

Temporary Operational Instruction

**Action note: 2024-11-21 - Chapter 6 of the
Manual for Official Controls (MOC)
Slaughterhouse designation for exotic animal
disease outbreaks. Release of a new
application form for red meat slaughterhouses**

Purpose

This action note is to inform operational staff of a new temporary operational instruction relating to the release of a new designation application form to help red meat slaughterhouses prepare for different exotic notifiable disease outbreaks. The template will be included as a new annex (Annex 30) in Chapter 6 of the Manual for Official Controls (MOC).

Background

In the event of an exotic notifiable disease outbreak, slaughterhouses will need to be designated to receive susceptible animals that originate from disease control zones, or to be able to operate if they are located within disease control zones.

This new designation form covers the following exotic notifiable diseases:

- Classical swine fever
- African swine fever
- Swine vesicular disease
- Rinderpest (Cattle plague)
- Sheep and goat plague (*Peste Des Petits Ruminants*)
- Foot-and-mouth disease

The application form outlines the conditions that will need to be met and includes two levels:

- **Level 1:** Basic measures that will allow the slaughterhouse to operate if the establishment falls within a disease control zone.
- **Level 2:** Additional measures that will allow the slaughterhouse to process controlled animals (animals originating from farms that are located within disease control zones)

The conditions of the designation aim to minimise potential disease spread through preventive measures such as enhanced biosecurity measures, cross-contamination controls, additional controls on the handling and disposal of animal by-products, and improved traceability.

Applying for pre-designation early will help mitigate potential business impact in the event that an outbreak of exotic notifiable disease is confirmed, as the slaughterhouse will already have in place the required facilities and procedures to operate in accordance with the conditions of designation.

Establishments not pre-designated can still apply for designation during an outbreak of exotic notifiable disease, but the process may take longer, and these establishments risk not being able to operate during that outbreak initially.

Procedure

FBOs can apply at any time for their establishment to be pre-designated and request the designation form to the FSA Approvals team Approvals@food.gov.uk.

To apply for the designation, the FBO will need to follow these steps:

1. Develop written procedures and complete Part One of the application.
2. Provide the necessary evidence to the Official Veterinarian (OV) for them to complete Part Two of the document.
3. Once the OV has verified the information and signed the OV report section recommending the establishment to be designated for either level 1 or 2, the person responsible for the management of the slaughterhouse must send the application and written procedures to Approvals@food.gov.uk.

The Approvals team will process the application for designation in the same way that other designations are processed, via the local FSA team with the support of the Notifiable Disease portfolio.

Once verified that the requirements of the application are met, the pre-designation will be recommended by a G7 FSA veterinarian. The approvals team will notify the FBO about the recommendation and of their establishment being listed as pre-designated.

Following recommendation of pre-designation:

- The procedures will need to be regularly reviewed to ensure that they are kept up to date.
- Pre-designation of an establishment does not guarantee the designation will be activated in the event of an exotic notifiable disease outbreak.
- Designations will only be activated if an outbreak of exotic notifiable disease is officially confirmed, and animal movement restrictions are in place.

During an exotic notifiable disease outbreak, pre-designated establishments must verify the information provided and confirm to the FSA Approvals team that they still meet the requirements in order to have their designation activated. The activation of the designation will be completed by Defra in England and the Welsh Government in Wales.

Front line staff are required to note the following action

Read the new form and familiarise themselves with the conditions of the designation outlined in Part One of the application form. Then:

OVs:

1. Work closely with FBOs to develop effective procedures and address any questions they may have.
2. Review the procedures presented by the FBO and complete Part Two of the application form.
3. Once the information has been verified, sign the OV report section (Part Two) recommending the establishment to be pre-designated for either level 1 or 2.
4. Send the application form to the person responsible for the management of the slaughterhouse, who must email the application to Approvals@food.gov.uk.

Approvals team: Forward the application and copies of the procedures to the relevant Field Veterinary Leader (FVL) and Field Veterinary Coordinator (FVC), coordinate and keep track of the process, and liaise with the Notifiable Disease portfolio, Defra and Welsh Government as required.

FVL/FVCs: Complete a review of the application and, once satisfied the controls in place are satisfactory, sign Part Three recommending the pre-designation. Send signed application and latest version of the written procedures to the Approvals team.

Notifiable Disease Portfolio: Provide support to all involved in the process and liaise with Defra and Welsh Government.

Note that:

- Application forms for the designation of cutting plants, treatment centres, cold stores and game handling establishments will be released shortly.
- Ensure the contents of the action note are 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
Rocio Martinez 19/11/2024	Laureano Garcia-Munoz 21/11/2024	Example Text
Example text	Example text	Example text
Example text	Example text	Example text