

Temporary Operational Instruction

Action note: 2024-09-12 - Chapter 2.4 of the Manual for Official Controls (MOC) Animal Welfare – back up stunning

Purpose

This action note is to inform operational staff of a new temporary operational instruction relating to back up stunning in religious slaughter of poultry.

Background

The previous guidance was removed from the MOC in update 107. Clarification has been sought from Defra on wording for a backup stun in religious slaughter of poultry. This instruction applies immediately and is a new interpretation of existing legislation.

Procedure

Ensure that when stunning is used in religious slaughter of poultry an appropriate back up stunning method is immediately available which results in immediate loss of consciousness. The revised wording for the MOC will be placed in Chapter 2.3 section 2.2.5 and is:

“For slaughter by religious rites without prior stunning, **in poultry only**, this is not a requirement and a repeat incision with a knife is permitted. When stunning is used for religious slaughter in poultry a suitable back up method must be available at all times and used in the case of a failure to stun.” This will be incorporated into MOC 108.

Front line staff are required to note the following action

Ensure that where stunning is used for religious slaughter of poultry there is a suitable back up method available that will result in an immediate loss of consciousness.

Note the contents of the action note, ensuring it is read by all front-line staff.

Where necessary, print a copy for the plant file.

Distribution

This action note will be:

- uploaded to the [Temporary Operational Instruction Folder held in the MOC area of SharePoint](#) (accessible only on an official FSA device)
- logged on the [Temporary Operational Instruction tracker](#) (accessible only on an official FSA device)

- published alongside the [MOC chapters on food.gov.uk](#)

The action note will remain live until either incorporated into the MOC or revoked.

Annex

Action note drafted by and date	Action note agreed by and date	Published and date
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