

DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF ABATTOIR MANAGERS REGARDING THE WELFARE OF ANIMALS

In regard to the humane handling and slaughtering of livestock that have been admitted to abattoir premises, access routes and offloading facilities, ABATTOIR MANAGERS AND THEIR ASSIGNEES shall:

1. **BE CONVERSANT WITH, AND IMPLEMENT**, all relevant Sections and Regulations of
 - (a) the Standing Regulations under the Animal Slaughter, Meat and Animal production Hygiene Act, 1967 (Act no. 87 of 1967). Particular attention shall be paid to the following sections of the Standing Regulations Part 111, 17 and 18, Part IV, 1 and Part VI 1 - 10: Regulation 4, 4(a), 59 4(b)(i) - (iii); and
 - (b) the Abattoir Hygiene Act 1992, (Act no. 121 of 1992). Particular attention should be paid to sections 8(1), 9(1) and 13(1).
2. **BE CONVERSANT WITH, AND ENSURE**, that no transgressions of relevant Sections of, or Regulations to, the Animals Protection Act, 1962 (Act No. 71 of 1962), as amended, are permitted. Particular attention shall be paid to the following Sections:
 1. Definitions of "animal" and "owner";
 2. (1)(a) (b) (c) (e) (i) (q) (p) (2)
3. **ENSURE THAT:**
 - (i) suitable arrangements are made for vehicles transporting livestock to the abattoir to be inspected with a view to ensuring that the animals are transported in accordance with the published Code of practice for the Transport and Handling of Animals;
 - (ii) unsatisfactory vehicles or consignments showing a disproportionate number of injured animals or dead-on-arrivals, are brought to the attention of the dispatcher/owner/agent/Abadiens. [Reports of badly transported consignments, supported by photographs where possible, will assist in the elimination of unacceptable transporting practices which cause avoidable suffering to the animals and financial loss to the owners];
 - (iii) animals severely injured in transit shall be stunned immediately, the throat cut, and the carcass removed to a place suitable for dressing;
 - (iv) details of animals giving birth in transit to the abattoir, and in the abattoir, be submitted monthly to the Secretariat of the Livestock Welfare Co-ordinating Committee, P O Box 36802, MENLOPARK, Pretoria 0102;

- (v) the dam so giving birth either in transit or in the abattoir, and her neonate, are handled in the manner prescribed by the Livestock Welfare Co-ordinating Committee;
- (vi) to facilitate the taking of remedial action, a record is kept and submitted monthly to the abovementioned Secretariat of the names of persons responsible for repeated occurrences where the livestock they are responsible for, arrive at the abattoir in labour, having just given birth, injured, bruised or dead;
- (vii) in order that commendatory action may be taken, a record be kept and submitted monthly to the abovementioned Secretariat of the names of persons who consistently deliver uninjured livestock to the abattoir;
- (viii) persons in charge of unloading and loading, driving or herding and lairaging of livestock have the necessary skills and are identifiable;
- (ix) such persons are trained to handle the animals humanely, are observant of their natural herding tendencies, exercise patience and do not unduly stress the animals;
- (x) all animals are offloaded as soon as possible;
- (xi) prodding with electric prodders is kept to a minimum and the prodders are not applied to the face, genitalia or anus of animals;
- (xii) sheep are not be lifted by the fleece;
- (xiii) platforms or offloading facilities be provided of the correct height are provided to accommodate typical vehicles used in the transport of livestock to abattoirs;
- (xiv) offloading ramps have solid panel sides and that the footing is constructed of non-skid materials;
- (xv) the vehicle is correctly aligned as close as possible to the offloading platform to prevent any animals falling between the vehicle and the platform;
- (xvi) the animals are driven as quietly as possible without shouting or whistling and that the use of tail twisting, whips, sticks, or metal bars as opposed to canvas straps or polyethylene piping, is prohibited;
- (xvii) cattle which fall and splay and are thus unable to regain their footing do not remain unattended but are immediately stunned and the throat cut; [The animals may then be pulled by tractor onto a trailer and taken to the emergency slaughter facility];
- (xviii) the marking of animals for purposes of identification is done with approved materials and in a manner that will not unduly stress the animals;
- (xix) animals aggressively in active libido are lairaged separately;

- (xx) provision is made for the separate lairaging of calves and for their being fed with milk when they are not able to feed on the suitable hay which must be available at all times;
- (xxi) fractious animals such as aggressive boars and bulls are penned apart from other animals;
- (xxii) lairages are kept clean and, at all times, in good condition and that sharp corners and edges, jagged projections or protrusions which can lead to bruising or injury to the animals restrained therein, are eliminated;
- (xxiii) animals, particularly pigs and sheep, are not kept in conditions which may result in their being excessively exposed to heat, cold, inclement weather, sun or rain;
- (xxv) water troughs are at all times kept clean and filled with potable water.

4. **ENSURE THAT:**

A. **IN REGARD TO ACCESS ROUTES, OFFLOADING RAMPS, LAIRAGES, RACES AND PASSAGEWAYS:**

- (i) there shall never be allowed to be present any objects or articles which may cause injury to any animal restrained in, or traversing, such places. For example: rocks, loose bricks, concrete or stones, baling wire, jagged articles or projections of any kind; or loose plates or unseated metal grids;
- (ii) the materials used in such places are be of such construction and configuration as to present rounded sections and not sharp edges or projections;
- (iii) non-skid metal grids or riffled concrete or other suitable material are provided and maintained to ensure that animals are prevented from skidding, sliding, tripping or falling.

B. **STUNNING EQUIPMENT:**

- (i) Captive Bolt Pistols shall at all times be available at such places where such equipment is customarily used and that a back-up pistol is at all times immediately available if required;
- (ii) Captive Bolt Pistols shall be checked for operational efficiency before each day's slaughtering operation begins and shall be maintained in strict compliance with the manufacturer's/supplier's recommendations;
- (iii) cartridges for use in Captive Bolt Pistols shall be appropriate to the species, type and mass of the animals to be stunned;
- (iv) Electric Stunning Units shall at all times be available at such places where such equipment are customarily used;

- (v) Electric Stunning Units shall be checked for operational efficiency before each day's slaughtering begins and shall be maintained in strict compliance with the manufacturer's/supplier's recommendations. This shall include the setting of the amperage and wattage appropriate to the species, type and mass of the animal to be stunned;
- (vi) the placement of the Electric Stunning Tongs shall be in strict compliance with the instructions of the Directorate of Meat Hygiene, Department of Agriculture; and
- (vii) the duration of the application of the Electric Stunning Tongs shall be in strict compliance with the instructions of the Directorate of Meat Hygiene, Department of Agriculture.

C. **SLAUGHTERING EQUIPMENT:**

- (i) knives shall be of the correct length viz. \pm 180mm for sheep, 250mm for cattle;
- (ii) knives shall at all times be maintained very sharp and without nicks or otherwise damaged edges;
- (iii) the access to slaughter boxes shall be unobstructed, wide enough to accept animals with wide horns, solid panelled, and equipped with doors constructed in such a manner that on being closed they shall not be able to cause injury to the animal in the box or entering the box;
- (iv) the access door to slaughter boxes shall be solid panelled and constructed in such a manner as to preclude the possibility of any other animal in the access race from being able to see into the slaughter box while stunning or slaughtering is taking place;
- (v) where rotating boxes are used they shall be checked for efficient operation prior to the commencement of stunning or slaughtering and shall be maintained in efficient working order throughout the day's operation;
- (vi) not more than one bovine shall be permitted in the immediate access area of the box in order to preclude the possibility of more than one animal at a time from entering the box;
- (vii) the time between stunning and sticking in the case of pigs, and cutting the throat of all other animals shall be strictly monitored to ensure that the time is kept as short as possible and shall not exceed the time prescribed for each species by the Directorate of Meat Hygiene, Department of Agriculture;
- (viii) no shackled animal shall be hoisted unless it is unconscious and the bleed out shall be accomplished before it regains consciousness; and
- (ix) no animals shall be driven into the slaughter box or access race unless they can be slaughtered prior to any break in operations.

D. RITUAL SLAUGHTER:

1. KOSHER SLAUGHTER:

- (i) the Veterinary/Hygiene Officer shall satisfy himself/herself that the facilities for Ritual Slaughter at this abattoir and the procedures for such slaughter, have been approved by the Directorate of Meat Hygiene Services, Department of Agriculture;
- (ii) the Veterinary/Hygiene Officer shall satisfy himself/herself prior to the commencement of Ritual Slaughter that the equipment and facilities to be used during the operation are in efficient functional order;
- (iii) the restraining of the animal to be slaughtered shall be effected as painlessly and swiftly as possible;
- (iv) the slaughterman, his assistants and Schochet operating a rotating box, immobilising or slaughtering an animal are not permitted to delay in the performance of their respective functions during the slaughter;
- (v) failure to comply with D (iii) and (iv) shall be reported by the Manager of the Abattoir, in writing, to the Veterinary/Hygiene Officer and a copy thereof despatched to the Secretariat of the Livestock Welfare Coordinating Committee;
- (vi) an armed Captive Bolt Pistol shall be readily accessible to effectively stun the animal in the event of the cut by the Schochet not rendering the animal unconscious within three seconds of the cut;
- (vii) an effectively armed Captive Bolt Pistol shall be correctly applied after the cut within the period prescribed by the Livestock Welfare Coordination Committee, namely 10 in stead of 20 seconds;

2. HALAAL SLAUGHTER:

the above conditions shall mutatis, mutandis, apply to Halaal slaughter, except that the animal being slaughtered may be rendered unconscious prior to the Ritual Cut being effected.

- 5. THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CODE OF PRACTICE FOR THE TRANSPORT AND HANDLING OF ANIMALS AND THE GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF PRODDERS AND STUNNING DEVICES IN ABATTOIRS.**