

ORDINANCE 3 OF 2004

**AN ORDINANCE
TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONTROL OF THE SLAUGHTER
OF ANIMALS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION AND
RELATED MATTERS**

**P. T. C. Pearson CBE
ADMINISTRATOR**

24th February 2004.

BE it enacted by the Administrator of the Sovereign Base Areas of Akrotiri and Dhekelia as follows:-

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Meat Hygiene Ordinance 2004.

Short title.

2. In this Ordinance, unless the context otherwise requires—

Interpretation.

“animal” includes any animal of the species of bovine, sheep, goats, pigs, birds (that is, poultry and turkey) and any other animal intended for human consumption;

“auxiliary” means any person authorised by the Chief Officer to assist the official veterinarian in the performance of his duties in accordance with regulations made under section 11;

“butchery” means a licensed establishment where meat intended for human consumption is displayed for retail sale;

“by-products” means the parts of an animal intended for human consumption which are not included in the meaning of “carcass”, whether or not such parts remain naturally connected to the carcass;

“carcass” means—

- (a) in the case of a slaughtered bovine animal, sheep or goat, the whole body after bleeding, evisceration, removal of the udder glands, removal of the head and removal of the limbs below the carpal and tarsal joints, or
- (b) in the case of a slaughtered pig, the whole body after bleeding, evisceration, removal of the udder glands, depilation or skinning, removal of the head and removal

of the limbs below the carpal and tarsal joints, or

- (c) in the case of a slaughtered bird, the whole body after bleeding, plucking and evisceration;

“cold store” means a licensed establishment used for the storage of meat and by-products at low temperature;

“consignment” means a consignment of meat marked with the official health marking and intended for transport;

“country of origin” means the country from which the meat is sent to the Areas or the Republic;

“cutting premises” means a licensed establishment where meat intended for human consumption is cut into pieces of less than a quarter, prepared and packaged for wholesale;

“establishment” means any cold store, cutting premises, butchery, vehicle for the transport of meat or any other place designated as such by the Administrator;

“licence” means a licence issued by the Chief Officer under section 4 and cognate expressions shall be construed accordingly;

“manager” in relation to any slaughterhouse or establishment, means the owner of or the person responsible for the operations carried on in the slaughterhouse or establishment;

“meat” means all parts of an animal intended for human consumption, including frozen meat, cut meat and pre-packaged meat;

“offal” means by-products from the thoracic, abdominal and pelvic cavities, including the trachea and oesophagus and in the case of birds, by-products from the crop;

“official health marking” means the marking of meat with prescribed stamps, labels or marks;

“official veterinarian” means any veterinarian appointed by the Chief Officer to be an official veterinarian;

“Official Veterinary Laboratory” means the Laboratory for the Control of Foodstuffs of Animal Origin of the Department of Veterinary Services of the Republic;

“slaughterhouse” means a licensed property in which animals for human consumption are slaughtered;

“veterinarian” means (except in the expression “veterinarian check”) any practitioner as defined by section 2 of the Veterinary Surgeons Ordinance.

Ordinance 21/64.

3. This Ordinance applies to—

Application.

(a) any slaughterhouse; and

(b) any other establishment which does not require a licence in accordance with the provisions of the Animal Foodstuffs Hygiene Ordinance 2004 because the foodstuffs handled by that establishment are not intended for intra-community trade or trade with a third country as defined by that Ordinance.

Ordinance 2/2004.

4.—(1) No person shall slaughter or cause or permit an animal to be slaughtered, other than in a slaughterhouse, except in the case of the slaughter of an animal for personal use or in prescribed cases of emergency animal slaughter.

Slaughter and inspection.

(2) No person shall slaughter or cause or permit an animal to be slaughtered before an inspection of such animal in the slaughterhouse by the official veterinarian.

(3) Any person who slaughters or causes or permits the slaughter of an animal shall forthwith report such slaughter to the official veterinarian and shall present the carcass and by-products to the official veterinarian for inspection.

For this purpose, if the official veterinarian considers it necessary, he may send appropriate samples of the carcass or by-products to the Official Veterinary Laboratory for examination.

(4) No person shall remove or permit the removal of a carcass or of any by-products from a slaughterhouse until such carcass has, or such by-products have, been inspected and appropriately marked by the official veterinarian.

(5) The official veterinarian may, upon such an inspection, approve unconditionally or on conditions any carcass, any part of it or any by-products of it as fit for human consumption or may seize such carcass, parts or by-products for further inspection or examination.

(6) Where the official veterinarian finds on an inspection of a carcass or of by-products that the whole or part of the carcass, or any of the by-products are unfit for human consumption, he shall confiscate the whole or part of the carcass, which is, or the by-products which are, unfit for human consumption, without payment of any compensation.

(7) Upon the confiscation of any carcass, any part of it or any by-products of it, the official veterinarian may order the manager of the slaughterhouse or the establishment to remove and destroy such carcass, parts or by-products in a manner which does not endanger public health or the epizootic condition of live animals.

(8) Any inspected carcass shall be marked by an official health marking, stamp or label as provided for in regulations made under section 11 and shall specify the establishment or slaughterhouse of origin and the words "veterinarian check".

5.—(1) A slaughterhouse or establishment shall not operate unless:

Licences.

- (a) there is in force in relation to that slaughterhouse or establishment a licence issued by the Chief Officer in accordance with regulations made under section 11; and
- (b) the slaughterhouse or establishment meets the hygiene conditions specified in regulations made under section 11:

(2) It shall be unlawful for the manager of a slaughterhouse or an establishment to allow animals not intended for slaughter, or meat or by-products not intended for human consumption, to be present within the slaughterhouse or establishment.

(3) The manager shall take all appropriate preventive measures so

that carcasses and by-products inspected by an official veterinarian and found fit for human consumption are not thereafter infected or in any other way affected so as to constitute a danger to public health.

6. Any slaughterhouse with an annual output exceeding 500 tons shall be operated under the supervision of a veterinarian.

7. The Chief Officer may at any time check the prescribed registers of daily, monthly and annual records kept by any slaughterhouse or establishment.

8.—(1) The Chief Officer, official veterinarian or any other person duly authorised for that purpose by the Chief Officer, may at any time, enter any slaughterhouse or establishment to check and inspect the animals and meat present there, and generally to discharge his duties under this Ordinance or under the regulations made under it.

(2) A person who is engaged in any capacity in the operations of any slaughterhouse or establishment, shall not, in connection with those operations cut, sell, display for sale or store any meat elsewhere than in that slaughterhouse or establishment.

(3) If during an inspection at a slaughterhouse or an establishment in accordance with subsection (1), any meat unfit for human consumption is found, such meat shall be confiscated without payment of any compensation and a certificate of confiscation shall be issued in the prescribed form:

Provided that if the official veterinarian considers it necessary, he may send appropriate samples of the meat to the Official Veterinary Laboratory for examination, and order the detention of the meat concerned at the expense of the manager of the slaughterhouse or establishment, until the results of such examination are available.

(4) Upon confiscation of such meat, the official veterinarian shall order the manager of the slaughterhouse or establishment to remove and destroy the meat and generally to take all necessary measures so as not to endanger public health or the epizootic condition of live animals.

9.—(1) Every consignment of meat from outside the Areas or the Republic shall be accompanied by a veterinary health certificate issued by the competent authority of the country of origin.

(2) Any imported meat shall be subject to inspection by the official veterinarian in accordance with this Ordinance and of regulations made under it.

(3) If during the inspection referred to in subsection (2) the official veterinarian finds that any of the imported meat is unfit for human consumption he may prohibit its unloading or may order its re-exportation or order confiscation without payment of any compensation and at the expense of the importer and order its destruction by issuing a certificate of confiscation in the prescribed form:

Provided that if the official veterinarian considers it necessary, he may send appropriate samples of the meat to the Official Veterinary Laboratory for examination and order the detention of such meat at the expense of the importer, until the results of such examination are available.

Veterinarian supervision of certain slaughter-houses.

Checks of registers.

Right of entry, inspection and confiscation.

Imported meat.

(4) The provisions of the Animal Health Ordinance 2002 shall apply, where relevant, in respect of the importation of meat in addition to the above provisions.

Ordinance 5/2002.

10. Any person who—

- (a) contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of this Ordinance or of regulations made under it; or
- (b) wilfully obstructs any official veterinarian or any other person appointed in accordance with this Ordinance or regulations made under it during the exercise of the powers conferred on him under this Ordinance and the regulations made under it,

Offences and penalties.

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be subject, on conviction, to imprisonment not exceeding six months or to a fine not exceeding three hundred pounds or to both such penalties.

11.—(1) The Administrator may make regulations in respect of any matter which may be prescribed by this Ordinance and more generally for the purpose of applying this Ordinance more effectively and in particular, but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, may make regulations for all or any of the following purposes –

Regulations.

- (a) for providing for the conditions of issue of a licence to a slaughterhouse or an establishment;
- (b) for providing for the hygiene conditions of slaughterhouses;
- (c) for providing for the hygiene conditions the staff, the equipment and the machinery within a slaughterhouse or an establishment must fulfil;
- (d) for providing for an inspection of the animal before and after slaughter;
- (e) for providing for the hygiene conditions of slaughter and evisceration;
- (f) for providing for the official health marking and issue of veterinary health certificates;
- (g) for providing for the storage conditions for meat and by-products;
- (h) for providing for the manner and conditions which must be complied with when packing and wrapping meat and by-products;
- (i) for providing for the conditions which must be complied with when transporting meat and by-products,
- (j) for providing for the hygiene conditions of cutting premises;
- (k) for providing for the hygiene conditions of butcheries;
- (l) for providing for the qualifications and duties of any auxiliary working under a veterinarian's supervision;
- (m) for prescribing the form of the registers of daily, monthly and annual information which shall be kept by any slaughterhouse or any establishment.

(2) Any regulations made under this Ordinance may make different provision for different cases or classes of cases and may contain such incidental, supplementary or transitional provisions as appears to the Administrator to be necessary or expedient for the purposes of this Ordinance or of the regulations.

Commencement.

12. This Ordinance shall come into force on such day as the Administrator shall appoint by a notification published in the Gazette.

1st March 2004
(128/261)

P. D. Draycott
Chief Officer.
