



Department  
for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

# Animal Welfare Officers – the legal framework.

Dr. Rebeca Garcia, Veterinary Adviser  
DEFRA / APHA Date:23/03/2017



Forestry Commission  
England



Environment  
Agency

# Background

- Consistency with hygiene package
  - Regulation (EC) 852/2004 – primary production
  - Regulation (EC) 853/2004 – hygiene rules for food of animal origin
  - Regulation (EC) 854/2004 and 882/2004 – official controls
- Responsibility of FBOs and links to approval process

# Animal Welfare Officer



The experience gained in some Member States has shown that the appointment of a specifically qualified person as an animal welfare officer to coordinate and follow up the implementation of animal welfare operating procedures in slaughterhouses has provided positive welfare benefits.

(Whereas 46)

# Animal Welfare Officer

This measure should therefore be applied throughout the Community.

The animal welfare officer should have sufficient authority and technical competence to provide relevant guidance to slaughter line personnel.

# Animal welfare officer

- Art. 17 (1) Business operators shall designate an animal welfare officer to assist them in ensuring compliance with the rules laid down in this Regulation.
- Art. 17 (6) Each slaughterhouse, slaughtering more than 1.000 livestock units of mammals or 150.000 birds or rabbits per year.

# Animal welfare officer

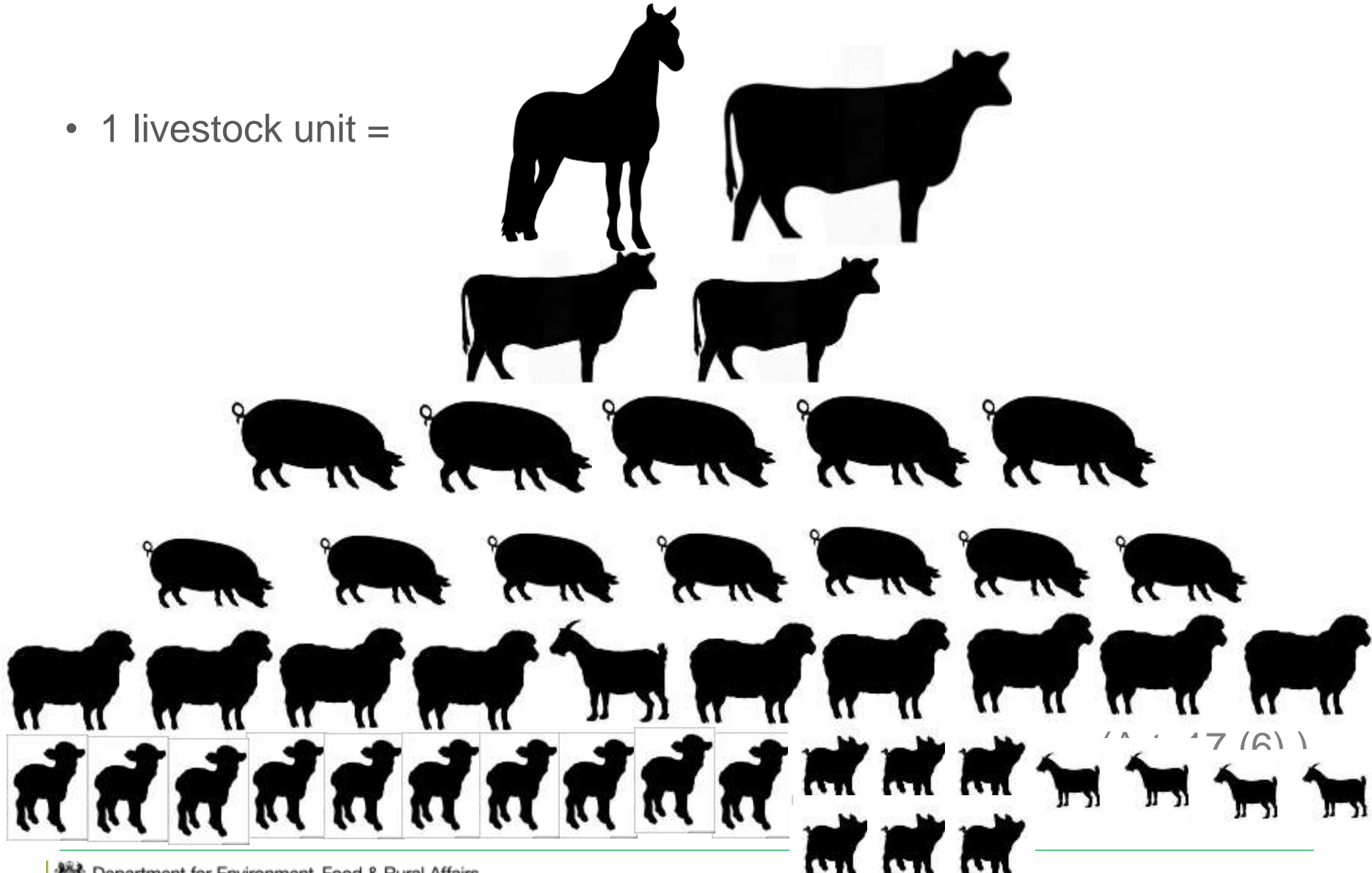
- Small slaughterhouses predominantly involved in the direct sale of food to the final consumer do not require a complex system of management to be implemented under this Regulation. The requirement to have an animal welfare officer in place would therefore be disproportionate in those cases and this Regulation should provide that the requirement

**Best  
practice**

(Whereas 47)

# 1000 livestock units – conversion rate

- 1 livestock unit =



# 1000 livestock units – conversion rate

- 1 livestock unit =
  - 1 adult bovine animal
  - 1 adult equidae
  - 2 other bovine animals
  - 5 pigs >100 kg
  - 7 other pigs (100>x>15kg)
  - 10 small ruminants (>15kg)
  - 20 piglets, lambs, kids (<15kg)

(Art. 17 (6) )



# Animal Welfare Officer

- Designated and under the responsibility of FBO
- Authority for remedial actions
- Responsibilities set up in SOPs
- Certificate of competence for all operations of responsibility
- Records of action taken to improve welfare – 1 year

# Animal welfare officer - Art. 17 (2)

- Under the direct authority of the business operator.
- Reports directly to business operator on matters relating to the welfare of the animals.
- Is in a position to require that the slaughterhouse personnel carry out any remedial actions necessary to ensure compliance with the Regulation.

# Animal welfare officer – Art. 17 (3)

- Responsibilities of the animal welfare officer shall be set out in the standard operating procedures of the slaughterhouse and effectively brought to the attention of the personnel concerned.

*Some SOPs are explicitly required by the legislation. These relate to*

- *key stunning parameters (see page 9);*
- *checking of the effect of stunning (see page 16);*
- *maintaining and using restraining and stunning equipment*

# Animal welfare officer - competence

- Art. 17 (4) The animal welfare officer shall hold a certificate of competence, issued for all the operations taking place in the slaughterhouses for which he or she is responsible.

Welsh Government

The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Wales) Regulations 2014



## Application for a Certificate of Competence

This form is for an application for a Certificate of Competence under The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (Wales) Regulations 2014. Before completing this application please read the guidance notes.

| Applicant Details |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| First Name:       |       |
| Surname:          |       |
| Address:          |       |
|                   |       |
| City/County:      |       |
| Postcode:         |       |
| Country:          | Wales |
| Date of Birth:    |       |

# Animal welfare officer –Art. 17 (5) Records

- The animal welfare officer shall keep a record of the action taken to improve animal welfare in the slaughterhouse.
- This record shall be kept for at least one year and shall be made available to the competent authority upon request.



M-G-M

IMPACT

CORAL

M-G-M  
LUMB

CADENCE

IMPACT

CADENCE RECORDS  
SWEET ELOISE

WINNERS  
CIRCLE

THE KING

fontana

DECCA  
45 RPM

monument

Liberty

THE KING  
I'M A PRINCE

# Animal Welfare Officer – Key Tools

- Animal Welfare Brochure

| SUMMARY CHECKLIST FOR STUNNING                    |                                      |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| <b>mechanical stunning</b>                        |                                      |
| ✓ position and direction of shot                  |                                      |
| ✓ appropriate velocity                            |                                      |
| ✓ maximum stun to stick/kill interval(s)          |                                      |
| <b>+ Plus</b>                                     |                                      |
| ✓ penetrative captive bolt devices                | exit length and diameter of the bolt |
| <b>electrical stunning</b>                        |                                      |
| ✓ minimum current (A or mA)                       |                                      |
| ✓ minimum voltage (V)                             |                                      |
| ✓ maximum frequency (Hz)                          |                                      |
| ✓ minimum time of exposure                        |                                      |
| ✓ maximum stun-to-stick/kill interval(s)          |                                      |
| ✓ frequency of calibration of the equipment       |                                      |
| ✓ optimisation of the current flow                |                                      |
| ✓ prevention of electrical shocks before stunning |                                      |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>electrical stunning</b>                       |   |
| <b>+ Plus</b>                                    |   |
| ✓ head-only and head-to-body electrical stunning | position and contact surface area of the electrodes |
| ✓ electrical waterbaths                          | missing pain at shackling                           |
|  | maximum shackle duration before the waterbath       |
|  | immersion of birds up to wing                       |
| <b>gas stunning</b>                              |   |
| ✓ gas concentration                              |   |
| ✓ duration of exposure                           |   |
| ✓ temperature of the gas                         |   |
| <b>+ Plus</b>                                    |   |
| ✓ carbon dioxide at high concentration           | quality of the gas                                  |
|  | maximum stun-to-stick interval(s)                   |
| ✓ carbon dioxide in two phases                   | quality of the gas                                  |
| ✓ carbon dioxide associated with inert gases     | quality of the gas                                  |
|  | maximum stun-to-stick interval(s)                   |
|  | oxygen concentration                                |
| ✓ inert gases                                    | quality of the gas                                  |
|  | maximum stun-to-stick/kill interval(s)              |
|  | oxygen concentration                                |

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\\_food-safety/information\\_sources/docs/ahw/brochure\\_24102012\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_food-safety/information_sources/docs/ahw/brochure_24102012_en.pdf)

# Animal Welfare Officer – Key Tools

- Regulation 1099/2009
- Manufacturer instructions
- Guides of Good Practice
- EFSA opinions
  - Monitoring indicators
  - 2004, 2006 opinions
- NGO / training organisations material





# Animal welfare officer - Summary

- Employed by business operator
- In charge of complying with the regulation
- Trained – holds a CoC for all operations supervised
- Keeping records of actions
- Contact point for competent authority



**Thanks for your attention**