1954 No. 1584

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) Regulations, 1954

Made - - - -	*26th November*, 1954
Laid before Parliament	*30th November*, 1954
Coming into Operation	*1st December*, 1954

The Minister of Food, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 2 of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954(a), and of all other powers him enabling in that behalf, hereby makes the following regulations:—

PART I

Commencement, Citation and Interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations shall come into operation on the 1st day of December, 1954: Provided that regulations 3, 4, 7, 14 and 21 to 23, all inclusive, shall come into operation on the 1st day of July, 1955.

(2) These regulations may be cited as the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (No. 2) Regulations, 1954.

2.—(1) In these regulations—

"animal" means any horse, bull, cow, bullock, heifer, calf, steer, ox, sheep, ewe, wether, ram, lamb, pig, boar, hog, sow, goat or kid.

"contravention" in relation to any provision of these regulations, includes a failure to comply with that provision.

"horse" includes ass and mule.

"knacker's yard" means any building, premises or place used in connection with the business of killing animals the flesh of which is not intended for sale for human consumption; and "knacker" means a person whose business is to kill animals the flesh of which is not intended for sale for human consumption.

"lairage" means any premises or yard used for the confinement of animals awaiting slaughter, and, for the purposes of regulations 5 and 6 hereof includes a field so used.

"mechanically-operated instrument" includes an instrument for stunning by means of electricity.

"slaughterhall" means that part of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard in which the actual slaughtering of any animal or the dressing of carcases takes place.

"slaughterhouse" means any building, premises or place used in connection with the business of killing animals the flesh of which is intended for sale for human consumption.

(2) The Interpretation Act, 1889(b), applies to the interpretation of these regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.

(a) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 59. (b) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

PART II

Construction, lay-out and equipment of Lairages and Slaughterhalls

3. The occupier of a lairage shall cause the following requirements to be complied with:—

(*a*) The lairage shall be suitable for its purpose and adequate in size and construction for the number of animals laired therein.

(*b*) The lairage shall be so constructed as to provide shelter from the sun and adverse weather for every animal laired therein.

(*c*) The lairage shall be so constructed, and the floor thereof so channelled, as to enable it to be thoroughly cleansed.

(*d*) The lairage shall be provided with adequate racks, mangers or other suitable equipment to contain food, and with adequate drinking troughs, for all animals laired therein; such racks, mangers, equipment and troughs to be fixed if reasonably practicable.

(*e*) The lairage shall be adequately ventilated and shall be adequately lighted for the proper conduct of all operations therein and to enable these regulations to be complied with.

4. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard, as the case may be, shall cause—

(*a*) the walls of the slaughterhall to be so constructed and the floor so channelled as to enable any blood and waste matter to be satisfactorily swilled away;

(*b*) the slaughterhall to be adequately lighted for the proper conduct of all operations therein and to enable these regulations to be complied with.

PART III

Conditions to be observed in lairages

5. The occupier of a lairage shall cause every animal on arrival in the lairage and at all times while awaiting slaughter to be provided with a sufficient quantity of wholesome water.

6.—(1) When it is necessary to confine in a lairage any animal for a period exceeding twelve hours, the occupier of the lairage shall cause the animal to be provided with a sufficient quantity of suitable food in each morning and each afternoon during which it is so confined (including that in which it is brought into confinement):

Provided that no person shall be liable for a contravention of the foregoing provision—

(*a*) in the case of any animal, by reason of its not having been fed in the morning or afternoon in which it is slaughtered; or

(*b*) in the case of an animal, other than a horse, which is slaughtered for butcher's meat, or as to which it is proved that it was intended that it should be so slaughtered, in any morning or afternoon, by reason of its not having been fed in the preceding afternoon, or in the preceding morning, as the case may be; or

(*c*) in the case of a horse which is slaughtered for butcher's meat, or as to which it is proved that it was intended that it should be so slaughtered, in any afternoon, by reason of its not having been fed in the preceding morning.

(2) In this regulation the expressions "morning" and "afternoon" mean the periods of twelve hours ending and beginning respectively with mid-day; and consecutive periods of confinement shall count as one continuous period.

7. No person shall deposit or cause to be deposited any fodder in a lairage otherwise than in the racks, mangers or other suitable equipment provided for the purpose.

8. The occupier of a lairage shall cause—

(*a*) suitable bedding to be provided in the lairage for animals held therein overnight;

(*b*) the lairage to be kept clean.

PART IV

General conditions to be observed in Slaughterhouses and Knackers' Yards

9. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure that no blood or other refuse from a slaughterhall shall be deposited in or allowed to flow into any lairage, and shall ensure that so far as is practicable the blood and refuse shall be removed from the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard in such a way that animals awaiting slaughter cannot see or smell such blood or refuse.

10. Every person engaged in driving or bringing any animal to the place of slaughter shall—

(*a*) avoid, so far as is practicable, driving or bringing an animal over any ground or floor the condition or nature of which is likely to cause the animal to slip or fall;

(*b*) adopt such methods and precautions as will prevent the infliction upon the animal of unnecessary suffering or pain.

11.—(1) Except where the animal is confined in a stunning pen, every person shall before proceeding to stun any bull, ox, bullock, cow, heifer or steer, cause the head of each such animal to be securely fastened in such a position as to enable the animal to be stunned with as little pain and suffering as possible.

(2) Every person shall in the process of slaughtering any animal use such instruments or appliances for the purpose and adopt such methods of slaughter and otherwise take such precautions as may be requisite to secure that as little pain and suffering as possible is inflicted.

12.—(1) No person shall slaughter any animal in a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard in the sight of any other animal awaiting slaughter:

Provided that, as respects slaughter in the sight of any animal other than a horse, the above provision shall not apply in a slaughterhouse constructed before 1st July, 1955, where major structural alterations, or such structural alterations as would impede the efficient working of the slaughterhouse, would be necessary to prevent it.

(2) For the purposes of this regulation slaughter does not include stunning by means of electricity.

13. No person shall use any instrument for slaughtering or stunning any animal unless his ability and physical condition at the time qualify him to use it without inflicting unnecessary pain on the animal, nor shall he use a mechanically-operated instrument in such manner or in such circumstances or in such need of repair as to give rise to the risk of causing unnecessary suffering.

14. No person shall slaughter any animal by the Jewish or Mohammedan method without the use of a casting pen of the Weinberg or Dyne type or such other type as may be approved by the Minister.

15. The occupier of a slaughterhouse, knacker's yard or lairage, as the case may be, shall cause—

(*a*) any animal which is in pain on arrival or subsequently at the slaughterhouse, knacker's yard or lairage to be slaughtered without delay;

(*b*) an animal, as far as practicable, to be slaughtered in the lairage if moving it therefrom causes it suffering;

(*c*) any animal showing signs of illness or disability not necessitating immediate slaughter to be, so far as is practicable, isolated pending slaughter;

(*d*) an animal too young to take swill or solid food to be slaughtered as soon as practicable after arrival.

PART V

Special provisions for Knackers' Yards

16. Every person who shall carry on, or assist in carrying on, the trade or business of a knacker shall observe and conform to the regulations set out in this Part of these regulations.

17. No horse shall be used or employed for any work after it has been delivered to a knacker's yard or lairage.

18. Every animal delivered to a knacker's yard or lairage shall be slaughtered within two days from the time of delivery.

19. The knacker shall not sell or part with alive or cause or permit any person to sell or part with alive any animal which has been delivered to his knacker's yard or lairage.

20. No person who is under the age of fifteen years shall be admitted to, or be permitted to remain in, the knacker's yard during the process of slaughtering or of cutting up the carcase of any animal.

PART VI

Additional provisions for horses

21. The occupier of a lairage of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard used for the slaughter of horses shall cause such a lairage to be so constructed and situated in relation to the normal place of slaughter as to render it impossible for any horse in the lairage to see any horse being slaughtered.

22. The occupier of a lairage of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard in which horses are slaughtered shall cause such a lairage to be fitted with an adequate number of permanently fixed partitions and shall not cause or permit more than one horse to be laired between two consecutive partitions; and shall cause the lairage to contain not less than one loose box.

23. The occupier of such a lairage as aforesaid shall ensure that no horse shall be laired loose in any yard or place other than a field except that not more than one horse or two ponies or two foals may be kept loose in a suitable loose box.

24. No person shall slaughter a horse in any room or other place where there is a horse or any remains of a horse or of any other animal.

25. The occupier of any slaughterhouse or knacker's yard where horses are slaughtered which is constructed after the coming into force of these regulations shall provide and maintain therein a separate room or bay for the slaughter of horses; and no person shall dress any carcase in any such room or bay.

PART VII

Notices, Records and Returns

26. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard where horses are slaughtered shall notify the local authority which has licensed the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard of every place where horses intended for slaughter or awaiting slaughter are kept by him or on his behalf.

27. The occupier of every slaughterhouse where horses are slaughtered or, in the case of a public slaughterhouse, a duly appointed officer of the local authority shall keep an accurate record of all horses or carcases of horses received into the slaughterhouse showing:—

(*a*) the date on which the horse or carcase is received into the slaughterhouse, and, in the case of a horse, the date of the slaughter thereof in the slaughterhouse;

(*b*) the name and address of the person on whose behalf the horse was slaughtered or, as the case may be, from whom the horse or carcase has been purchased by the occupier of the slaughterhouse, whether on his own behalf or on behalf of some other person;

such record to be entered in ink or indelible pencil in a book kept specifically for the purpose within 24 hours of the slaughter of the animal or of the carcase coming into the possession of the occupier of the slaughterhouse, as the case may be.

28. The occupier of every slaughterhouse used for the slaughter of horses shall during the month of January in each year render to the local authority a return in respect of the preceding calendar year showing the total number of horses slaughtered, the place at which they were slaughtered and the total number of carcases of horses received during that year; the first return as aforesaid to be rendered in January, 1956.

29. Every occupier of a knacker's yard shall keep in respect of it an accurate record of all animals and carcases received into the yard showing:—

(*a*) the category or description of each animal or carcase so received;

(*b*) the date the animal or carcase is received into the yard and the date of the slaughter of the animal;

(*c*) the name and address of the person on whose behalf the animal was slaughtered or, as the case may be, from whom the animal or carcase has been purchased by the occupier of the yard, whether on his own behalf or on behalf of some other person;

such record to be entered in ink or indelible pencil in a book kept specifically for the purpose within 24 hours of the slaughter of the animal or of the carcase coming into the possession of the occupier of the knacker's yard, as the case may be.

30. The occupier of every knacker's yard shall during the month of January in each year render to the local authority a return in respect of the preceding calendar year showing the total number of horses slaughtered, the place at which they were slaughtered and the total number of carcases of horses received during that year; the first return as aforesaid to be rendered in January, 1956.

31.—(1) Where under any byelaw made by a local authority the occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard keeps a record of animals brought into it and of the manner in which these animals and the different parts thereof are disposed of, the retention by that occupier of that record, shall as respects the particulars mentioned therein, be a sufficient compliance with the provisions of regulations 27 and 29 hereof.

(2) Every such record as is specified in regulations 27 and 29 hereof shall be retained for not less than one year from the date of the transaction to which it relates.

32. Any record required to be kept by the foregoing regulations shall be kept readily available at the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard, and shall be produced for inspection at all reasonable times on request by an authorised officer of the local authority or of the Minister.

PART VIII

Penalties and Revocation

33. If any person contravenes any of the provisions of these regulations he shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or to both:

Provided that a person shall not be guilty of an offence in respect of any such contravention as aforesaid if he proves that by reason of an accident or other emergency the contravention was necessary for preventing physical injury or suffering to any person or animal.

34. Where any person convicted of an offence in respect of any contravention as aforesaid (including a person so convicted by virtue of section 35 of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952(**a**)) is the holder of a licence granted under section 57 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938(**b**), in respect of the premises where the offence was committed, the court may, in addition to any other penalty, cancel the licence.

35. The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1954(**c**), are hereby revoked.

D. Heathcoat Amory,
Minister of Food.

Dated the 26th day of November, 1954.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations, but is intended to indicate their general purport.)

The Regulations which are made under section 2 of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954, are designed to secure humane conditions and practices in connection with the slaughter of animals at slaughterhouses and knackers' yards. They give statutory effect to certain of the recommendations of the Committee of Inquiry into the Slaughter of Horses (Cmd. 8925) and re-enact certain provisions of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1954 (S.I. 1954 No. 1280) which are now revoked.

(**a**) 15 & 16 Geo. 6 & 1 Eliz. 2. c. 55. (**b**) 1 & 2 Geo. 6. c. 56. (**c**) S.I. 1954/1280.