1980 No. 58

AGRICULTURE

Pigs (Carcase Classification Scheme) Order (Northern Ireland) 1980

Made . . . . . *18th February 1980*

Coming into operation . . . *31st March 1980*

The Department of Agriculture, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by paragraphs (1), (2) and (3) of 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) 1980 and shall come into operation on 31st March 1980.

Revocations

2. The Pigs (Carcase Classification) Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 1977(**b**) and the Pigs (Carcase Classification) (Amendment) Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 1979(**c**) are hereby revoked.

Carcase classification scheme in respect of pigs

3. The Scheme set out in the Schedule shall have effect in relation to the carcases of pigs and may be referred to as the Pigs (Carcase Classification) Scheme (Northern Ireland) 1980.

Fee

4. The fee payable to the Department in respect of the marking of carcases shall be payable on demand and shall be paid by the Pigs Marketing Board (Northern Ireland) or in the case of pigs not marketed through the Board by the person having the control or management of the slaughterhouse in which such pigs are slaughtered and shall be 17p per pig.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland on 18th February 1980.

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

(**a**) S.I. 1975/1038 (N.I. 8)
(**b**) S.R. 1977 No. 335 (II, p. 1797)
(**c**) S.R. 1979 No. 41 (I, p. 125)

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

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Finance for Northern Ireland on 18th February 1980.

(L.S.)

D. Cole
Assistant Secretary

SCHEDULE Article 3

PIGS (CARCASE CLASSIFICATION) SCHEME (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1980

Interpretation

1. In this Scheme—

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

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

"presenter" means the Pigs Marketing Board (Northern Ireland) or in the case of pigs not marketed through the Board the person having the control or management of the pig slaughterhouse in which such pigs are slaughtered.

PART I

Classification and marking

Classification and marking

2.—(1) The carcase of each pig slaughtered at a pig slaughterhouse shall be classified by the characteristics and in the manner described in Part IV.

(2) A mark in the form of a circle approximately 50 mm in diameter with the inscription "DANI CLASSIFIED" around its inner edge shall be applied to each such carcase by an authorised officer before it is removed from the slaughterhouse and before any further cutting-up operation is performed on it.

(3) Where appropriate that mark shall include the backfat thickness measurement of the carcase taken as described in Article 11.

(4) The carcase of each pig slaughtered at any other slaughterhouse shall, if required by the Department, be similarly classified and marked.

PART II

Pre-classification procedures

Identification of pigs

3. A presenter shall ensure that each pig presented at a pig slaughterhouse is identified by the application to it when alive of a number by a tattooing process.

Presentation and dressing of carcases

4. A person having the control or management of a pig slaughterhouse shall:—

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

(*b*) prior to classification of a carcase cause it to be dressed in accordance with the specification set out in Part V;

(*c*) prior to its presentation for classification cause a number in consecutive order to be applied to each carcase and make available to an authorised officer such information in respect of each carcase as shall be required by him.

PART III

Records, accommodation, equipment and access

Records of classification

5.—(1) The detailed information listed in Part IV regarding the classification of each carcase shall be taken and recorded by or under the supervision of an authorised officer.

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

(**d**) 1953 c. 21 (N.I.)

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

Provision of accommodation and equipment

6. A person having the control or management of a pig slaughterhouse shall:—

(*a*) provide reasonable facilities for the classification of carcases as set out in Part IV;

(*b*) ensure that there is provided in such a slaughterhouse such equipment for classification purposes as is necessary for that purpose;

(*c*) ensure that such equipment for classification purposes is maintained to a satisfactory standard; and

(*d*) provide adequate office accommodation for authorised officers operating this Scheme.

Right of access

7. A person having the control or management of a pig slaughterhouse shall admit authorised officers to such parts thereof as such authorised officers consider necessary for purposes of inspection.

PART IV

Classification of carcases

8. Carcases shall be classified as set out in Articles 9 to 13.

9. *Category.*

Carcases shall be classified into categories as—

(*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.

10. *Weight*

(1) Carcases shall be weighed—

(*a*) under the supervision of an authorised officer;

(*b*) 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(e);

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

(2) The weight of a carcase shall be recorded as the figure to the nearest ½ kilogram below its actual weight.

(3) Where a carcase is weighed within 6 hours after slaughter the weight shall be recorded as the "hot" weight.

(4) Where a carcase is weighed between 6 and 24 hours after slaughter the weight shall be recorded as the "cold" weight.

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

(5) Except with the prior approval of an authorised officer a carcase may not be presented for weighing later than 24 hours after slaughter.

11. *Backfat thickness*

(1) The backfat thickness of a carcase shall include the thickness of the skin of that carcase and 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; and

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

(*c*) At two points 4.5 cm and 8 cm from the centre line of the back at the head of the last rib.

(2) Carcases exceeding a weight of 90 kilograms shall not be classified by backfat thickness.

12. *Length*

(1) The length of a carcase shall be recorded to the nearest whole centimetre below its actual measurement and shall be taken from the indentation of the first rib to the anterior edge of the aitch bone.

(2) Carcases exceeding a weight of 90 kilograms shall not be classified by length.

13. *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 in accordance with Article 4

14. The following parts of a carcase shall be removed—

(*a*) hair and claws;

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

(*c*) stomach and intestines;

(*d*) omentum and mesenteric fat;

(*e*) genito-urinary organs (excluding kidneys).

15. The following parts of a carcase may be removed—

(*a*) kidney fat or leaf fat;

(*b*) kidneys;

(*c*) head;

(*d*) feet and tail;

(*e*) fleshy or muscular part of the diaphragm.

16. The neck of a carcase shall not be trimmed apart from the cutting off of ragged edges and the removing of blood clots.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

The Scheme made under this Order replaces the Scheme made under the Pigs (Carcase Classification) Scheme Order (Northern Ireland) 1977 as amended and increases the fee payable for the marking of carcases from 10p per pig to 17p per pig.

The Scheme provides for the classification and marking of all pig carcases at pig slaughterhouses by authorised officers of the Department. These carcases are to be classified according to the characteristics set out in Part IV of the Schedule.