

## Casualty slaughter - guidance for farmers and hauliers

Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006

You **must not** transport an animal unless it is **fit** for the intended journey and suitable provision has been made for its care during the journey and on arrival at its destination.

In particular, an animal is not considered fit for its intended journey if it is: **ILL, INJURED, INFIRM or FATIGUED**. However, where its condition is only 'slight', the animal may be transported providing the intended journey is not likely to cause unnecessary suffering.

No animal may be loaded by **DRAGGING OR PUSHING BY ANY MEANS**, or **LIFTED BY A MECHANICAL DEVICE** except under **DIRECT VETERINARY SUPERVISION** for transport to the nearest available place for **VETERINARY TREATMENT**.

IF IN DOUBT ABOUT FITNESS TO TRAVEL, CONSULT A VETERINARY SURGEON.

NOTE: There is no obligation for a slaughterhouse to accept casualty animals.

### The Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2006

**A LIVE ANIMAL** (if fit to be transported), known or suspected to be injured or showing signs of abnormality, **MUST BE ACCOMPANIED to a SLAUGHTERHOUSE by a FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION DECLARATION**, completed by the owner or person in charge of the animal. This declaration identifies the animal and any veterinary medicinal products or other treatments administered to it within the last six months, including dates of administration and withdrawal periods. The diseases status of the holding must also be declared; see [Food chain information declaration form - Appendix 1](#).

You must confirm your intention to send a live casualty animal to a slaughterhouse prior to transporting it, to ensure that the slaughterhouse operator will accept the animal, and that an Official Veterinarian (OV) will be available to carry out post-mortem examination. The Food Chain Information Declaration must be handed to the OV on arrival at the slaughterhouse.

Live casualty sheep/pigs must also be accompanied by an AML1/AML2 movement document. This is the responsibility of the keeper.

**ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED OUTSIDE A LICENSED SLAUGHTERHOUSE** will only be eligible for human consumption if they were otherwise healthy animals that have suffered an accident and are unable to be transported live to a slaughterhouse for welfare reasons. Such animals must be examined by a veterinary surgeon ante mortem and must then be accompanied by an **EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER DECLARATION** completed by the animal owner (or his agent) and the veterinary surgeon who examined the animal subject to emergency slaughter; see [Emergency slaughter declaration form - Appendix 2](#).

You must confirm your intention to send an animal subject to emergency

slaughter with the slaughterhouse operator, to ensure that it will be accepted and that an OV will be available to carry out post-mortem examination. The Emergency Slaughter Declaration must be handed to the OV upon arrival at the slaughterhouse. An Emergency Slaughter Declaration provides no guarantee that the OV will not identify any deficiencies that would make the meat unfit for human consumption.

Removal of the stomach and intestines, but no other dressing, may take place at the point of slaughter. Any viscera removed must accompany the slaughtered animal to the slaughterhouse and be identified as belonging to that animal.

The slaughtered animal must be transported to the slaughterhouse hygienically and without undue delay. If it is likely that more than two hours will elapse between slaughter and arrival at the slaughterhouse, the body must be transported in a refrigerated vehicle.

Bovine animals over 24 months of age that have undergone emergency slaughter must have a Brain Stem Sample (BSS) taken for BSE testing purposes. Care should be taken to ensure that severe damage to the brain stem is avoided, as failure to obtain a suitable BSS will render the animal ineligible for the food chain.

This leaflet is not an authoritative interpretation of the law and is intended only for guidance.

For further information, please contact **Environmental Protection, Animal Health Section, Swindon Borough Council, Premier House, Station Road, SN1 1TZ**

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