

Guidance on Food Chain Information for keepers of cattle, sheep and goats



From 1 January 2010, Food Chain Information (FCI) must be provided by livestock keepers for all cattle, sheep and goats sent for slaughter, either directly to a slaughterhouse or through a market.

Meat from cattle, sheep and goats cannot be sold for human consumption if FCI has not been provided for the animals.

This guidance informs livestock keepers about the minimum information that they must provide as FCI for animals sent for slaughter.

Although the minimum level of information that slaughterhouse operators must receive as FCI has been set out, slaughterhouse operators have the final decision about the information they need to be able to accept the animals into their system. Similarly, slaughterhouse operators will decide the means by which FCI should be provided, e.g. company documentation, the AMLI form, or model documents.

You should ensure that you provide the necessary information in the form required by each customer for your animals destined for slaughter, including those traded through livestock markets.

FCI may accompany animals to the slaughterhouse or market – but some slaughterhouse operators may wish to receive it before the animals arrive. However, if you have specific information that could disrupt or adversely affect slaughter operations, e.g. information about public or animal health that may require the animals to be slaughtered last in the day, you must provide this to the slaughterhouse operator before sending the animals.

Guidance

Guidance is given below on each of the statements (in **bold**) contained in the declaration that you must provide for all cattle, sheep and goats you send for slaughter.

The holding is not under movement restriction for bovine tuberculosis (TB)*

or

The holding is under movement restriction for bovine tuberculosis (TB)*

**delete one*

- This information is required only for cattle.
- Reactors or inconclusive reactors to a TB test must be accompanied by specific movement licences.

Cattle/sheep and goats on the holding are not under movement restrictions for animal disease or public health reasons (excluding a 6-day [Scotland 13 day] standstill).

- Information about routine 6-day or 13-day standstills is not required.

Withdrawal periods have been observed for all veterinary medicines and other treatments administered to the animals while on this holding and previous holdings.

- Animals that are within a withdrawal period for veterinary medicines administered to them must not be sent for slaughter for human consumption.
- For purchased animals, you must obtain information about unexpired medicine withdrawal periods from the seller to enable you to make this declaration
- All types of medicines must be considered, including dry cow tubes, pulse release and injectable wormers, pour-on medicines and sheep dips.
- For information – the longest meat withdrawal period for any currently authorised medicine is 70 days for sheep and 240 days for cattle.



To the best of my knowledge, the animals are not showing signs of any disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat derived from them.

- Slaughterhouse operators can only accept animals that are healthy, as far as they can judge. In this context, healthy means free from obvious signs of a generalised disease or condition.
- Animals with a localised condition that does not affect their general health status may be sent to a slaughterhouse. Localised conditions may cause contamination of meat and affect its safety, or may result in the exclusion of part of the carcass from the food chain.

Cattle

- You should provide information about any cattle showing signs of any conditions that may affect the safety of meat.

Lambs and young goats

- You should provide information about any lambs or young goats showing signs of any conditions that may affect the safety of meat.

Adult sheep (ewes and rams) and goats

- Localised conditions are often present in adult sheep and goats – slaughter and inspection arrangements routinely take account of this to protect the safety of meat. Provided all the animals are healthy, you may make this declaration for batches of adult sheep and goats. You do not have to inspect individual animals, but if you are aware of any localised conditions, this information should be supplied.

Additional FCI

- When you are required to provide information about animals showing signs of conditions that may affect the safety of meat, you should do so in the form of the additional FCI model document, which can be found at food.gov.uk/foodindustry/guidancenotes/meatregsguid/fciguide or, in the case of sheep in England and Wales, on the new AMLI form.
- If you are in doubt about whether to provide information about a condition, or about the eligibility of animals for slaughter for human consumption, you should seek the advice of your private veterinary surgeon or the slaughterhouse operator.
- Under animal welfare legislation, animals must not be transported if the transport is likely to cause unnecessary suffering.

No analysis of samples taken from animals on the holding or other samples has shown that the animals in this consignment may have been exposed to any disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat or to substances likely to result in residues in meat.

- Any results of tests on animals, feed or the environment that have shown the presence on the holding of organisms transmissible to man through the consumption of meat (e.g. salmonella) or contaminants (e.g. lead) should be reported as additional FCI.
- Information about historical events that are no longer relevant to the safety of meat from the animals in the consignment is not required.
- In any case of doubt you should seek the advice of your private veterinary surgeon or the slaughterhouse operator.



**FOOD
STANDARDS
AGENCY**

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Guidance is also available on the Agency's website:
food.gov.uk