1977 No. 335

AGRICULTURE

Pigs (Carcase Classification) Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 1977

Made . . . . . *16th November* 1977

Coming into operation . . . . *2nd January* 1978

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Article 2 of the Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1975(a) and of every other power enabling it in that behalf, having consulted with such persons or the representatives of such persons as is required by the said Article and with the approval of the Department of Finance, as to fees, hereby makes the following Order:—

Citation and commencement

1. This Order may be cited as the Pigs (Carcase Classification) Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 1977 and shall come into operation on 2nd January 1978.

Pigs (Carcase Classification) Scheme

2. The Scheme set out in the Schedule shall have effect and may be referred to in any instrument or document as the Pigs (Carcase Classification) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1977.

Fees

3. The fees payable in respect of the marking of carcases shall be payable on demand to the Department of Agriculture by the Pigs Marketing Board (Northern Ireland) or in the case of pigs not marketed through the Board by the person or persons responsible for the pig slaughterhouse concerned and shall amount to:—

(*a*) 2.5p per pig for the period from 2nd January 1978 to 31st March 1978 inclusive;

(*b*) 4.5p per pig for the period from 3rd April 1978 to 31st March 1979 inclusive;

(*c*) 7.0p per pig thereafter.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 16th November 1977.

(L.S.) *W. H. Parker*
Assistant Secretary

The Department of Finance hereby approves the foregoing Order as to fees.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance for Northern Ireland on 16th November 1977.

(L.S.) *A. J. Green*
Assistant Secretary

(a) S.I. 1975/1038 (N.I. 8)

SCHEDULE

PIGS (CARCASE CLASSIFICATION) SCHEME (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1977

Interpretation

1. In this Scheme—

"the Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

"carcases" means whole carcases of pigs and sides and other wholesale cuts of carcases;

"authorised officer" means an officer authorised by the Department;

"pig slaughterhouse" means premises licensed only for the slaughter of pigs under the terms of the Slaughterhouses Act (Northern Ireland) 1953(b);

"presenter" means the Pigs Marketing Board (Northern Ireland) or in the case of pigs not marketed through the Board the person or persons responsible for the pig slaughterhouse concerned.

PART I

Classification and marking of carcases

Classification and marking

2. Carcases of all pigs slaughtered at a pig slaughterhouse shall be classified by the characteristics and in the manner described in Part IV and a mark in the form of a circle of approximately 50 mm diameter with the inscription "DANI CLASSIFIED" around its inner edge shall be applied to each carcase by an authorised officer before removal from the slaughterhouse and before any further cutting-up operation is performed. Where applicable the mark shall include the backfat thickness measurement taken as described in Article 8(3)(*b*). Carcases presented at other premises approved by the Department shall be classified and marked in the manner aforesaid if so required by the Department.

PART II

Procedures prior to classification

Identification of pigs

3. The presenter of pigs at a pig slaughterhouse shall ensure that each pig is identified by the application of a tattoo slap-mark number to the live pig or by such other means as he may be advised by the Department.

Presentation and dressing of carcases

4. Persons having control or management of pig slaughterhouses shall:—

(*a*) give such advance notice of their intention to slaughter pigs as an authorised officer may require;

(*b*) cause each carcase to be dressed in accordance with the specifications set out in Part V, prior to the classification of the carcase;

(*c*) cause a number to be applied consecutively to each carcase prior to its presentation for classification and make available such information relating to the carcase as shall be required by an authorised officer.

(b) 1953 c. 21 (N.I.)

PART III

Records of classification, provision of accommodation and equipment and right of access

Records of classification

5.—(1) Such details of the classification of each carcase as are specified in Part IV shall be taken and recorded by or under the supervision of an authorised officer.

(2) Copies of the records shall be made available by the presenter on a daily basis to the Department and to persons subsequently dealing with carcases required to be marked in accordance with this Scheme.

(3) Statistical summaries of the records shall be made available to the Department by the presenter as and when required by the Department.

Provision of accommodation and equipment

6.—(1) Persons having control or management of pig slaughterhouses shall provide facilities for classification of carcases and office accommodation for authorised officers to a standard specified by the Department.

(2) All pig slaughterhouses shall contain such equipment as is deemed necessary and approved by the Department for classification purposes and such equipment shall be maintained by the owner thereof to a standard satisfactory to the Department.

Right of access

7. For the purpose of checking that the requirements of this Scheme are being met, persons having control or management of pig slaughterhouses shall admit authorised officers to such parts thereof as such authorised officers consider necessary.

PART IV

Classification of carcases

8. Carcases shall be classified by:—

(1) *Category*—

(*a*) Gilts and Hogs;

(*b*) Late Castrates;

(*c*) Boars;

(*d*) Sows.

For the purposes of this paragraph:—

"gilts" means female pigs which have not been used for breeding;

"hogs" means male pigs which have been castrated and which have not developed secondary male sexual characteristics;

"late castrates" means male pigs which have been castrated and where the castration wounds have not healed prior to slaughter;

"boars" means male pigs which have not been castrated or which have been castrated but which have developed secondary male sexual characteristics;

"sows" means female pigs which have been used for breeding purposes.

(2) *Weight*—

(*a*) All carcases presented for classification shall be weighed—

(i) under the supervision of an authorised officer;

(ii) on equipment which has been certified as accurate within the previous 12 months by an Inspector appointed under the Weights and Measures Act (Northern Ireland) 1967(c);

(iii) on equipment which has been checked for accuracy under the supervision of an authorised officer.

(*b*) Carcases shall be dressed prior to weighing according to the specifications laid down in Part V. Where an organ specified in Article 10 is removed an allowance shall be made for the weight of the organ so removed.

(*c*) Carcases shall be weighed to the nearest ½ kg down and the weight recorded shall be adjusted to exclude the weight of any part which has been condemned as unfit for human consumption.

(*d*) When carcases are weighed within 6 hours of slaughter the weight shall be recorded as the "hot" weight.

(*e*) When carcases are weighed between 6 and 24 hours of slaughter the weight shall be recorded as the "cold" weight.

(*f*) Carcases may not be presented for weighing more than 24 hours after slaughter except with the prior approval of an authorised officer.

(3) *Backfat thickness*—

Backfat thickness including the thickness of the skin shall be measured at right angles to the skin at two points on the left side of the carcase:—

(*a*) On the shoulder of the split carcase at the point of greatest thickness of the backfat in the region of the first thoracic vertebra.

(*b*) At a point 6.5 cm from the centre line of the back at the level of the head of the last rib.

Carcases above a maximum weight to be specified from time to time by the Department shall not be classified according to backfat thickness.

(4) *Defects*—

The following defects will be recorded if they are present in the carcase:—

(*a*) Malformation including poor conformation;

(*b*) Partial condemnation.

PART V

Specification for dressing carcases of pigs in accordance with Article 4 of the Scheme

9. Subject to Article 10 the following shall be removed—

(*a*) hair and claws;

(*b*) liver, spleen, heart, tongue and lungs;

(*c*) stomach and intestines;

(*d*) omentum and mesenteric fat;

(*e*) kidney fat or leaf fat;

(*f*) genito-urinary organs, including the kidneys.

10. The following shall not normally be removed—

(*a*) the head;

(*b*) the feet and tail;

(*c*) the fleshy or muscular part of the diaphragm which shall be left intact;

(*d*) there shall be no trimming of the neck beyond cutting off ragged edges and removing blood clots.

(c) 1967 c. 6 (N.I.)

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Order but is intended to indicate its general purport.)

The Scheme made under this Order provides for the classification and marking of all pig carcases at pig slaughterhouses by authorised officers of the Department and specifies the fees payable for this service.