

The slaughter of cattle for private consumption by the owner

This leaflet outlines whether or not an owner is permitted to kill cattle for private consumption. It depends on the cattle's **date of birth**, whether it has a valid **cattle passport** and whether the slaughter takes place outside or inside a **licensed slaughterhouse**.

Cattle born on or after 2/8/1996

** Can be slaughtered for private consumption, whether they have a valid cattle passport or not.*

The slaughter can only be carried out in a licensed slaughterhouse if there is a valid cattle passport for the beast. If the beast is over 30 months of age, it can only be slaughtered in a slaughterhouse which has been approved for the slaughter and testing of over 30 month old cattle, or outside a licensed slaughterhouse (e.g. on a farm).

If slaughtered on a holding, they do not require a valid passport to be eligible for private consumption.

Cattle born before 1/8/1996

** Can be slaughtered for private consumption outside a licensed slaughterhouse (e.g. on a farm).*

However, the slaughter **cannot** be carried out in a licensed slaughterhouse.

Cattle refused / with no passport

Cattle refused passports and issued with a Registration Document (CPP35), or without a passport, can only be moved alive, from a farm to a knackers yard, a hunt kennel, or be sent direct to an OCDS designated abattoir (no payment will be received). All of these movements will require a licence from DEFRA/BCMS.

Slaughter outside a licensed slaughterhouse (e.g. on a farm)

If an animal is to be slaughtered outside a licensed slaughterhouse (e.g. on a farm), the owner **MUST** observe the following six requirements:

* The animals must be killed humanely, in accordance with the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter and Killing) Regulations 1995.

* The owner must stain, store, dispose of, etc the **Specified Risk Material** in accordance with the TSE Regulations. Definitions of SRM will depend on the age of the animal being slaughtered.

* Animal by-products must be disposed of in accordance with the Animal By-Products Regulations 2005. This is all slaughter waste not destined for human consumption or classed as SRM, including the horns, hides, hooves, and blood.

* The spinal column must not be split. It must be removed whole and disposed of as SRM.

* The carcass, or any product of animal origin, must not be offered for sale to a third party or the public. This includes giving away to friends, relatives, etc.

* The beast must be free of veterinary medicine residues.

Cattle slaughtered by mobile slaughterhouse operators

Operators of mobile slaughterhouses will dispose of SRM and animal by-products in accordance with DEFRA requirements on behalf of the owner.

It is up to the owner whether the carcass is jointed for him/her by the mobile slaughterhouse operator or jointed by a butcher on the farm.

No part of the animal or animal by-product can be sold or given away to a third party or the public

Passports must be returned by the keeper of the animal, to the British Cattle Movement Service within seven days of slaughter.

Please note

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**

Telephone – (01793) 466068

Review Date – 12 June 2007