1955 No. 1993 (S. 151)

The Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Scotland) Regulations, 1955

Made - - - -	*29th December,* 1955
Laid before Parliament	*6th January,* 1956
Coming into Operation	*1st July,* 1956

In exercise of the powers conferred on me by sections 2 and 3 of the Slaughter of Animals (Amendment) Act, 1954(a), and of all other powers enabling me in that behalf, I hereby make the following regulations :—

PART I

Citation, Commencement and Interpretation

1.—(1) These regulations may be cited as the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Scotland) Regulations, 1955.

(2) These regulations shall come into operation on the first day of July, 1956.

2.—(1) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

" animal " means cattle, sheep, goats, swine and horses, and " horses " includes asses and mules ;

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

" knacker " means a person whose business it is to kill any animal the flesh of which is not intended for sale for human consumption, and " knacker's yard " means any building or place used for the purpose of such business ;

" lairage " means any premises or yard used for the confinement of animals awaiting slaughter forming part of or used in connection with a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and, for the purposes of Regulation 5 and of paragraph (*b*) of Regulation 14 of these regulations, includes a field so used ;

" occupier " means—

(*a*) in relation to a slaughterhouse provided by a local authority, that local authority ;

(*b*) in relation to any other slaughterhouse, the person registered in respect thereof under section 9 of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1954(b) ; and

(*c*) in relation to a knacker's yard, the person licensed in respect thereof under section 33 of the Public Health (Scotland) Act, 1897(c) ;

(a) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 59. (b) 2 & 3 Eliz. 2. c. 42. (c) 60 & 61 Vict. c. 38.

" 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 any carcase is carried out ;

" slaughterhouse " means any building or place used for slaughtering animals, the flesh of which is intended for sale for human consumption.

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

PART II

Construction and equipment of slaughterhouses and knackers' yards

3. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure—

(*a*) that the lairage therein is—

(i) adequate in size and construction for the number and kind of animals confined therein ;

(ii) so constructed as to provide shelter from the sun and from adverse weather for all animals confined therein ;

(iii) kept in good repair ;

(iv) so constructed as to enable the floor to be properly drained and cleaned ;

(v) fitted with drinking troughs, racks, mangers or other similar equipment adequate in number and size for the watering and feeding of all animals confined in the said lairage, and so constructed and placed that they can readily be filled and cannot readily be fouled ;

(vi) adequately ventilated ; and

(vii) adequately lighted for the proper conduct of all operations therein :

(*b*) that any field which is used in connection with the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and in which any animal awaiting slaughter is confined contains adequate drinking facilities for such animal :

(*c*) that the surface of any part of the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard over which any animal awaiting slaughter has to pass is so constructed and so kept as to minimise the risk of the animal slipping thereon and in particular that such surface is sanded in frosty weather ;

(*d*) that the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard is so constructed that no animal in the lairage is able to see into the slaughterhall :

(*e*) that the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard is so constructed as to ensure that the blood of a slaughtered animal does not flow from the slaughterhall into the lairage.

PART III

Conditions to be observed in connection with the confinement and treatment of animals awaiting slaughter

4. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure—

(*a*) that so far as is practicable the lairage is kept clean ; and

(*b*) that offal or refuse from the slaughterhall is not deposited in the lairage.

(a) 52 & 53 Vict. c. 63.

5. Any person having for the time being the care of any animal in a lairage shall ensure—

(*a*) that a sufficient supply of wholesome water is made available to the animal on arrival at the lairage and at all times thereafter while awaiting slaughter; and

(*b*) that a sufficient quantity of wholesome food is made available to the animal on arrival at the lairage and twice daily thereafter until slaughtered, provided that no animal need be fed within twelve hours before the time at which it is slaughtered.

6. Any person having for the time being in a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard the care of any animal which is not to be slaughtered on the day on which it arrives at the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure that the animal is provided with suitable bedding.

7. No person shall—

(*a*) keep animals in a lairage, or in a field used for keeping animals awaiting slaughter, in such numbers as to cause suffering to the animals;

(*b*) keep in a field any animal awaiting slaughter, when the weather or the state of the field is likely to cause suffering to the animal.

8. The occupier of any slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure that within the lairage—

(*a*) animals of one kind are kept apart from animals of another kind;

(*b*) horned or fractious animals are kept apart from other animals; and

(*c*) if two or more horned or fractious animals are kept together, they are so secured that they cannot injure one another.

9.—(1) If any person contravenes any of the provisions of Regulations 5 to 8 inclusive of these regulations an authorised officer of the local authority in whose area the contravention occurs may having regard to the provisions of the said Regulations 5 to 8 take such action as is necessary for the prevention of cruelty to any animal and such local authority may recover from such person any expenses incurred by their authorised officer in taking such action.

(2) In this Regulation "authorised officer" means the superintendent of a public slaughterhouse, any veterinary surgeon employed by the local authority, or any officer specially authorised by the local authority for the purposes of this Regulation.

PART IV

Conditions to be observed in connection with the slaughter of animals

10.—(1) Any person engaged in driving or bringing any animal to the place of slaughter or in handling an animal prior to slaughter shall adopt such methods and precautions as will prevent the infliction upon the animal of unnecessary suffering or pain.

(2) Without prejudice to the foregoing generality no person shall stun any bull, ox, bullock, cow, heifer or steer unless—

(*a*) it is confined in a stunning pen, or

(*b*) its head is securely fastened in such a position that it may be stunned with as little pain and suffering as possible.

11. Any person engaged in the slaughter of an animal shall ensure that the animal is killed immediately after it has been stunned.

12. No person shall—

(*a*) use any instrument tor slaughtering or stunning any animal unless his ability and physical condition qualify him to use such instrument without inflicting unnecessary pain on the animal, or

(*b*) use a mechanically-operated instrument in such manner or in such circumstances as to give rise to the risk of causing unnecessary suffering to the animal.

13. No person shall slaughter any bull, ox, bullock, cow, heifer or steer 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 Secretary of State.

14. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure—

(*a*) that any animal which is awaiting slaughter in the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and which is in pain is slaughtered without delay;

(*b*) that any animal which is confined in a lairage and which would suffer unnecessary pain if removed therefrom is slaughtered in the lairage;

(*c*) that any sick or disabled animal awaiting slaughter in the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard is kept apart from other animals;

(*d*) that any animal which is awaiting slaughter in the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard and which is too young to take swill or solid food is slaughtered as soon as practicable after its arrival there.

PART V

Qualifications of slaughtermen

15. Any licence granted (otherwise than by way of renewal of an existing licence) to any person by a local authority under section 2 of the Slaughter of Animals (Scotland) Act, 1928(**a**) may, unless that person has been employed as a slaughterman for at least one year and has passed to the satisfaction of that or any other local authority a test of his ability to slaughter animals with the infliction of as little pain and suffering as possible, be subject to a condition that he shall not slaughter any animal except under the supervision of a person holding a licence in force under the said section which is not subject to a like condition.

PART VI

Special provisions for knackers' yards

16. No person shall use for any work a horse which has been delivered to a knacker.

17.—(1) A knacker shall not sell or part with alive any animal which has been delivered to him, and he shall not cause or permit any person to sell or part with alive any such animal.

(2) Every animal delivered to a knacker shall be slaughtered within two days from the time of delivery.

(a) 18 & 19 Geo. 5. c. 29.

(3) The foregoing provisions of this Regulation shall not apply to an animal which is delivered by a knacker to a veterinary teaching school or research institution.

(4) For the purposes of this Regulation an animal shall be deemed to have been delivered to a knacker if it has been delivered to any person on his behalf or to his knacker's yard.

PART VII

Special provisions for horses

18. The occupier of a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard in which horses are slaughtered shall ensure—

(*a*) that the lairage therein in which horses are confined is divided into stalls by means of permanently fixed partitions so constructed as to minimise the danger of any horse injuring itself or any other animal confined within the said lairage;

(*b*) that the said lairage contains at least one loose box;

(*c*) that if the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard is constructed or adapted for use as such after the date on which these regulations come into operation there is provided therein a separate room or bay to be used for the slaughter of horses and for no other purpose.

19.—(1) Any person having for the time being the care of any horse within a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard shall ensure that the horse is either kept in a loose box or securely tied up in a stall.

(2) In any slaughterhouse or knacker's yard no person shall—

(*a*) keep more than one horse or two ponies or two foals in a loose box, or

(*b*) keep more than one horse in a stall.

20. No person shall in a slaughterhouse or knacker's yard slaughter a horse in a room or bay in which there are any remains of a horse or other animal, or within the sight of any other horse:

Provided that the provisions of this Regulation shall not apply in the case of a horse slaughtered in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (*a*) or paragraph (*b*) of Regulation 14 of these regulations.

PART VIII

Notices, records and returns

21.—(1) The occupier of a slaughterhouse in which horses are slaughtered shall keep a record of all horses or carcases of horses received into the slaughterhouse showing—

(*a*) the date on which each horse or carcase was received into the slaughterhouse, and the date on which each horse was slaughtered; and

(*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 or received by the occupier of the slaughterhouse.

(2) The occupier of a slaughterhouse other than a local authority and the occupier of a knacker's yard shall during the month of January in each year render to the local authority of the area in which the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard is situated a return showing the total number of horses slaughtered therein during the year ending on the immediately preceding thirty-first day of December.

22. The occupier of a knacker's yard shall keep a record of all animals and carcases received into his knackers' yard showing—

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

(*b*) the date on which the animal or carcase was received into the knacker's yard and the date on which the animal was slaughtered;

(*c*) the name and address of the person from whom the animal or carcase was purchased or received by the occupier of the yard.

23. Every record kept in accordance with the provisions of Regulations 21 and 22 of these regulations shall be retained by the occupier of the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard, as the case may be, for not less than two years from the date of the transaction to which the record relates.

24. Every record kept in accordance with the provisions of Regulations 21 and 22 of these regulations shall be readily available at the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard to which it relates and shall be produced by the occupier thereof for inspection at all reasonable times on request by an officer authorised in that behalf by the local authority of the area in which the slaughterhouse or knacker's yard is situated or by the Secretary of State.

PART IX

Penalties

25.—(1) If any person contravenes any of the provisions of these regulations he shall be guilty of an offence:

Provided that such 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.

(2) Any person guilty of an offence against these regulations shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both such fine or imprisonment.

Dated this 29th day of December, 1955.

James Stuart,
One of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State.

St. Andrew's House,
Edinburgh, 1.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

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

The regulations, which are made under sections 2 and 3 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. In addition they prescribe the circumstances in which a local authority may impose a condition in a slaughterman's licence that he shall not slaughter an animal except under supervision.