# 1988 No. 60

# FOOD AND DRUGS

## Food Hygiene

## Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1988

| | |
|---|---|
| *Made* . . . . . | *1st March 1988* |
| *Coming into operation* . . | *25th April 1988* |

The Department of Health and Social Services(**a**) in exercise of the powers conferred on it 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.**—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1988, and shall come into operation on 25th April 1988.

(2) In these regulations "the principal regulations" means the Meat Inspection Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984(**c**).

*Amendment of the principal regulations*

**2.** The principal regulations shall be amended—

(*a*) by substituting for the definition of "animals" in regulation 2 the following definition—

> " "animals" means bovine animals (including buffalo), swine, sheep, goats and solipeds;";

(*b*) by inserting in the definition of slaughterhouse in regulation 2 the words "sale for" after the word "for" in line 2 of that definition;

(*c*) by inserting at the beginning of regulation 6(2)(*c*) the following words—

"subject to the provisions of regulation 9(3),";

(*d*) by deleting—

(i) in line 1 of regulation 9(1), the words "paragraph (2),", and

(ii) in line 1 of regulation 9(2), the words "paragraph (1),",

---

(**a**) *See* S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1964 No. 205 art. 5 and Sch. 2 Part I
(**b**) 1958 c. 27 (N.I.)
(**c**) S.R. 1984 No. 402; to which there is an amendment not relevant to these regulations

and replacing them in each case with the words "the provisions of this regulation,";

(*e*) by inserting after regulation 9(2) the following paragraph—

"(3) The following parts of a carcase shall be discarded immediately after slaughter—

(*a*) in the case of sheep and goats, the head (including the tongue and brains), if it is not intended for human consumption;

(*b*) the penis, if an authorised officer is satisfied that it shows no pathological symptom or lesion.";

(*f*) by substituting for Schedule 1 the new Schedule 1 contained in the Schedule to these regulations;

(*g*) by substituting for paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 the following paragraph—

"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 in whose district the place of inspection is situated.".

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health and Social Services on 1st March 1988.

(L.S.) *R. McMurray*
Assistant Secretary

SCHEDULE Regulation 2(f)

**New Schedule 1 to the principal regulations**

SCHEDULE 1 Regulation 7(1)

**Inspection Requirements**

PART I

General Instructions

1. The carcase and offal and the blood of each slaughtered animal shall be inspected without delay. The authorised officer shall have regard to—

(*a*) the age and sex of the animal;

(*b*) the state of nutrition of the animal;

(*c*) any evidence of bruising or haemorrhage;

(*d*) any local or general oedema;

(*e*) the efficiency of bleeding;

(*f*) any swelling, deformity or other abnormality of bones, joints, musculature or umbilicus;

(*g*) any abnormality in consistency, colour, odour and, where appropriate, taste;

(*h*) the condition of the pleura and peritoneum;

(*i*) any other evidence of abnormality.

2. The inspection shall include—

(*a*) visual examination of the slaughtered animal and the organs belonging to it;

(*b*) palpation of the organs referred to in Parts II, III, IV, V and VI and, where considered necessary by the authorised officer, the uterus;

(*c*) incisions of organs and lymph nodes as specified in Parts II, III, IV, V and VI; and

(*d*) any additional incisions or examinations that an authorised officer considers necessary.

PART II

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

**Bovine Animals Over Six Weeks Old**

1. In the case of bovine animals over six weeks old the inspection shall include—

(*a*) visual examination of the head and throat; the submaxillary, retro-pharyngeal and parotid lymph nodes shall be examined in detail; examination of the external (masseter) cheek muscles in which two deep incisions shall be made and the internal (pterygoid) cheek muscles in which at least one deep incision shall be made; all incisions shall be made parallel to the mandible from its upper muscular insertion; visual examination and palpation of the tongue, having been freed to permit a detailed visual examination of the mouth and fauces;

(*b*) visual examination of the trachea, lungs and oesophagus; palpation of the lungs and oesophagus; the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes shall be examined in detail; where the lungs are intended for human consumption the

trachea and the main branches of the bronchi shall be opened lengthwise and the lungs shall be incised in their posterior third, at right angles to their main axes;

(*c*) visual examination of the pericardium and the heart; the latter shall be incised lengthwise so as to open the ventricles and to cut through the intraventricular septum;

(*d*) visual examination of the diaphragm;

(*e*) visual examination and palpation of the liver, the hepatic and pancreatic lymph nodes; the gastric surface of the liver and the base of the caudate lobe shall be incised to examine the bile ducts;

(*f*) visual examination of the alimentary tract, the mesentery, the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes; the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes shall be palpated and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, examined in detail;

(*g*) visual examination and palpation of the spleen;

(*h*) visual examination of the kidneys and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, incision of the kidneys and examination in detail of the renal lymph nodes;

(*i*) visual examination of the pleura and peritoneum;

(*j*) visual examination of the genital organs;

(*k*) visual examination and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, palpation and incision of the udder of a cow and its lymph nodes; where the udder is intended for human consumption each half of it shall be opened by a long deep incision as far as the lactiferous sinuses and its lymph nodes shall be examined in detail; such incisions shall be carried out in such a way that they may not contaminate meat.

## PART III

## DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

### Bovine Animals Under Six Weeks Old

1. In the case of bovine animals under six weeks old the inspection shall include—

(*a*) visual examination of the head and the throat; the retro-pharyngeal lymph nodes shall be examined in detail; the mouth and fauces shall be examined and the tongue shall be palpated;

(*b*) visual examination of the lungs, trachea and oesophagus; palpation of the lungs; the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes shall be examined in detail; where the lungs are intended for human consumption the trachea and the main branches of the bronchi shall be opened lengthwise and the lungs shall be incised in their posterior third at right angles to their main axes;

(*c*) visual examination of the pericardium and the heart; the latter shall be incised lengthwise so as to open the ventricles and to cut through the intraventricular septum;

(*d*) visual examination of the diaphragm;

(*e*) visual examination and palpation of the liver and the hepatic lymph nodes; visual examination of the pancreatic lymph nodes and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, incision of the liver and examination in detail of the hepatic lymph nodes;

(*f*) visual examination of the alimentary tract, the mesentery, the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes; the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes shall be palpated and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, examined in detail;

(*g*) visual examination and palpation of the spleen;

(*h*) visual examination of the kidneys and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, incision of the kidneys and examination in detail of the renal lymph nodes;

(*i*) visual examination of the pleura and peritoneum;

(*j*) visual examination and palpation of the umbilical region and the joints; and where an authorised officer considers it necessary, the umbilical region shall be incised, the joints opened and the synovial fluid examined.

## PART IV

## DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

### Swine

1. In the case of swine the inspection shall include—

(*a*) visual examination of the head and throat; the submaxillary lymph nodes shall be examined in detail; visual examination of the mouth, fauces and tongue;

(*b*) visual examination of the trachea, lungs and oesophagus; palpation of the lungs and of the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes; where the lungs are intended for human consumption the trachea and the main branches of the bronchi shall be opened lengthwise and the lungs shall be incised in their posterior third at right angles to their main axes;

(*c*) visual examination of the pericardium and the heart; the latter shall be incised lengthwise so as to open the ventricles and to cut through the intraventricular septum;

(*d*) visual examination of the diaphragm;

(*e*) visual examination and palpation of the liver and the hepatic lymph nodes; visual examination of the pancreatic lymph nodes;

(*f*) visual examination of the alimentary tract, the mesentery, the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes; the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes shall be palpated and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, examined in detail;

(*g*) visual examination and palpation of the spleen;

(*h*) visual examination of the kidneys and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, incision of the kidneys and examination in detail of the renal lymph nodes; save that visual examination of the kidneys shall not be necessary provided the renal lymph nodes are examined in detail;

(*i*) visual examination of the pleura and peritoneum;

(*j*) visual examination of the genital organs;

(*k*) visual examination of the udder and supramammary lymph nodes; in the case of sows the supramammary lymph nodes shall be examined in detail;

(*l*) visual examination and palpation of the umbilical region and joints of young animals; where an authorised officer considers it necessary, the umbilical region shall be incised and the joints shall be opened.

2. An investigation for cysticercus cellulosae shall be carried out which shall include examination of the directly visible muscular surfaces, in particular at the level of the thigh muscles, the pillars of the diaphragm, the intercostal muscles, the heart, the tongue and the larynx; where an authorised officer considers it necessary, the abdominal wall and the psoas muscles shall be freed from fatty tissue.

3. If an abscess is found in the carcase or in any organ of any swine, or if an authorised officer has reason to suspect the presence of any such abscess, he shall require the carcase to be split through the spinal column if it has not already been so split and shall examine in detail such of the following lymph nodes as he has not already so examined: superficial inguinal, supramammary, cervical, prepectoral, prescapular, presternal, sublumbar, iliac, precrural and, if he considers it necessary, the popliteal.

## PART V

## DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

### Sheep and Goats

1. In the case of sheep and goats the inspection shall include—

(*a*) unless the head, including the tongue and brains, is to be excluded from human consumption; visual inspection of the head after flaying and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, examination of the throat, mouth, tongue, retro-pharyngeal and parotid lymph nodes;

(*b*) visual examination of the trachea, lungs and oesophagus; palpation of the lungs and of the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, incision of the lungs and examination in detail of the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes;

(*c*) visual examination of the pericardium and the heart and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, incision of the heart;

(*d*) visual examination of the diaphragm;

(*e*) visual examination and palpation of the liver and the hepatic lymph nodes; visual examination of the pancreatic lymph nodes; the gastric surface of the liver shall be incised to examine the bile ducts;

(*f*) visual examination of the alimentary tract, the mesentery, the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes;

(*g*) visual examination and palpation of the spleen;

(*h*) visual examination of the kidneys and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, incision of the kidneys and examination in detail of the renal lymph nodes;

(*i*) visual examination of the pleura and peritoneum;

(*j*) visual examination of the genital organs;

(*k*) visual examination of the udder and its lymph nodes;

(*l*) visual examination and palpation of the umbilical region and joints of young animals and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, the umbilical region shall be incised and the joints shall be opened.

2. Where an authorised officer has reason to suspect that a suppurative condition exists in the carcase of any sheep or lamb he shall—

(*a*) examine by palpation as well as by observation such of the lymph nodes as are readily accessible; and

(*b*) in the case of sheep, examine in detail such of the following lymph nodes as he has not already so examined: prescapular, superficial inguinal, precrural; and, in the case of a lamb, examine in detail such lymph nodes if he has found evidence of disease in the course of visual examination or palpation.

PART VI

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

**Solipeds**

1. In the case of solipeds the inspection shall include—

(*a*) visual examination of the head and, after freeing the tongue, the throat; the submaxillary, retro-pharyngeal and parotid lymph nodes shall be palpated and, where considered necessary by an authorised officer, incised; visual examination and palpation of the tongue, having been freed to permit a detailed examination of the mouth and the fauces; the tonsils shall be examined;

(*b*) visual examination of the trachea, lungs and oesophagus; palpation of the lungs, the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes and, where an authorised officer considers it necessary, the lymph nodes shall be examined in detail; where the lungs are intended for human consumption the trachea and the main branches of the bronchi shall be opened lengthwise and the lungs shall be incised in their posterior third at right angles to their main axes;

(*c*) visual examination of the pericardium and the heart; the latter shall be incised lengthwise so as to open the ventricles and to cut through the intraventricular septum;

(*d*) visual examination of the diaphragm;

(*e*) visual examination and palpation of the liver and the hepatic lymph nodes; visual examination of the pancreatic lymph nodes; where an authorised officer considers it necessary, incision of the liver and the hepatic and pancreatic lymph nodes;

(*f*) visual examination of the alimentary tract, the mesentery, the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes; where an authorised officer considers it necessary, the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes shall be examined in detail;

(*g*) visual examination and palpation of the spleen;

(*h*) visual examination and palpation of the kidneys; where an authorised officer considers it necessary, incision of the kidneys and examination in detail of the renal lymph nodes;

(*i*) visual examination of the pleura and peritoneum;

(*j*) visual examination of the genital organs of stallions and mares;

(*k*) visual examination of the udder and the supramammary lymph nodes; where an authorised officer considers it necessary, the supramammary lymph nodes shall be examined in detail;

(*l*) visual examination and palpation of the umbilical region and the joints of young animals; where an authorised officer considers it necessary, the umbilical region shall be incised and the joints shall be opened;

(*m*) for all grey or white horses, an examination for melanosis and melanomata; the attachment of one shoulder shall be loosened to allow examination of the

muscles and the prescapular lymph node, and the kidneys shall be examined after splitting by a longitudinal incision which exposes both cortex and medulla.

## PART VII

### ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS WHERE TUBERCULOSIS IS SUSPECTED

Where an 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 the preceding Parts of this Schedule—

(*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 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 soliped, examine in detail the following lymph nodes (being lymph nodes not already examined by him in accordance with the provisions of Part II, III or VI), namely, the superficial inguinal, prepectoral, presternal, suprasternal, xiphoid, subdorsal, intercostal, prescapular, iliac, sublumbar, ischiatic, precrural and popliteal, those lymph nodes which are least likely to show infection being examined first;

(*c*) in the case of the carcase of any swine, examine in detail the following lymph nodes (being lymph nodes not already examined by him in accordance with the provisions of Part IV), namely, the superficial inguinal, cervical, prepectoral, prescapular, subdorsal, sublumbar, iliac, precrural and, if he considers it necessary, the popliteal.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This note is not part of the Regulations.)*

These regulations, which come into operation on 25th April 1988, amend the Meat Inspection Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984.

The main changes are—

(*a*) the replacement of Schedule 1 with a new Schedule which specifies in seven parts the requirements for inspection of carcases. Part I sets out the general instructions; Parts II, III, IV, V and VI contain the detailed instructions for bovine animals over six weeks old, bovine animals under six weeks old, swine, sheep and goats, and solipeds, respectively; and Part VII contains the additional instructions where tuberculosis is suspected (regulation 2(*f*));

(*b*) the definition of ''animals'' has been amended by substituting the words ''bovine animals (including buffalo)'' and ''solipeds'' for the words ''cattle'' and ''horses'' respectively (regulation 2(*a*));

(*c*) the definition of ''slaughterhouse'' in regulation 2 has been amended, to clarify that only premises where meat is produced for sale for human consumption are covered by the definition (regulation 2(*b*));

(*d*) the restriction on removal of parts from a carcase has been relaxed so as to allow heads of sheep and goats and penises to be discarded immediately after slaughter, in specified circumstances (regulation 2(*e*)); and consequential amendments have been made (regulation 2(*c*) and (*d*));

(*e*) paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 has been replaced; the new paragraph provides that an authorised officer can inspect a carcase in the area of a district council other than that of his employing council (regulation 2(*g*)).