

1958 No. 2166

ANIMALS

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY

**The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty)
Regulations, 1958**

Made - - - - 17th December, 1958
Laid before Parliament 23rd December, 1958
Coming into Operation 1st January, 1959

The Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 2 and subsection (1) of section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954(a); and subsection (3) of section 8 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958(b), and of all other powers him enabling in that behalf, after consultation with such organisations as appear to him to represent the interests concerned, hereby makes the following regulations:—

PART I

Commencement, citation and interpretation

1. These regulations shall come into operation on the first day of January, 1959; and may be cited as the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

2.—(1) In these regulations—

“animals” means horses, cattle, sheep, swine and goats.

“contravention” in relation to any provision of these regulations includes a failure to comply with that provision.

“existing slaughterhouse” means any slaughterhouse, the whole or part whereof was in use as a public or port slaughterhouse or was the subject of a slaughterhouse licence at some time during the period from 1st January, 1958, to 31st December, 1958, so long as that slaughterhouse or any part thereof continues (with or without change of occupier) to be so in use or to be the subject of such a licence without any interval of more than twelve consecutive months at any time since 31st December, 1957.

“horse” includes ass and mule.

“knacker’s yard” means any building, premises or place used in connection with the business of killing animals, the flesh of which is not intended for sale for human consumption; and “knacker” means a person whose business is to kill animals, the flesh of which is not intended for sale for human consumption.

“lairage” means any premises or yard used for the confinement of animals awaiting slaughter, and for the purposes of regulations 6, 7 and 18 hereof includes a field so used.

“the Minister” means the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

(a) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 59.

(b) 6 & 7 Eliz. 2. c. 70.

“mechanically-operated instrument” includes an instrument for stunning by means of electricity.

“occupier” means—

(a) in relation to a public slaughterhouse, the local authority providing the slaughterhouse;

(b) in relation to a port slaughterhouse, the occupier thereof;

(c) in relation to any other slaughterhouse, the person for the time being licensed in respect thereof under Part IV of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955(c).

“port slaughterhouse” means a slaughterhouse forming part of an imported animals’ wharf or landing place approved by the Minister under the Diseases of Animals Act, 1950(d), for the purpose of the landing of imported animals.

“public slaughterhouse” means a slaughterhouse provided by a local authority.

“slaughterhall” means that part of a slaughterhouse or knacker’s yard in which animals are slaughtered or carcasses are dressed.

“slaughterhouse” means any building, premises or place used in connection with the business of killing animals the flesh of which is intended for sale for human consumption.

“slaughterhouse licence” means a licence under Part IV of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, authorising the occupier of any premises to keep them as a slaughterhouse.

“stunning pen” means a pen or compartment which is suitable for confining a bull, ox, bullock, cow, heifer or steer while it is being stunned and which is constructed so as to confine without discomfort only one such animal at a time and so as to prevent any substantial movement of the animal forwards, backwards or sideways.

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

(3) Any order to be made by the Minister under these regulations to appoint a day shall be made by statutory instrument and may appoint different days for different areas.

PART II

Construction, lay-out and equipment of slaughterhouses and lairages

3. The occupier of a lairage shall cause the following requirements to be complied with:—

(a) The lairage shall be suitable for its purpose and adequate in size and construction for the number of animals laired therein.

(b) The lairage shall be so constructed as to provide shelter from the sun and adverse weather for every animal laired therein.

(c) The lairage shall be so constructed, and the floor thereof so channelled, as to enable it to be thoroughly cleansed.

(d) The lairage shall be provided with adequate racks, mangers or other suitable equipment to contain food, and with adequate drinking troughs, for all animals laired therein; such racks, mangers, equipment and troughs to be fixed if reasonably practicable.

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

(d) 14 Geo. 6. c. 36.

(e) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

(e) The lairage shall be adequately ventilated and shall be adequately lighted for the proper conduct of all operations therein and to enable these regulations to be complied with.

4. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard, as the case may be, shall cause—

(a) the walls of the slaughterhall to be so constructed and the floor so channelled as to enable any blood and waste matter to be satisfactorily swilled away ;

(b) the slaughterhall to be adequately lighted for the proper conduct of all operations therein and to enable these regulations to be complied with.

5.—(1) This regulation shall apply as respects any existing slaughterhouse from such date as the Minister may by order under these regulations appoint, but otherwise shall apply forthwith.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this regulation—

(a) the occupier of every slaughterhouse in which any bull, ox, bullock, cow, heifer or steer is slaughtered otherwise than by a method referred to in regulation 17 hereof shall ensure that the slaughterhouse is at all times equipped with a sufficient number of stunning pens in good condition and proper working order ;

(b) no person shall stun any bull, ox, bullock, cow, heifer or steer in any slaughterhouse unless at the time of stunning it is confined in a stunning pen :

Provided that as respects existing slaughterhouses the provisions of this paragraph shall apply subject to the following provisions of this regulation.

(3) While there is in force in relation to any particular existing slaughterhouse a certificate of the local authority whose duty it is to enforce these regulations in relation to that slaughterhouse to the effect that compliance with paragraph (2) of this regulation cannot be reasonably required with respect to that slaughterhouse, that slaughterhouse shall be exempt from the provisions of that paragraph.

(4) Such a certificate shall not be granted by a local authority with respect to any such slaughterhouse unless the authority are satisfied that by reason of restricted accommodation or other special circumstances affecting the premises it is reasonable that such a certificate should be in force with respect thereto.

(5) Any such certificate shall be withdrawn by the authority if at any time they cease to be satisfied as aforesaid.

(6) If the occupier of any slaughterhouse is aggrieved by the refusal or withdrawal under the preceding provisions of this regulation of such a certificate he may appeal to a court of summary jurisdiction and that court may make such an Order concerning the certificate as appears to the court having regard to the matters with respect to which the authority are required to be satisfied as aforesaid to be just and equitable.

(7) The provisions of paragraphs (3) to (6) inclusive of this regulation shall not apply in relation to any slaughterhouse where paragraph (2) of this regulation came into operation in relation to that slaughterhouse after the 1st day of January, 1963 ; and in any other case no certificate as aforesaid shall be granted or have effect after that date.

PART III

Conditions to be observed in lairages

6. The occupier of a lairage shall cause every animal on arrival in the lairage and at all times while awaiting slaughter to be provided with a sufficient quantity of wholesome water.

7.—(1) When it is necessary to confine in a lairage any animal for a period exceeding twelve hours, the occupier of the lairage shall cause the animal to be provided with a sufficient quantity of suitable food in each morning and each afternoon during which it is so confined (including that in which it is brought into confinement) :

Provided that no person shall be liable for a contravention of the foregoing provision—

- (a) in the case of any animal, by reason of its not having been fed in the morning or afternoon in which it is slaughtered ; or
- (b) in the case of an animal, other than a horse, which is slaughtered for butcher's meat, or as to which it is proved that it was intended that it should be so slaughtered, in any morning or afternoon, by reason of its not having been fed in the preceding afternoon, or in the preceding morning, as the case may be ; or
- (c) in the case of a horse which is slaughtered for butcher's meat, or as to which it is proved that it was intended that it should be so slaughtered, in any afternoon, by reason of its not having been fed in the preceding morning.

(2) In this regulation the expressions "morning" and "afternoon" mean the periods of twelve hours ending and beginning respectively with mid-day ; and consecutive periods of confinement shall count as one continuous period.

8. No person shall deposit or cause to be deposited any fodder in a lairage otherwise than in the racks, mangers or other suitable equipment provided for the purpose.

9. The occupier of a lairage shall cause—

- (a) suitable bedding to be provided in the lairage for animals held therein overnight ;
- (b) the lairage to be kept clean.

10. The occupier of a lairage shall ensure that within the lairage—

- (a) horned cattle and fractious animals are kept apart from other animals ;
and
- (b) if two or more horned cattle or fractious animals are kept together they are restrained so that they cannot injure one another.

For the purposes of this regulation "fractious" means likely to injure other animals.

11. No person shall keep in a field any animal awaiting slaughter if the weather or the condition of the field is likely to cause suffering to the animal.

PART IV

General conditions to be observed in slaughterhouses and knackers' yards

12. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure that no blood or other refuse from a slaughterhall shall be deposited in or allowed to flow into any lairage, and shall ensure that so far as is practicable the blood and refuse shall be removed from the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard in such a way that animals awaiting slaughter cannot see or smell such blood or refuse.

13. Every person engaged in driving or bringing any animal to the place of slaughter shall—

- (a) avoid, so far as is practicable, driving or bringing an animal over any ground or floor the condition or nature of which is likely to cause the animal to slip or fall;
- (b) adopt such methods and precautions as will prevent the infliction upon the animal of unnecessary suffering or pain.

14.—(1) Except where the animal is confined in a stunning pen, every person shall before proceeding to stun any bull, ox, bullock, cow, heifer or steer cause the head of each such animal to be securely fastened in such a position as to enable the animal to be stunned with as little pain and suffering as possible.

(2) Every person shall in the process of slaughtering any animal use such instruments or appliances for the purpose and adopt such methods of slaughter and otherwise take such precautions as may be requisite to secure that as little pain and suffering as possible is inflicted.

15.—(1) No person shall slaughter any animal in a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard in the sight of any other animal awaiting slaughter:

Provided that, until such date as the Minister may appoint by order under these regulations in relation to any existing slaughterhouse of the kind hereinafter mentioned, the foregoing provision shall not apply as respects slaughter in the sight of any animal other than a horse in an existing slaughterhouse constructed before 1st July, 1955, where major structural alterations, or such structural alterations as would impede the efficient working of the slaughterhouse, would be necessary to prevent it.

(2) For the purposes of this regulation slaughter does not include stunning by means of electricity.

16. No person shall use any instrument for slaughtering or stunning any animal unless his ability and physical condition at the time qualify him to use it without inflicting unnecessary pain on the animal nor shall he use a mechanically-operated instrument in such manner or in such circumstances or in such need of repair as to give rise to the risk of causing unnecessary suffering.

17. No person shall slaughter any bull, ox, bullock, cow, heifer or steer by the Jewish or Mohammedan method without the use of a casting pen of the Weinberg, Dyne or North British Rotary type or such other type as may be approved by the Minister.

18. The occupier of a slaughterhouse, knacker's yard or lairage, as the case may be shall cause—

- (a) any animal which is in pain on arrival or subsequently at the slaughterhouse, knacker's yard or lairage to be slaughtered without delay;

- (b) an animal, as far as practicable, to be slaughtered in the lairage if moving it therefrom causes it suffering ;
- (c) any animal showing signs of illness or disability not necessitating immediate slaughter to be, so far as is practicable, isolated pending slaughter ;
- (d) an animal too young to take swill or solid food to be slaughtered as soon as practicable after arrival.

19. Any licence granted (otherwise than by way of renewal of an existing licence) to any person by a local authority under section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933(f), may, unless that person has worked as a slaughterman for at least three months and has satisfied either a local authority or the Rabbinical Commission of his ability to slaughter animals with the infliction of as little pain and suffering as possible, be granted subject to a condition that he shall not slaughter any animal except under the supervision of a person holding a licence in force under the said section which is not subject to a like condition.

PART V

Special provisions for knackers' yards

20. Every person who shall carry on, or assist in carrying on, the trade or business of a knacker shall observe and conform to the regulations set out in this Part of these regulations.

21. No horse shall be used or employed for any work after it has been delivered to a knacker's yard or lairage.

22. Every animal delivered to a knacker's yard or lairage used in connection therewith shall be kept on those premises until slaughtered and shall be slaughtered as soon as possible and within 48 hours from the time of delivery.

23. No person who is under the age of fifteen years shall be admitted to, or be permitted to remain in, the knacker's yard during the process of slaughtering or of cutting up the carcass of any animal.

PART VI

Additional provisions for horses

24. The occupier of a lairage of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard used for the slaughter of horses shall cause such a lairage to be so constructed and situated in relation to the normal place of slaughter as to render it impossible for any horse in the lairage to see any horse being slaughtered.

25. The occupier of a lairage of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard in which horses are slaughtered shall cause such a lairage to be fitted with an adequate number of permanently fixed partitions and shall not cause or permit more than one horse to be laired between two consecutive partitions ; and shall cause the lairage to contain not less than one loose box.

26. The occupier of such a lairage as aforesaid shall ensure that no horse shall be laired loose in any yard or place other than a field except that not more than one horse or two ponies or two foals may be kept loose in a suitable loose box.

27. No person shall slaughter a horse in any room or other place where there is a horse or any remains of a horse or of any other animal.

(f) 23 & 24 Geo. 5. c. 39.

28. The occupier of any slaughterhouse or knacker's yard where horses are slaughtered shall provide and maintain therein a separate room or bay for the slaughter of horses ; and no person shall dress any carcase in any such room or bay :

Provided that—

- (a) as respects any existing slaughterhouse constructed before 2nd December, 1954, the requirements of this regulation shall not apply until such day as the Minister may appoint by order under these regulations.
- (b) as respects any knacker's yard constructed before 2nd December, 1954, the requirements of this regulation shall not apply until 1st January, 1960.

PART VII

Notices, records and returns

29. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard where horses are slaughtered shall notify the local authority which has licensed the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard of every place where horses intended for slaughter or awaiting slaughter are kept by him or on his behalf.

30. The occupier of every slaughterhouse where horses are slaughtered or, in the case of a public slaughterhouse, a duly appointed officer of the local authority shall keep an accurate record of all horses or carcases of horses received into the slaughterhouse showing:—

- (a) the date on which the horse or carcase is received into the slaughterhouse and, in the case of a horse, the date of the slaughter thereof in the slaughterhouse ;
- (b) the name and address of the person on whose behalf the horse was slaughtered or, as the case may be, from whom the horse or carcase has been purchased by the occupier of the slaughterhouse, whether on his own behalf or on behalf of some other person ;

such record to be entered in ink or indelible pencil in a book kept specifically for the purpose within 24 hours of the slaughter of the animal or of the carcase coming into the possession of the occupier of the slaughterhouse, as the case may be.

31. The occupier of every slaughterhouse used for the slaughter of horses shall during the month of January in each year render to the local authority a return in respect of the preceding calendar year showing the total number of horses slaughtered, the place at which they were slaughtered and the total number of carcases of horses received during that year.

32. Every occupier of a knacker's yard shall keep in respect of it an accurate record of all animals and carcases received into the yard showing:—

- (a) the category or description of each animal or carcase so received ;
- (b) the date the animal or carcase is received into the yard and the date of the slaughter of the animal ;
- (c) the name and address of the person on whose behalf the animal was slaughtered or, as the case may be, from whom the animal or carcase has been purchased by the occupier of the yard, whether on his own behalf or on behalf of some other person ;

such record to be entered in ink or indelible pencil in a book kept specifically for the purpose within 24 hours of the slaughter of the animal or of the carcase coming into the possession of the occupier of the knacker's yard, as the case may be.

33. The occupier of every knacker's yard shall during the month of January in each year render to the local authority a return in respect of the preceding calendar year showing the total number of horses slaughtered, the place at which they were slaughtered and the total number of carcasses of horses received during that year.

34.—(1) Where under any byelaw made by a local authority the occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard keeps a record of animals brought into it and of the manner in which these animals and the different parts thereof are disposed of, the retention by that occupier of that record, shall as respects the particulars mentioned therein, be a sufficient compliance with the provisions of regulations 30 and 32 hereof.

(2) Every such record as is specified in regulations 30 and 32 hereof shall be retained for not less than one year from the date of the transaction to which it relates.

35. Any record required to be kept by the foregoing regulations shall be kept readily available at the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard, and shall be produced for inspection at all reasonable times on request by an authorised officer of the local authority or of the Minister.

PART VIII

Penalties

36. If any person contravenes any of the provisions of these regulations he shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both: Provided that a person shall not be guilty of an offence in respect of any such contravention as aforesaid 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.

37. Where any person convicted of an offence in respect of any contravention as aforesaid (including a person so convicted by virtue of section 35 of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952(g)), is the holder of a licence granted under Part IV of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, in respect of the premises where the offence was committed, the court may, in addition to any other penalty, cancel the licence.

Revocation

38.—(1) The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) Regulations, 1954(h), and the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955(i), are hereby revoked, but without prejudice to any proceedings in respect of any contravention thereof.

(2) Every person shall, notwithstanding the revocation of the aforesaid regulations, retain any record required to be kept by him thereunder for one year from the date of the transaction to which it relates.

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

(L.S.)

John Hare,

Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

(g) 15 & 16 Geo. 6. & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 55.

(h) S.I. 1954/1584 (1954 I, p. 154).

(i) S.I. 1955/917 (1955 I, p. 215).

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.

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1958 No. 2166

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**The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty)
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Printed and published in Great Britain by
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE: 1958

ISBN 0 11 100379 2