



## **FALKLAND ISLANDS**

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### **Livestock and Meat Products (Protection of Animals at Time of Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 2015**

**(S.R. & O. No. 26 OF 2015)**



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### **Livestock and Meat Products (protection of Animals at Time of Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 2015**

*[DATE OF COMMENCEMENT: 24 DECEMBER 2015]*

#### **PART 1 INTRODUCTION**

##### **1 Title**

These regulations are the Livestock and Meat Products (Protection of Animals at Time of Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 2015.

##### **2 Commencement**

These regulations come into force on publication in the *Gazette*.

##### **3 Interpretation**

In these regulations-

**"abattoir"** means a place for slaughtering animals, the meat of which is intended for human consumption, and includes any place available in connection with such a place for the confinement of animals while awaiting slaughter there or for keeping, or subjecting to any treatment or process, products of the slaughtering of animals there;

**"abattoir operator"** means a person or company responsible for the day to day operation of activities that occur in an abattoir or slaughterhouse and includes activities in any co-located or related cutting plants, chilling or freezing establishments;

**"adverse weather condition"** means any weather condition, including direct sunlight, which has an adverse effect on the welfare of an animal;

**"animals for slaughter"** means sheep, goats, cattle or pigs sent to an abattoir for slaughter;

**"certificate of competence"** means the certificate of competence granted under regulation 17;

**"competent authority"** means the Senior Veterinary Officer or any other authorised official of the Department of Agriculture;

**"designated abattoir"** means an abattoir which has been designated as such by order made under section 3(3) of the Livestock and Meat Products Ordinance 2010;

*[Revision w.e.f 31/07/2017]*

**"emergency killing"** means the killing of animals which are injured or have a disease associated with severe pain or suffering and where there is no other practical possibility to alleviate this pain or suffering;

**"holding"** means a section of land leased or otherwise tenanted for agricultural purposes;

**"holding pen"** means an enclosure for temporarily confining livestock;

**"killing"** means any intentionally induced process which causes the death of an animal;

**"lairaging"** means the keeping of animals in stalls, pens, covered areas or fields associated with or which are part of the slaughterhouse before the animals are killed or slaughtered;

**"pithing"** means the laceration of the central nervous tissue and spinal cord by means of an elongated rod-shaped instrument introduced into the cranial cavity;

**"provisional certificate"** means the provisional certificate of competence granted under regulation 17;

**"related operations"** means operations such as handling, lairaging, restraining, stunning and bleeding of animals taking place in the context and at the location where they are to be killed;

**"relevant legislation"** means (to the extent that it relates to animal welfare) Regulation (EC) 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing;

**"religious rites"** means a series of acts related to the slaughter of animals and prescribed by a religion;

**"restraint"** means the application to an animal of any procedure designed to restrict its movements sparing any avoidable pain, fear or agitation in order to facilitate effective stunning and killing;

**"slaughter"** means the killing of an animal by bleeding;

**"slaughterhouse"** means an establishment used for slaughtering and dressing animals, the meat of which is intended for human consumption;

**"slaughter operations"** means any of the operations specified under regulation 8;

**"standard operating procedures"** means a set of written instructions aimed at achieving uniformity of the performance of specific functions or standards within the abattoir as required by regulation 7(2); and

**"stunning"** means any intentionally induced process which causes loss of consciousness and sensibility without pain, including any process resulting in instantaneous death.

#### **4 Application**

These Regulations apply to the welfare of animals intended to be killed for human consumption at a designated abattoir.

## **PART 2 REQUIREMENTS FOR ABATTOIR OPERATORS**

### **5 General requirements for welfare of animals**

(1) An abattoir operator must ensure that animals are spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering during slaughter.

(2) For purposes of subregulation (1) an abattoir operator must ensure that animals to be slaughtered-

- (a) are provided with physical comfort and protection, in particular by being kept clean in adequate thermal conditions and prevented from falling or slipping;
- (b) are protected from injury;
- (c) are handled and housed taking into consideration their normal behaviour;
- (d) do not show signs of avoidable pain or fear or exhibit abnormal behaviour;
- (e) do not suffer from prolonged withdrawal of feed or water;
- (f) are prevented from avoidable interaction with other animals that could harm their welfare.

### **6 Requirements for abattoirs**

(1) An abattoir operator must ensure that the abattoir is designed, constructed, maintained and operated in such a way that the welfare of animals is not compromised.

(2) An abattoir operator must ensure that the layout and construction of slaughterhouses and the equipment used in the killing of animals complies with the requirements set out in Schedule 1.

### **7 Requirements for killing of animals and related operations**

(1) An abattoir operator must ensure that-

- (a) the killing of animals and related operations is done in accordance with the methods set out under Schedule 2;

- (b) monitoring and checks during the stunning of animals is carried out in terms of Schedule 3; and
  - (c) there are in place operational rules for slaughterhouses, setting out the processes and information specified at Schedule 4.
- (2) The abattoir operator must ensure that there are in place standard operating procedures of the abattoir which must-
- (a) ensure that killing and related operations are carried out in accordance with the requirements of regulation 5;
  - (b) with regards to stunning-
    - (i) define for each stunning method used, the key parameters set out in Schedule 2;
    - (ii) specify the corrective action to be taken where the monitoring procedure under Schedule 3 indicates that an animal is not properly stunned;
  - (c) with regards to an animal slaughtered in accordance with regulation 13, what measures are to be taken where the animal still presents signs of life;
  - (d) be effectively brought to the attention of the personnel concerned; and
  - (e) be made available to the competent authority upon request.

## **8 Competent personnel**

- (1) An abattoir operator must ensure that the following slaughter operations are only carried out by persons holding a certificate of competence or a provisional certificate for such operations, and who have demonstrated their ability to carry them out in accordance with these Regulations—
- (a) the handling and care of animals before they are restrained;
  - (b) the restraint of animals for the purpose of stunning or killing;
  - (c) the stunning of animals;
  - (d) the assessment of effective stunning;
  - (e) the shackling or hoisting of live animals;
  - (f) the bleeding of live animals; and
  - (g) the slaughtering of animals in accordance with Part 3.

(2) An abattoir operator must ensure that the person (holding a certificate of competence or provisional certificate) carries out the operations and (where appropriate) uses the type of equipment in respect of which the certificate of competence or provisional certificate is granted.

## **9 Welfare of animals**

- (1) An abattoir operator must ensure that when there are live animals on the premises a person designated as animal welfare officer is available at all times to safeguard the welfare of animals.
- (2) The abattoir operator must designate as an animal welfare officer a person who-

- (a) is competent and has authority to take whatever action is necessary to safeguard the welfare of animals as provided for under regulation 23; and
- (b) holds a certificate of competence issued under Part 4.

### **PART 3**

#### **KILLING OF ANIMALS AND RELATED OPERATIONS**

##### **10 Treatment of animals - general requirements**

A person involved in the movement, lairaging, restraint, stunning, slaughter or killing of animals must ensure that-

- (a) animals are spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering; and
- (b) it is carried out in compliance with these Regulations.

##### **11 Stunning of animals**

(1) Subject to regulation 13, an animal must only be killed after stunning in accordance with the methods and specific requirements set out in Schedule 2.

(2) Where any of the methods referred to under Schedule 2 do not result in instantaneous death (also referred to as simple stunning) this must be followed as quickly as possible by a procedure that can ensure death such as bleeding, pithing, electrocution or prolonged exposure to anoxia.

(3) Where an animal's death is caused by pithing, the carcass of that animal may not be used for human or animal consumption.

(4) Any person in charge of stunning an animal must ensure the loss of consciousness and sensibility is maintained until the death of the animal.

##### **12 Monitoring and checks on stunning**

(1) An abattoir operator must ensure that persons responsible for stunning or other nominated staff carry out regular monitoring and checks to ensure that the animals do not present any signs of consciousness or sensibility in the period between the end of the stunning process and death.

(2) The checks referred to under subregulation (1) must be carried out on a sufficiently representative number of animals and their frequency must be established taking into account the outcome of previous checks and any factors which may affect the efficiency of the stunning process.

(3) When the outcome of the checks indicates that an animal is not properly stunned, the person in charge of stunning must immediately take the appropriate measures set out in the monitoring procedures specified under Schedule 3.

### **13 Animals killed without prior stunning**

(1) Where an animal is killed without prior stunning (including animals subjected to particular methods of killing prescribed by religious rites), a person responsible for slaughtering must carry out systematic checks to ensure that-

- (a) the animal does not present any signs of consciousness or sensibility before being released from restraint; and
- (b) the animal does not present any sign of life before undergoing dressing or scalding.

(2) For the purpose of subregulation (1), the person responsible for slaughtering must use the monitoring and checks specified under Schedule 3.

## **PART 4 CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCE**

### **14 Requirements for certificate of competence**

A person who carries on any of the slaughter operations specified in regulation 8 must do so under a certificate issued under this Part except where it is for emergency killing purposes.

### **15 Requirements for certificate of competence**

The applicant must-

- (a) either-
  - (i) submit a qualification certificate in respect of the operation, category of animal and, where appropriate, type of equipment for which the qualification certificate relates and indicate which operation, category of animal and type of equipment for which a certificate of competence is sought; or
  - (ii) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the competent authority that the applicant has relevant professional experience of at least 3 months and can demonstrate practical competency to the satisfaction of the competent authority in respect of the operation, category of animal and type of equipment for which the certificate of competence is sought;
- (b) submit a written declaration stating that the applicant has not committed any offence on the protection of animals in the three years preceding the date of application for a certificate of competence;
- (c) provide written details of-
  - (i) any conviction of an offence concerning the welfare of animals;
  - (ii) any refusal to be granted a certificate in relation to the slaughter or killing of animals or a related operation; or
  - (iii) had any such certificate revoked or suspended; and

- (d) pay any fee which may be charged by the competent authority in accordance with regulation 22.

## **16 Requirements for provisional certificate**

The applicant must-

- (a) submit evidence to confirm the applicant is registered on a training course in respect of the operation, category of animal and, where appropriate, type of equipment for which a provisional certificate is sought;
- (b) submit a written declaration stating that the applicant has not committed any offence on the protection of animals in the three years preceding the date of application for a provisional certificate;
- (c) provide written details if the applicant has-
  - (i) been convicted of an offence concerning the welfare of animals;
  - (ii) any refusal to be granted a provisional certificate in relation to the slaughter or killing of animals or a related operation; or
  - (iii) had any such certificate revoked or suspended; and
- (d) pay any fee which may be charged by the competent authority in accordance with regulation 22.

## **17 Grant of certificate of competence or provisional certificate**

(1) The competent authority may grant a certificate or provisional certificate if-

- (a) in the case of a certificate of competence, the applicant meets the conditions in regulation 15;
- (b) in the case of a provisional certificate, the applicant meets the conditions in regulation 16; and
- (c) it is satisfied that the applicant is a fit and proper person to hold such a certificate.

(2) A certificate of competence or provisional certificate must specify the operation, category of animal and (where appropriate) type of equipment in respect of which it is granted.

(3) A provisional certificate may be granted in respect of an operation, category of animal or type of equipment only if the training course on which the applicant is registered provides training in relation to that operation, category or type of equipment.

(4) A provisional certificate is valid for three months and may be renewed for a further period of 3 months for a maximum of three times.

(5) The holder of a provisional certificate must carry out an operation specified in the provisional certificate in the presence and under the direct supervision of a person who holds a certificate of competence in relation to that operation.

(6) A certificate of competence may be granted in respect of an operation, category of animal or type of equipment only if-

- (a) the qualification certificate submitted with the application for the certificate of competence relates to that operation, category or type of equipment; or
- (b) the competent authority is satisfied that the applicant possesses the relevant professional experience and has demonstrated practical competency in respect of the operation, category or type of equipment indicated in the application.

(7) A certificate of competence is valid for the period indicated on it or until it is revoked.

## **18 Refusal of certificate**

(1) A certificate of competence or provisional certificate will not be granted if the competent authority is satisfied that the applicant-

- (a) has failed to meet any of the conditions in regulation 15 or 16; or
- (b) is not a fit and proper person to hold a certificate.

(2) If the competent authority makes a decision not to grant a certificate of competence or provisional certificate it must inform the applicant of the refusal by notice in writing and the notice must-

- (a) give reasons for the refusal; and
- (b) give details of the right of the applicant to a reconsideration under regulation 21.

## **19 Suspension or revocation of certificate of competence or provisional certificate**

(1) The competent authority may, by notice in writing, suspend or revoke a certificate of competence or a provisional certificate where it is satisfied that the holder-

- (a) has failed to comply with any provision of the relevant legislation or these Regulations;
- (b) is no longer a fit and proper person to hold the certificate of competence or the provisional certificate;
- (c) is no longer competent to carry out the operations which the certificate authorises; or
- (d) has been convicted of an offence concerning the welfare of animals.

(2) A notice under subregulation (1) must-

- (a) give reasons for the suspension or revocation;
- (b) state the date from which the suspension or revocation has effect; and
- (c) give details of the right of the holder to appeal against the decision.

(3) A person whose certificate or provisional certificate is suspended or revoked must surrender it to the competent authority within 14 days of receiving the notice of suspension or revocation unless the person makes a request under regulation 21.

## **20 Modification of a certificate**

- (1) Upon request by the holder of a certificate of competence or a provisional certificate, the competent authority may modify a certificate in respect of an operation, category of animal or, where appropriate, type of equipment, provided-
- (a) the holder meets the conditions in regulation 15 or 16 in respect of the modification; and
  - (b) the competent authority is satisfied that the holder is a fit and proper person to hold the certificate as modified.
- (2) The competent authority may, by notice in writing, refuse to modify a certificate if satisfied that the holder-
- (a) has failed to meet any of the conditions in regulation 15 or 16 in respect of those modifications; or
  - (b) is not a fit or proper person to hold the certificate as modified.
- (3) The notice must-
- (a) give reasons for the refusal; and
  - (b) give details of the right of appeal against the decision.

## **21 Reconsiderations**

- (1) This regulation applies where, the competent authority has-
- (a) refused to grant a certificate of competence under regulation 15 or a provisional certificate under regulation 16;
  - (b) revoked or suspended a certificate of competence or a provisional certificate under regulation 19; or
  - (c) refused to modify the conditions on a certificate of competence or a provisional certificate under regulation 20.
- (2) Where subregulation (1) applies, the person aggrieved by the decision of the competent authority may make a written submission to the competent authority requesting the competent authority to reconsider the application within 14 days of receipt of the competent authority's decision.
- (3) A written submission under subregulation (2) must contain reasons supporting the application for reconsideration and provide as much information as is necessary.
- (4) The competent authority must assess all the information provided and may-
- (a) in the case of an application for any of the certificates (certificate of competence or provisional certificate), require the applicant to undergo further training in relation to the operation, category or type of equipment applied for;
  - (b) in the case of an application for a certificate of competence, issue a provisional certificate with a condition for the holder to undergo further training in relation to the operation, category or type of equipment applied for;
  - (c) in the case of a suspension, reduce the period of the suspension;

- (d) in the case of subregulation (1)(c) modify the conditions; or
- (e) make any decision as it thinks fit.

(5) Where the competent authority makes a decision-

- (a) under subregulation (4)(b), the period specified must not be more than 3 months (bearing in mind the duration of a provisional certificate);
- (b) for the person to undergo further training it must, at the end of that training, re-assess the person's competency in respect of the operation, category of animal and type of equipment applied for.

(6) The competent authority must communicate any decision it makes under subregulation (5) to the person as soon as possible after it makes the decision.

(7) The decision of the competent authority under this regulation is final.

## **22 Fees**

The competent authority may charge an applicant for, or a holder of a certificate or provisional certificate such reasonable fees as it may determine in respect of-

- (a) the assessment of the competence of any person who applies for a certificate;
- (b) the assessment of the competence of any person who applies for a modification of a certificate;
- (c) the issue of a certificate or provisional certificate; and
- (d) an application for reconsideration.

## **23 Animal welfare officer**

(1) An animal welfare officer must hold a certificate of competence granted under this Part, issued for all the operations taking place in the slaughterhouses for which the animal welfare officer is responsible.

(2) An animal welfare officer-

- (a) is under the direct authority of the abattoir operator and must report directly to the abattoir operator on all matters relating to the welfare of animals; and
- (b) has authority to require slaughterhouse personnel to carry out any remedial actions necessary to ensure compliance with the rules laid down in these Regulations.

(3) The responsibilities of the animal welfare officer must be set out in the operational rules referred to under regulation 7.

(4) The animal welfare officer must keep a record of all the action taken to improve animal welfare in the abattoir.

(5) The record referred to under subregulation (4) must be kept for at least one year and must be made available to the competent authority upon request.

## **PART 5 GENERAL PROVISIONS**

### **24 Guidance on good practice**

- (1) The Senior Veterinary Officer must develop and disseminate guidance on good practice to facilitate the implementation of these Regulations.
- (2) The Senior Veterinary Officer must keep the guidance under review and issue new guidance when necessary.
- (3) The Senior Veterinary Officer must arrange for a notice to be published in the Gazette specifying-
  - (a) the guidance that has been issued;
  - (b) whether it is new guidance or a replacement for an existing one; and
  - (c) the date on which the guidance comes into force.
- (4) The Senior Veterinary Officer must make arrangements for the guidance to be available (either as paper copies or in electronic form) to those who have responsibility for livestock.
- (5) The Senior Veterinary Officer may make a reasonable charge for paper copies of the guidance.

### **25 Keeping of records**

An abattoir operator must-

- (a) draw up a record of maintenance;
- (b) keep the record of maintenance for at least one year and make it available to the competent authority upon request.

### **26 Offences and penalties**

- (1) It is an offence for a person to contravene any of the provisions of these regulations.
- (2) A person found guilty of an offence against paragraph (1) is liable on conviction to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or to a fine not exceeding level 6 on the standard scale, or to both.

### **27 Transitional provisions**

The provisions of Schedule 1 Part 4 do not apply to abattoirs in operation immediately before the commencement of these Regulations until 8 December 2019 but apply-

- (a) to any abattoirs designated after the commencement of these Regulations; and
- (b) to any new layout or construction carried out or new equipment acquired in a designated abattoir after the commencement of these Regulations.

### **28 ...**

*[Revision w.e.f 31/07/2017]*

**SCHEDULE 1**  
**LAYOUT, CONSTRUCTION AND EQUIPMENT OF SLAUGHTERHOUSES**

(regulation 6(2))

**PART 1**  
**HANDLING AND MOVEMENT OPERATIONS**

**A Unloading equipment**

1. The abattoir operator must ensure that suitable equipment and facilities are available for the purpose of unloading animals.

**B General requirements- handling operations**

2. The abattoir operator and any person engaged in the movement or lairaging of animals must ensure that-

- (a) when unloaded, every animal is protected from adverse weather conditions and is provided with adequate ventilation;
- (b) equipment for unloading animals is of a suitable height and design for that purpose, has non-slip flooring and, if necessary, is provided with lateral protection;
- (c) any animals which might injure each other on account of their species, sex, age or origin or for any other reason are kept and lairaged apart from each other;
- (d) pens, passageways and races are designed and constructed to allow the animals to move freely using their behavioural characteristics and without distraction;
- (e) ramps and bridges are fitted with sides, railings or some other means of protection to prevent animals falling off it;
- (f) the water supply system in pens are designed, constructed and maintained so as to allow animals to access clean water at all times without being injured or limited in their movements;
- (g) when a waiting pen is used, it is constructed with a level floor and solid sides, between the holding pens and the race leading to the point of stunning, and is designed so that animals cannot be trapped or trampled; and
- (h) floors are built and maintained in such a way as to minimise the risk of animals slipping, falling or injuring their feet.

**PART 2**  
**LAIRAGING FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT**

**A General requirements- lairage facilities**

1. The abattoir operator must ensure that a lairage has-
  - (a) where necessary, suitable equipment for tethering animals; and
  - (b) racks, mangers or other equipment adequate in number and size for the feeding of all animals confined in the lairage, fixed where practicable, and constructed and placed so that they are easily accessible to all the animals, can readily be filled and cannot readily be fouled.

**B Lairages other than field lairages**

2. The abattoir operator must ensure that-
  - (a) the premises are equipped with a sufficient number of pens for adequate lairaging of the animals with protection from the effects of adverse weather conditions;
  - (b) the lairage has ventilation systems which are designed, constructed and maintained so that the welfare of the animals is constantly ensured, taking into account the expected range of weather conditions, and where mechanical means of ventilation are required, provision must be made for alarm and emergency back-up facilities in the event of breakdown;
  - (c) the lairage facilities are designed and constructed so as to-
    - (i) minimise the risk of injuries to the animals and the occurrence of sudden noises which may frighten or excite the animals;
    - (ii) facilitate inspection of the animals; and
    - (iii) enable the inspection of animals at any time through adequate lighting (whether fixed or portable);
  - (d) the lairage has drinking facilities adequate in number and size for the watering of all animals confined in the lairage, fixed where practicable, and so constructed and placed that they are easily accessible to all the animals, can readily be filled and cannot readily be fouled; and
  - (e) the lairage has an adequate supply of suitable bedding material for all animals kept in the lairage overnight, unless the lairage has a slatted or mesh floor.

**C Field lairages**

3. The abattoir operator must ensure that a field lairage-
  - (a) without natural shelter or shade which is used during adverse weather conditions has appropriate protection against such conditions for the animals using it; and
  - (b) has an adequate natural water supply of drinking water for the number of animals present and if there is no natural water supply, a clean supply of water must be provided.

## **PART 3 RESTRAINING OPERATIONS**

### **A General requirements - restraining operations**

1. A person must not stun or slaughter an animal without restraining it in an appropriate manner in such a way as to spare the animal avoidable pain, distress or suffering.
2. The abattoir operator and any person engaged in the stunning or slaughter of any animal must ensure that any animal which is to be stunned or slaughtered by mechanical means applied to the head is presented in such a position that the equipment can be applied and operated easily, accurately and for the appropriate time.

### **B Restraining equipment and facilities**

3. Restraining equipment and facilities must be designed, built and maintained to-
  - (a) optimise the application of the stunning or killing method;
  - (b) prevent injury or contusions to the animals;
  - (c) minimise struggle and vocalisation when animals are restrained; and
  - (d) minimise the time of restraint.
4. For animals of bovine species, restraining boxes used in conjunction with a pneumatic captive bolt must be fitted with a device that restricts both the lateral and vertical movement of the head of the animal.
5. The following methods of restraint are prohibited-
  - (a) suspending or hoisting conscious animals;
  - (b) mechanical clamping or tying of the legs or feet of animals;
  - (c) severing of the animal's spinal cord (such as by the use of a puntilla or dagger);
  - (d) the use of electric currents to immobilise the animal where the electric current does not stun or kill the animal, in particular, any electric current application that does not span the brain.

## **PART 4 STUNNING OPERATIONS**

### **A Electrical stunning equipment**

1. Electrical stunning equipment must be fitted with a device which displays and records the details of the electrical key parameters for each animal stunned.
2. The device must be placed so as to be clearly visible to the personnel and must give a clearly visible and audible warning if the duration of exposure falls below the required level.

3. Automatic electrical stunning equipment associated to a restrainer must deliver a constant current.

4. The records from the device under paragraph 1 must be kept for at least one year.

**SCHEDULE 2  
KILLING OF ANIMALS AND RELATED OPERATIONS**

(regulation 7(1)(a))

**PART 1  
LIST OF STUNNING METHODS AND RELATED SPECIFICATIONS**

**Table 1  
Mechanical methods**

| <b>Name</b>                        | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                        | <b>Conditions of use</b>                                                      | <b>Key parameters</b>                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Penetrative captive bolt device    | Severe and irreversible damage of the brain provoked by the shock and the penetration of a captive bolt. Simple stunning. | All species. Slaughter, depopulation and other situations.                    | Position and direction of the shot. Appropriate velocity, exit length and diameter of bolt according to animal size and species. Maximum stun to stick/kill interval(s).                           |
| Nonpenetrative captive bolt device | Severe damage of the brain by the shock of a captive bolt without penetration. Simple stunning.                           | Sheep and goats. Slaughter only for sheep and goats. Slaughter, depopulation. | Position and direction of the shot. Appropriate velocity, diameter and shape of bolt according to animal size and species. Strength of the cartridge used. Maximum stun to stick/kill interval(s). |
| Firearm with free projectile       | Severe and irreversible damage of the brain provoked by the shock and the penetration of one or more projectiles.         | All species. Slaughter, depopulation and other situations.                    | Position of the shot. Power and calibre of the cartridge. Type of projectile.                                                                                                                      |

**Table 2  
Electrical methods**

| <b>Name</b>                   | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                             | <b>Conditions of use</b>                                   | <b>Key parameters</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Head-only electrical stunning | Exposure of the brain to a current generating a generalised epileptic form on the electroencephalogram (EEG). Simple stunning. | All species. Slaughter, depopulation and other situations. | Minimum current (A or mA). Minimum voltage (V). Maximum frequency (Hz). Minimum time of exposure. Maximum stun to stick/kill interval(s). Frequency of calibration of the equipment. Optimisation of the current flow. Prevention of electrical shocks before stunning. Position and contact surface area of electrodes. |

**Table 3**  
**Other methods**

| <b>Name</b>      | <b>Description</b>                                                                                                     | <b>Conditions of use</b>                      | <b>Key parameters</b>                        |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Lethal injection | Loss of consciousness and sensibility followed by irreversible death induced by the injection of veterinary medicines. | All species. Situations other than slaughter. | Type of injection. Using approved medicines. |

## PART 2

### SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN METHODS

A person who uses any of the following methods must take note of the following-

#### **A. Non-penetrative captive bolt device**

1. When using this method attention must be taken to avoid the fracture of the skull.
2. This method must only be used for sheep and goats of less than 10 kg of live weight.

#### **B. Head-only electrical stunning**

1. When using head-only electrical stunning, electrodes must span the brain of the animal and be adapted to its size.

2. Head-only electrical stunning must be carried out in accordance with the minimum currents set out in Table 1.

**Table 1**

| Category of animal | Bovine animal of 6 months or older | Bovine animals less than 6 months | Animals of ovine and caprine species | Animals of porcine species |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Minimum current    | 1,28A                              | 1,25 A                            | 1,00 A                               | 1,30 A                     |

**PART 3  
RESTRAINING AND STUNNING OF ANIMALS**

**C. Use of restraining and stunning equipment**

1. Abattoir operators must ensure that all equipment used for restraining or stunning animals is maintained and checked in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions by persons specifically trained for that purpose.

2. Abattoir operators must ensure that during stunning operations appropriate back-up equipment is immediately available on the spot and is used in the case of failure of the stunning equipment initially used.

3. Abattoir operators must ensure that animals are not placed in restraining equipment, including head restraints, until the person in charge of stunning or bleeding is ready to stun or bleed them as quickly as possible.

**D. Handling and restraining operations at slaughterhouses**

Abattoir operators must ensure that the operational rules for slaughterhouses set out in Schedule 1 and 4 are complied with.

**SCHEDULE 3  
MONITORING PROCEDURES AT SLAUGHTERHOUSES**

(regulation 7(b) and 12(3))

1. Abattoir operators must put in place and implement appropriate monitoring procedures in slaughterhouses.

2. The monitoring procedures referred to in paragraph 1 must describe the way the checks referred to in regulation 12 have to be carried out and must include at least the following-

- (a) the name of the persons responsible for the monitoring procedure;

- (b) indicators designed to detect signs of unconsciousness and consciousness or sensibility in the animals; indicators designed to detect the absence of signs of life in the animals slaughtered in accordance with regulation 13;
- (c) criteria for determining whether the results shown by the indicators are satisfactory;
- (d) the circumstances and the time when the monitoring must take place;
- (e) the number of animals in each sample to be checked during the monitoring;
- (f) appropriate procedures to ensure that in the event that the criteria referred to in subparagraph (c) are not met, the stunning or killing operations are reviewed in order to identify the causes of any shortcomings and the necessary changes to be made to those operations.

3. Abattoir operators must put in place a specific monitoring procedure for each slaughter line.

4. The frequency of the checks must take into account the main risk factors, such as changes regarding the types or the size of animals slaughtered or personnel working patterns and must be established so as to ensure results.

5. For the purpose of paragraphs 1 to 4, abattoir operators may use monitoring procedures as described in the guides to good practice referred to in regulation 24.

## **SCHEDULE 4 OPERATIONAL RULES FOR SLAUGHTERHOUSES**

(regulation 7(1))

### **HANDLING AND MOVEMENT OPERATIONS**

#### **The arrival, moving and handling of animals**

1. The welfare conditions of each consignment of animals must be systematically assessed by the animal welfare officer or a person reporting directly to the animal welfare officer upon arrival in order to identify the priorities, in particular by determining which animals have specific welfare needs and the corresponding measures to be taken.

2. Animals must be unloaded as quickly as possible after arrival and subsequently slaughtered without undue delay.

3. Animals which have not been slaughtered within 12 hours of their arrival must-

- (a) be fed, and subsequently given moderate amounts of food at appropriate intervals; and
- (b) be provided with an appropriate amount of bedding or equivalent material which guarantees a level of comfort appropriate to the species and the number of animals concerned and the material must have an efficient drainage or adequate absorption of urine and faeces.

4. Whenever possible animals must be unloaded individually.

5. For the purpose of slaughter, unweaned animals or females having given birth during the journey or animals delivered in containers must be given priority over other types of animal.
6. Where there are female animals which have given birth during the journey they must be provided with appropriate conditions for suckling and the welfare of the newborn animal taken into account.
7. Mammals which are not taken directly to the place of slaughter after being unloaded, must have drinking water available to them from appropriate facilities at all times.
8. A steady supply of animals for stunning and killing must be ensured in order to prevent animal handlers rushing animals from the holding pens.

### **Treatment of animals**

9. A person must not-
  - (a) strike or apply any pressure to any sensitive part of an animal's body in such a way as to cause the animal avoidable pain or suffering;
  - (b) kick or inflict any blow to an animal;
  - (c) lift or drag the animals by the head, ears, horns, legs, tail or fleece, or handle an animal in such a way as to cause it pain or suffering.

### **Use of Instruments**

10. A person must not use prods or other implements with pointed ends which will twist, crush or break the tails of animals or grasp the eyes of any animal.
11. A person must not use any instrument which administers electric shock to make animals move, except that such an instrument may be used on adult bovine animals and adult pigs which refuse to move, provided that the shocks-
  - (a) last not longer than one second and each are adequately spaced out;
  - (b) are applied only to the muscles of the hindquarters;
  - (c) are not used repeatedly if the animal fails to respond; and
  - (d) the animal has room ahead of it in which to move.
12. A person must not tie or cause the legs of any animals to be tied.
13. Animals which are unable to walk must not be dragged to the place of slaughter, but must be slaughtered where they lie.

### **Additional rules for mammals in lairage**

14. An animal must have enough space to stand up, lie down and, except for cattle kept individually, turn around.
15. Animals must be kept securely in the lairage and care must be taken to prevent them from escaping.

16. Each pen must be indicated with a visible sign with the date and time of arrival of the animals and, except for cattle kept individually, the maximum number of animals to be kept.

17. All operating slaughterhouses must be prepared and kept ready for immediate use with isolation pens for animals that require specific care.

18. The condition and state of health of the animals in a lairage must be regularly assessed by the animal welfare officer or a competent person.

### **Bleeding of animals**

19. Where one person is responsible for the stunning, shackling, hoisting and bleeding of animals, the person must carry out all those operations consecutively in respect of one animal before carrying them out on other animals.

20. A person engaged in the bleeding of any animal that has undergone simple stunning or slaughter in accordance with regulation 13, must ensure that the two carotid arteries or the vessels from which they arise are systematically severed.

21. A person must not cause or permit any electrical stimulation to be performed on an animal before the unconsciousness of the animal has been verified and any further dressing or scalding must only be performed once the absence of signs of life of the animal has been verified.