GUIDANCE FOR VETERINARY SURGEONS AND FARMERS ON THE SLAUGHTER OF CATTLE WHICH ARE INJURED OR SHOWING SIGNS OF ABNORMALITIES

British Cattle Veterinary Association
The British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) and other veterinary organisations have jointly developed this guidance for veterinary surgeons and farmers with assistance from the Food Standards Agency (FSA), UK Rural Affairs Departments and the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS).
1. Introduction
On any farm, however good the standard of management and husbandry, there will be instances where cattle and other livestock become injured or ill\(^1\). The person in charge has to decide on the most appropriate course of action and must make a decision based on knowledge and experience to give an outcome that is satisfactory to both the animal and farmer\(^2\).

The decision will often involve advice from the veterinary surgeon who can provide a professional opinion about the likely outcome and thereby give guidance on the best course of action.

**The main considerations are:**

- **Animal welfare; and**
- **Food safety**

New EU Hygiene Regulations (see 2.4), which are directly applicable from 1 January 2006, make changes to the legislation about emergency slaughter of animals outside the slaughterhouse for human consumption.

The Hygiene Regulations place a duty on livestock farmers, as primary producers of food, to play their part in the protection of public health by ensuring that only healthy and clean animals are submitted for slaughter.

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\(^{1}\) Historically, the term 'casualty' has been applied to animals which are suffering from disease or injury where a decision has been taken to slaughter or kill them. The absence of a common understanding or definition, and the use of 'casualty' in other contexts has led to confusion. The term 'casualty' has been intentionally omitted from this booklet.

\(^{2}\) The term farmer is used in this booklet to mean the person who is responsible for the animal. This may be the animal's owner or keeper, or the manager responsible for the herd. The guidance is equally applicable to other persons who may have temporary responsibility for the animal e.g. the haulier or livestock market operator. The guidance will also be a source of information for the operators of slaughterhouses and for OVSSs.

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2. Legislation

2.1 The Agriculture (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1968  
    The Protection of Animals Act 1911  
    The Protection of Animals (Scotland) Act 1912

These Acts make it an offence to cause unnecessary pain or distress to any livestock or to any domestic or captive animal.

2.2 Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990

The 1990 Order covers the sale of animals at livestock markets and specifically makes it an offence to present an animal at a market that is "unfit". What makes an animal "unfit" is not defined. However, Article 3 of the Welfare of Animals at Markets Order 1990 provides an interpretation of "unfit" as "in relation to an animal or bird includes infirm by virtue of being diseased, injured or fatigued".

2.3 The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997

This states that no person shall cause or permit an animal to be transported in a way which causes or is likely to cause injury or unnecessary suffering to the animal.

It defines specific conditions which render the animal **unfit to transport**, such as being newborn, infirm, ill, injured or fatigued or having given birth within the previous 48 hours or likely to give birth during transport.

The order specifies that an unfit animal may be transported to the nearest place for veterinary treatment, or the nearest available place of slaughter if the animal is not likely to be subject to unnecessary suffering by reason of its unfitness. It states that such an animal must not be dragged or pushed by any means, or

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(i) The equivalent Northern Ireland legislation is:
* Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972
* Welfare of Animals and Poultry at Markets Order (Northern Ireland) 1998
* Welfare of Calves at Market Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998
* Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order (Northern Ireland) 1997
* The Food Hygiene Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005
* Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1996

(ii) Regulation 999/2001 (as amended) is the EU Regulation covering Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) controls including those for Specified Risk Materials (SRM) and Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) testing.
lifted by a mechanical device unless this is done in the presence of and under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon who is arranging for it to be transported with all practicable speed to a place for veterinary treatment, but not for slaughter.

Detailed guidance on the Order can be found in Rural Affairs Departments Guidance on the transport of casualty farm animals.

2.4 The Hygiene Regulations

The following 3 Regulations are known collectively as the Hygiene Regulations:

Regulation (EC) No. 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs - rules for all food business operators, including farmers (H1).

Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 laying down specific rules for food of animal origin - rules for e.g. slaughterhouse operators (H2).


These Regulations are implemented in England by The Food Hygiene (England) Regulations 2005 and by similar regulations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These Regulations come into force on 1 January 2006 and replace earlier EU Directives relating to red meat which were implemented by the Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations 1995 and in Northern Ireland by the Fresh Meat (Hygiene and Inspection) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1997.

2.5 The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 (WASK)

The Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 1996

These regulations provide for the humane treatment of animals at slaughterhouses, knackers yards and elsewhere.

The Regulations define slaughter as causing the death of an animal by bleeding, and killing as causing death by any means other than slaughter.
3. Decisions relating to injured animals or animals showing abnormalities

The purpose of this booklet is to give guidance to veterinary surgeons and farmers about animals whose condition requires action to be taken to safeguard their welfare when the option for treatment has been excluded.

When the options have been considered and a decision has been made to slaughter an animal, its ultimate destination will be determined by animal welfare and food safety considerations.

The options are:

- Transport the animal live to a slaughterhouse for slaughter for human consumption accompanied by a farmer’s declaration.
- Emergency slaughter on farm (or elsewhere outside the slaughterhouse) and transport of the body to a slaughterhouse for processing for human consumption accompanied by a farmer’s declaration and a veterinary certificate.
- Slaughter and disposal as fallen stock.

To arrive at the correct decision, the following questions must be answered:

- Does the animal fulfil the public health conditions to be suitable for slaughter for human consumption? - see section 3.1 for more details.
- Is the animal fit to be transported to the slaughterhouse? - see section 3.2 for more details.

AND if it is not fit to be transported,

- Is the animal eligible for emergency slaughter outside the slaughterhouse for human consumption? - see section 3.3 for more details.
3.1 Does the animal fulfil the public health conditions to be suitable for slaughter for human consumption?

Under the Hygiene Regulations, all food business operators, including livestock producers, have a duty to ensure that food safety is not compromised. Only healthy animals should be sent for slaughter. Slaughterhouse operators are specifically required to ensure that animals accepted into the slaughterhouse appear healthy and are clean. All animals, including those which have a condition that requires their immediate slaughter, must fulfil these conditions.

At the slaughterhouse, all animals must undergo an ante-mortem inspection by an OVS. The purpose of this inspection is to determine whether there are signs of any condition which might adversely affect human or animal health, or any sign that animal welfare has been compromised.

Farmers must be satisfied that, before the event which brought about the need for slaughter, the animal was healthy.

In case of doubt, farmers are advised to consult their own veterinary surgeon.

Veterinary Medicines

The statutory withdrawal periods for any veterinary medicine administered must be observed. The withdrawal period for any medication can be obtained from the medicines record book where it should have been recorded at the time of use, or from the label of the container in which it was dispensed. If in any doubt, the farmer's veterinary surgeon will have access to all the necessary information concerning statutory withdrawal periods for veterinary medicines.

Medicines includes any prolonged action product administered as a preventative measure, such as anthelmintics, including slow release, intra-ruminal devices. The authorisation and use of veterinary medicines is the responsibility of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). Further information is available at the VMD's website at: www.vmd.gov.uk

Clean livestock policy

Slaughterhouse operators must ensure that all animals accepted into the slaughterhouse are clean. The Clean Livestock Policy (CLP) is enforced by the MHS (Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland) at cattle and sheep slaughterhouses and prevents the slaughter of animals whose
dirty condition may adversely affect hygienic dressing. Details of the CLP can be found on the FSA's website at: http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/farming-food/cleancattleandmeatsafety/

Declaration

If these public health conditions are fulfilled, and the animal is deemed fit to transport (see 3.2), it may be transported to a slaughterhouse. It must be accompanied by a declaration giving details of its condition and stating information about any treatments administered to it. A model declaration is at Appendix A (this is equivalent to the Schedule 18 declaration).

The OVS must be present at the slaughterhouse during post-mortem inspection of animals accompanied by an Appendix A declaration. It must be confirmed that this requirement can be met, since, at some slaughterhouses, the OVS may be not present at all times.

In circumstances where the food safety issues clearly indicate that an animal is not eligible for slaughter for human consumption, the immediate killing of the animal and disposal through the fallen stock route will be the only option. Fallen stock over 24 months of age must be tested for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE). Owners in Great Britain should telephone the Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) Surveillance Helpline on 0800 525 890 for BSE testing and disposal, free of charge. Owners in Northern Ireland should telephone 028 9262 1441. Fallen cattle aged 24 months or under should be disposed of in accordance with Animal By-Products legislation.

3.2 Is the animal fit to be transported to the slaughterhouse?

Whether a bovine animal is fit to travel presents a difficult question for farmers, hauliers and veterinary surgeons.

The Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 and the Northern Ireland equivalent legislation specifies that any unfit cattle may be transported to the nearest available place for veterinary treatment or diagnosis, or to the nearest available place of slaughter only if the animal is not likely to be subject to unnecessary suffering by reason of its unfitness.

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4The equivalent Northern Ireland legislation is: Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order (NI) 1997
In all cases, animals may not be transported if the transport is likely to cause unnecessary suffering.

The Order makes no attempt to define what is and what is not acceptable, but guidance is available. The sheer size and weight of adult cattle produce special transport problems.

The Order does state that the animal must not be dragged or pushed or loaded by any mechanical means when being transported for anything other than veterinary treatment, and even then only under direct veterinary supervision.

The decision whether to transport, or not, is essentially one of welfare. Due consideration must be given to the likelihood of pain or suffering during the loading and the journey.

The type of vehicle, the bedding and the penning arrangements may have some bearing but the final decision must have the welfare of the animal as the paramount consideration.

**Guidelines for the transport of live animals**

**DO NOT TRANSPORT:**

1) Any animal suffering pain: for example from conditions such as colic, fractures, calving injuries.

Transport will prolong and aggravate the suffering. Immediate slaughter is required. Remember that most analgesic agents have statutory withdrawal periods.

2) Any animal which cannot be loaded without undue force. This may include animals with nervous symptoms, total blindness, weakness and debility.

3) Any animal with severe wounds or protruding viscera. For example, prolapsed uterus, prolapsed vagina, or prolapsed rectum. Transport may traumatise these organs and make the situation worse. If considering repair before transport remember that sedatives and local anaesthetics may have statutory withdrawal periods.
Lameness

The transport of lame animals produces many difficulties and difference of opinion. In any case the animal must be able to bear weight on all four limbs, and there must be no likelihood of the animal suffering unnecessary pain during transport as a result of its lameness. Because of the large size and weight of the bovine, it would seem that any form of lameness caused by pain rather than functional abnormality is a reason not to transport the animal. A proper clinical appraisal is necessary to define the cause of the lameness and assess the presence of pain.

If the movement of the animal or its transport is likely to cause pain, the animal must not be transported. Be aware that the motion of the vehicle and the stresses of transport may precipitate pain. Special transport provisions such as deep bedding, single penning, padded supports may help to prevent such situation but cannot be relied upon. **If in any doubt the animal is best not transported.**

Overgrown claws or fixed (rigid) joints may not preclude transport if there is not, or not likely to be, any associated pain.

Arthritic joints, infected foot lesions, tendon and ligament injuries, and other painful conditions are reasons for not transporting the animal.

These are judgements best made by a veterinary surgeon. The veterinary surgeon may offer to sign a document to certify fitness to travel. This part of the certificate is not a legal requirement.

3.3 Is the animal eligible for emergency slaughter outside the slaughterhouse for human consumption?

This section provides guidance for veterinary surgeons and farmers about emergency slaughter for human consumption of animals which cannot be transported for welfare reasons. It will also apply to situations other than on farm, where emergency slaughter for human consumption may be an option e.g. at livestock markets or during transport.
The underlying principle for the protection of public health is that only healthy animals should be slaughtered and that **all animals** must be subject to an ante-mortem inspection by a veterinary surgeon.

All animals which are sent for slaughter must undergo ante-mortem inspection by an OVS at the slaughterhouse. The Hygiene Regulations make an exception to this in the case of emergency slaughter outside the slaughterhouse, when the ante-mortem inspection may instead be undertaken by any veterinary surgeon.

The Regulations lay down the conditions for emergency slaughter outside the slaughterhouse for human consumption:

*An otherwise healthy animal must have suffered an accident that prevented its transport to the slaughterhouse for welfare reasons*.\(^5\)

All such animals must be inspected by a veterinary surgeon when they are alive.

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Guidance for veterinary surgeons
The basis for the protection of consumers from agents transmissible from animals to man through the consumption of meat is that animals must be healthy at the time of slaughter. Veterinary surgeons have a pivotal role in food safety, and public health considerations must be a priority when advising farmers and making decisions about eligibility for emergency slaughter of animals for human consumption.

The bodies of animals subject to emergency slaughter for human consumption outside the slaughterhouse must be accompanied to the slaughterhouse by a declaration by a veterinary surgeon which includes the favourable outcome of the ante-mortem inspection and the reason for emergency slaughter (see Appendix B - this is equivalent to the Schedule 19 certificate).

In assessing the potential eligibility for submission to a slaughterhouse of the carcase of an animal, the veterinary surgeon must consider the following points:

- **Is it an Emergency?**
  'Emergency' implies that slaughter takes place as the result of an event requiring immediate action. An animal suffering from a chronic condition cannot therefore be eligible for slaughter for human consumption.

- **Was it an Accident?**
  The dictionary definition of 'accident' is 'an unforeseen or unexpected event, especially one causing injury or damage'. When assessing an animal following such an event, the veterinary surgeon must consider its circumstances and establish that it was a true accident.

- **Was the animal healthy before the accident?**
  The veterinary surgeon must apply his/her professional judgement to assessing the condition of the animal before the accident.

- **Does the animal fulfil the ante-mortem conditions?**
  The Hygiene Regulations specifically exclude from slaughter for human consumption 'animals with a disease or condition that may be transmitted to animals or humans through handling or eating meat and, in general, animals showing clinical signs of systemic disease or emaciation'\(^6\).

Judgement about the eligibility for emergency slaughter for human consumption rests with the veterinary surgeon. However, the veterinary surgeon may consult with the OVS at the slaughterhouse to which the carcase would be taken to discuss the case.

\(^6\)Regulation 854/2004, Annex I, section II, chapter III, point 4
The legal requirements for consigning animals to slaughter for human consumption, which includes compliance with veterinary medicines legislation and the CLP also, applies to emergency slaughtered animals.

**Veterinary Medicines**

The animal must be outwith all the statutory withdrawal periods for any veterinary medicine administered. Medicines include any prolonged action product administered as a preventative measure, such as anthelmintics, including slow release, intra-ruminal devices. Further information is available from the VMD's website at:  [www.vmd.gov.uk](http://www.vmd.gov.uk)

The animal's keeper is required to provide a declaration to accompany the slaughtered animal to the slaughterhouse regarding veterinary products or other treatments administered to the animal.

The veterinary surgeon must record on the declaration (see Appendix B) the nature of any treatment administered by him/her.

**Clean livestock policy**

Slaughterhouse operators must ensure that all animals accepted into the slaughterhouse are clean. The CLP is enforced by MHS staff (Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in Northern Ireland) at cattle and sheep slaughterhouses and prevents the slaughter of animals whose dirty condition may adversely affect hygienic dressing. The CLP applies equally to animals subjected to emergency slaughter on farm and must be taken into consideration while making a decision about the eligibility of such animals for human consumption. Details of the CLP can be found on the FSA's website at:  [http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/farmingfood/cleancattleandmeatsafety/](http://www.food.gov.uk/foodindustry/farmingfood/cleancattleandmeatsafety/).
4. Emergency slaughter for human consumption

Practical considerations

When emergency slaughter for human consumption is being considered, the animal's keeper must contact the operator of the slaughterhouse of intended destination. Slaughterhouse operators are under no obligation to accept emergency slaughtered animals, and may be unable to do so for technical reasons, or unwilling for commercial reasons. The OVS must be present at the slaughterhouse during post-mortem inspection of animals that have undergone emergency slaughter. It must be confirmed that this requirement can be met, since, at some slaughterhouses, the OVS may not be present at all times.

In all cases it will be prudent for the veterinary surgeon issuing the emergency slaughter declaration to contact the OVS at the slaughterhouse to advise of the facts of the case and to avoid any subsequent difficulties.

Declarations

Animals slaughtered outside the slaughterhouse for human consumption must be accompanied by:

- a declaration by the keeper of the animal stating any veterinary products or other treatments administered to the animal; and
- a declaration issued by the veterinary surgeon recording the favourable outcome of the ante-mortem inspection, the date and time of, and reason for, emergency slaughter, and the nature of any treatment administered by the veterinary surgeon.

In order to issue the declaration, it will be necessary for the veterinary surgeon to be present at the time of slaughter.

A model declaration is at Appendix B.

Slaughter

Only suitably qualified persons, licensed under the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations and trained in the food hygiene aspects of slaughter, may slaughter animals for human consumption. Veterinary surgeons may undertake emergency slaughter but must be familiar with both the animal welfare and food hygiene requirements.
Over 24 month animals

It should be noted that in compliance with EU legislation, any bovine over 24 months of age exhibiting abnormalities or which has undergone emergency slaughter must have a Brain Stem Sample (BSS) taken which must be tested for BSE.

| In slaughtering an over 24 month animal for human consumption it must be remembered that failure to obtain a suitable BSS will render the animal ineligible for the food chain. Methods which cause severe damage to the brain stem, such as the use of a shotgun or careless use of a free bullet, should be avoided. Provided a negative test result is obtained the carcase may, subject to other post-mortem inspection requirements, enter the food chain. |

Pithing is prohibited for all cattle slaughtered for human consumption

Bovines aged over 24 months slaughtered or killed because of abnormalities or as emergency cases but not intended for human consumption must still be tested, but as fallen stock.

Transport to the slaughterhouse

The slaughtered animal must be transported to the slaughterhouse hygienically and without undue delay. If it is likely that more than 2 hours will elapse between slaughter and arrival at the slaughterhouse, the body must be refrigerated.

Role of the OVS

The OVS at the slaughterhouse has the final responsibility to assess if there are grounds for declaring meat unfit for human consumption and will carry out a post-mortem examination in all cases. An emergency slaughter declaration provides no guarantee that the OVS will not identify any deficiencies that would make the meat unfit for human consumption.

In some circumstances, where the OVS has grounds for concern about public health, additional tests (e.g. tests for antimicrobial residues) may be carried out on carcases from emergency slaughtered animals. In addition, all cattle aged over 24 months which have been slaughtered as an emergency slaughter case must be subject to BSS for BSE testing.

7Please note that cattle born before 1 August 1996 are prohibited from entering the food chain.
5. Humane slaughter or killing

In slaughtering an over 24 month animal for human consumption it must be remembered that **failure to obtain a suitable BSS will render the animal ineligible for the food chain.** Methods which cause severe damage to the brain stem, such as the use of a shotgun or careless use of a free bullet, should be avoided. Provided a negative test result is obtained the carcase may, subject to other post-mortem inspection requirements, enter the food chain.

Pithing is prohibited for all cattle slaughtered for human consumption

Bovines aged over 24 months slaughtered or killed because of abnormalities or as emergency cases but not intended for human consumption must still be tested, but as fallen stock.

It is a legal requirement that the act of slaughtering or killing an animal must be carried out without causing avoidable or unnecessary suffering.

Animals slaughtered outside the slaughterhouse for human consumption must be stunned and bled in a hygienic manner.

Animals which are to be disposed of as an animal by-product may be either slaughtered (i.e. stunned and bled) or, more usually, killed by another method.

Remember that any bovine over 24 months of age exhibiting abnormalities or slaughtered as an emergency case must have a BSS taken which must be tested for BSE.

Except in the most extreme circumstances, it will always be necessary to use a firearm or shotgun to end the life of a bovine animal. There are three types of equipment that can be used for this purpose: the free bullet weapon, the shotgun, and the captive bolt.

In cattle, the brain is situated high in the head. The target area is in the middle of the forehead at the crossing point of two imaginary lines drawn from the eye to the base of the opposite horn. The muzzle of the gun should be held at right angles to the skull so that the shot is directed through the cerebral cortex and into the brain stem.
The Free Bullet Weapon

This is generally in the form of a 0.32 calibre humane killer or pistol, or a 0.22 calibre rim-fire rifle. Centre-fire carbine rifles which use sub-sonic pistol ammunition can also be used.

The humane killer fires a round-nosed lead bullet which should kill cattle of all sizes outright. This type of weapon is normally used by veterinary surgeons and knackermen. It is of the utmost importance that only the correct, specially loaded ammunition is used in conjunction with these weapons.

Rifles are extremely dangerous and should only be used when no other method is available. The muzzle must be held between five and twenty centimetres away from the animal's forehead and the weapon aimed down the length of the neck. On no account should the muzzle be held directly against the animal's head as this will result in severe injury to the operator. Always use a soft or hollow-nosed bullet: if there is any doubt about the ammunition available, call in outside help.

When using any free bullet weapon, be aware that the bullet may exit from the animal's body. Concrete floors and walls may cause a ricochet. All persons must stand behind the operator.

The Shotgun

A 12, 16, 20, 28 or .410 bore shotgun may be used to kill cattle, using number 4, 5 or 6 birdshot. The muzzle must be held five to twenty centimetres from the animal's forehead aiming down the length of the neck into the animal's body. The muzzle of the gun must not be held directly against the animal's head as this will result in severe injury to the operator.

When used correctly the shot impacts on the forehead as a "solid" mass, causing instantaneous insensibility, penetrates the skull and disperses in the brain causing massive damage which kills the animal outright. Contrary to popular belief, the use of a shotgun does not blow the animal's head apart. There is a relatively small entry wound but the brain is completely destroyed. The shotgun is generally more readily available and safer than free bullet weapons and in the hands of a competent operator, is very effective for the humane destruction of cattle.
Captive Bolt Equipment

There is a range of different types of captive-bolt equipment available. For general use, the best are trigger-fired, penetrative captive bolt instruments. When dealing with cattle, the heaviest cartridge available for the model of stunner must be used. The muzzle of the captive-bolt must be held firmly against the animal's head and the shot directed towards the base of the brain and spinal cord. **It must be understood that the captive-bolt is a stunning device and not a humane killer.** Following stunning with a captive-bolt the major blood vessels of the neck must be severed immediately, or the brain stem pithed if the carcase is not for consumption, to ensure that death follows rapidly.

When an animal is correctly stunned using a captive-bolt, it should collapse immediately, stop breathing and become rigid. The forelegs extend and the hind legs flex into the abdomen. This phase is followed by gradual relaxation accompanied by involuntary kicking, it is best to bleed or pith the animal before this kicking phase starts.

**Bleeding**

The best way to ensure rapid blood loss is to make a deep, transverse cut across the animal's throat at the angle of the jaw to cut both carotid arteries. Cut deep until the blade of the knife touches the spine. There should be two powerful jets of blood from the carotid arteries and a flow from the jugular veins.

In order to carry out this task effectively, the operator needs a sharp knife with a blade at least twelve centimetres (five inches) long. Alternatively a thoracic stick may be carried out by making an incision in the jugular furrow at the base of the neck, the knife being directed towards the entrance of the chest to sever all the major blood vessels arising from the heart.

**Pithing**

The operation known as pithing (physical destruction of the brain to ensure rapid death following captive-bolt stunning) is no longer permitted in UK slaughterhouses. However, pithing remains an effective and legitimate means of ensuring the rapid death of animals not destined for human or animal consumption.

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8Blood must be collected in a leak-proof container and disposed of in accordance with the Animal By-products Regulation (EC) 1774/2002. It must not be allowed to soak away into the ground or via a drain or water course. Blood must be collected in a container for later disposal.
consumption, e.g. emergencies or those destroyed during disease control operations.

Pithing involves inserting a flexible wire or polypropylene rod through the hole in the head made by the captive-bolt. The rod is then thrust towards the tail, through the brain, to the level of the brainstem and, if it is long enough, into the spinal cord. It is then slid back and forth to cause maximum damage to the brain and upper spinal cord. Initially the animal will show violent muscle contraction, but then reflex muscle movement is inhibited. Disposable pithing canes, which remain in the carcase, are now available.

**Licensing**

Humane killers and rifles require a firearm certificate to be held by the operator. A shotgun requires a shotgun certificate. Since February 1998, captive-bolt equipment has not been subject to firearms legislation and certificates are no longer required for their ownership.

**Further information**

The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) publishes Guidance Notes Nos 2 and 3: Captive-Bolt Stunning of Livestock and Humane Killing of Livestock Using Firearms. The HSA also has a video on Emergency Slaughter. These can be obtained from the Humane Slaughter Association, The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN (Reg Charity No 209563). Tel: 01582 831919. Fax: 01582 831414. [www.hsa.org.uk](http://www.hsa.org.uk)

The FSA can provide information on the requirements of the hygiene legislation. Contact Red Meat & Strategy Branch of the Meat Hygiene & Veterinary Division, FSA, Aviation House, 125 Kingsway, London WC2B 6NH. Tel: 020 7276 8377. Fax: 020 7276 8312. [www.food.gov.uk](http://www.food.gov.uk)
## APPENDIX A

**FOOD CHAIN INFORMATION TO ACCOMPANY AN ANIMAL FOR SLAUGHTER KNOWN OR SUSPECTED TO BE INJURED OR SHOWING SIGNS OF ABNORMALITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Applicable Information</strong></th>
<th><strong>Details</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Owner’s name, address and holding number</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Production site address and holding number (if different)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact name, telephone number and email address of owner/owner's agent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposed date of slaughter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identification details</td>
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<td>- ear tag number</td>
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<td>- breed</td>
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<td>- age</td>
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<td>- sex</td>
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<tr>
<td>Describe the injury the animal has suffered or abnormality it is showing, or</td>
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<tr>
<td>If a veterinary surgeon has examined the animal, his/her diagnosis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Record all veterinary medicinal products or other treatments administered to the animal within the last 6 months, dates of administration and withdrawal periods</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuberculosis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the animal a reactor or inconclusive reactor to the TB test?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the holding under a TB restriction order?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Brucellosis</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the animal a Brucellosis reactor?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the holding under a Brucellosis restriction order?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Is the holding/area under restrictions for other animal health or other reasons?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Have any analyses shown that the animal may have been exposed to food-borne zoonoses or substances likely to result in residues in meat? If so attach a copy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name, address and contact details of the owner’s veterinary surgeon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Status (e.g. owner, manager, stockman)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Time and date</td>
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APPENDIX B

MODEL DECLARATION TO ACCOMPANY THE BODY OF CATTLE SUBJECT TO EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER OUTSIDE THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Regulation 853/2004 Annex III, Section I, Chapter VI, paragraphs 5 & 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Owner’s name, address and holding number</th>
<th>Production site address and holding number (if different)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact name, telephone number and email address of owner/owner's agent</td>
<td>Identification details</td>
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<tr>
<td>- ear tag number</td>
<td>- breed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- age</td>
<td>- sex</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Veterinary Surgeon's Declaration

| Reason for emergency slaughter | Record any treatment administered by the veterinary surgeon. |

After carrying out ante-mortem inspection, it is my opinion that the animal from which this body was derived was not showing clinical signs of:

- any disease or condition that may be transmitted to animals or humans through handling or eating meat or;
- of systemic disease or emaciation.

| Name and address of slaughterhouse to which carcase will be transported |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Name and Address</th>
<th>Telephone number</th>
<th>Email address</th>
<th>Signature</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name of veterinary surgeon</td>
<td>Time and date of emergency slaughter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note:

The Hygiene Regulations permit the emergency slaughter of animals outside the slaughterhouse if they fulfil the condition:

*An otherwise healthy animal must have suffered an accident that prevented its transport to the slaughterhouse for welfare reasons.*
B. Owner/Agent's Declaration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Record all <strong>veterinary medicinal products or other treatments</strong> administered to the animal, from which the body is derived within the last 6 months, dates of administration and withdrawal periods</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuberculosis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the animal a reactor or inconclusive reactor to the TB test?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the holding under a TB restriction order?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brucellosis</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the animal a Brucellosis reactor?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the holding under a Brucellosis restriction order?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the holding/area under restrictions for other animal health or other reasons?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have any analyses shown that the animal may have been exposed to food-borne zoonoses or substances likely to result in residues in meat? If so attach a copy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Status (e.g. owner, manager, stockman)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time and date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix C

DEcision Tree for Animals Which Are Injured or Showing Signs of Abnormalities

Is the animal likely to be fit for human consumption?

Yes

Does the animal meet the Clean Livestock Policy requirements?

Yes

No

Consult your vet

Consult your vet

Is the animal fit to be transported to a slaughterhouse?

Yes

No

Is the animal otherwise healthy but has suffered an accident preventing transport to a slaughterhouse?

Yes

Animal may be slaughtered on-farm and its body transported to a slaughterhouse with a veterinary certificate (Appendix B)

No

Animal must be slaughtered on-farm and body disposed of as fallow stock. If the animal is over 24 months of age, it should be notified to the TSE Surveillance Helpline on free phone 0830 525 890 for BSE testing and disposal, free of charge. In Northern Ireland telephone 028 6262 1441

1This decision tree does not apply to cattle born before 1 August 1996. These cattle are prohibited from entering the food chain.
NOTES