EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These regulations re-enact with certain modifications and additions the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) Regulations, 1954, as amended by the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

The principal new provisions are:

1. For the slaughter of adult cattle the provision and use of stunning pens is made compulsory. This requirement will not come into force for existing slaughterhouses until dates to be appointed, but otherwise comes into force immediately. (Regulation 5).
2. Special precautions are to be taken with horned cattle and fractious animals in lairages. (Regulation 10).
3. Animals must not be kept in fields awaiting slaughter when conditions are severe. (Regulation 11).
4. Local authorities may make licences for new slaughtermen conditional upon their slaughtering only under supervision by someone more experienced. (Regulation 19).

In addition, provision is made for the ending, after suitable periods, of exemptions from two of the 1954 requirements in relation to certain existing premises. (Regulations 15 and 28).

The regulations are to be enforced and executed by local authorities and prescribe the maximum penalties provided for in section 5 of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954.

1958 No. 1971

The Slaughter of Pigs (Anaesthesia) Regulations, 1958

Made - - - -	*24th November,* 1958
Laid before Parliament	*28th November,* 1958
Coming into Operation	*1st December,* 1958

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in exercise of the powers conferred upon him by subsection (1) of section one of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933(a), section two of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954(b), and section eight of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958(c), and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf (after consultation with such organisations as appear to him to represent the interests concerned), hereby makes the following regulations:—

Citation, Commencement and Interpretation

1. These regulations may be cited as the Slaughter of Pigs (Anaesthesia) Regulations, 1958; and shall come into operation on the 1st day of December, 1958.

(a) 23 & 24 Geo. 5. c. 39. (b) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 59. (c) 6 & 7 Eliz. 2. c. 70.

2.—(1) In these regulations—

" local authority " means—

(*a*) for the purposes of the application of these regulations elsewhere than to the administrative county of London, the council of a county borough, non-county borough, urban district or rural district ; and

(*b*) for the purposes of the application of these regulations to the administrative county of London, the council of a metropolitan borough or the Common Council of the City of London: provided that the Common Council of the City of London is the local authority for the purpose of executing and enforcing the provisions of these regulations in relation to the Metropolitan Cattle Market and for the purposes of these regulations that market shall be deemed to be within the City of London and not within the metropolitan borough of Islington.

" occupier " means—

(*a*) in relation to a slaughterhouse provided by a local authority, that local authority ;

(*b*) in relation to a slaughterhouse forming part of an imported animals' wharf or landing place approved by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950(**a**), the occupier thereof ; and

(*c*) in relation to any other slaughterhouse, the person licensed in respect thereof under section 62 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955(**b**).

" pigs " includes hogs, sows and boars.

" required concentration " means a concentration of not less than 62 per cent. by volume and not more than 70 per cent. by volume.

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

Anaesthesia by Carbon Dioxide Gas

3. Subject to the provisions of these regulations pigs may, for the purpose of slaughter, be rendered insensible to pain until death supervenes at any slaughterhouse by means of anaesthesia by carbon dioxide gas administered in an installation provided for that purpose (hereinafter referred to as " an installation ").

Construction of the Installation

4. The occupier of any slaughterhouse at which an installation is used shall ensure that the installation includes—

(*a*) a chamber capable of effectually containing carbon dioxide gas in admixture with atmospheric air ;

(*b*) a device for conveying and exposing pigs to the gas mixture in the chamber which device shall be so constructed that every pig while in it shall be confined without discomfort in a separate pen, section or compartment ;

(*c*) an apparatus capable of maintaining the required concentration of carbon dioxide gas in the chamber ;

(*d*) a device providing a clearly visible and audible warning to the operator if at any time while the installation is in use the concentration of carbon dioxide gas in the chamber exceeds or falls below the required concentration ;

(a) 14 Geo. 6. c. 36. (b) 4 & 5 Eliz. 2. c. 16. (c) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

(*e*) means of access to any pig in any part of the installation ; and

(*f*) means of extracting any carbon dioxide gas from the chamber with the minimum of delay.

Operation of the Installation

5. The occupier of any slaughterhouse at which an installation is in use shall ensure that—

(*a*) such installation is properly maintained and that every person concerned with the operation of it is properly instructed as to the method of operation ; and

(*b*) a mechanically-operated instrument for stunning or an instrument for stunning by means of electricity, being in either case an instrument in proper repair, is maintained in working order at the installation during the whole time such installation is in use.

6. Any person concerned with the operation of an installation shall employ such methods and take such precautions as will prevent the infliction of any unnecessary suffering on any pig.

7. The occupier or any person appointed by him to take charge of an installation shall ensure that—

(*a*) every pig is exposed to the required concentration of carbon dioxide gas for a time sufficient to render it insensible to pain until it is slaughtered ; and

(*b*) no pig is passed through or allowed to remain in the installation at any time when the concentration of carbon dioxide gas in the chamber exceeds or falls below the required concentration or when any defect in the operation of the installation exists.

8. No person shall remove from an installation any pig which has not been rendered insensible to pain unless it is first stunned with an instrument such as is described in paragraph (*b*) of regulation 5 hereof.

9. The occupier of a slaughterhouse (other than a slaughterhouse provided by a local authority) shall not use or cause or permit to be used any installation unless a certificate of approval has been granted and is for the time being in force in respect of that installation by the local authority in whose district it is situated.

10. A local authority shall not grant a certificate of approval in respect of an installation unless they are satisfied that—

(*a*) such installation is properly constructed in accordance with these regulations ;

(*b*) it is likely to be efficiently operated ; and

(*c*) it has, if so required by the local authority, been tested in the presence of their medical officer of health or public health inspector or a veterinary surgeon appointed by the local authority.

11. Any certificate of approval granted under regulation 9 hereof may be withdrawn by the local authority by whom it was granted if at any time they are not satisfied that the installation is properly maintained or efficiently operated.

12. Any person who is aggrieved by the refusal to grant or withdrawal of a certificate of approval under the foregoing regulations may appeal to a court of summary jurisdiction against the refusal or withdrawal of such certificate of approval.

Offences

13. Save as hereinafter provided—

(*a*) if the occupier of any slaughterhouse fails to comply with any provisions of these regulations which impose obligations upon him he shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations ;

(*b*) if the occupier of any slaughterhouse fails to take all reasonable steps to secure compliance of any person employed by him with any provisions of these regulations he shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations ;

(*c*) if any person fails to comply with any provisions of these regulations which impose obligations upon him he shall be guilty of an offence against these regulations:

Provided that a person shall not be guilty of an offence against these regulations if he proves that by reason of an accident or other emergency the contravention was necessary for preventing physical injury or suffering to any person or animal.

Penalties

14. Any person guilty of an offence against these regulations shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both.

In Witness whereof the Official Seal of the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food is hereunto affixed this twenty-fourth day of November, nineteen hundred and fifty-eight.

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

These regulations, made under section 1 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, section 2 of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, and section 8 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, permit the use of a process of anaesthesia by carbon dioxide gas in connection with the slaughtering of pigs under safeguards against the infliction of unnecessary suffering.