

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

REGULATIONS  
(under section 14)

## THE PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT INSPECTION) REGULATIONS, 1989

(Made by the Minister on the 15th day of August, 1989)

L.N. 44/89

[15th August, 1989.]

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Public Health (Meat Inspection) Regulations, 1989.

2. In these Regulations, unless the context otherwise requires—

“animals” means cattle, swine, sheep and goats;

“blood” means the blood derived from an animal;

“carcass” means the body of a slaughtered animal which has been bled and dressed;

“inspector” means a Public Health Inspector or any other person designated by the Minister for the purpose of these Regulations from persons who by training and experience are, in his opinion, qualified to be so designated;

“offal” means any part of a slaughtered animal removed from the carcass in the process of dressing it;

“slaughterhouse” means a place for slaughtering animals which are intended for human consumption.

3.—(1) Subject to the provisions of these Regulations, no person shall slaughter, or cause to be slaughtered, any animal for human consumption unless such person has, not less than twenty-four hours before the time of slaughter, informed the Local Board of Health within whose district the place of slaughter is situated, of the day and time and place on which the slaughter will take place.

(2) This regulation shall not apply—

(a) in any case where an animal is slaughtered in a public slaughterhouse under the management of a Parish Council or the Council of the Kingston and St. Andrew Corporation; or

(b) in any case where by reason of accidental injury, illness, exposure to infection or other emergency affecting the animal it is necessary that the animal should be slaughtered without delay.

(3) Where because of an emergency an animal has been slaughtered without delay, the Local Board of Health shall be informed of the slaughter as soon as reasonably possible thereafter.

4. On receipt of a notification pursuant to regulation 3, the Local Board of Health shall arrange for an inspector to make an inspection in accordance with these Regulations.

5. Every animal to be slaughtered for human consumption (except an animal slaughtered because of an emergency) and the carcass, offal and blood of the animal slaughtered shall be inspected by an inspector in accordance with these Regulations.

6. No carcass, offal or blood of any animal shall be sold for human consumption unless it has been passed fit for human consumption and marked by an inspector who has carried out an inspection in accordance with these Regulations.

7.—(1) In determining whether he is satisfied that an animal is fit to be slaughtered for human consumption or that the carcass, offal or blood of the animal is so fit, the inspector shall have regard to the provisions of Schedule I to these Regulations.

Schedule I.

(2) For the purpose of an inspection under these Regulations of the carcass, offal or blood of any animal, the inspector may take samples from such carcass, offal or blood for submission for laboratory examination.

(3) Proper identification shall be made by the inspector of any samples taken for laboratory examination and the sample shall be accompanied by any explanatory information as may be necessary.

(4) Care shall be taken of samples to ensure that they arrive at the laboratory in good condition.

8. Every person who slaughters or causes to be slaughtered any animal intended for human consumption shall ensure that the carcass is dressed immediately after the animal has been slaughtered and the following provisions are complied with—

- (a) that the carcass is dressed and treated in such a manner as not to prevent or hinder inspection in accordance with these Regulations;
- (b) that no action is taken which might alter or destroy any evidence of disease except on the instructions of the inspectors;
- (c) that the offal and blood, after removal from the carcass, are so kept as to remain readily identifiable with the carcass, until these have been inspected by the inspector;
- (d) that any blood intended for human consumption is collected and placed in a clean receptacle provided by the person for that purpose.

9. Subject to these Regulations, no person shall remove or cause or permit to be removed from a slaughterhouse or other place of slaughter any carcass or part thereof or any offal or blood of any animal slaughtered therein unless it has been inspected in accordance with these Regulations and passed fit for human consumption by the inspector and in the case of any carcass or part of a carcass, until it has been marked in accordance with regulation 10.

10.—(1) Where after inspection in accordance with these Regulations an inspector is satisfied that a carcass, or part of a carcass, is fit for human consumption, he shall stamp the carcass, or part thereof as the case may be, with a mark of the kind and in the appropriate manner described in Schedule II of these Regulations.

Schedule II.

(2) Where an inspector is not satisfied in relation to any part of a carcass, he shall not mark the carcass or any part thereof until the part in relation to which he is not satisfied is removed.

(3) No person other than an inspector shall, in relation to any carcass or part of a carcass, make use of any mark described in Schedule II of these Regulations or make any mark resembling a mark described in Schedule II as to be calculated to deceive.

11.—(1) If any animal carcass, blood or offal appears to the inspector to be diseased or otherwise unfit for human consumption the inspector shall condemn same and cause it to be seized and destroyed or otherwise disposed of or dealt with so as to prevent it from being exposed for sale or used for human consumption:

Provided that if any animal carcass, blood or offal is seized by the inspector and the owner or person in possession of such carcass, blood or offal is dissatisfied with such seizure, such owner or person may forthwith appeal to the Veterinary Officer of the district or his deputy to view the animal or part thus seized, and if in the opinion of the Veterinary Officer of the district or his deputy such animal or part is not diseased, unsound or unfit for human consumption, he shall give a written certificate to that effect to such owner or person whereupon the animal or parts shall be returned.

(2) Unless an appeal is made within six hours after seizure under paragraph (1), any such seizure and subsequent destruction of animal carcass, offal or blood shall be deemed and taken for all purposes to have been legally effective.

12. Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with any of the provisions of these Regulations shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable, on summary conviction before a Resident Magistrate's Court, to a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding twelve months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

SCHEDULE I

(Regulation 7)

PART I. *Inspection of Animals to be slaughtered*

1. Except in emergency cases, all animals shall be inspected within 24 hours of being slaughtered.
2. When examining an animal the inspector shall have regard to—
  - (a) its manner of standing and movement;
  - (b) its state of nutrition;
  - (c) its reaction to the environment;
  - (d) the condition of its hide, skin, hair or wool;
  - (e) its digestive system (salivation, urination, consistency and colour of faeces);
  - (f) the appearance of the urino-genital system, including the vulva, mammary glands, prepuce and scrotum;
  - (g) any swelling, injuries or aedema;
  - (h) any deformity or other abnormality;
  - (i) any sign of disease;
  - (j) its body temperature;
  - (k) its sex and age;
  - (l) its state of cleanliness.
3. When an animal is suspected of having a disease, a blood specimen should be taken and examined.
4. Attention should also be paid to any site of predilection of a disease or disease symptom on the animal.
5. Where the inspection has revealed no evidence of any abnormal condition or disease the inspector shall release the animal for slaughter and shall issue a certificate to this effect.
6. If during the inspection of an animal any disease or condition is noted by the inspector which does not prevent the animal from being slaughtered, the animal shall be released for slaughter but the inspector shall make a note of the disease or condition on the certificate issued.
- 7.—(1) Where the inspector is doubtful as to whether an animal has a disease or condition which should prevent it from being slaughtered for human consumption, the inspector may—
  - (a) isolate the animal in a pen set aside for this purpose for detailed examination, observation or treatment which treatment should be done away from the slaughterhouse; or
  - (b) release the animal for slaughter under special conditions so as to avoid contamination of the personnel, premises, equipment or any other animal.
- (2) If the animal is released under paragraph (1) (b), a note to this effect should be placed on the certificate issued by the inspector on release of the animal for slaughter.

SCHEDULE 1, *contd.*PART I, *contd.*

8. Where there are signs which indicate that an animal is suffering from a disease or condition rendering it unfit for human consumption, the inspector may—

- (a) condemn it as unfit for human consumption; or
- (b) place it under special conditions to enable it to be further examined before reaching his decision.

9. Animals which have been condemned by the inspector as being unfit to be slaughtered for human consumption shall be dealt with as provided under regulation.

PART II. *Inspection of offals, carcasses and blood**General*

1. The inspector shall satisfy himself as to the sanitary condition of any premises where an animal was slaughtered and the equipment and facilities used or provided for the purpose.

2. Carcasses should be left separate from each other and should be kept in sanitary conditions.

3. Evisceration should be effected without delay.

4. The offal and blood of an animal should be identifiable with its carcass.

5. In the case of a young calf, the inspector may make such lesser examination as seems to him sufficient in the circumstances of the case.

*Examination of different species*

## (A) BOVINES

1. *Inspection of offals*

(a) *Head*—In examining the skinned head of any bovine animal, the inspector shall—

- (a) examine the surface and substance of the tongue and, if necessary, make an incision into the root of the tongue without mutilation of the blade of the tongue;
- (b) inspect the oral and nasal cavities;
- (c) inspect the palate and roof of the mouth and examine in detail (by viewing and multiple incisions) the sub-maxillary, parotid and retropharyngeal lymph nodes;
- (d) view and incise the muscles of mastication and make one or more linear incision parallel into the external muscles of mastication;
- (e) view the lips and gums.

(b) *Gastro-intestinal tract*—The inspector shall examine, if necessary by palpation, the stomachs and the intestines and shall examine the mesenteric lymph nodes. The oesophagus should be separated from its attachment to the trachea and examined.

(c) *Spleen*—He shall examine the organ, if necessary by palpation and incision. If necessary, a smear of the spleen pulp should be taken.

SCHEDULE I, *contd.*PART II, *contd.*

- (d) *Liver*—Examination in detail, and if necessary by palpation, of the organ shall be made. The portal lymph node should be incised unless the inspector is satisfied that it is obviously diseased. The large bile duct should be opened up by incision by him. If necessary, one or more incisions should be made deep enough to open bile ducts and liver substance. The gall bladder should be examined, if necessary by palpation.
- (e) *Lungs*—Examination by palpation of the entire organ shall be made by the inspector. He shall examine by incision of the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes, unless the glands are obviously diseased. If necessary, an incision should be made to open up the larynx, trachea and bronchi. A transverse incision across the lower part of the diaphragmatic lobe should open up the bronchi.
- (f) *Heart*—The pericardium should be opened by the inspector and the heart examined. One or more incisions should be made from base to apex or alternatively the heart may be everted and shallow incisions made so that the cardiac valves and muscle tissue can be inspected.
- (g) *Uterus*—Examination by palpation and, if necessary incision, should be made by the inspector.
- (h) *Udder*—Examination by palpation and, if necessary incision, should be made by the inspector. If the udder has been or is in a lactating state, an incision of the supra-mammary lymph nodes should be made. If the udder is for human consumption, incision of the organ should be made.
- (i) *Kidney*—The inspector shall expose and examine the organ, if necessary by palpation and incision.
- (j) *Testicles*—The inspector shall make examination by palpation if they are to be used for human consumption.

2. *Inspection of carcasses*

- (a) When examining the carcass of a bovine the inspector shall have regard to—
  - (i) its condition;
  - (ii) the efficiency of bleeding;
  - (iii) any abnormal colour;
  - (iv) the condition of serous membranes (pleura and peritoneum);
  - (v) any abnormal odour; and
  - (vi) any other abnormalities.
- (b) The skeletal muscles, including the attached fat and connective tissues, the bones, especially those which have been cut and exposed during the splitting of the carcass, the joints, the tendon sheaths, the diaphragm and pleura and the peritoneum, should be viewed and if necessary, palpated and incised by the inspector. If necessary, the triceps brachii muscle should also be incised by him.
- (c) The following lymph nodes should be examined, palpated and, if necessary, incised—

SCHEDULE I, *contd.*PART II, *contd*

- (i) superficial inguinal (supra-mammary);
- (ii) external and internal iliac;
- (iii) prepectoral;
- (iv) renal;
- (v) prescapular.

- (d) Where the inspector has reasons to suspect that any part of a carcass is infected with tuberculosis or any other disease, he should examine the main carcass lymph nodes.

(B) *Ovines and Caprines**Inspection of the offals*

- (a) *Head*—The head should be skinned and washed clean. If necessary, the base of the tongue should be detached so as to give access to the masticatory muscles and the regional lymph nodes.

The surfaces of the head as well as the nasal and oral cavities should be examined. If necessary, the tongue should be examined, palpated and incised. Lymph nodes should be incised only if necessary.

- (b) *Gastro-intestinal tract*—Examination, if necessary by palpation of the stomachs and intestines, should be made.
- (c) *Spleen*—Examination of the organ if necessary by palpation and incision, should be made.
- (d) *Liver*—Examination by palpation of organ and hepatic lymph nodes, and if necessary incision should be made.

The gall bladder should be examined if necessary, by palpation.

- (e) *Lungs*—Examination by palpation of the entire organ, and, if necessary, incision of the lungs and the bronchia and mediastinal lymph nodes should be made. If necessary, an incision should be made to open the larynx, trachea and bronchi. A transverse incision across the lower part of the diaphragmatic lobe should open up the bronchi.
- (f) *Heart*—The pericardium should be removed and examination, if necessary by incision, made.
- (g) *Uterus*—In adult animals examination, if necessary by palpation, should be made.
- (h) *Udder*—In adult animals examination, if necessary by palpation, should be made.
- (i) *Kidney*—The inspector should expose and examine the organ, if necessary by palpation and incision.
- (j) *Testicles*—Examination should be by palpation if to be used for human consumption.

*Inspection of carcasses*

- (a) When examining the carcass of an Ovine or Caprine, the inspector shall have regard to—



SCHEDULE I, *contd.*PART II, *contd.*

- (i) its condition;
  - (ii) the efficiency of bleeding;
  - (iii) the condition of serous membranes (pleura and peritoneum);
  - (iv) any abnormal colour;
  - (v) any abnormal odour; and
  - (vi) any other abnormalities.
- (b) The skeletal muscles, including the attached fat and connective tissues, the bones, especially those which have been cut and exposed during the splitting of the carcass, the joints, the tendon sheaths, the diaphragm and the pleura and the peritoneum, should be viewed and, if necessary, the triceps brachii muscles should be incised.
- (c) The following lymph nodes should be examined, palpated and, if necessary, incised—
- (a) superficial inguinal (supra-mammary);
  - (b) external and internal iliac;
  - (c) pre-pectoral;
  - (d) renal;
  - (e) prescapular.
- (d) Where the inspector has reason to suspect that any part of the carcass is infected with tuberculosis or any other disease, he should examine the main carcass lymph nodes.
- (C) **PORCINES (Pigs)**
- Inspection of offals*
- (a) **Head**
- (i) the surface of the head as well as the oral and nasal cavities should be examined;
  - (ii) the sub-maxillary lymph nodes should be incised and the cut surfaces examined. The parotid and retropharyngeal lymph nodes should be incised, if necessary;
  - (iii) where *C. cellulosa* is prevalent the outer muscle of mastication, and the root of the tongue should be incised and the blade of the tongue examined and palpated;
  - (iv) the tonsils should be removed, if necessary.
- (b) *Gastro-intestinal tract*—Examination of the stomach and intestines, if necessary by palpation, should be made. Associated lymph nodes should be examined by palpation and, if necessary, by incision. The lymph nodes should be incised if any lesions have been observed in the sub-maxillary lymph nodes.
- (c) *Spleen*—Examination of the organ, if necessary by palpation and incision, should be made.
- (d) *Liver and lymph nodes*—Examination by palpation, if necessary by incision should be made.
- (e) *Lungs*—Examination by palpation of the entire organ, and, if necessary, incision, of the lungs and the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes should be made. If necessary, an incision should be made to open up the larynx, trachea and bronchi. A transverse incision across the lower part of the diaphragmatic lobe should open up the bronchi.

SCHEDULE I, *contd.*PART II, *contd.*

- (f) *Heart*—The pericardium should be removed and examination if necessary by incision made. Where *C. cellulosae* is prevalent, the heart should be opened and a deep incision into the septum should be made.
- (g) *Uterus*—Examination by palpation and, if necessary by incision, should be made.
- (h) *Kidney*—The organ should be exposed and examined, if necessary, by palpation and incision.

*Inspection of carcass*

1. When examining the carcass of a porcine the inspector shall have regard to—
  - (a) its condition;
  - (b) the efficiency of bleeding;
  - (c) the condition of serous membranes (pleura and peritoneum);
  - (d) any abnormal colour;
  - (e) any abnormal odour; and
  - (f) any other abnormalities.
2. The skeletal muscles, including the attached fat and connective tissue, the bones, especially those which have been cut out and exposed during the splitting of the carcass, the joints, the tendon sheaths, the diaphragm and the pleura and the peritoneum should be examined and, if necessary, palpated and incised.
3. The site of castration should be palpated and, if necessary, incised.
4. The following lymph nodes should be examined by palpation and, if necessary, be incised—
  - (a) superficial inguinal (supra-mammary);
  - (b) internal iliac;
  - (c) renal;
  - (d) prescapular.
5. When a systematic or generalized disease is suspected, the main carcass lymph nodes should be examined.

## SCHEDULE II

(Regulation 10)

*Marks for use on carcass*