1991 No. 5

FOOD

Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1991

Made	*9th January 1991*
Coming into operation . .	*21st January 1991*

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 15(1) and (2)(*b*), (*c*), (*d*), (*f*), (*g*), (*h*) and (*i*) and 72(4) of the Food (Northern Ireland) Order 1989(**a**) and now vested in it(**b**) and being a Department designated(**c**) for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(**d**) in relation to the common agricultural policy of the European Economic Community, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by the said section 2(2), and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, and after consultation, in accordance with Article 72(2) of the said Order of 1989, with such organisations as appear to it to be representative of interests substantially affected by the Regulations (in so far as the Regulations are made in exercise of the powers conferred by the said Articles of the said Order of 1989), hereby makes the following Regulations:

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1990 and shall come into operation on 21st January 1991.

Amendments

2. The Meat Inspection Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984(**e**) shall be amended as follows:—

(*a*) in regulation 2 (interpretation)—

(i) after the definition of ''animals'' there shall be inserted the following definition—

'' ''ante-mortem health inspection'' means an inspection of live animals in a slaughterhouse in accordance with the requirements of regulation 6A and Schedule 4 and ''post-mortem health inspection'' means an inspection for the purposes of these Regulations other than an ante-mortem health inspection;'';

(**a**) S.I. 1989/846 (N.I. 6).
(**b**) S.R. 1990 No. 394
(**c**) S.I. 1972/1811
(**d**) 1972 c. 68
(**e**) S.R. 1984 No. 402 as amended by S.R. 1988 No. 60

(ii) for the definition of ''authorised officer'' there shall be substituted the following definition—

'' ''authorised officer'' means—

(*a*) in relation to an ante-mortem health inspection, a person, other than a veterinary surgeon, who holds a qualification specified in the Schedule to the Authorised Officers (Meat Inspection) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1987(**a**) and who is authorised or deemed to be authorised by a district council for the purposes of these Regulations; and

(*b*) in relation to a post-mortem health inspection (made in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 1) any such person as is mentioned in paragraph (*a*) and a veterinary inspector;'';

(iii) after the definition of ''carcase'' there shall be inserted the following definition—

'' ''the Department'' means the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland;'';

(iv) after the definition of ''slaughterhouse'' there shall be inserted the following definition—

'' ''veterinary inspector'' means a veterinary surgeon appointed by a district council as a veterinary inspector for the purposes of these Regulations or a person deemed to be an authorised officer under Article 35(3) of the Food (Northern Ireland) Order 1989;'';

(*b*) for the heading to regulation 4 there shall be substituted the following heading—

''Duty of district councils to carry out post-mortem health inspections'' and in that regulation before the word ''inspection'' there shall be inserted the words ''post-mortem health'';

(*c*) after regulation 6 there shall be inserted the following regulation—

''*Duty of district councils to carry out ante-mortem health inspections*

6A.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2) every district council shall arrange for every animal which is to be slaughtered in a slaughterhouse to be subjected to an ante-mortem health inspection by a veterinary inspector or an authorised officer in accordance with Schedule 4.

(2) In carrying out his duties under paragraph (1), an authorised officer shall comply with any directions given to him by a veterinary inspector in relation thereto.'';

(*d*) in regulation 7 (Inspection of meat) in the heading, before the words ''Inspection of meat'', there shall be inserted the words ''Post-mortem health'' and in paragraph (1) thereof before the word ''inspection'' there shall be inserted the words ''post-mortem health'';

(**a**) S.R. 1987 No. 141

(*e*) regulation 13 shall be revoked;

(*f*) in regulation 15 (responsibility, and assistance to authorised officers), for paragraph (*b*) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

"(*b*) ensure that a veterinary inspector or an authorised officer is provided with adequate facilities so as to enable him to carry out his duties under these Regulations and that he is given such reasonable assistance as he may from time to time require for that purpose.";

(*g*) after regulation 15 there shall be inserted the following regulation—

"*Records of inspections*

15A. Every district council shall keep in respect of each slaughterhouse in its district a record in such form as the Department may require for the purpose of compliance with the provisions of Council Directive 64/433/EEC as amended(**a**), of the results of—

(*a*) ante-mortem health inspections which show that any of the conditions referred to in paragraph 4(*a*) or (*b*) of Schedule 4 exist in the animals subjected to such inspections; and

(*b*) post-mortem health inspections of the carcases or offal of any animals in which any such conditions have been so shown to exist, and each district council shall supply to the Department copies of any such records kept by them as the Department may from time to time require.";

(*h*) in Schedule 1 (Inspection requirements)—

(i) in the heading, before the words "Inspection Requirements" there shall be inserted the words "Post-Mortem Health";

(ii) in Part I, after paragraph 2 there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

"3. Where he considers it necessary the authorised officer shall arrange for laboratory investigations to be carried out.";

(iii) in Part IV, for paragraph 1(*h*) there shall be substituted the following paragraph—

"(*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."; and

(iv) in Part VI, after paragraph 1 there shall be inserted the following paragraph—

"2. An investigation for glanders shall be carried out by means of an examination of mucous membranes of the trachea, larynx, nasal cavities, sinuses and their ramifications, after splitting the head in the median plane and excision of the nasal septum."; and

(*i*) after Schedule 3 there shall be inserted the following Schedule—

(**a**) OJ No. L121, 29.7.64; OJ/SE 1963-64, p. 185; the relevant amending instrument is Council Directive 88/288/EEC, OJ No. L124, 18.5.88, p. 28

"SCHEDULE 4 Regulation 6A

ANTE-MORTEM HEALTH INSPECTION

Requirements applicable in slaughterhouses

1. Animals intended for slaughter shall undergo an ante-mortem health inspection within 24 hours of their arrival at the slaughterhouse. The inspection shall be repeated immediately before slaughter if the animal has been kept in a lairage overnight and at any other time if required by a veterinary inspector or an authorised officer.

2. The ante-mortem health inspection shall be made under adequate natural or artificial lighting.

3. If an authorised officer, in carrying out his duties under regulation 6A(1) considers that an animal shows an abnormality he shall require it to be taken to, and detained in, that part of the lairage provided for the isolation of animals which are diseased or injured or suspected of being diseased or injured and to be subjected to an ante-mortem inspection there by a veterinary inspector. If, following such an inspection, the veterinary inspector does not pass the animal as fit for slaughter for human consumption he may require that it shall be slaughtered and dressed forthwith in accordance with the provisions of regulation 14 of the Slaughterhouses (Hygiene) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1963(**a**).

4. An ante-mortem health inspection carried out by a veterinary inspector in accordance with paragraph 3 shall determine—

(*a*) whether the animals are showing symptoms of a disease which can be transmitted through the meat to humans or animals or whether there are any indications that such a disease may occur;

(*b*) whether they are showing symptoms of a disease or disorder which would be likely to make that meat unfit for human consumption;

(*c*) whether they are injured, fatigued or stressed;

(*d*) whether there is any visible evidence that substances with pharmacological effects have been administered to them or that they have consumed any other substance which may make the meat unfit for human consumption.

5. Animals shall not be slaughtered for production of meat for human consumption if they—

(*a*) show any of the conditions mentioned in paragraph 4(*a*), (*b*) or (*d*);

(*b*) have not been rested for an adequate period of time, which for fatigued or stressed animals must not, unless a veterinary inspector shall determine otherwise, be less than 24 hours; or

(*c*) have been found to have any form of clinical tuberculosis.".

(a) S.R. & O. (N.I.) 1963 No. 162 to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 9th January 1991.

(L.S.) *D. A. J. Hirrell*
Assistant Secretary

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations amend the Meat Inspection Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1984 (''the 1984 Regulations''), thereby implementing in part the provisions of Council Directive 88/409/EEC (OJ No. L194, 22.7.88, p. 28) in so far as it lays down health rules applying to meat intended for the domestic market by requiring all fresh meat produced in a Member State for that market to be inspected in accordance with certain inspection rules laid down in Council Directive 64/433/EEC (OJ No. L121, 29.7.64; OJ/SE 1963-64, p. 185), as amended, on health problems affecting intra-Community trade in fresh meat. The 1984 Regulations as amended by these Regulations do not apply to inspection of animals and meat in premises registered under section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Meat Regulation and Pig Industry) Act (Northern Ireland) 1962 (1962 c. 13 (N.I.)).

The changes of substance made to the 1984 Regulations in implementation of the above Community Directive are the inclusion of provisions which—

(1) require district councils to arrange for every animal which is to be slaughtered in a slaughterhouse (not being registered premises) to be subjected to an ante-mortem health inspection (regulation 2(*c*) and (*i*));

(2) require district councils to keep records of ante- and post-mortem health inspections carried out at slaughterhouses in their districts (not being registered premises) which show that any specified conditions exist in any of the animals subjected to such inspections (regulation 2(*g*)); and

(3) require an authorised officer, in carrying out a post-mortem health inspection for the purpose of the 1984 Regulations, to arrange, where he considers it necessary, for laboratory investigations to be carried out and, in the case of post-mortem health inspections in respect of solipeds, to carry out an investigation for glanders in a specified manner (regulation 2(*h*) (ii) and iv)).

The Regulations also revoke the provisions on charges in the 1984 Regulations (regulation 2(*e*)).