Chapter 2.2 Ante-Mortem Inspection

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1. Introduction

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1.1 Legislation

EU legislation, which applied directly or indirectly to the UK before leaving the EU on 31 December 2020, has been retained in UK law as a form of domestic legislation known as 'retained EU legislation'. This is set out in sections 2 and 3 of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 (c. 16). Section 4 of the 2018 Act ensures that any remaining EU rights and obligations, including directly effective rights within EU treaties, continue to be recognised and available in domestic law after exit.

- The Official Controls Regulation (OCR) 2017/625
- <u>Commission Delegated Regulation 2019/624</u> concerning Specific Rules for the Performance of Official Controls.
- Commission Implementing Regulation 2020/2235 concerning model animal health certificates, model official certificates and model animal health/official certificates, for the entry into the Union and movements within the Union of consignments of certain categories of animals and goods and official certification.
- Regulation No 852/2004 on the Hygiene of Foodstuffs.
- Regulation No 853/2004 laying down Specific Hygiene Rules on Products of Animal Origin.

1.2 FSS roles

Ante-mortem inspection is covered by Regulation 853/2004 (Food Business Operator (FBO) duties) and Regulation 2017/625, Regulation 2019/624 and Regulation 2019/627 (FSS requirements).

Inspection and verification	Ву
Observing animals at unloading (random)	OV / OA under OV supervision on species other than poultry and lagomorphs (if applicable). And under OV responsibility in all species.
Initial checks	OV/OA under OV supervision (if applicable) on species other than poultry and lagomorphs. And under OV responsibility in all species.
Ante-mortem inspection	OV/OA under OV supervision (if applicable) on species other than poultry and lagomorphs. And under OV responsibility in all species.
Completion of ante-mortem record	OV / OA under OV supervision on species other than poultry and lagomorphs (if applicable). And under OV responsibility in all species.
Completion of pen cards	OV / OA under OV supervision on species other than poultry and lagomorphs. And under OV responsibility in all species.
Enforcement	OV
Checks following Ante-Mortem at the holding of provenance (HoP)	OV or OA acting under the responsibility of the OV (if applicable). Under OV responsibility in all species.

Note: In relation to initial check and to support with purely practical tasks, legislation allows for ante-mortem inspection and welfare checks to be undertaken by the MHI where and when applicable and implemented. The MHI must alert the OV of abnormal animals identified pre-slaughter.

1.3 FSS role: verification of FBO responsibilities



2. Procedures

- 2.1 Ante-mortem inspection procedures
- 2.2 Ante-mortem inspection at the holding of provenance
- 2.3 Acceptance of animals slaughtered on farm and Emergency Slaughter
- 2.4 Acceptance of fractious animal slaughter (farmed game and domestic bovine)

- 2.5 Actions in case of discrepancies
- 2.6 Exception to OV ante-mortem inspection
- 2.7 Ante-mortem inspection summary

2.1 Ante-mortem inspection procedures

AMI PROCED	AMI PROCEDURES		
FSS	FBO		
OV to observe each animal (except poultry) moving and at rest.	Procedures in place to ensure the welfare of the animals during transport and at unloading is not		
See Note below Where a suitably trained Official Auxiliary assists the OV in carrying out the initial check (only when implemented), the OV should subsequently observe all the animals interacting with each other in their pens during ante-mortem inspection	Procedures in place to check FCI prior to hand it to OVs. Procedures in place to provide with additional FCI when required. Please see Annex 2. Procedures in place to inspect cleanliness of animals and take measures accordingly		
In addition to routine AMI, OV to do clinical inspection to suspected animals (to complete AMI 2/2) or those pre-designated by FBO or OA Suspected animal card (See chapter 9 AMI 2-2): 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, unless local procedures exists agreed between OV and FBO. Can be applied to groups of animals. To be displayed on the isolation pen. The inspection must take place within 24 hours of arrival at the slaughterhouse and less than 24 hours before slaughter. Where ante-mortem is carried out at the holding of provenance (HoP) then it must be undertaken within 3 days of the animals being slaughtered or in the case of farmed	Provide with: adequate lighting adequate space adequate access adequate separate facilities for detailed examination (a crush or equivalent is desirable but not legally required) 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		

In case of Emergency Slaughter at slaughterhouse, veterinary ante-mortem inspection is required either before or after the accident in order for it to be slaughtered for human consumption

OV or Private Veterinary Surgeon (MRCVS) to do AMI of animals from Emergency slaughter on Farm.

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'

Field lairage 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 lairage.

Reference Regulation 853/2004, Annex III, Section I, Chapter IV, 1.

Keep AMI records in order to:

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

Please note the AMI 2/3 is suggested for red meat (except for pigs where it can be used as an aide-memoire) but not mandatory. FBO can provide alternatives.

AMI 2/4 for poultry can be used as an aidememoire.

AMI records for all species must be recorded in OWS

AMI positive release system to be agreed with FBO. See chapter 9 2.3 (AMI 2/1)

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

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 of 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.

agreement, they should all receive antemortem 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.

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 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.

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 antemortem 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.

NOTE:

Regulation 2019/627, Article 11, Paragraph 1 states: All animals shall be subjected to ante-mortem inspection before slaughter. However, inspection can be limited to a

representative sample of **birds** from **each flock** and a representative sample of lagomorphs from each holding of provenance of lagomorphs.

Note that: 'flock' means all poultry of the same health status kept on the same premises or in the same enclosure and constituting a single epidemiological unit; in the case of housed poultry, this includes all birds sharing the same airspace (Regs 2160/2003, Art 2(3)(b)).

Poultry slaughterhouses may benefit from AMI on a representative sample of birds from each flock, providing that clear AMI protocols have been drafted and agreed between the plant OV and the FBO. Consideration should be given by the OV to the farm health and welfare status, and a justification made for the level of AMI carried out, which in any event should not be below 10% of the flock.

As a minimum, the first load of any flock of poultry slaughtered in the production day must be subjected to AMI. If poultry from the same flock are to be slaughtered on different days, the first load of every flock must be inspected for each slaughtering day.

In order to verify that the reduced AMI protocols are effective, the OV should conduct, randomly and at least fortnightly, AMI of all birds from a chosen flock (i.e. same farm, same house). This should be documented in the FSS daybook and the AMI form annotated.

There should be a clear positive release system for each batch to ensure that no birds can be released for slaughter without the representative sample having received AMI. The protocol must be reviewed on a monthly basis with the FBO, to ensure any flocks or premises with increased levels of welfare issues or diseases are identified and subject to increased AMI, if necessary.

2.2 Ante-mortem inspection at the holding of provenance (HoP)

Note: The arrangements for performing the AMI at the HoP by an OV has not been implemented yet.

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2.2.1 Circumstances under which AMI can be performed at the holding of provenance

Official controls performed to verify compliance with the relevant legislation in relation to products of animal origin (POAO) intended for human consumption include amongst others, the AMI performed in the slaughterhouse by an OV.

However, under certain circumstances, the AMI may be performed outside the slaughterhouse by an OV. Those circumstances include:

- All species at the HoP prior to being sent for slaughter at the slaughterhouse:
- Emergency slaughter of domestic ungulates outside the slaughterhouse.
- Slaughter of ratites and farmed game at authorised on-farm slaughter facilities (OFSF).
- Slaughter of fractious animals (farmed game and domestic bovine).
- Slaughter at the farm of poultry reared to produce "foie gras".
- Slaughter at the farm of poultry subjected to delayed evisceration

Note: At present there has been no interest from the industry on carrying out AMI at the holding of provenance so normal procedures for AMI at the slaughterhouse will continue, unless otherwise communicated.

2.3 Acceptance of animals slaughtered on farm as Emergency Slaughter

The Private Veterinary Surgeon (PVS) (MRCVS) may perform AMI outside the slaughterhouse in the case of emergency slaughter, only for domestic ungulates and subject to compliance with the table below:

Emergency Slaughter on Farm

An otherwise healthy animal must have suffered an accident that prevented its transport to the slaughterhouse for welfare reasons

The slaughtered and bled animal must be transported to the slaughterhouse hygienically and without undue delay. Removal of the stomach and intestines, but no other dressing, may take place on the spot, under the supervision of the PVS. Any viscera removed must accompany the slaughtered animal to the slaughterhouse and be identified as belonging to that animal

If more than two hours elapse between slaughter and arrival at the slaughterhouse, the animal must be refrigerated. Where climatic conditions so permit, active chilling is not necessary

A declaration by the FBO who reared the animal, stating the identity of the animal and indicating any veterinary products or other treatments administered to the animal, dates of administration and withdrawal periods, must accompany the slaughtered animal to the slaughterhouse (this and FCI have been combined with the PVS health certificate attached to this guidance, each required to sign their relevant sections).

A health certificate issued by the PVS. The health certificate shall accompany the animals to the slaughterhouse or be sent in advance in any format (See Annex 1)

Note: these carcases are only eligible for domestic market and OVs should ensure they are excluded from any SHA or EHC

<u>Note:</u> FSS has introduced a self-declaration scheme for appointing veterinarians who are members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS) to undertake AMI of domestic ungulates undergoing emergency slaughter outside slaughterhouses. A veterinary surgeon MRCVS is authorised to sign a health certificate for domestic ungulates subjected to emergency slaughter.

'Guidance for Veterinary Surgeons on the Emergency Slaughter of Cattle' booklet produced by the BCVA. The booklet can be accessed at:

https://www.foodstandards.gov.scot/downloads/Slaughter_of_Cattle.pdf

2.3.1 Eligibility for the Food Chain

Step	Action	
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 OV is a member of RCVS	
	transport time / chilling requirements complied with	
	any other eligibility regulations for human consumption	

3	Post-mortem inspection carried out by OV Note: The OV can require any additional tests
4	The oval health mark should be applied to fit carcases
	These carcases are only eligible for domestic market and OVs

2.4 Acceptance of fractious animal slaughter (farmed game and domestic bovine)

In Scotland, in exceptional circumstances where domestic bovines that are considered fractious, dangerous or difficult to handle or transport live and are intended to enter the food chain, can be slaughtered on-farm, using the provisions intended for the onfarm slaughter of even-toed farmed game mammals, together with some of the provisions intended for emergency slaughter of livestock outside the slaughterhouse.

The basis of this policy decision is to also accommodate cases where bovines, particularly long horned cattle, may pose a health and safety risk to handlers and compromise the welfare of the animal during transportation to an approved slaughterhouse.

This practice continues to be permitted only in exceptional circumstances with strict adherence to the required conditions specified in the table below:

Fractious Slaughter on Farm

The owner of the animals submits a request to the FBO and the OV at the slaughterhouse receiving the slaughtered animals

The FBO and the OV at the slaughterhouse are informed in advance of the date and time of slaughter of the animals

The herd undergoes regular veterinary inspection –This can be provided in section 4 of Food Chain Information for fractious domestic bovines at Annex 5 or separate documentation

Animal welfare requirements are complied with at all times

Slaughtered and bled animals are transported to the slaughterhouse hygienically and without undue delay. If transport takes more than two hours, the transport vehicle should be, if necessary, refrigerated. Evisceration may take place on the spot, under the supervision of the PVS, however all offal and body parts need to accompany the carcase

A declaration by the FBO who reared the animals, stating their identity and indicating any veterinary products or other treatments administered, dates of administration and withdrawal periods, accompanies the slaughtered animals to the

slaughterhouse (this and the FCI have been combined with the PVS health certificate, each required to sign their relevant sections) (See Annex 5)

A health certificate issued and signed by the PVS (See Annex 5)

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:

- where the document/declaration accompanying the animal fails to comply with the information requirements for FCI in Regulation 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 have been treated with veterinary medicinal products in excess of permitted levels or where there is suspected presence of veterinary residues because the required withdrawal period may not have 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 OV on the farm; inability to conduct a full 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 unfit for human consumption. It would therefore be required to be disposed of as animal byproduct (ABP).

2.5 OV action in the case of discrepancy

The following table details the actions that the OV should take where discrepancies in eligibility for the food chain occur in case of animals emergency slaughtered on farm (including fractious animals):

Step	Action
1	In all cases, first contact the veterinarian 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:
2	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 above on appropriate action to be taken.
3	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 OV. Contact your Veterinary Advisor (VA) 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.
	FSS OVs are required to keep track of the carcases brought to the abattoir as a result of emergency slaughter on farm (including fractious) by completing the Emergency Slaughter Log, link here .
4	Keep the PVS declaration received in a secure file and record the circumstances in the Day Book.
5	Record the results of PMI and correlate with the PVS declaration.
6	Any suspect welfare breach 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 853/2004, Annex III, Section I, Chapter VI.

Examples of possible discrepancies

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

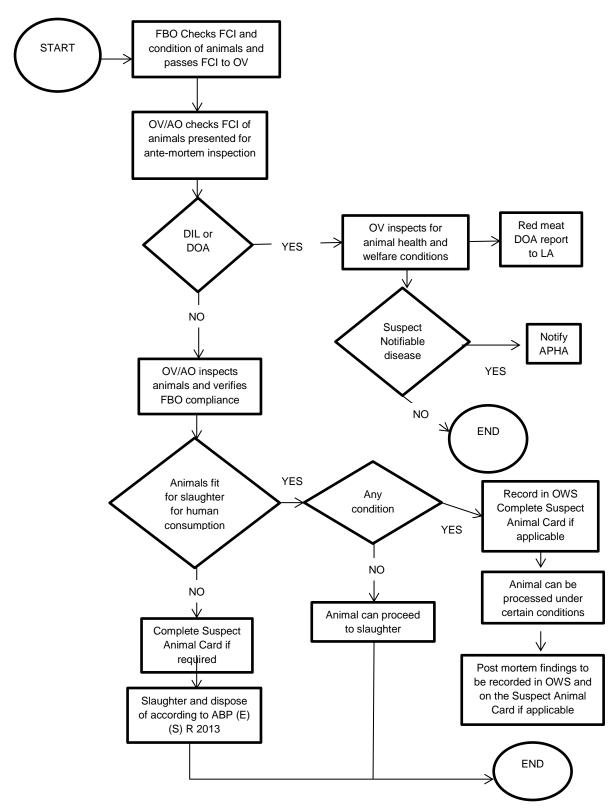
- The OV at the slaughterhouse is of the opinion that the animal has not suffered a genuine accident.
- The declaration has been altered after completion without initials to confirm authenticity.

- 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 <u>Annex 1</u> 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.

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2.6 Ante-mortem inspection summary

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



3. Movement of live animals from slaughterhouse

- 3.1 OV action
- 3.2 Movement of cattle in Scotland
- 3.3 Movement of sheep, horses and birds in Scotland
- 3.4 Movement of pigs in Scotland

3.1 OV action

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

3.2 Movement of cattle in Scotland

3.2.1 Movement of cattle between abattoirs

Cattle sent to an abattoir can be moved to any other abattoir whether it is in Scotland or not if there is a valid exceptional reason such as:

- cattle requiring BSE testing, sent to an abattoir not authorised to process such cattle, may be moved to an appropriately authorised abattoir
- animals too big for the stunning pen,
- serious breakdown that will impact on the welfare of the animals if not moved,
- abattoir not approved for the type of cattle sent,
- · The birth of a live calf at the abattoir.

This list is not exhaustive and a guide only.

The FBO should report the movement to ScotEID.

Note that movements of live cattle from abattoirs in Scotland to England do need a licence according to The Disease Control (England) Order 2003. In such a case a

licence must be requested from Scottish Government, please follow the process described in Section 3.2.2 below.

3.2.2 Movement of cattle back to farm

If the movement would be back to farm, the FBO should inform the OV in the plant. Consideration should be given to move the animal/s to another abattoir rather than back to the farm where possible.

If the movement of animals will be back to the farm, the OV will consider the request and complete Annex 4 - Application for a licence for the exceptional movement of CATTLE, SHEEP and GOATS from a slaughterhouse. Once completed, Annex 4 will be sent to the **Area VA** who, if 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.

Attempt should always be made for animals to be moved to another abattoir rather than back to the farm and exceptional movement licences will only be considered on an individual basis and in exceptional circumstances. The granting of such a licence will require assurance that none of the animals are under any animal health restrictions or presenting any signs of a transmissible disease. Two common examples of such restrictions are TB and BVD-related. The TB status of the animal can be checked via the declaration on the FCI.

BVD status of animals entering lairage.

As a result of Scotland's BVD eradication policy, BVD positive animals may only be moved direct to slaughter. An exceptional movement licence cannot be requested for individual animals with known BVD positive status. The FBO therefore needs to use the ScotEID website to check the status of the animals in the lairage. This can be done by checking individual status of every animal using ScotEID's online "BVD lookup" facility, which is available at https://www.scoteid.com/lookup.

Where a consignment of cattle has come from the same holding, the FBO can save time by checking the herd status of the holding.

A Negative or Not Negative holding needs no further investigation: none of the cattle from that holding are known to be BVD Positive.

A Non-breeding or BVD Positive holding may have consigned a known BVD Positive animal: the animals from these consignments should be checked individually.

The FBO should report the movement to ScotEID as normal.

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Reference: See Annex 4 for a sample Exceptional Licence for the Movement of Cattle/sheep and goats from a Slaughterhouse.

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 ScotEID.

3.2.3 Movement of cattle between abattoir and field lairage outside the curtilage

If the field lairage (and this can also be extended to barns or other buildings used to keep animals) used in connection with the slaughterhouse business has a different CPH number, then even if adjacent, it is effectively a different holding and subject to different rules. These adjacent fields (or buildings) are not part of the approved slaughterhouse and must not be included in the curtilage.

These adjacent fields (or buildings) must comply with rules under <u>The Disease</u> <u>Control (Scotland) Order 2002</u>, the livestock identification and movements legislation and TB legislation and the movement of the animals on to the field and from the field on to the slaughterhouse must be reported to ScotEID and a licence must be requested from SG following the same process as to movement of animals back to the farm (<u>See Section 3.2.2</u>).

The OV must report to the LA Trading Standards for the abattoir any instance where the movement from animals from these adjacent fields (or buildings) to the slaughterhouse occurs unreported.

3.3 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 inform the OV who, if supporting the decision to move the animals, will apply for a licence as instructed in Section 3.2.2.

Reference: See Annex 4 for a sample Exceptional Licence for the Movement of Cattle/sheep and goats from a Slaughterhouse.

In the case of poultry, movement of live birds back to the farm should be avoided at all times, but in exceptional circumstances, it may be considered.

There are no licensing requirements for moving live poultry from a slaughterhouse. The legislation imposing the licensing requirements on live slaughterhouse moves is in The Disease Control (Interim Measures) (Scotland) Order 2002, where "animals" are defined as certain mammalian species, but not poultry.

Therefore, movement of live birds will be at the discretion of OV and always to be consulted with the Vet Advisor.

3.4 Movement of pigs in Scotland

Movement of pigs are generally not permitted. However in exceptional circumstances they may be considered. The OV should discuss the matter with their VA. Similar requirements apply as to moving cattle back to farms and a licence must be requested from SG.

4. Cleansing and disinfection

4.1 Overview

4.2 FSS responsibility

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 Introduction

Adequate cleansing and disinfection facilities are essential for disease control and biosecurity. This section details the requirements in Scottish red and white meat slaughterhouses.

This chapter includes the official verification of the C and D standards of:

- lairages (including any area within the curtilage of the slaughterhouse in which live animals are kept or handled).
- vehicles transporting livestock or poultry.
- crates and modules used for transporting poultry.

4.1.2 Legislation

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

- Regulation 853/2004
- Regulation 852/2004

 The Transport of Animals (Cleansing and Disinfection) (Scotland) Regulations 2005

- The Disease of Animals (Approved Disinfectant) (Scotland) Order 2008
- https://www.gov.uk/guidance/defra-approved-disinfectant-when-and-how-to-use-it
- http://disinfectants.defra.gov.uk/DisinfectantsExternal/Default.aspx?Module= ApprovalsList_SI

4.2 FSS responsibility

FSS staff will monitor the C&D of lairages (and crates & modules in poultry plants) as part of routine OC delivery.

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.

Exceptions apply in case of diseases outbreaks and the requirements will be explained in the designation documentation.

5. Annexes

Annex 1	Model Official Certificate in the case of Emergency Slaughter outside the slaughterhouse
Annex 2	Model document: Additional food chain information for cattle, sheep, goats and calves
Annex 3	Model Official Certificate for farmed game slaughtered at the holding of provenance
Annex 4	Application for a licence for the exceptional movement of CATTLE, SHEEP and GOATS from a slaughterhouse
Annex 5	Model Official Certificate for fractious bovine