
STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

1997 No. 496

**Wild Game Meat (Hygiene and Inspection)
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997**

Part I

Preliminary

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Wild Game Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997 and shall come into operation on 8th December 1997.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“carcase” means the eviscerated, and in the case of birds plucked, body of any wild game, with or without the head and lower legs;

“cold store” means a cold store licensed under regulation 4 of the Fresh Meat Regulations or regulation 4 of the Poultry Meat Regulations;

“collection centre” means any building, premises or place where killed wild game is kept prior to being transported to a wild game processing facility;

“commercial document” means an invoice or delivery note containing the following information—

- (a) the name and address of the consignor and the consignee;
- (b) the approval number of the licensed premises, cold store or re-wrapping centre from which the wild game meat is to be transported;
- (c) the date of issue of such delivery note or invoice and a number enabling it to be identified;
- (d) a description of the product transported;
- (e) the total quantity despatched;
- (f) in the case of frozen wild game meat, the month and year of freezing; and
- (g) the information provided for in paragraph 1 of Schedule 7 (the health mark);

“cutting up” means—

- (a) cutting meat of large wild game into pieces smaller than half carcases;
- (b) cutting meat of small wild game into pieces smaller than carcases; or
- (c) removing bones from wild game meat;

“the Department” means the Department of Agriculture;

“disinfect” means to apply hygienically satisfactory chemical or physical agents or processes with the intention of eliminating micro-organisms;

“EEA Agreement” means the Agreement on the European Economic Area⁽¹⁾ signed at Oporto on 2nd May 1992, as adjusted by the Protocol⁽²⁾ signed at Brussels on 17th March 1993;

“EEA State” means a State other than the United Kingdom which is a Contracting Party to the EEA Agreement;

“fresh meat” has the same meaning as in the Fresh Meat Regulations and the Poultry Meat Regulations;

“Fresh Meat Regulations” means the Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997⁽³⁾;

“frozen”, in relation to wild game meat, means meat which has been reduced to a temperature of not more than -12°C ;

“health mark” means a mark of a kind set out in Schedule 7 and applied in accordance with regulation 10 and that Schedule;

“hunter” means any person who kills, or organises the killing of, wild game for human consumption;

“inspector” means a person who—

(a) has been appointed as a Meat Inspector under regulation 7(2) of the Fresh Meat Regulations; or

(b) has been appointed as an inspector under regulation 8(2) of the Poultry Meat Regulations; and who is appointed in accordance with regulation 6(2);

“large wild game” means wild ungulates;

“licensed”, in relation to any wild game processing facility, means licensed by the Department under regulation 3;

“occupier” means any person carrying on the business of a wild game processing facility or a cold store or a re-wrapping centre or his duly authorised representative and, in relation to an application in respect of any wild game processing facility for a licence under regulation 3, includes the owner of those premises, the person proposing to occupy those premises and the duly authorised representative of any such person;

“offal” means wild game meat other than that of the carcass, whether or not naturally connected to the carcass;

“the Order” means the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991;

“OVS” means an official veterinary surgeon, being a veterinary surgeon designated by the Department under regulation 6;

“packaging”, in relation to wild game meat, means placing wrapped wild game meat into a receptacle as well as the receptacle itself;

“PIA” means a plant inspection assistant, being a person who is authorised in accordance with regulation 9;

“potable water” has the same meaning as in the Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995⁽⁴⁾;

“Poultry Meat Regulations” means the Poultry Meat, Farmed Game Bird Meat and Rabbit Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995⁽⁵⁾;

“premises” means any wild game processing facility;

(1) O.J. No. L.1, 3.1.94, p. 1

(2) O.J. No. L.1, 3.1.94, p. 571

(3) S.R. 1997 No. 493

(4) S.R. 1995 No. 360, to which there are amendments not relevant to these Regulations

(5) S.R. 1995 No. 396

“relevant EEA State” means an EEA State other than Iceland;

“re-wrapping centre” means any re-wrapping centre licensed under regulation 4 of the Poultry Meat Regulations or any re-packaging centre licensed under regulation 4 of the Fresh Meat Regulations;

“small wild game” means wild mammals of the *Leporidae* family and wild birds intended for human consumption;

“third country” means a country other than the United Kingdom, the Isle of Man or any of the Channel Islands which is not a relevant EEA State;

“veterinary officer” means a veterinary officer of the Department;

“viscera” means offal from the thoracic, abdominal and pelvic cavities, including the trachea and the oesophagus;

“wild game” means—

- (a) wild land mammals which are hunted (including wild mammals living within an enclosed area under conditions of freedom similar to those enjoyed by wild game); and
- (b) wild birds;

“wild game meat” means all parts of wild game which are suitable for human consumption and which have not undergone any preserving process other than chilling, freezing, vacuum wrapping or wrapping in a controlled atmosphere;

“wild game processing facility” means any establishment used for the purpose of dressing or cutting up wild game, the meat derived from which is intended for sale for human consumption; and

“wrapping”, in relation to the protection of wild game meat, means placing in material which comes into direct contact with such meat as well as the material itself.

(2) Nothing in these Regulations shall be construed as derogating from the provisions of the Diseases of Animals (Northern Ireland) Order 1981⁽⁶⁾ or of any order made thereunder.

(3) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954⁽⁷⁾ shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to a Measure of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

⁽⁶⁾ S.I. 1981 No. 1115 (N.I. 22)

⁽⁷⁾ 1954 c. 33 (N.I.)