;

(c) identify the recipient of the notice;

(d) specify the matters constituting the contravention;

(e) specify the steps that must be taken to remedy the contravention;

(f) specify the period within which those steps must be taken; and

(g) give details of the right of appeal against the notice and the time within which the appeal must be lodged.

(4) A person on whom an enforcement notice is served must comply with it at that person's own expense.

(5) If an enforcement notice is not complied with, an inspector may arrange for it to be complied with at the expense of the person on whom it was served.

(6) Any expenses mentioned in paragraph (5) shall be recoverable summarily as a civil debt.

(7) An inspector must serve a completion notice on a person if, after service of an enforcement notice on that person, an inspector is satisfied that that person has taken the steps specified in the notice to remedy the contravention.

(8) In the event of an inspector not being satisfied, as provided for in paragraph (7), by the end of the period specified under paragraph (3)(f), or such other period as may be specified in any variation of the enforcement notice under paragraph (10), the inspector may not serve a completion notice, and must serve a notice in writing, which must—

(a) give reasons for the decision not to serve a completion notice; and

(b) give details of the right of appeal against the decision.

(9) An enforcement notice ceases to have effect upon the issue of a completion notice.

(10) An inspector may at any time withdraw or vary an enforcement notice in writing.

Appeals against enforcement notices

7.—(1) A person who is aggrieved by—

(a) a decision of an inspector to serve an enforcement notice; or

(b) a decision of an inspector to refuse to issue a completion notice,

may appeal to a court of summary jurisdiction in accordance with Part 7 of the Magistrates' Court (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 (N.I.26)(**a**).

(2) The time within which an aggrieved person may bring an appeal is one month from the date on which notice of the decision appealed against is served by an inspector on that aggrieved person.

(3) On appeal the court may make such order as it thinks fit and the order shall (without prejudice to any right of appeal) be binding on the Department.

Notices

8.—(1) Any notice required or authorised to be served under these Regulations on any person may be served by—

(a) delivering it to the person;

(b) leaving it at the persons proper address; or

(c) sending it by post to the person at that address.

(2) Any such notice may—

(a) in the case of a body corporate, be served on an officer of the body, or

(b) in the case of a limited liability partnership, be served on a partner or person having the control or management of the partnership business.

(3) For the purposes of these Regulations and section 24 of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 (service of documents) in its application to these Regulations, the proper address of any person on whom a notice is to be served is—

(a) in the case of a body corporate, the address of the registered or principal office of the body;

(b) in the case of a limited liability partnership, the address of the registered or principal office of the partnership;

(**a**) 1981 No.1675 (N.I. 26)

(c) in the case of a person on whom the notice is served in reliance on paragraph (2), the registered or principal office of the body corporate or partnership in question; and

(d) in any other case, the last known address of the person in question.

(4) If a person on whom a notice is to be served under these Regulations has specified an address for service of such a notice, that address is to be treated as that person's proper address.

(5) If the name and address of any occupier of premises on whom a notice is to be served under these Regulations cannot, after reasonable inquiry, be ascertained, the notice may be served by leaving it conspicuously affixed to the premises or an object on the premises.

(6) In this regulation "body corporate" does not include a limited liability partnership.

Offences: general

9.—(1) It is an offence to contravene, or to cause or permit a person to contravene—

(a) regulation 3 (Duty to install and operate a CCTV system); or

(b) regulation 4 (Duty to retain CCTV images or information).

(2) It is an offence for a person to fail to comply with an enforcement notice issued under regulation 6.

Obstruction offences

10. It is an offence—

(a) to intentionally obstruct any person acting in the execution of these Regulations;

(b) without reasonable cause, to fail to give any such person without delay—

(i) any assistance or information that the person may reasonably require; or

(ii) access to a CCTV system referred to in regulation 3 on request for the purposes of viewing images or information obtained by that system;

(c) to furnish to any such person any such information knowing it to be false or misleading; or

(d) to fail to produce a document or record, or any images or information retained and stored as required by regulation 4, without delay to such person when required to do so.

Penalties

11. A person guilty of an offence under regulation 9 or 10 is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on 07th July 2026

L.S.

Neal Gartland
A senior officer of the
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations make provision complementary to EU Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing ("the EU Regulation") and the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2014 ("the 2014 Regulations").

These Regulations introduce requirements on operators of slaughterhouses ("business operators") in Northern Ireland to install and operate a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system in all areas where live animals are present (regulation 3). Regulation 4 requires business operators to retain CCTV footage and associated data for a period of 90 days. Inspectors are given powers to require compliance with these Regulations. This includes powers of inspection and seizure where an inspector has entered premises for the purposes of executing and enforcing the 2014 Regulations or the EU Regulation (regulation 5) and powers to issue enforcement notices (regulation 6).

Regulation 7 makes provision for appeals relating to notices under regulation 6, and regulation 8 makes further provision in relation to notices.

Regulations 9 and 10 provide that contravention of regulations 3 and 4, failure to comply with an enforcement notice and obstructing inspectors are offences.

Regulations 11 makes provision as to penalties.

A full regulatory impact assessment has been produced for this Statutory Rule. Copies can be obtained by writing to Animal Welfare and Dog Control Policy Branch, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, Jubilee House, 111 Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady, BT49 9HP or by emailing animalwelfarepolicy@daera-ni.gov.uk.

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