
EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This note is not part of the Regulations)

These Regulations, which extend to Great Britain, give effect to the provisions of Council Directive [93/119/EC](#) on the protection of animals at time of slaughter or killing (OJNo. L 340, 31.12.93, p. 21). They revoke and replace the regulations specified in Schedule 15.

The Regulations apply to the movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter and killing of animals bred and kept for the production of meat, skin, fur or other products, to the killing of animals for the purpose of disease control and to the killing of surplus chicks and embryos in hatchery waste (regulation 3(1)), subject to exceptions for acts done lawfully under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (regulation 3(2)), sporting events (regulation 3(3)) and wild game (regulation 3(4)). The Regulations—

- (a) provide for the licensing of slaughtermen by Ministers (regulation 4(1) and Schedule 1);
- (b) prevent persons from engaging in the lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter or killing of animals without the necessary knowledge and skill (regulation 4(2));
- (c) prohibit persons engaged in the lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter or killing of animals from causing any avoidable excitement, pain or suffering to any animal (regulation 4(3));
- (d) require occupiers of slaughterhouses or knackers' yards to ensure (i) that there is a person available who has authority to take whatever action may be necessary to safeguard the welfare of any live animals on the premises (regulation 5), and (ii) that any person who is engaged in activities governed by these Regulations is acquainted with the legislation and welfare codes which are relevant to those activities and, where necessary, is licensed (regulation 6);
- (e) provide powers for Ministers to make statutory codes of practice (regulation 7);
- (f) specify the construction, equipment and maintenance requirements for slaughterhouses and knackers' yards (regulation 8 and Schedule 2);
- (g) regulate the movement and lairaging of solipeds, ruminants, pigs, rabbits and poultry (regulations 9(a) and 10(a) and Schedule 3);
- (h) regulate the restraint of solipeds, ruminants, pigs, rabbits and poultry in slaughterhouses and knackers' yards (regulations 9(b) and 10(b) and Schedule 4) and elsewhere (regulation 15(a) and Schedule 4);
- (i) regulate the stunning and killing of solipeds, ruminants, pigs, rabbits and poultry in slaughterhouses and knackers' yards (regulations 9(c) and 10(c) and Schedule 4) and elsewhere (regulations 14 and 15(b) and Schedule 4);
- (j) regulate the bleeding and pithing of solipeds, ruminants, pigs, rabbits and poultry in slaughterhouses and knackers' yards (regulation 10(d) and Schedule 6) and elsewhere (regulation 15(c) and Schedule 6);
- (k) regulate the killing of pigs or birds by exposure to gas mixtures (regulation 11 and Schedule 7);
- (l) specify additional conditions for the slaughter or killing of horses (regulation 12 and Schedule 8);
- (m) provide for slaughter or killing for private consumption (regulation 16);

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- (n) regulate the slaughter or killing of animals for the purpose of disease control (regulation 17 and Schedule 9);
- (o) regulate the killing of fox and mink which are farmed for their fur (regulation 18 and Schedule 10);
- (p) regulate the killing of surplus chicks and embryos in hatchery waste (regulation 19 and Schedule 11);
- (q) require occupiers of premises where birds are kept for slaughter at the place of purchase to ensure that the birds' accommodation gives them enough room and that the birds are fed and watered (regulation 20);
- (r) regulate slaughter by a religious method (regulations 21 and 22 and Schedule 12);
- (s) specify the powers of authorised persons (regulation 23), create offences and prescribe penalties (regulations 24 to 26) and provide a defence for emergency acts (regulation 27);
- (t) make repeals, revocations and amendments (regulation 28 and Schedules 13 to 15).

A Compliance Cost Assessment in relation to these Regulations has been placed in the libraries of both Houses of Parliament and copies can be obtained from the Meat Hygiene Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Government Buildings, Hook Rise South, Tolworth, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 7NF.