

## SCHEDULE 2

### ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR KILLING ANIMALS OTHER THAN IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

#### **PART 4**

#### RESTRAINING OPERATIONS

##### **General requirement**

25. No person may stun or kill an animal without restraining it in an appropriate manner.

##### **Restraining bovine animals**

26. Without prejudice to the generality of paragraph 25, no person may stun a bovine animal in a killing establishment unless at the time it is stunned—

- (a) it is confined in a stunning facility which is in good working order; or
- (b) its head is securely fastened in such a position so as to enable it to be stunned without infliction of avoidable pain, distress or suffering.

##### **Electric Currents**

27. No person may use electrical stunning or killing equipment or any other instrument which applies an electric current to an animal—

- (a) as a means of restraining an animal;
- (b) as a means of immobilising an animal; or
- (c) except in accordance with paragraph 20 of this Schedule, as a means of making an animal move.

##### **Tying legs**

28. No person may tie the legs of an animal.

##### **Suspending animals**

29.—(1) No person may suspend an animal before stunning or killing.

(2) Sub-paragraph (1) does not apply in the case of poultry which may be suspended for stunning or killing provided that—

- (a) appropriate measures are taken to ensure that, at the point of being stunned or killed, the poultry are in a sufficiently relaxed state for stunning or killing to be carried out effectively and without undue delay; and
- (b) no poultry are suspended for more than 3 minutes in the case of a turkey or 2 minutes in other cases before being stunned or killed.

##### **Shackle lines**

30.—(1) No person may operate a shackle line unless—

- (a) poultry suspended from it are kept clear of any object which may cause avoidable pain, distress or suffering, including when their wings are outstretched, until they are stunned;

**Changes to legislation:** *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014, PART 4. (See end of Document for details)*

- (b) it is possible to relieve any avoidable pain, distress or suffering which poultry suspended from shackles appear to be suffering or to remove poultry from the shackles; and
- (c) the speed at which the shackle line is operated is such that any act or operation intended to be performed in relation to, or on, poultry suspended from it can be performed without undue haste and with proper regard for the welfare of the poultry.

(2) No person may, in connection with the stunning or killing of poultry, use a shackle line, machine or other equipment unless it is used in connection with the stunning or killing of poultry of the type, size and weight for which it was designed, save in an emergency where it is used to relieve suffering.

### **Restraining operations**

31. The business operator and any person engaged in the stunning or killing of an animal must ensure that an animal which is to be stunned or killed by mechanical or electrical means applied to the head is presented in such a position that the equipment can be applied and operated easily, accurately and for the appropriate time.

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