Chapter 2.2
Ante-Mortem Inspection

Section 1  Introduction
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1. Introduction

1.1 FSS role

1.2 FSS role: verification of FBO responsibilities

1.1 FSS roles

1.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of ante-mortem inspection is:

- to determine whether there is any sign of any condition which might adversely affect human or animal health
- to enable the OV to make the decisions as to whether the animal can be slaughtered for human consumption
- to determine whether any test should be carried out in relation to disease diagnosis or for residues of veterinary medical products
- to determine whether welfare has been compromised

Particular attention should be given when zoonotic or notifiable diseases are a possible diagnosis.

1.1.2 Regulations

Ante-mortem inspection is covered by (EC) 853/2004 (Food Business Operator (FBO) duties) and (EC) 854/2004 (FSS requirements).

1.1.3 Inspection tasks

The OV must carry out the ante-mortem inspection.

The MHI may assist the OV with some pre-slaughter tasks. In relation to ante-mortem inspection and welfare checks they can make an initial check and help with purely practical tasks.

The MHI must alert the OV to abnormal animals identified pre-slaughter.
### 1.2 FSS role: verification of FBO responsibilities

#### 1.2.1 Introduction

The FBO has a number of responsibilities that the FSS are required to verify are fulfilled. Informal or formal enforcement action may be necessary where these responsibilities are not met.

#### 1.2.2 Ante-mortem inspection

The FBO must follow the instructions of the OV to ensure that ante-mortem inspection of every animal to be slaughtered is carried out under suitable conditions.

Regulation (EC) 853/2004, Annex III, Section I, Chapter IV, Paragraph 5

Where animals are slaughtered without ante-mortem inspection, the OV must declare the meat from such animals unfit for human consumption in accordance with the requirements of Regulation (EC) 854/2004, Annex I, Section II, Chapter V, paragraph 1(a).

Where the FBO refuses to dispose of the meat, see chapter 2.8 on ‘Animal by-products’, section 5 on ‘Enforcement’. NB: Lairage CCTV footage of the animals slaughtered without ante-mortem inspection will not be accepted as an equivalent to ante-mortem inspection in the lairage.

#### 1.2.3 Cleanliness of the livestock

The OV must verify that the FBO is presenting animals that do not have such hide, skin or fleece conditions as present an unacceptable risk of contamination of the meat.

Reference: See the Meat Industry Guide (MIG) chapter 11 on 'Acceptance and slaughter'.


1.2.4 Health status and identity

The FBO must have procedures in place ensuring that each animal or batch of animals accepted into the slaughterhouse:

- are properly identified
- are accompanied by the relevant information from the holding of provenance
- are not from areas under disease control with movement restrictions unless the Competent Authority so permits
- are clean
- are healthy, as far as the FBO can judge
- are in a satisfactory state as regards to welfare

If the FBO is aware of any animals that do not comply with any of the above then the OV must be notified.

Isolation facilities must be used for suspect animals.

Note: The AO must not complete the animal movement licences. This is an FBO responsibility.

1.2.5 Welfare

The FBO complies with the requirements of: The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Scotland) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (WATOK), Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (as amended) (WASK) and Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 2006 (as amended) (WATO) and immediately takes necessary corrective measure to prevent recurrence of any non-compliance.

1.2.6 Animals accepted at the slaughterhouse

The FBO only accepts animals that are alive into the slaughter establishments, with the exception of:
animals that have undergone emergency slaughter outside the slaughterhouse (red meat) or animals too fractious or dangerous to be transported alive (see note)

delayed eviscerated poultry, geese and ducks raised for the production of ‘foie gras’

animals (including farmed game ratites and Bison) slaughtered at the place of production

wild game

Note: (EC) 853/2004 permits bison to be slaughtered on farm in ‘exceptional circumstances’ such as those that would put human health or animal welfare at risk if the animal(s) were transported live.

1.2.7 Acceptance of animals slaughtered on farm

Any animals (including farmed game and bison) slaughtered on farm, must be inspected at ante-mortem by an OV or Approved Veterinarian (AV) within three days of slaughter and the bodies accompanied by the relevant veterinary health certificate, FCI and Humane Slaughter declaration from the FBO – see Annexes to this chapter. Producers must be approved as a Farm Slaughter Facility.

Bodies of animals slaughtered on farm must be transported hygienically and without undue delay. If transport takes more than two hours, it should be under refrigeration.

If necessary, the animals may be eviscerated at the site of slaughter under the supervision of the OV or AV.

Regulation: (EC) 853/2004, Annex III, Section III


1.2.8 Dead on arrival (DOA) and dead in lairage (DIL)

Bovines:

The FBO reports DOA and DIL bovines over 48 months of age to a collector (their normal collector or the National Fallen Stock Company (NFSCo) http://www.nfesco.co.uk/ on 01335 320014 or 0845 054 8888). They will arrange for the body to be collected and tested for TSE.

Unexplained sudden deaths must be reported to the local APHA office. (See Chapter 6: Notifiable Diseases Section 3 Anthrax).
Red meat DOAs will be reported by the OV to their Local Authority office and scored accordingly in the Animal Welfare database (see Chapter 2.3 Animal Welfare).

1.2.9 Lairage period

In Scotland, animals must be slaughtered without undue delay.


1.2.10 Movement from slaughterhouse

Animals are not removed from the slaughterhouse without the OV’s permission and a licence issued by Scottish Government Animal Health and Welfare Division. Licence exceptions are for cattle movements to another slaughterhouse (See section 4 – Movements).

In exceptional circumstances, the FBO can make a request to the OV for allowing the animal/s to be moved from the slaughterhouse. (See section 4 – Movements). The OV needs to give consideration to animal welfare, animal health (any disease present / would the movement increase the risk of spreading the disease) and public health when allowing or not the movement of animals from a slaughterhouse.
2. Procedures

2.1 Ante-mortem inspection procedures

2.1.1 Observations
The OV must observe each animal (except poultry) moving and at rest. The inspection must be sufficient to identify animals showing neurological symptoms, respiratory symptoms, alimentary tract abnormalities, change in gait, or external abnormalities.

2.1.2 Initial check
Routine ante-mortem inspection may begin with an initial check done by the MHI.

Where a suitably trained MHI assists the OV in carrying out the initial check, the OV should subsequently observe all the animals interacting with each other in their pens during ante-mortem inspection.

The initial check, if undertaken by the OV, may suffice as to constitute an adequate ante-mortem inspection.

2.1.3 Clinical inspections
In addition to routine ante-mortem inspection, the OV is required to carry out a clinical inspection of all animals which do not appear to be ‘normal’ and those that the FBO or an MHI may have put aside.

Reference: See Topic 2.3 on ‘Suspect live animals’ for the procedure to be followed for suspect animals.
Note: Clinical inspection does not necessarily require the OV to undertake a clinical examination, although this should be undertaken if warranted.

2.1.4 Considerations

Two important variables must be taken into consideration by the OV when performing ante-mortem inspection:

- every slaughterhouse and lairage layout is different
- the OV may require different conditions for inspecting the different species

Consequently, the OV must explain their ante-mortem requirements to the FBO to ensure that appropriate facilities and access are available.

2.1.5 Facilities and equipment requirements

To be able to carry out satisfactory ante-mortem inspections, clinical inspections and detailed examinations, the OV must have available the following facilities and equipment:

- adequate lighting
- adequate space
- adequate access
- adequate separate facilities for detailed examination (a crush or equivalent is desirable but not legally required – the OV should arrange suitable facilities with the FBO)
- isolation pen(s) for suspect animals with separate drainage and situated as to avoid contamination of other animals (not needed in all establishments)
- staffing assistance (for movement, handling or restraint)
- sufficient time
- proper equipment, for example, thermometer and stethoscope

2.1.6 Time of ante-mortem inspection

The inspection must take place within 24 hours of arrival at the slaughterhouse and less than 24 hours before slaughter.

In some cases, ante-mortem inspection may need to be repeated. The OV may inspect the animal(s) at any other time.
2.1.7 **Exception to OV ante-mortem inspection**

OVs must carry out ante-mortem inspection except where an OV or AV has carried out ante-mortem inspection at the farm and the FCI has been received by the FBO and given to the FSS Authorised Officer.

**Note:** Animals that have undergone ante-mortem at the farm by an AV must come with a health certificate.

**Reference:** Specimen health certificate for live animals in (EC) 854/2004, Annex I, Section IV, Chapter X, A.

- The MHI is satisfied that the:
  - FCI does not point to any possible problem for food safety
  - checks indicate the animal’s welfare has not been compromised
- The MHI has checked the health certificate and found it to be satisfactory
- The OV must ensure, through regular checks that the MHI is carrying out such actions properly

**Note:** The MHI must have undergone required training in these duties before undertaking this work.

2.1.8 **Emergency slaughter at the slaughter house**

If an animal has an accident in a slaughterhouse, it must have veterinary ante-mortem inspection either before or after the accident in order for it to be slaughtered for human consumption. To protect animal welfare where such an accident occurs out of hours, and the OV is not available, the ante-mortem inspection may be carried out by a private veterinary surgeon (PVS).

The PVS must complete and sign the certificate in accordance with chapter 11 on ‘Acceptance and slaughter’, annex 9 of the MIG.

The FBO is responsible for any costs incurred in such a circumstance; the carcase and all body parts must be retained for cold inspection by the OV.

**Note:** The FBO must take immediate action to ensure the animal is not subjected to further pain or distress following an accident. The fitness of the carcase for human consumption should not be prioritized in the detriment of animal welfare (see point 2.1.9 below).

Meat from animals that undergo slaughter following an accident in a slaughterhouse may be used for human consumption if:
the animal had a veterinary ante-mortem inspection either before or after the accident

the post-mortem inspection is performed personally by the OV

at post-mortem inspection no serious lesions other than those due to the accident are found

a bovine is over 48 months old, TSE testing will be required (including bison)

Meat is to be declared unfit for human consumption if it derives from animals that have not undergone ante-mortem inspection, except for hunted wild game.

Regulation: (EC) 854/2004 Annex I, Section II, Chapter V.

2.1.9 FBO responsibility

The FBO shall ensure that any animal that has experienced pain or suffering during transport or following arrival at the slaughterhouse is slaughtered or killed immediately.

Regulation: WATOK (Scotland), Regulations 2012 Schedule 1, point 3, (2) d)

2.1.10 Food chain information

When the FBO passes FCI to the OV, the OV should use their professional judgement and take into account the information provided when performing ante and post-mortem inspection.

Reference: See chapter 2.1 ‘Food chain information’ for additional information.

For pigs, when FCI and / or other data (from farm of origin or ante-mortem inspection) indicates possible risk to public health, animal health or animal welfare, the OV can instruct the FBO to mark / identify those animals for further inspection procedures (FIP) at post-mortem inspection to decide if the meat is fit for human consumption.


2.1.11 Examples: pig conditions in ante-mortem justifying FIP at post mortem

For the majority of the conditions listed on the current ante-mortem inspection sheet there would be no need for pigs to be marked to undergo FIP at post-mortem.

However, the following may justify FIP:
2.1.12 Cleanliness of animals for slaughter

The OV must verify that the FBO complies with his duty to slaughter only animals that are sufficiently clean and record the details, if in their opinion the animals are too dirty to be processed hygienically.

The procedures in place to deal with animals that are soiled and the ability of the FBO to process those animals must be taken into consideration.

**Regulation:** (EC) 854/2004, Annex I, Section II, Chapter III.

Where the source of animals not sufficiently clean is identified as a producer who has repeatedly submitted similar dirty livestock, this may indicate a lack of suitable lying areas on the farm. As the possibility exists that this is an indicator of an on-farm welfare issue, consideration should be given to completing a report referring the producer to APHA for investigation, using Annex 4 of Chapter 2.3. Before submitting the report, the OV should consider also other factors such as condition of the animals, season, weather, cleanliness of the vehicle delivering the animals, category of cleanliness (see Clean Livestock Guidance), etc. Photos of the dirty animals should accompany the report.

Reports must be submitted to CSCOneHealthWelfare@apha.gsi.gov.uk by 17:00 the next working day, and copy the relevant Local Authority.

2.1.13 Ante-mortem inspection records

Legislation requires the FSS to keep records of ante-mortem inspection.

**Regulation:** (EC) 854/2004, Annex I, Section II, Chapter I.
2.1.14 **When animals can be moved from lairage to slaughter**

The OV must be satisfied that an effective positive release system is in operation to ensure that every animal that requires ante-mortem inspection:

- receives it when it is required
- is only slaughtered for human consumption when ante-mortem inspection has been carried out and has been passed fit for slaughter

Animals must not be moved from the lairage to be slaughtered for human consumption until:

- ante-mortem inspection has been completed, recorded and signed by the OV, and
- any conditions for suspect animals have been met

2.1.15 **Disease eradication programmes**

The OV is to impose the conditions, already determined by the competent authority, for slaughtering animals under schemes for the control of:

- a specific disease, such as brucellosis or tuberculosis
- zoonotic agents such as salmonella

To permit taking more precautionary hygiene measures and allow a more thorough post-mortem inspection.

2.1.16 **Ante-mortem inspection summary**

The flowchart below summarises the procedure for ante-mortem inspection.
START

FBO Checks FCI and passes FCI to OV

OV checks FCI of animals presented for ante-mortem inspection

DIL or DOA

YES

OV inspects for animal health and welfare conditions

Red meat DOA report to LA

NO

Suspect Notifiable disease

YES

Notify APHA

NO

END

OV inspects animals and verifies FBO compliance

Animals fit for slaughter for human consumption

YES

Any condition

YES

Complete Suspect Animal Card

Animal can proceed to slaughter

Animal can be processed under certain conditions

Post mortem findings to be included on the Suspect Animal Card

NO

Complete Suspect Animal Card

Slaughter and dispose of according to ABP (E) (S) R 2013

END
2.2 Specific ante-mortem issues for poultry

2.2.1 Ante-mortem at the abattoir

When poultry arrives accompanied by a Health Certificate for live animals transported from the holding to the slaughterhouse, full OV ante-mortem inspection at the slaughterhouse is not required. In that case, ante-mortem inspection at the slaughterhouse can be performed by a suitably trained MHI. Inspection is to verify:

- animal identification
- animal welfare
- any condition that may adversely affect human or animal health.

When the birds are not slaughtered within three days of the issue of the Health Certificate, the following should take place:

- birds that have not left the holding must be re-examined and a new Health Certificate issued
- birds that arrive at or are enroute to the slaughterhouse may be slaughtered for human consumption after they have passed an ante-mortem inspection performed by the OV

When ante-mortem inspection is not carried out at the holding, the OV is to carry out a flock ante-mortem inspection at the slaughterhouse where:

- the overall health and welfare of each load must be assessed
- ante-mortem should include listening to the birds and observation of a random sample checking posture, wattle colour and cleanliness, and
- consider the information available from the FCI

**Regulation:** (EC) 854/2004 Annex 1, Section 4, Chapter 10, A.

2.2.2 Poultry testing positive for Salmonella

Where the Food Chain Information received shows that the batch has tested positive for Salmonella, the OV must ensure that the appropriate arrangements are in place to:

- slaughter the batch at the end of the production day where possible, or at the end of a production run where necessary on welfare grounds and
- undertake cleaning, and where required disinfection, after slaughter
Note: See chapter 2.1 on ‘FCI and CCIR’, topic 2.1 on ‘FCI-Poultry’ for full details of the required actions in the case of Salmonella positive poultry batches.

2.2.3 Poultry showing signs of disease
If the birds show clinical symptoms of a disease, they may not be slaughtered for human consumption. However, killing of these birds on the slaughter line may take place at the end of the normal slaughter process, if precautions are taken to avoid the risk of spreading pathogenic organisms and to clean and disinfect the facilities after killing.


2.2.4 Poultry slaughtered at the holding
In the case of poultry slaughtered at the farm and sent for delayed evisceration, the ante-mortem inspection will be done at the holding by an OV or an approved veterinarian.

Delayed eviscerated poultry obtained at the farm of production may be kept for up to 15 days at a temperature of not more than 4°C. It must be then eviscerated in a slaughterhouse or in a cutting plant located in the same member state as the farm of production, and must undergo post-mortem inspection. Non-eviscerated carcases must be accompanied to the slaughterhouse or cutting plant with a ‘Health Certificate for poultry intended for the production of foie gras and delayed eviscerated poultry slaughtered at the holding of provenance’.

Regulation: (EC) 854/2004, Annex 1 Section 4 Chapter 5, C.

2.2.5 Health certificate
The post-mortem inspection at the slaughterhouse or cutting plant must include a check on the certificate accompanying the carcases.

2.3 Suspect live animals

2.3.1 Slaughter of suspect animals
Suspect animals are to undergo detailed ante-mortem examination in order for the OV to make a decision whether the animal is fit for slaughter for human consumption.
The OV must defer the slaughter of animals suspected of having a disease or condition that may adversely affect human or animal health. The FBO should hold the animal(s) in isolation pending the OVs final decision.

2.3.2 OV judgement

Each OV should make a professional judgement based on the FCI, ante-mortem inspection or any other information presented, as to which animal/s should be further examined. Such an examination may include taking of appropriate samples.

2.3.3 Examples of suspect animals

Examples where the OV might identify suspect animals are where:

- animals show clinical signs of illness, disease or disorder
- animals show clinical signs of a disease transmissible to man or animals, especially a notifiable disease
- Example: animals are found or suspected to have any form of clinical TB
- animals show clinical signs of a disease or disorder likely to make fresh meat unfit for human consumption
- animals show signs of fatigue or stress
  
  **Note:** they must be rested for not less than 24 hours unless the OV has determined otherwise

  OR

- there is evidence or suspicion that illegal or unauthorised substances have been administered, or there may be veterinary medicines in excess of maximum residue limits present in the animal

  **Regulation:** (EC) 854/2004 Annex 1, Section II, Chapter III, 6.

2.3.4 Veterinary medicines

Animals that might contain residues of veterinary medicinal products in excess of the levels allowed or residues of forbidden substances are to be sampled with in accordance with The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits)( England and Scotland) Regulations 2015

2.3.5 OV action

Where a suspect animal has been identified the animal should be removed to an isolation pen and a suspect animal card (AMI 2/2) completed.

The MHI conducting the post-mortem inspection of a suspect animal must be informed of the circumstances by the OV to ensure that ante-mortem and post-mortem findings are correlated and recorded on the AMI 2/2.

2.4 Emergency slaughter on farm

2.4.1 Local Authorities (LA) purpose

LAs provide services directly to the local communities. These services include trading standards and environmental health.

2.4.2 Definition

Meat from a red meat animal that has undergone emergency slaughter outside the slaughterhouse, following a veterinary ante-mortem, may be used for human consumption only if it is from an otherwise healthy animal that has suffered an accident that prevented its transport to the slaughterhouse for welfare reasons.

Reference: See ‘Guidance for Veterinary Surgeons on the Emergency Slaughter of Cattle’ booklet produced by the BCVA. The booklet can be found at Annex 7 and also accessed at:


2.4.3 OV attendance

The OV must carry out the post-mortem inspection of any animal that has undergone emergency slaughter.

It may be possible for the OV to carry out ‘cold inspection’ where emergency slaughter carcases are delivered outside normal operating hours. This should be discussed with, and agreed with the VM in advance.

A protocol should be agreed with the FBO to notify the OV and ensure that all parts of the carcase are retained for inspection and identified as belonging to the animal.
The OV should note any injuries that would indicate an on farm welfare problem and if these are present should inform APHA as detailed in chapter 2.3 on ‘Animal welfare’.

**Note:** the square health mark has ceased to be used for emergency slaughter carcases after 1 June 2014. The oval health mark should now be applied to all emergency slaughter carcases passed as fit for human consumption.

### 2.4.4 Declarations

A declaration completed by the owner / keeper and PVS must accompany the slaughtered animal to the slaughterhouse and be examined by the OV.

The PVS declaration must include the favourable outcome of ante-mortem examination, the date and time of, and reason for emergency slaughter and details of any treatment administered by the PVS to the animal.

In the case of incorrect certification the OV would contact the PVS who signed the incorrect certificate and request the correct certification to be provided. If the correct certification cannot be provided, the PVS and abattoir will be informed that the carcase will be rejected as unfit for human consumption.

**From 1 January 2015, bodies of emergency slaughter animals without the correct certification will not be accepted under any circumstances, at a slaughterhouse for processing for human consumption. The carcase will be rejected as unfit for human consumption.**

**Regulation:** (EC) 853/2004, Annex III, Section I, Chapter VI, 1 to 6 and (EC) 854/2004 Annex I, Section I, Chapter II B, 4 and Chapter X, B as well as (EU) 218/2014, Article 2.

**Reference:** See Annex 1 for the combined ‘Model Declaration for Emergency Slaughter for Human Consumption of Bovine Animals outside the Slaughterhouse’ and ‘Veterinary Surgeon’s Declaration’.

### 2.4.5 Eligibility

Please follow the steps in the table below with regards to eligibility:
### Step 1: Confirm Animal Eligible by Checking:

- Owner / keeper’s declaration
- Veterinarian’s declaration, must include details of ante-mortem and date and time of slaughter
- Verify that the identification of the animal matches that on the declaration and passport if a bovine animal
- Verify PVS is a member of RCVS
- Transport time / chilling requirements complied with
- Any other eligibility regulations for human consumption

### Step 2: Check if Any Testing is Required, for Example, TSE

### Step 3: Post-mortem Inspection Carried out by OV

**Note:** The OV can require any additional tests

### Step 4: The Oval Health Mark Should Be Applied to Fit Carcases

### 2.4.6 Exceptional Circumstances: Bison

In exceptional circumstances, bison may be slaughtered on farm in accordance with the provisions relating to farmed game.


### 2.4.7 Exceptional Circumstances - Bovine

In **exceptional circumstances**, where the transport of fractious bovine animals (also bison and water buffalo) is considered to present an unacceptable risk to the safety of farm, haulier and slaughterhouse staff, such animals may be slaughtered on farm subject to strict adherence to the following specific conditions:

Authorisation by the competent authority (CA) is required and the CA must be informed in advance of the date and time of slaughter of the animal(s). Other conditions that must be met are:

I. The owner of the bovine must submit a request to the FBO (at the slaughterhouse);

II. The herd undergoes regular veterinary inspection;

III. The circumstances are discussed between the Approved Veterinarian (AV) or Official Veterinarian (OV) carrying out the veterinary inspection
on-farm and the OV based in the receiving approved slaughterhouse before any action is taken;

IV. prior agreement has to be reached between the OV (in the receiving slaughterhouse) and FBO that the body of the animal can be consigned to the slaughterhouse for processing;

V. the holding has procedures for concentrating the animal(s) to allow an ante-mortem inspection (AMI) to be carried out;

VI. the holding has facilities suitable for the slaughter and bleeding of the animal;

VII. animal welfare requirements are complied with;

VIII. the AV/OV on farm must issue a certificate attesting to a favourable result of the AMI, correct slaughter and bleeding and the date and time of slaughter. This will require the AV/OV to be present at the time of slaughter and bleeding. This declaration is to accompany the slaughtered animal during transport;

IX. the OV must be present when the body arrives, and observe the dressing and post-mortem inspection (PMI);

X. if the slaughterhouse normally operates a cold inspection regime (where FSS carries out PMI at a point after the slaughter and dressing of the animal), the FBO cannot do so when processing these types of animals;

XI. slaughtered and bled animals are transported to the slaughterhouse hygienically and without undue delay. If transport takes more than two hours, the animals are, if necessary, refrigerated. Where climatic conditions so permit, active chilling is not necessary;

XII. appropriate declaration – i.e. Food Chain Information (FCI) - must be duly completed by the FBO who reared the animals, confirming their identity and indicating any veterinary products or other treatments administered, dates administered and any appropriate withdrawal periods. This must accompany the slaughtered animal to the slaughterhouse. A model document has been developed for this purpose – please refer to Annex 8.

This provision will be used to justify case-by-case decisions by OVs that certain inappropriately slaughtered animals on farm should be declared unfit for human consumption; the OV may consider that the failure of the FBO to comply with such conditions would mean that the meat will either constitute a risk to public health or is otherwise unfit for human consumption.
Some of the reasons for declaring the meat unfit for human consumption may include:

I. where the document/declaration accompanying the animal fails to comply with the information requirements for FCI in Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, this failure must result in the animal or meat from the animal being declared unfit for human consumption by the OV;

II. if the decisions concerning live animals have not been complied with, the OV must declare the animal unfit for human consumption; this could include where the animal’s identification is not reasonably ascertainable or where animals are subjected to veterinary medicinal products in excess of permitted levels or where there is suspected presence of veterinary residues because the required withdrawal period has not been complied with;

III. where any of the many decisions concerning meat have not been complied with, the meat must be declared unfit for human consumption: this may include failure to have undertaken an AMI by the AV/OV on the farm; failure to have conducted a PMI - i.e. when the offal has been discarded prior to PMI - may also be a reason for declaring the animal or meat derived from it as being unfit for human consumption. It would therefore be required to be disposed of as animal by-product (ABP).

FSS will exercise discretion in the enforcement of this policy to allow FBOs to familiarise themselves with the clarification on the conditions that must be met and will continue to monitor the number of fractious bovines slaughtered on-farm. However, deliberate abuse of the policy conditions will not be tolerated.

### 2.4.8 OV action in the case of discrepancy

The following table details the actions that the OV should take where discrepancies in eligibility occur.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>In all cases, first contact the PVS who attended the animal. Discuss the nature of the discrepancy and the requirements in the BCVA booklet. If the PVS cannot correct the discrepancy then:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Where the declaration is not completed correctly and in particular does not have the date and time of emergency slaughter completed, please refer to the section on Declarations (above) for</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
appropriate action to be taken.

3 The FSS will allow one incomplete declaration to be submitted by a PVS. In exceptional circumstances, a second incomplete declaration may be accepted from the same PVS. Contact your VM to discuss.

Any further carcases from the PVS with an incorrect declaration will be subject to a refusal to apply the health mark and will be rejected as unfit for human consumption.

4 Keep the PVS declaration received in a secure file and record the circumstances in the Day Book

5 Record the results of post-mortem Inspection and correlate with the PVS declaration

6 Any welfare concerns should be reported to APHA and the Local Authority (LA).

7 Where discrepancies in the declaration are identified and the PVS is unable to supply a correct declaration the carcase should not be health marked and must be rejected as unfit for human consumption because it is not in compliance with the requirements of (EC) 853/2004, Annex III, Section I, Chapter VI.

2.4.9 Examples of possible discrepancies

The following list is provided for illustrative purposes and is not considered to be exhaustive:

- The OV is of the opinion that the animal has not suffered a genuine accident.
- The declaration has been altered after completion without initials to confirm authenticity.
- The PVS was not present at the time of slaughter of the animal and / or the declaration does not conform to the requirements of the specimen declaration at Annex 1 of this chapter, including failure to record the date and time of emergency slaughter.
- Transport / time / chilling requirements have not been adhered to.
- The number of animals received from a single source is excessive.
- Animal welfare discrepancies are suspected.
2.4.10 Declaration

An animal may be accompanied by a farmer’s declaration that the animal is known or suspected to be injured or showing signs of abnormality.

Reference: See Annex 2 of this chapter for an example of a model document to accompany animals showing signs of a disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat derived from them. Further model documents are available on the FSS website at:

http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidencenotes/meatregsguid/

2.4.11 FBO responsibility

The farmer must ensure that:

- the animal is fit to travel
- food safety is not compromised

Where a farmer’s declaration accompanies an animal to the slaughterhouse then the FBO must pass the declaration to the OV with the FCI.
3. **Record keeping**

3.1 Record keeping purpose

3.2 Positive release pen card

3.3 Suspect animal card

3.4 Use of ante-mortem inspection records

### 3.1 Record keeping purpose

#### 3.1.1 Purpose

- To record disease conditions for disease surveillance purposes.
- To indicate to the FBO that the OV has passed or rejected the animal for slaughter for human consumption.
- To meet statutory obligations to maintain records and supply FBOs, producers, veterinarians and the competent authority with relevant information.

### 3.2 Positive release pen card

#### 3.2.1 Purpose

The pen card may be used to identify, to the FBO that the animals have been inspected and found as suitable to be slaughtered for human consumption without additional conditions. It should be clearly displayed on the pen after satisfactory ante-mortem inspection.

#### 3.2.2 Completion

Plant operatives enter stock details.

The OV authorises slaughter by signing the positive release pen card.

#### 3.2.3 Retention period

There is no need to retain completed pen cards. Other records such as completed forms AMI 2/3 and AMI 2/4 may be used to check that only
animals which have undergone ante-mortem inspection are slaughtered. The FBO may provide an alternative form/card or suitable approved protocol may be used.

3.2.4 Alternative arrangements

The pen card system may be unsuitable in some establishments. An equivalent system that achieves the same outcome may be used.

3.3 Suspect animal card

3.3.1 Purpose

This card must be used to identify animals considered suspect but which may still be suitable for slaughter. It must be completed by the OV and accompany the animal on transfer to an isolation pen.

3.3.2 Multiple suspect animals

Suspect animal cards may be used for groups of animals where the OV considers it impractical to use one card for one animal, for example, a flock of sheep.

3.3.3 Where to display

The suspect animal card must be attached to a suitable position on the isolation pen.

3.3.4 Retention of suspect animal cards

The OV must notify the MHI(s) of any suspect animal and ensure the subsequent post-mortem findings are recorded on the AMI 2/2 (Ante-Mortem Health Inspection Suspect Animal card). There is no need to retain completed AMI 2/2 forms once the information was transferred onto the FSS IT system.

Reference: See chapter 9 on ‘Forms’.
3.4 **Use of ante-mortem inspection records**

3.4.1 **Ante-mortem inspection records: red meat**

The AMI 2/3 (Ante-Mortem Inspection Record: Red Meat) must be used for all red meat species excluding pigs, unless the FBO provides an alternative containing at least the same information.

**Note:** The AMI 2/3 may still be used for pigs, as an aide-memoire, if required. See sub-topic below ‘Ante-Mortem data recording for pigs’.

**Reference:** See chapter 9 on ‘Forms’ AMI 2/3.

3.4.2 **Who completes the AMI 2/3**

Competent lairage staff may complete details on the left-hand side of the form. FSS staff must complete details in the remaining columns on the right-hand side of the form.

3.4.3 **Information to include**

The OV / MHI must complete details of the date and time of inspection and the OV signs the appropriate column. The ‘Comments / Action’ column must include:

- details of any abnormalities noted and any subsequent actions required
- arrival of emergency slaughter animals

**Note:** ante-mortem details must be completed and the positive release box initialled by the OV / MHI to indicate that the animal and the documentation have been checked and found satisfactory; the MHI may initial this box in the absence of the OV

- arrival of farmed game slaughtered on the farm

**Note:** ante-mortem details to be completed on the joint declaration certificate. See Annex 4 in this chapter

- any welfare concerns and action taken
- the arrival of bovine animals which require TSE testing (see Chapter 2.6, Section 2 for testing requirements)

3.4.4 **Ante-mortem data recording in pigs and other red meat species**

Ante-Mortem inspection records for pigs and other red meat species must be recorded by FSS staff on FSS IT AMI application.
The AMI 2/3 (Ante-Mortem Inspection Record – Red Meat) may be used as an aide-memoire prior to input of the data on to FSS IT AMI application.

Reference: See chapter 9 on ‘Forms’ for AMI 2/3 and chapter 2.1 FCI CCIR for the OWS user guide.

3.4.5 Ante-mortem data recording for poultry

Ante-Mortem inspection records for poultry must be recorded by FSS staff on FSS IT AMI application.

The AMI 2/4 (Ante-Mortem Inspection Record – Avian) may be used as an aide-memoire prior to input of the data on to OWS AMI.

Reference: See chapter 9 on ‘Forms’ for AMI 2/4 and chapter 2.1 FCI CCIR for the FSS IT user guide.

3.4.6 Who completes the AMI 2/4 (where used as an aide memoire)

Competent lairage staff may complete details on the left-hand side of the form. FSS staff must complete details in the remaining columns on the right-hand side of the form.
4. **Movements**

4.1 Movement of live animals from slaughterhouse

4.2 Field lairages

4.1 **Movement of live animals from slaughterhouse**

4.1.1 **OV action**

Animals that are presented to a slaughterhouse for slaughter must be slaughtered there unless moved under the authority of a licence issued by Scottish Government Animal Health and Welfare Division (SG AHWD). Cattle can be moved to another slaughterhouse without the need for a licence, provided there is a genuine reason (see 4.1.3).


The Disease Control (Interim Measures) (Scotland) Order 2002 (as amended) only allows animals to leave a slaughterhouse under the authority of a licence issued by Scottish Government Animal Health and Welfare Division.

**Reference:** The Disease Control (Interim Measures) (Scotland) Order 2002 Article 3.

4.1.2 **Unidentified animals**

Animals whose identity cannot be reasonably ascertainable must be declared unfit for human consumption. They cannot be returned to their farms of origin.

4.1.3 **Movement of cattle in Scotland**

Cattle sent to an abattoir can be moved to any other abattoir whether it is in Scotland or not if there is a valid reason for that (animals too big for the stunning pen, break down, abattoir not authorised for the type of cattle sent). The FBO should report the movement to BCMS or ScotEID. If the movement would be back to farm, the FBO should apply to Scottish Government Animal Health and Welfare Division for a licence. Consideration should be given to move the animal/s to another abattoir rather than back to the farm.
4.1.3.1 If the movement of animals will be back to the farm, the OV will consider the request and complete Annex 6 - Application for a licence for the exceptional movement of CATTLE, SHEEP and GOATS from a slaughterhouse. Once completed, Annex 6 will be sent to the AVM which if will be in agreement with the OV’s assessment, will send it to animal.health@gov.scot (fax 0300 244 9797). This should be confirmed by phone to 0300 244 9874.

This applies to the following cases:

- cattle requiring BSE testing, sent to an abattoir not approved to process such cattle, may be moved to an appropriately approved abattoir,
- serious break down that will impact on the welfare of the animals if not moved,
- impossibility of slaughtering the animal/s due to the size/type of animal

Reference: See Annex 3 for a sample Exceptional Licence for the Movement of Cattle from a Slaughterhouse.

4.1.3.2 If the movement of the animal/s will be to another approved slaughterhouse, the General Licence for the movement of animals previously issued and published will still be valid and there is no need to apply for an individual licence, or notify SG AHWD. The FBO will have to report the movement to BCMS or ScotEID.

4.1.4 Movement of sheep, horses and birds in Scotland

These animals may only be returned to farms or sent to other abattoirs in exceptional circumstances, such as a line breakdown.

The FBO must apply to SG AHWD for a licence, except in the case of poultry.

4.1.5 Movement of pigs in Scotland

Under no circumstances may pigs be moved from a slaughterhouse.
4.2 Field lairages

4.2.1 Part of curtilage

Field lairages within the curtilage of the approved slaughterhouse are part of the slaughterhouse and therefore the responsibility of the FBO.

Animals can therefore move into such a lairage.

The slaughter of the animals must not be unduly delayed, and the OV should monitor this, informing FBO’s of their responsibilities.

Regulation: (EC) 853/2004, Annex III, Section I, Chapter IV
5. Cleansing and disinfection

5.1 Overview

5.2 Cleansing and disinfection of livestock vehicles

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 Introduction
Adequate cleansing and disinfection facilities are essential for disease control and biosecurity. This topic details the requirements in Scotland in both red meat and white meat slaughterhouses.

5.1.2 Legislation
The relevant legislation referred to in this topic is listed below:

- (EC) 853/2004
- The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Scotland) Regulations 2005
- The Disease of Animals (Approved Disinfectant) (Scotland) Order 2008

5.1.3 Regulatory requirements
There must be a separate place with appropriate facilities for the cleaning, washing and disinfection of livestock vehicles.

However, slaughterhouses need not have these places and facilities if the competent authority so permits and official authorised places and facilities exist nearby.

Regulation: (EC) 853/2004, Annex III, Section I, Chapter II.

5.1.4 Location of facilities
Where cleansing and disinfection facilities are provided off site, the FBO must have a high degree of control over the facilities which must be:

- capable of being reached easily
situated within a reasonable distance from the slaughterhouse
regarded by the FBO as part of the slaughterhouse
possible for the OV to supervise

5.1.5 Advice to FBO
The OV may provide the FBO with advice on facilities for cleansing and disinfection.

5.1.6 Cleaning and disinfection facilities
For detailed guidance refer to the MIG chapter 2 on ‘Design and facilities’.

5.1.7 OV action where the facilities are inadequate
When the facilities provided by the FBO are insufficient or fail to operate correctly, the OV must follow the guidance contained in chapter 7 on ‘Enforcement’.

5.2 Cleansing and disinfection of livestock vehicles

5.2.1 Introduction
Cleansing and disinfection of livestock vehicles is essential for disease control and biosecurity. This topic details the requirements in Scotland for ensuring compliance with cleansing and disinfection of livestock vehicles in both red and white meat slaughterhouses.

The responsibilities of vehicle drivers and FBOs are outlined as well as the FSS responsibilities in monitoring and enforcement of the cleansing and disinfection process, and LA enforcement responsibilities.

5.2.2 Vehicle cleansing and disinfection requirements (excluding horses and rabbits)
A vehicle which has delivered livestock to a slaughterhouse in Scotland must be cleansed and disinfected as soon as reasonably practicable after unloading, and in any case within 24 hours or before the vehicle is next used for carrying livestock or poultry, whichever is sooner.

Note: the transport of animals between the same two points over the course of a single day and in a means of transport used exclusively for that purpose does not need to be cleansed and disinfected each time.
The cleansing and disinfection may take place at the slaughterhouse or elsewhere, in line with current regulatory requirements.

5.2.3 **Vehicle cleansing and disinfection requirements (horses and rabbits)**

Before horses or non-hoofed mammals are loaded for transport, the means of transport must have been previously cleaned and, where necessary, disinfected. Disinfection is required in all cases where the means of transport was last used to transport livestock or poultry.

Soiled bedding and excreta must nevertheless be removed from the means of transport as soon as possible.

5.2.4 **Method of cleansing and disinfection**

The interior and exterior of the vehicle and any containers and equipment used to transport birds or hoofed animals (other than horses) must be cleansed and disinfected.

Containers may be destroyed rather than cleansed and disinfected (for example, single use containers).

Nothing in the legislation requires the use of disinfectant inside the driver's cab of any means of transport.

**Regulation:** The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Scotland) Regulations 2005.

5.2.5 **Approved disinfectants**

Vehicles or means of transport for animals that need to be disinfected after cleansing must be done so using a disinfectant approved under the Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) Orders, at the concentration required in the Orders.

A list of Defra approved disinfectants for animal diseases and their approved dilution rates can be found at the following link:

[https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it)

And

For general disinfection, any approved disinfectant listed under the General Orders can be used. For specific disinfection for listed diseases (for example, bovine tuberculosis) only those disinfectants listed against the specific order may be used.

Reference: Diseases of Animals (Approved Disinfectants) (Scotland) Order 2008

5.2.6 Livestock vehicle driver responsibility

In Scotland, there is no requirement for the driver to complete a declaration “Undertaking to Cleanse and Disinfect Vehicle” (FM/AW 27) stating where cleansing and disinfection will take place, and the vehicle may leave the establishment dirty, and cleanse and disinfect elsewhere.

5.2.7 FSS responsibility

In Scotland, FSS authorised staff have no formal role in the monitoring of cleansing and disinfection of livestock vehicles arriving and leaving the establishment, but if breaches of cleansing and disinfection are observed in the course of normal duties in the establishments, these should be reported to the LA, so that appropriate enforcement action can be taken.
6. **Annexes**

Annex 1  Model document: Emergency slaughter / Veterinary surgeon’s declaration

Annex 2  Model document: Additional food chain information for cattle, sheep, goats and calves

Annex 3  Sample document: Exceptional licence for the movement of cattle from one slaughterhouse to another

Annex 4  Model document: Health certificate for farmed games slaughtered at the holding and food business operator’s declaration on time and date of slaughter

Annex 5  Sample document: Emergency slaughter certification letter

Annex 6  Application for a licence for the exceptional movement of CATTLE, SHEEP and GOATS from a slaughterhouse

Annex 7  Guidance for veterinary surgeons on the emergency slaughter of cattle

Annex 8  Model document: Fractious Domestic Bovines Slaughtered at the holding / Veterinary Surgeon’s declaration