

GUIDANCE FOR VETERINARY SURGEONS ON THE EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE



Summary

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Intended audience: | Veterinary surgeons who need to determine if the circumstances of slaughter can be classified as emergency slaughter. |
| Regional coverage: | UK |
| Legal status: | This guidance is intended to accompany relevant EU and national legislation relating to TSEs, meat hygiene, and animal welfare. |
| Purpose: | To provide information on the law covering emergency slaughter of cattle. |

Revision History

| Revision No. | Revision date | Purpose of revision |
|---------------------|----------------------|---|
| 1 | March 2010 | To reflect changes in the meat hygiene, TSE and animal welfare legislation. |

Purpose and Legal status

This guidance provides advice on the legal requirements of the EU Food Hygiene Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004¹ (as amended), EU Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (TSE) Regulation (EC) No. 999/2001² (as amended), Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and The Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2008 (as amended)³ and similar legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Regulations 2006 and Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations. The guidance should be read in conjunction with the legislation itself. It is not an authoritative interpretation of the law, as only the Courts have that power. Every effort has been made to make this guidance as helpful as possible. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of individual businesses to ensure their compliance with the law.

The British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) and other veterinary organisations have jointly developed this guidance for veterinary surgeons with assistance from the Food Standards Agency (FSA), UK Rural Affairs Departments and the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS).

¹ OJ L 139, 30.04.2004, page 55

² OJ L 147, 31.5.2001

³ SI 2008 No. 1881, amended by SI No 2008/2269 and SI 2008/3295)

Contents

| | Page |
|---|------|
| Introduction | 4 |
| Decisions relating to cattle that have been injured or showing abnormalities | 5 |
| Emergency slaughter for human consumption - Practical considerations | 8 |
| Guidelines for the transport of live cattle | 10 |
| Humane slaughter or killing | 12 |
| Further information | 15 |
| Appendix A (1) Food chain information to accompany an animal for slaughter | 16 |
| Appendix A (2) Additional Food Chain Information | 17 |
| Appendix B Model declaration to accompany the body of cattle subject to emergency slaughter outside the slaughterhouse | 18 |
| Appendix C Decision tree for cattle which are injured or showing signs of abnormalities | 20 |
| Appendix D Legislation | 21 |

Introduction

The basis for the protection of consumers from exposure to health risks through the consumption of meat is that animals must be healthy at the time of slaughter. Veterinary surgeons have a pivotal role in food safety, and public health considerations must be a priority when advising farmers and making decisions about eligibility for emergency slaughter of animals for human consumption.

Food safety legislation requires slaughterhouse operators to receive Food Chain Information (FCI) for all animals they accept for slaughter and to ensure that the animals are healthy, as far as they can judge. All animals must be subject to a veterinary ante-mortem inspection before they are slaughtered for human consumption.

An exception to the requirement for only live animals to be accepted for slaughter for human consumption permits the emergency slaughter of domestic ungulates⁴ outside the slaughterhouse if they fulfil the condition:

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

When a decision has been taken to slaughter an animal on welfare grounds, its destination will be determined by animal welfare and food safety considerations.

There are three options:

- Transport the animal live to a slaughterhouse for slaughter for human consumption accompanied by Food Chain Information (Appendix A (1) & A (2)).
- Emergency slaughter on farm (or elsewhere outside the slaughterhouse) and transport of the body to a slaughterhouse, accompanied by a veterinary declaration and Food Chain Information, for post mortem inspection and further processing for human consumption.
- Slaughter and disposal as fallen stock. Fallen stock over 48⁵ months of age must be tested for BSE. These animals should be forwarded to an approved sampling site within 72 hours of death.

⁴Cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, bison, water buffalo and *solipeds* (horses, asses and mules)

⁵Over 24 months for cattle born outside Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK. Over time, additional countries may be added to this list.

1 Decisions relating to cattle that have been injured or showing abnormalities

Does the animal fulfil the public health conditions to be suitable for slaughter for human consumption?

Only healthy animals may be slaughtered for human consumption. The veterinarian on the farm must carry out an ante-mortem inspection of the animal and must be satisfied that the animal was healthy before the event which brought about the need for emergency slaughter.

In this context, judgement of the health of an animal should be guided by the Hygiene Regulations which specifically exclude from slaughter for human consumption *'animals with a disease or condition that may be transmitted to animals or humans through handling or eating meat and, in general, animals showing clinical signs of systemic disease or emaciation'*⁶.

● Veterinary Medicines

The statutory withdrawal periods for any veterinary medicine administered must be observed for all animals slaughtered for human consumption. All types of medicines must be considered, including therapeutic medicines, dry cow tubes, pulse release and injectable wormers and pour-on medicines.

The keeper of the animal is required to provide Food Chain Information, including a declaration that all withdrawal periods have been respected.

If in any doubt, the attending veterinary surgeon should consult the "Compendium of Data Sheets" published by the National Office of Animal Health (www.NOAH.co.uk).

Further information is available at the VMD's website at: www.vmd.gov.uk

● Clean Livestock Policy

Slaughterhouse operators must ensure that animals accepted for slaughter are clean. Animals whose dirty condition may adversely affect hygienic dressing should not be sent to the slaughterhouse.

Guidance on assessing the cleanliness of cattle can be found at: www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/meatregsguid/cleanlivestockguidance

⁶Regulation 854/2004, Annex I, section II, chapter III, point 4.

Is the animal fit to be transported to the slaughterhouse?

Animals must be fit for the intended journey and must not be transported if the transport is likely to cause unnecessary suffering.

Legislation specifies that unfit cattle may be transported under veterinary supervision to the nearest available place for veterinary treatment or diagnosis, or to the nearest available place of slaughter only if the animal is not likely to be subject to unnecessary suffering by reason of its unfitness.

EC Regulation 1/2005 makes some clear statements as to what is unfit, however it does allow for transport of slightly ill or injured animals for which transport would not cause additional suffering. The sheer size and weight of adult cattle present specific transportation problems.

The animal must be able to walk freely and unassisted on all limbs without any need for more than usual encouragement. An animal showing signs of lameness is likely to be in pain and must not be transported, unless for reasons of veterinary diagnosis or treatment. Animals must not be pushed or dragged, and nor should any mechanical apparatus be used to load them onto vehicles (except pneumatic tailgates, but the animal must walk onto these freely) unless there are clear benefits to the welfare of the animal.

The decision whether to transport, or not, is essentially one of welfare. Due consideration must be given to the likelihood of pain or suffering during the loading and the journey.

The type of vehicle, the bedding, the penning arrangements and the distance travelled to the destination may have some bearing but the final decision must have the welfare of the animal as the paramount consideration.

More detailed guidance on the welfare of animals during transport is given in Section 3.

Is the animal eligible for emergency slaughter outside the slaughterhouse for human consumption?

An animal that fulfils the public health conditions for slaughter for human consumption, but is not considered fit for transport, may be eligible for emergency slaughter.

One of the conditions for emergency slaughter is:

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

● Is it an Emergency?

'Emergency' implies an event requiring immediate action. Therefore an animal

suffering from a chronic condition cannot be eligible for slaughter for human consumption.

- **Was it an Accident?**

The dictionary definition of 'accident' is 'an unforeseen or unexpected event, especially one causing injury or damage'. When assessing an animal following such an event, the veterinary surgeon must consider its circumstances and establish that it was a true accident.

The veterinary surgeon completing the veterinary declaration must confirm that the signs present in the animal are consistent with the details of the accident recorded by its keeper at Section A of the veterinary declaration (Appendix B).

- **Was the animal healthy before the accident?**

The veterinary surgeon must apply professional judgement to assess the condition of the animal before the accident.

Equally the animal must remain in a healthy condition up until the time of emergency slaughter and must suffer no deterioration in its health due to the accident.

- **Veterinary Declaration**

Animals that are slaughtered on farm and sent to a slaughterhouse must be accompanied by a veterinary declaration recording:

- the favourable outcome of the ante mortem inspection
- the reason for emergency slaughter, including details of the accident that required emergency slaughter of the animal
- any treatment administered by the veterinarian to the animal
- the date and time of slaughter

The requirement for the declaration to include the time and date of slaughter dictates that **the veterinarian signing the declaration must be present at the time of slaughter.**

The veterinarian signing the declaration must ensure that the principles of veterinary certification are fulfilled.

A model declaration can be found at Appendix B. The model declaration may be downloaded and used in this form, or customised with practice details.

2 Emergency slaughter for human consumption - Practical considerations

When emergency slaughter for human consumption is being considered, the farmer must contact the slaughterhouse operator. Slaughterhouse operators are under no obligation to accept emergency slaughtered animals, and may be unable or unwilling to do so for technical or commercial reasons. The official veterinarian (OV) must be present at the slaughterhouse during post-mortem inspection of emergency slaughter cattle. It must be confirmed that this requirement can be met, since, at some slaughterhouses, the OV may not be present at all times.

In all cases it will be prudent for the veterinary surgeon issuing the emergency slaughter declaration to contact the OV at the slaughterhouse to advise of the facts of the case and to avoid any subsequent difficulties.

● Food Chain Information

The body of an animal slaughtered outside the slaughterhouse for human consumption must be accompanied by a Food Chain Information (FCI) declaration signed by the keeper of the animal. This FCI declaration is included in section B of the emergency slaughter declaration (Appendix B).

● Slaughter

Only suitably qualified persons, licensed under the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 and trained in the food hygiene aspects of slaughter, may slaughter animals for human consumption. Veterinary surgeons may undertake emergency slaughter but must be familiar with both the animal welfare and food hygiene requirements.

Pithing is prohibited for all cattle slaughtered for human or animal consumption.

● BSE testing

The TSE legislation requires cattle aged over 48 months born in certain Member States⁷ be tested for BSE using the Brain Stem Sample (BSS). Cattle born elsewhere aged over 24 months must be tested if subject to emergency slaughter or found sick at ante-mortem inspection. Cattle born elsewhere subject to normal, routine, slaughter in the abattoir must be BSE tested if aged over 30 months.

⁷Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, UK. Over time, additional countries may be added to this list.

When slaughtering a bovine animal that requires BSE testing, failure to obtain a suitable brain stem sample will render the carcass ineligible for the food supply. Methods which cause severe damage to the brain stem, such as the use of a shotgun or careless use of a free bullet, should be avoided.

Bovine animals aged over 48 months slaughtered or killed because of abnormalities or as emergency cases but not intended for human consumption must still be tested, but as fallen stock.

- **Transport to the slaughterhouse**

The carcass must be transported to the slaughterhouse hygienically and without undue delay. If it is likely that more than 2 hours will elapse between slaughter and arrival at the slaughterhouse, the carcass must be carried in a refrigerated container.

- **Role of the OV**

The OV at the slaughterhouse will assess if there are grounds for declaring meat unfit for human consumption and will carry out a post-mortem examination in all cases. An emergency slaughter declaration provides no guarantee that the OV will not identify any conditions that would make the meat unfit for human consumption.

In some circumstances, where the OV has grounds for concern about public health, additional tests (e.g. tests for antimicrobial residues) may be carried out.

3 Guidelines for the transport of live cattle

● Rules on fitness to transport (Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005)

1. No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey, and all animals shall be transported in conditions guaranteed not to cause them injury or unnecessary suffering.

2. Animals that are injured or that present physiological weaknesses or pathological processes shall not be considered fit for transport and in particular if:

- (a) they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted;
- (b) they present a severe open wound, or prolapse;
- (c) they are pregnant females for whom 90% or more of the expected gestation period has already passed (this essentially means the last four weeks of pregnancy for cattle), or females who have given birth in the previous week;
- (d) they are newborn and the navel has not completely healed;
- (e) they are calves of less than ten days of age (unless they are transported less than 100 km).

3. However, sick or injured animals may be considered fit for transport if they are:

- (a) slightly injured or ill and transport would not cause additional suffering;
- (b) transported for the purposes of Council Directive 86/609/EEC⁸ if the illness or injury is part of a research programme;
- (c) transported under veterinary supervision for or following veterinary treatment or diagnosis. However, such transport shall be permitted only where no unnecessary suffering or ill treatment is caused to the animals concerned;
- (d) animals that have been subjected to veterinary procedures in relation to farming practices such as dehorning or castration, provided that wounds have completely healed.

4. When animals fall ill or are injured during transport, they shall be separated from the others and receive first aid treatment as soon as possible. They shall be given appropriate veterinary treatment and if necessary undergo emergency slaughter or killing in a way which does not cause them any unnecessary suffering.

● Lameness

Lameness can usually be detected by good observation of the affected animal, or by comparing that animal with other animals in the group. Lameness is a common

⁸Council Directive 86/609/EEC of 24 November 1986 on the approximation of laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States regarding the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes.

condition in livestock. **There are very few circumstances where lameness is not a painful condition.** As a general rule therefore, any animal that is suffering lameness in one or more legs must not be transported.

- **Guidance on the meaning of 'Slightly injured or ill'**

Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 fitness to transport guidance expands on 'slightly injured or ill'⁹ thus:

Animals that are slightly ill or injured may be transported under very limited circumstances. They may be transported to a veterinary surgery for purposes of diagnosis or treatment, and in some cases, it may be acceptable to transport the animals direct from a farm to the nearest available slaughterhouse for immediate slaughter. This provision would allow farmers to transport small numbers of livestock with mild to moderate lameness direct from the farm of origin to a slaughterhouse. In addition to ensuring that the official veterinarian of the abattoir will accept the animals in question, the transporter must ensure that additional requirements during transport are met to protect the welfare of lame livestock.

Lame animals must be transported in improved conditions: each lame animal should be penned singly, given sufficient space to lie down, and adequately deep bedding for comfort. The transporter must move the animals directly from the farm to the slaughterhouse and careful driving should be practised throughout the journey. In all circumstances, the transport of slightly ill or injured animals must not cause any unnecessary suffering or necessitate any ill treatment of the animals concerned. Slightly ill or injured animals, including lame animals, must not be transported to or presented for sale at markets.

Full fitness to transport guidance can be found at: www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/transport/documents/fitness2a.pdf

⁹Annex I, Chapter I, paragraph 3 (a)

4 Humane slaughter or killing

Slaughtering or killing must be carried out without causing avoidable or unnecessary suffering and any animals slaughtered for human consumption must be stunned and bled in a hygienic manner and in compliance with The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 where applicable.

Cattle which are to be disposed of as an animal by-product (fallen stock) may be either slaughtered (*i.e.* stunned and bled) or, more usually, killed by another method.

Death may be achieved by using a firearm, shotgun, or by using a captive bolt followed by pithing or bleeding. Pithing must not be carried out where the carcass or offals are intended for human or animal consumption.

When slaughtering a bovine animal that requires BSE testing, failure to obtain a suitable brain stem sample will render the carcass ineligible for the food supply. Methods which cause severe damage to the brain stem, such as the use of a shotgun or careless use of a free bullet, should therefore be avoided.

In cattle, the brain is situated high in the head. The target area is in the middle of the forehead at the crossing point of two imaginary lines drawn from the eye to the base of the opposite horn. The muzzle of the gun should be held at right angles to the skull so that the shot is directed through the cerebral cortex and into the brain stem.

● The Free Bullet Weapon

This is generally in the form of a 0.32 calibre humane killer or pistol, or a 0.22 calibre rim-fire rifle. Centre-fire carbine rifles which use sub-sonic pistol ammunition can also be used.

The humane killer fires a round-nosed lead bullet which should kill cattle of all sizes outright. This type of weapon is normally used by veterinary surgeons and knackermen. It is of the utmost importance that only the correct, especially loaded ammunition is used in conjunction with this weapon.

Rifles are extremely dangerous and should only be used when no other method is available. The muzzle must be held between five and twenty centimetres away from the animal's forehead and the weapon aimed down the length of the neck. On no account should the muzzle be held directly against the animal's head as this will result in severe injury to the operator. Always use a soft- or hollow-nosed bullet: if there is any doubt about the ammunition available, call in outside help.

When using any free bullet weapon, be aware that the bullet may exit from the animal's body and may ricochet off concrete floors and walls. All persons must stand behind the operator.

● The Shotgun

A 12, 16, 20, 28 or .410 bore shotgun may be used to kill cattle, using number 4, 5 or 6 birdshot. The muzzle must be held five to twenty centimetres from the animal's forehead aiming down the length of the neck into the animal's body. The muzzle of the gun must not be held directly against the animal's head as this will result in severe injury to the operator.

When used correctly the shot impacts on the forehead as a "solid" mass, causing instantaneous insensibility, penetrates the skull and disperses in the brain causing massive damage which kills the animal outright. There is a relatively small entry wound but the brain is completely destroyed so it is not advisable for cattle that require BSE testing. The shotgun is generally more readily available and safer than free bullet weapons and in the hands of a competent operator, is very effective for the humane destruction of cattle.

● Captive Bolt Equipment

There is a range of different types of captive-bolt equipment available. For general use, the best are trigger-fired, penetrative captive bolt instruments. When dealing with cattle, the heaviest cartridge available for the model of stunner must be used. The muzzle of the captive-bolt must be held firmly against the head and the shot directed towards the base of the brain and spinal cord. As the captive-bolt is a stunning device and not a humane killer the major blood vessels of the neck must be severed immediately following stunning. If the carcass is not for human or animal consumption and a BSE test is not required, the brain may be pithed to ensure that death follows rapidly.

When a bovine animal is correctly stunned using a captive-bolt, it should collapse immediately, stop breathing and become rigid. The forelegs extend and the hind legs flex into the abdomen. This phase is followed by gradual relaxation accompanied by involuntary kicking, it is best to bleed or pith the bovine animal before this kicking phase starts.

● Bleeding¹⁰

The best way to ensure rapid blood loss is to make a deep, transverse cut across the animal's throat at the angle of the jaw to cut both carotid arteries. Cut deep until the blade of the knife touches the spine. There should be two powerful jets of blood from the carotid arteries and a flow from the jugular veins.

In order to carry out this task effectively, the operator needs a sharp knife with a blade at least twelve centimetres (five inches) long. Alternatively a thoracic stick

¹⁰ Blood must be collected in a leak-proof container and disposed of in accordance with the Animal By-products Regulation (EC) 1774/2002. It must not be allowed to soak away into the ground or via a drain or water course. Blood must be collected in a container for later disposal.

may be carried out by making an incision in the jugular furrow at the base of the neck, the knife being directed towards the entrance of the chest to sever all the major blood vessels arising from the heart.

- **Pithing**

The operation known as pithing (physical destruction of the brain to ensure rapid death following captive-bolt stunning) is an effective means of ensuring the rapid death of animals. Pithing is not permitted in UK slaughterhouses and must **not** be carried out if the carcase is intended for human consumption or a BSE test is required.

Pithing involves inserting a flexible wire or polypropylene rod through the hole in the head made by the captive-bolt. The rod is then thrust towards the tail, through the brain, to the level of the brainstem and, if it is long enough, into the spinal cord. It is then slid back and forth to cause maximum damage to the brain and upper spinal cord. Initially the animal will show violent muscle contraction, but then reflex muscle movement is inhibited. Disposable pithing canes, which remain in the carcase, are now available, and are recommended for use.

- **Licensing**

Humane killers and rifles require a firearm certificate to be held by the operator. A shotgun requires a shotgun certificate.

Further information

The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) publishes Guidance Notes Nos 2 and 3: Captive-Bolt Stunning of Livestock and Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms. The HSA also has a video on Emergency Slaughter. These can be obtained from the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN (Reg Charity No 209563). Tel: 01582 831919. Fax: 01582 831414. www.hsa.org.uk

The FSA can provide information on the requirements of the hygiene and TSE legislation. Contact Meat Hygiene and TSE Policy Branch, FSA, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NH. Tel: 020 7276 8355. www.food.gov.uk

Further information on the welfare of animals during transport can be obtained from Animal Health's Welfare in Transport Helpline on 0845 603 8395 or wit@animalhealth.gsi.gov.uk. Rural Affairs Departments have developed detailed guidance on the welfare of animals during transport which can be seen at:

www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/transport/euguidance/index.htm

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/animalwelfare/welfareintransport/?lang=en>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare/AnimalWelfare/TransportAnimals>

APPENDIX A (1)

Model document

| FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION FOR CATTLE consigned for slaughter for human consumption | |
|---|--|
| Holding Number | |
| Keeper's Name | |
| Address of Holding | |
| Telephone number | |
| E-mail address (optional) | |
| Individual identification mark(s) – or attach list | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| Declaration | |
| <p>The holding is not under movement restriction for bovine Tuberculosis (TB)* OR The holding is under movement restriction for bovine Tuberculosis (TB)* *delete one</p> <p>Cattle on the holding are not under movement restrictions for other animal disease or public health reasons (excluding a 6-day/13-day standstill) .</p> <p>Withdrawal periods have been observed for all veterinary medicines and other treatments administered to the animals while on this holding and previous holdings.</p> <p>To the best of my knowledge the animals are not showing signs of any disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat derived from them.</p> <p>No analysis of samples taken from animals on the holding or other samples has shown that the animals in this consignment may have been exposed to any disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat or to substances likely to result in residues in meat.</p> | |
| Keeper's signature | |
| Print name | |
| Date | |
| If the animals do not fulfil all the above statements, tick this box and provide additional information on an attached document ** | |
| | |

** See Additional Food Chain Information model document

APPENDIX A (2)

Model Document

ADDITIONAL FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION for Cattle, Sheep and Goats

Information about animals showing signs of a disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat derived from them.

Identification of animals – or attach list

Describe the disease or condition, or diagnosis if a veterinary surgeon has examined the animal(s)

Withdrawal periods have been observed for all veterinary medicines and other treatments administered to the animals while on this holding and previous holdings.

Details of holding movement restrictions for animal health or other reasons

Details of analysis of samples taken from animals on the holding or other samples that have shown that the animals in this consignment may have been exposed to any disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat, or to substances likely to result in residues in meat.

Keeper's signature

Print name

Date

APPENDIX B

MODEL DECLARATION FOR EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION OF BOVINE ANIMALS OUTSIDE THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Emergency slaughter of an otherwise healthy animal that has suffered an accident that prevented its transport to the slaughterhouse for welfare reasons.

| | |
|---|--|
| Owner's name and address | |
| Holding number | |
| Production site address and holding number (if different) | |
| Contact name, telephone number and email address of owner/keeper | |
| Name and address of slaughterhouse to which carcase will be transported | |
| Animal identification details - ear tag number | |

A. Owner/Keeper's Food Chain Information Declaration

| | |
|--|--|
| Give details and time of occurrence of the accident that required the emergency slaughter of the animal. | |
|--|--|

| |
|---|
| <p>The holding <u>is not</u> under movement restriction for bovine Tuberculosis (TB)* OR The holding <u>is</u> under movement restriction for bovine Tuberculosis (TB)* *delete one</p> <p>Cattle on the holding are not under movement restrictions for other animal disease or public health reasons (excluding a 6-day/13-day standstill).</p> <p>Withdrawal periods have been observed for all veterinary medicines and other treatments administered to the animal while on this holding and previous holdings.</p> <p>No analysis of samples taken from animals on the holding or other samples has shown that the animal in this consignment may have been exposed to any disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat or to substances likely to result in residues in meat.</p> |
|---|

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| Keeper's Signature | |
| Print Name | |
| Date | |

B. Veterinary Surgeon's Declaration

| | |
|--|--|
| Describe the reason for emergency slaughter. | |
| Record any treatment administered by the veterinary surgeon. | |

| |
|--|
| <p>I confirm that the signs present in the animal are consistent with the accident described in section A.</p> <p>After carrying out ante-mortem inspection, it is my opinion that the animal was not affected with any disease or condition that may be transmitted to animals or humans through handling or eating meat, and was not showing clinical signs of systemic disease or condition, or emaciation.</p> |
|--|

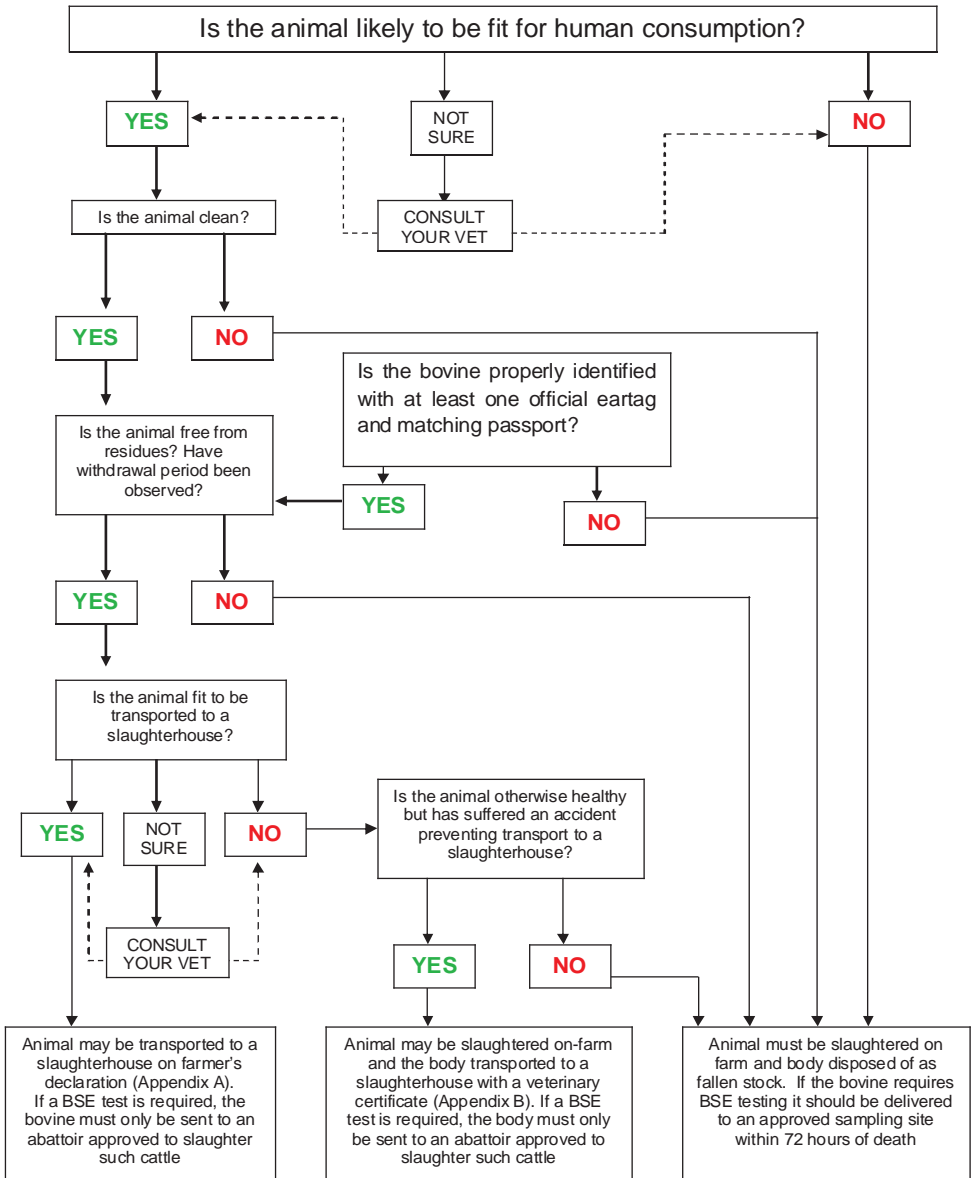
| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Time and date of emergency slaughter | |
|--------------------------------------|--|

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Signature | |
| Name of veterinary surgeon | |
| Practice Name and Address | |
| Telephone number | |
| Email address | |

Veterinary surgeons are advised to ensure that they are aware of the Guidance published jointly by BCVA, FSA and Rural Affairs Departments.

APPENDIX C

DECISION TREE FOR CATTLE WHICH ARE INJURED OR SHOWING SIGNS OF ABNORMALITIES¹



¹Cattle born or imported into the UK before 1 August 1996 are prohibited from entering the food chain and the body must be delivered to an approved sampling site within 72 hours of death.

APPENDIX D

Legislation

- **The Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968, Animal Welfare Act 2006, The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007**

These Acts and Regulations (and parallel legislation in Scotland and Wales) make it an offence to cause unnecessary pain or distress to any livestock or to any domestic or captive animal. In addition, the Animal Welfare Act imposes a broad duty of care on anyone responsible for an animal to take reasonable steps to ensure that the animal's needs are met. This duty of care for farmed animals is detailed within the text of the Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2007 and equivalent regulations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. This means that a person has to look after the animal's welfare as well as ensure that it does not suffer. Welfare needs include protection from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

- **Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990**

The 1990 Order covers the sale of animals at livestock markets and specifically makes it an offence to present an animal at a market that is "unfit". What makes an animal "unfit" is not defined. However, Article 3 of the Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990 provides an interpretation of "unfit" as "in relation to an animal or bird includes infirm by virtue of being diseased, injured or fatigued".

- **The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations**

The 2006 Order (and parallel legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) implements Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations. The Regulation states that no person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way which causes or is likely to cause injury or unnecessary suffering to the animals.

It defines specific conditions which render the animal unfit to transport, such as being newborn, infirm, ill, injured or fatigued or having given birth within the previous 48 hours or likely to give birth during transport.

The Regulation specifies that an unfit animal may be transported under veterinary supervision to the nearest place for veterinary treatment, or the nearest available place of slaughter if the animal is not likely to be subject to unnecessary suffering by reason of its unfitness.

Detailed guidance on the implementation of Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 in the United Kingdom can be found in Rural Affairs Departments' Guidance: www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/welfare/transport/euguidance/guidance.htm.

● **The Hygiene Regulations**

The following three Regulations are known collectively as the Hygiene Regulations:

- Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs sets out rules for all food business operators, including farmers (H1).
- Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 sets out specific rules for food of animal origin - including rules for slaughterhouse operators (H2).
- Regulation (EC) No. 854/2004 sets out specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption - including rules for Official Veterinary Surgeons (OVs) in slaughterhouses (H3).

These Regulations are implemented in England by The Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2005 (as amended) and by similar regulations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

● **The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (WASK) as amended, The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1996**

These regulations implement EU Council Directive 93/119/EC and provide for the humane treatment of animals at slaughterhouses, knackers yards and elsewhere. The Regulations define slaughter as causing the death of an animal by bleeding, and killing as causing death by any means other than slaughter.

● **TSE Legislation**

Regulation (EU) No. 999/2001 (as amended) sets out the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) controls including those for Specified Risk Materials (SRM) and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) testing. The arrangements for its interpretation and enforcement are set out in the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies (England) Regulations 2008 (as amended) and equivalent regulations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Further information, including links to the TSE legislation, is available on the FSA web site at: www.food.gov.uk/safereating/animaldiseases/bse/what/beef/controls

NOTES

NOTES

BCVA Office
The Green
Frampton-on-Severn
Gloucestershire
GL2 7EP

Tel: 01452 740816
Fax: 01452 741117
E-mail: office@cattlevet.co.uk

www.bcva.org.uk

Date of Edition: March 2010