
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

2003 No. 3177

**The Products of Animal Origin (Third
Country Imports) (England) Regulations 2003**

PART 12

OFFENCES AND PENALTIES

Obstruction

60.—(1) No person shall—

- (a) intentionally obstruct any person in the exercise of a power conferred by regulation 8 or 9 or in the performance of any other regulatory function;
- (b) without reasonable cause fail to comply with a requirement made of him pursuant to regulation 8 or 9, or fail to give to any person exercising a power conferred by those regulations or performing any other regulatory function such assistance or information as that person may reasonably require of him for the purpose of exercising the power or performing the function; or
- (c) furnish to any person exercising a power conferred by regulation 8 or 9 or performing any other regulatory function any information which he knows to be false or misleading.

(2) Paragraph (1)(b) shall not require a person to answer any question or give any information if to do so might incriminate him.

Defence of due diligence

61.—(1) In any proceedings for an offence of contravening a provision of the regulations listed in Schedule 5, it shall be a defence for the person charged to prove that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of the offence by himself or by a person under his control.

(2) If in any case the defence provided by paragraph (1) involves the allegation that the commission of the offence was due to an act or default of another person, or to reliance on information supplied by another person, the person charged shall not, without leave of the Court, be entitled to rely on that defence, unless—

- (a) at least seven clear days before the hearing; and
- (b) where he has previously appeared, or been brought, before a court in connection with the alleged offence, within one month of his first such appearance,

he has served on the prosecutor a notice in writing giving such information identifying or assisting in the identification of that other person as was then in his possession.

Contraventions

62. Any person who contravenes a provision of these Regulations, or fails to comply with a notice served upon him under these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence.

Penalties

63.—(1) A person guilty of the offence of contravening regulation 60(1)(a) or (b) shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both.

(2) A person guilty of any other offence under these Regulations shall be liable—

- (a) on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both;
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or to both.

Offences by bodies corporate

64.—(1) Where a body corporate is guilty of an offence under these Regulations, and that offence is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to have been attributable to any neglect on the part of, a corporate officer of the body corporate, he, as well as the body corporate, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

(2) For the purposes of this regulation, “corporate officer”, in relation to a body corporate whose affairs are managed by its members, means a member of the body corporate.