# 1960 No. 1268

# The Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1960

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| *Made* - - - - | 21*st July*, 1960 |
| *Laid before Parliament* | 28*th July*, 1960 |
| *Coming into Operation* | 1*st November*, 1960 |

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Minister of Health, acting jointly, in exercise of the powers conferred on them by sections thirteen and one hundred and twenty-three of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955(a), and of all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following regulations, after consultation with such organisations as appear to them to be representative of interests substantially affected by the regulations and reference to the Food Hygiene Advisory Council under section eighty-two of the said Act:—

*Citation and commencement*

**1.** These regulations may be cited as the Meat (Staining and Sterilization) Regulations, 1960; and shall come into operation on the 1st day of November, 1960.

## PART I

*Interpretation*

**2.**—(1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

"the Act" means the Food and Drugs Act, 1955;

"butchers' meat" means meat from any animal slaughtered in the United Kingdom for sale for human consumption;

"carcase" includes part of a carcase;

"contravention" in relation to any provision of these regulations includes a failure to comply with that provision;

"imported meat" means meat originating outside the United Kingdom;

"knacker meat" means meat from any animal slaughtered in, or from any carcase brought into, a knacker's yard in the United Kingdom;

"local authority" has the meaning assigned to it by section 85 of the Act;

"meat" includes offal and fat, but does not include bones, blood, whale-meat or a whole dead animal;

"the Minister" means the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food;

"processor" means any person who in the course of his processing business sterilizes meat;

(a) 4 & 5 Eliz. 2. c. 16.

"sale by retail" means any sale to a person buying otherwise than for the purpose of re-sale but does not include any sale of meat direct from a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard or, being imported meat, direct from its port of entry to—

(*a*) any hospital, medical or veterinary school or similar institution for instructional or diagnostic purposes or to any manufacturing chemist for the purpose of the manufacture by him of pharmaceutical products;

(*b*) a zoological garden, menagerie, mink farm, trout farm or to a processor for sterilization by him if such meat is in each case delivered on sale in a closed and locked container or vehicle bearing a notice of adequate size and conspicuously visible stating distinctly and legibly that the meat is not for human consumption;

and "sell by retail" shall be construed accordingly;

"stained" means treated as hereinafter mentioned with a solution of one of the colouring agents Acid Green E.C. (a mixture of Colour Index 1924, Nos. 640 and 737); or Naphthalene Green, Acid Green G, Acid Green G. 139302 or a similar colouring agent having the formula of Colour Index 1924, No. 666; or with such other colouring agent as shall have been approved by the Minister for the purposes of these regulations, in each case the solution to be of such a strength that the colouring on the stained meat is clearly visible; and for the purposes of this definition "treated" means that quarters and all joints of meat shall be opened by multiple and deep incisions and the whole surface of the meat shall be covered with a solution as aforesaid either by immersing the meat in, or by spraying or otherwise applying, the solution;

"sterilized" means treated by boiling or by steam under pressure until every piece of meat is cooked throughout; or dry-rendered, digested or solvent-processed into technical tallow, greases, glues, feeding meals or fertilisers:

And other expressions have the same meaning as in the Act.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889(a), shall apply for the interpretation of these regulations as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

**3.** Nothing in these regulations shall affect the operation of any Act, or any order made under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950(b), relating to the sterilization of waste food for feeding to animals.

## PART II

*Treatment of meat unfit for, or not intended for, human consumption*

**4.** Subject to the provisions of these regulations, the occupier of a slaughterhouse shall not cause or permit to be removed from the slaughterhouse any meat which is unfit for human consumption, and no person shall so remove any such meat, unless it has first been sterilized:

Provided that it shall be a defence in any proceedings for any contravention of this regulation for the defendant to prove that he did not know, and could not with reasonable diligence have ascertained, that the meat was unfit for human consumption.

**5.** Subject to the provisions of these regulations, the occupier of a knacker's yard shall not cause or permit to be removed from the knacker's yard any meat, and no person shall so remove any meat, unless it has first been stained or sterilized.

(a) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63. (b) 14 Geo. 6. c. 36.

**6.** Nothing in regulations 4 and 5 of these regulations shall apply to the removal from any slaughterhouse or knacker's yard of any meat—

(*a*) to any hospital, medical or veterinary school or similar institution for instructional or diagnostic purposes or to any manufacturing chemist for the manufacture by him of pharmaceutical products; or

(*b*) to any processor for sterilization by him, to any person for storage, treatment or processing for or on behalf of any processor or to any zoological garden, menagerie, mink farm or trout farm if the meat is so removed in a closed and locked container or vehicle bearing a notice of adequate size and conspicuously visible stating distinctly and legibly that the meat is not for human consumption.

**7.**—(1) Subject to the provisions of these regulations no person shall have in his possession for the purpose of sale or preparation for sale

(*a*) any butchers' meat or any imported meat which is unfit for human consumption unless it is sterilized;

(*b*) any knacker meat unless it is stained or sterilized:

Provided that it shall be a defence in any proceedings for any contravention of this regulation for the defendant to prove either—

(i) that he did not know and could not with reasonable diligence have ascertained, that the meat was unfit for human consumption or, as the case may be, was knacker meat; or

(ii) that, believing or having reasonable cause to believe that the meat was unfit for human consumption or that it was knacker meat, he had made arrangements for it to be sterilized or, as the case may be, stained or sterilized without any unnecessary delay.

(2) Nothing in this regulation shall apply as respects any meat in any slaughterhouse or knacker's yard, any meat on the premises of any processor for sterilization by him there or as respects—

(*a*) any meat in the possession of any person while in the course of delivery from a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard or, being imported meat, from its port of entry to any hospital, medical or veterinary school or similar institution for instructional or diagnostic purposes or to any manufacturing chemist for the purpose of the manufacture by him of pharmaceutical products;

(*b*) any meat in the possession of any person while in course of delivery from a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard or, being imported meat, from its port of entry to any processor for sterilization by him, to any person for storage, preparation or processing for or on behalf of any processor or to any zoological garden, menagerie, mink farm or trout farm if in the course of every such delivery the meat is contained in a vehicle or container which is kept closed and locked at all times except when necessary for the loading or unloading of the contents or their examination by an authorised officer and which bears a notice of adequate size and conspicuously visible stating distinctly and legibly that the meat is not for human consumption;

(*c*) any meat in the possession of any person who has received it from a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard or, being imported meat, from its port of entry for storage, preparation or processing by him for or on behalf of a processor if that person's arrangements are suitable and sufficient for ensuring that the meat is kept segregated from other meat

and he does not part with possession of the meat otherwise than on its destruction or its delivery or consignment to the processor in a vehicle or container which is kept closed and locked at all times except when necessary for the loading or unloading of the contents or their examination by an authorised officer and which bears a notice of adequate size and conspicuously visible stating distinctly and legibly that the meat is not for human consumption ;

(*d*) any meat delivered or consigned to a processor in accordance with sub-paragraph (*c*) above and in transit to the processor's premises in a vehicle or container as aforesaid.

**8.** Where there are no facilities for sterilization in a slaughterhouse the provisions of this Part of these regulations shall not apply as respects any meat removed from the slaughterhouse by arrangement with an authorised officer to a place where it will be sterilized or destroyed.

## PART III

*Sales*

**9.** No person shall sell, or offer or expose for sale, by retail—

(*a*) any butchers' meat or any imported meat which is unfit for human consumption unless it is sterilized ;

(*b*) any knacker meat unless it is stained or sterilized :

Provided that it shall be a defence in any proceedings for a contravention of this regulation for the defendant to prove that he did not know, and could not with reasonable diligence have ascertained, that the meat was unfit for human consumption or, as the case may be, was knacker meat.

## PART IV

*Enforcement and penalties*

**10.**—(1) An authorised officer of a council may at all reasonable times examine any meat not intended for human consumption which has been sold, or is offered or exposed for sale or is in the possession of, or has been deposited with or consigned to, any person for the purpose of sale or preparation for sale ; and if it appears to him that the meat, being meat to which the requirements of Part II or III of these regulations apply, and is required to be but has not been stained or sterilized in accordance with those requirements, he may seize it and remove it in order to have it dealt with by a justice of the peace.

(2) An officer who seizes any meat under paragraph (1) of this regulation shall inform the person in whose possession the meat was found of his intention to have it dealt with by a justice of the peace, and any person who under Part II or III of these regulations might be liable to a prosecution in respect of the meat shall, if he attends before the justice of the peace, be entitled to be heard and to call witnesses.

(3) If it appears to a justice of the peace that any meat brought before him, whether seized under the provisions of this regulation or not, is meat to which the requirements of Part II or III of these regulations apply and is required to be but has not been treated in accordance with those requirements, he shall condemn it and order it to be destroyed or to be so treated.

(4) If a justice of the peace refuses to condemn any meat seized under this regulation by an authorised officer of a council, the council shall compensate the owner of the meat for any depreciation in its value resulting from its seizure and removal.

**11.**—(1) Subject to the provisions of this regulation, if an authorised officer of a council has reason to suspect that any vehicle or container contains any meat to which the requirements of Part II or III of these regulations apply, and is intended for sale or is in the course of delivery after sale, he may examine the contents of the vehicle or container and for that purpose may, if necessary, detain the vehicle or container; and if the officer finds any meat, being meat to which the requirements of Part II or III of these regulations apply, which is required to be but has not been treated in accordance with those requirements he may deal with it as meat falling within paragraph (1) of regulation 10 of these regulations and paragraphs (2) to (4) of that regulation shall apply accordingly.

(2) Nothing in this regulation shall authorise the detention of—

(*a*) any vehicle belonging to the British Transport Commission and used by them for the purposes of their railway undertaking;

(*b*) any vehicle belonging to a railway company and used by them for the purposes of their undertaking; or

(*c*) any authorised vehicle used for the purpose of his business as a carrier of goods by a person holding an A licence or a B licence under Part I of the Road and Rail Traffic Act, 1933(**a**).

**12.**—(1) If any person contravenes or fails to comply with any of the foregoing provisions of these regulations he shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both, and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding five pounds for each day during which the offence continues after conviction.

(2) Each local authority shall enforce and execute such provisions in their district:

Provided that each port health authority shall enforce and execute such provisions in their district.

In Witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed this twentieth day of July, nineteen hundred and sixty.

(L.S.) *John Hare,*
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Given under the Official Seal of the Minister of Health this twenty-first day of July, nineteen hundred and sixty.

(L.S.) *Derek Walker-Smith,*
Minister of Health.

(a) 23 & 24 Geo. 5. c. 53.

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

*(This Note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)*

These regulations, which apply in England and Wales and come into force on 1st November, 1960, require all butchers' meat and imported meat which is unfit for human consumption to be sterilized, and all knacker meat to be stained or sterilized, before entering the chain of distribution. Provision is made whereby zoos, menageries, mink farms, trout farms and processors may obtain such meat unstained and unsterilized if it is transported in locked containers or vehicles. Supplies of meat to hospitals, medical or veterinary schools or similar institutions for instructional or diagnostic purposes and to manufacturing chemists for the manufacture of pharmaceutical products are unaffected by the regulations. The different categories of meat are defined in regulation 2 (1).

The regulations are to be enforced by local authorities and port health authorities, and prescribe the maximum penalties provided for in section 106 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.