**Information Note 2025/02/01: Meat and Livestock Inspector duties**

**Purpose:**

This information note is to make all FSS Authorised Officers aware of the Meat and Livestock Inspector (MLI) duties (including duties undertaken when visiting FSS-approved establishments).

**Background:**

The MLIs work closely with FSS, Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC), RPA, Defra and all those involved in the meat industry on:

* **Beef Import Tariff Quotas** – visits to premises importing frozen beef, to verify compliance with procedures, particularly the completion and accuracy of scheme documents and processors’ records.
* **Beef Carcase Classification** – visits to premises to licence test candidates to classification standards, inspect abattoirs slaughtering 150 cattle or more weekly on classification including dressing specifications at least twice per quarter, cross check producer remittance with classification reports for accuracy and fair payment.
* **Pig Carcase Classification** – visits to premises to inspect abattoirs slaughtering 500 pigs or more weekly on classification and dressing specifications at least twice per quarter and cross check producer remittance with classification reports for accuracy and fair payment.

All findings from the inspections on the carcase classification are reported to the Scottish Government.

* **Cattle Deadweight Price Reporting** - deadweight price reporting is required by all abattoirs slaughtering more than 20,000 cattle annually. Weekly prices and classifications from these abattoirs are submitted to the Agriculture, Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) Economics Department. These are collated in Brussels for all EU countries, to provide an average price for the EU. The Scottish Government Meat and Livestock Inspectors inspect these price reporting premises quarterly. The MLI visit premises to audit validation reports supplied by the AHDB against producer remittance and classification reports, for price and classification accuracy. Findings are reported to the Rural Payment Agency (RPA).
* **Compulsory Beef Labelling Scheme** - The Beef Labelling Scheme is a European Union (EU) wide system which is intended to provide buyers with clear, reliable information about beef (including veal) on sale. A key requirement of the scheme is that it should enable beef on sale to be traced back to where it originated. The MLI visit premises to inspect and audit beef labels at abattoirs and licensed cutting plants ensuring the correct indicators are applied to the labels. Findings are reported to the Scottish Government.
* **Private Storage Aid** – it allows abattoirs, through contracts with the Scottish Government, to slaughter beef, sheep and pigs and store the meat for a period of 3, 4 or 7 months. Storage costs are met by the UK government. The MLI visit premises to inspect abattoirs and cold stores on companies receiving aid for storage, ensuring controls are met and inspect 100% of all wholesale contracts.
* **ScotEID Audit of FSS Passport Checking** – Annex 1 of this document.
* **Swiss High Quality Beef Audits** - dependant on the value of the pound for export. Inspection follows the Swiss Government Certificate instructions on High Quality Beef.
* **Food Processing, Marketing and Cooperation** - Grant Inspections – verifying that grant money provided to food processors has been utilised as per application e. g. that the equipment is fit for purpose in place and operational.
* **Other duties**, such as liaison with Defra, RPA, DAERA and associations within the red meat industry - keeping on top of the information circulated within the red meat industry.

**Field Staff** are required to:

* Note the contents of the Information Note. Plant attending OVs to ensure that the Information Note is read by all FSS staff, and this is noted in the Action/Information Log.

**This information Note will be**:

* Uploaded to the Action/Information Note Live Folder and Operation tracker log on SharePoint.

The information Note will remain live until formally incorporated in the SMOC or revoked.

Copies of the live and revoked Action/Information Notes can be found on [SharePoint](http://sgsharepoint16/sites/FSS/ops/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FFSS%2Fops%2FShared%20Documents%2FSMOC%2FSMOC%20%2D%20Action%20Notes&FolderCTID=0x012000BE19D936AC67B044AE90EEDEB6E4B48F&View=%7B4874B561%2DB608%2D40C4%2DBE22%2DC4C905F4C7BD%7D).

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| **Information Note drafted by** | **Information Note agreed by** | **Published** | **Revoked** |
| Ioana Negrea | Elena McWatt | Chris Quick |  |
| **14/01/2025** | **06/02/2025** | **07/02/2025** |  |

**Annex 1**

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## **Action/Information Log**

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| Action/Information Note Number [delete as appropriate]: | | |
| SMOC Chapter: | | |
| Implementation/Revocation Date [delete as appropriate]: | | |

***(Signing the charter below certifies that the Action/Information has been read and understood)***

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