
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1990 No. 1242

**The Slaughter of Animals (Humane
Conditions) Regulations 1990**

PART III

Conditions to be observed in connection with the confinement and treatment of animals awaiting slaughter

5. It shall be the duty of the occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard or lairage to ensure that no animals are unloaded from a vehicle in the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard or lairage in such a way as to cause unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress to such animals.

6. No person shall—

- (a) cause unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress to any animal which is awaiting slaughter in a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard or which is confined in a lairage; or
- (b) permit any such pain or distress of which he knows or may reasonably be expected to know.

7. The occupier of a lairage shall ensure that—

- (a) a sufficient quantity of clean drinking water is provided for an animal on its arrival at the lairage and at all times thereafter; and
- (b) a sufficient quantity of wholesome food is provided for an animal on its arrival at the lairage and twice daily thereafter, except that no animal need be fed within 12 hours of the time at which it is slaughtered.

8.—(1) The occupier of a lairage shall ensure that—

- (a) animals confined in the lairage have—
 - (i) sufficient space to stand up, lie down and turn around, and
 - (ii) easy access to the food and water provided for them,
- (b) subject to paragraph (2) below, an adequate quantity of suitable bedding is provided for animals confined in the lairage from one day to the next; and
- (c) the lairage, and the equipment contained in it, is kept clean and in good repair at all times.

(2) The provisions of paragraph (1)(b) above shall not apply in the case of animals kept on a slatted or mesh floor in a lairage.

9.—(1) The occupier of a lairage shall ensure that within the lairage—

- (a) animals of one species are kept in separate pens from animals of another species;
- (b) fractious animals are kept in separate pens from other animals and separate from each other; and
- (c) horned cattle are kept apart from each other and from other cattle (except that they need not be kept apart from horned or other cattle with which they have been reared).

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1)(b) above “fractious animals” are animals which are likely to injure other animals.

10. No person shall deposit any fodder in a lairage otherwise than in the racks, mangers or other suitable equipment.

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 unnecessary distress to the animal.

12. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker’s yard shall ensure that—

- (a) no blood or other refuse from the slaughterhall is deposited in or allowed to flow into a lairage; and
- (b) as far as is practicable, the blood and the refuse is 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.—(1) No person shall, in a slaughterhouse, knacker’s yard or lairage,—

- (a) hit, prod, or handle an animal in a manner which is likely to cause it any unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress;
- (b) lead or drive any animal over any ground or floor the nature or condition of which is likely to cause the animal to slip or fall;
- (c) lift or drag an animal by the head, feet, tail or by any other part of its body in a manner which is likely to cause the animal any unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress;
- (d) lift a sheep off the ground by its fleece;
- (e) subject to paragraph (2) below, use any instrument which is capable of inflicting an electric shock to control any animal.

(2) The prohibition in paragraph (1)(e) above shall not apply to the use of an instrument mentioned in that paragraph on the hindquarters of any cattle or adult pigs which are refusing to move forward when there is space for them to do so.