Purpose:

Article 11 of Commission Implementing Regulation EU 2019/627 requires that all animals shall be subjected to ante-mortem inspection prior to slaughter. This must take place within 24 hours of arrival at the slaughterhouse, and less than 24 hours prior to slaughter.

Regulation EC 1099/2009 requires that animals which have not been slaughtered within 12 hours of their arrival shall be fed, and subsequently given moderate amounts of food at appropriate intervals. In addition they should be provided an appropriate amount of bedding or equivalent material which guarantees a level of comfort appropriate to the species, the number of animals concerned and ensures efficient drainage or ensure adequate absorption of urine and faeces.

Background:
As part of the contingency planning around availability of Official Controls staff, we need to ensure that animal welfare is protected, and this means that where animals are delivered up to the end of the business agreement, they should all receive ante-mortem inspection to ensure that they are slaughtered without delay the following day.
The Official Control Regulation EU 2017/625 requires that, (other than in low throughput premises), an OV is present on site at all times during processing. **This instruction is not intended to provide contingency for non-attendance of an OV at a slaughterhouse. In this case, no slaughter can take place until such time as an OV attends the site.**

Procedure:
Immediately
Lead Official Veterinarians are to discuss with the FBO in their plants the procedure for reception of animals out with business hours. A final time for acceptance within the business agreement hours to allow time for the OV to complete AMI should be agreed and documented in the plant daybook.

The FBO should have in place a robust written procedure to identify and segregate any animals delivered after this cut-off, and the OV must be satisfied that animals accepted onto the premises out with business agreement hours could not be slaughtered without AMI.

If the OV is not satisfied that this procedure is robust then this procedure must not be implemented unless no animals are accepted at any time on to the premises after the OV has left.

The OV should also satisfy themselves that the FBO protocols for identifying animals which have arrived at the approved premises 12 hours previously are clear, and that the FBO has in place a supply of wholesome feed appropriate for the nutritional needs of the species, as well as access to bedding and fresh water.
Once agreed FBO animal reception and segregation protocols are in place:

- Official veterinarians must ensure that at the end of the agreed Business hours, all animals which remain in the lairage on the approved premises, have received ante-mortem inspection, and the time of this is noted in the plant daybook.
- OVs must use the daybook to communicate the conclusion of official controls to all Authorised Officers attending the following day. It is appreciated that there will also be plant specific procedures related to the sign off of the AMI.

**Field Staff** are required to:

- Note the contents of the action note, Lead OV to ensure that the Action note is read by all FSS staff and this is noted in the day book.
- Save the action note on their laptop for reference alongside a downloaded copy of the SMOC.
- Where necessary, print a copy for the plant file.

**Operations admin** are required to:

- Upload to the Action Note Live Folder and Operation tracker log.
- Forward to Website mailbox ([website@fss.scot](mailto:website@fss.scot)) for publication on the website in publications.

The action note will remain live until either incorporated in the SMOC, or revoked. Operations Admin will maintain copies of the live and revoked action notes. Comms will add a link to action notes in the relevant portion of the SMOC.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action note drafted and agreed by</th>
<th>Published</th>
<th>Revoked</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vikki Halliday 16/03/2020</td>
<td>16/03/2020</td>
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<td>Amended 14/10/2020</td>
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