

---

STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

---

**2016 No. 54**

**FOOD**

**The Animals and Animal Products (Examination  
for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits)  
Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016**

*Made* - - - - *17th February 2016*

*Coming into operation* *31st March 2016*

<sup>M1M2M3M4</sup>The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, are Departments designated for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 in relation to the common agricultural policy of the European Community and in relation to measures in the veterinary and phytosanitary fields for the protection of public health.

<sup>M5M6</sup>Acting jointly, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety make the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by section 2(2) of and paragraph 1A of Schedule 2 to the European Communities Act 1972 and Articles 15(1)(a),(b) and (f), 15(3), 16(1) and (2), 25(1), 25(2)(a) and (b) and (3), 26(3), 30(9), 31(3), 32(1) and (2)(c), (d), (e), (f) and (h), 44(1) and (2) and 47(2) of, and paragraphs 3(1)(b) and 7 of Schedule 1 to, the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

<sup>M7</sup>The aforementioned Departments have consulted in accordance with Article 9 of Regulation (EC) No. 178/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety.

These Regulations make provision for a purpose mentioned in section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 and it appears to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety that it is expedient for any reference in these Regulations to the Annexes to Council Directive 96/22/EC concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of beta-agonists <sup>M8</sup>, to Council Directive 96/23/EC on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products <sup>M9</sup> and to Commission Regulation (EU) No. 37/2010 on pharmacologically active substances and their classification regarding maximum residue limits in foodstuffs of animal origin <sup>M10</sup> to be construed as a reference to those Annexes as amended from time to time.

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/10/2023.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016. (See end of Document for details)

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** Regulations applied (with modifications) (1.10.2023) by [The Windsor Framework \(Enforcement etc.\) Regulations 2023 \(S.I. 2023/1056\)](#), regs. 1(2), 9, [Sch.](#)

#### Marginal Citations

- M1** Formerly the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland: see [S.I. 1999/283 \(N.I.1\)](#), Article 3(4).  
**M2** Formerly the Department of Health and Social Services: see [S.I. 1999/283 \(N.I.1\)](#), Article 3(6).  
**M3** [S.I. 1972/1811](#) and [S.I. 1999/2027](#).  
**M4** [1972 c. 68](#). Section 2(2) was amended by section 27(1)(a) of the [Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006 \(c.51\)](#) and Part 1 of the Schedule to the [European Union \(Amendment\) Act 2008 \(c.7\)](#).  
**M5** [S.R. 2000 No.78](#): see [regulation 13\(1\)\(d\)\(i\)](#) which allows the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development to join with the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety in making Regulations under the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 in relation to residues of veterinary products in food or food sources.  
**M6** [S.I. 1991/762 \(N.I.7\)](#) as amended by [S.I. 1996/1633 \(N.I.12\)](#), [paragraphs 26 to 42](#) of Schedule 5 and Schedule 6 to the Food Standards Act 1999 [c.28](#), [S.R. 2004 No. 482](#), [S.R. 2004 No. 505](#), [S.I.2006/3336 \(N.I. 21\)](#) and [2009 c. 1 \(N.I.\)](#).  
**M7** O.J. No. L31, 1.2.2002, p.1.  
**M8** O.J. No. L125, 23.5.1996, p. 3, as last amended by Directive 2008/97/EC (O.J. No. L318, 28.11.2008, p. 9).  
**M9** O.J. No. L215, 23.5.1996, p. 10, as last amended by Regulation (EC) 596/2009 (O.J. No. L188, 18.7.2009, p. 14).  
**M10** O.J. No. L15, 20.1.2010, p. 1, as last amended by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 222/2012 (O.J. No. L75, 15.3.2012, p. 10).

## PART 1

### Introductory

#### Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 and shall come into operation on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016.

#### Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Regulations—

“analysis” includes any technique for establishing the composition of an official sample;

“analyst” means the person having the management or control of an approved laboratory;

“animal” includes aquaculture animals;

“animal product” includes meat, meat products, processed products derived from animals, milk, honey and eggs;

“approved laboratory” means—

(a) a laboratory approved by the Department for the purposes of Council Directive 96/23; or

(b) any laboratory under the direction or control of a public analyst appointed in accordance with Article 27 of the Order;

“authorised officer” means—

- (a) except in regulations 12, 20, 21, 22 and 23(1)(b), any person (whether or not an officer of an enforcement authority) who is authorised in writing by that authority, either generally or specially, to act in matters arising under these Regulations; or
- (b) in regulations 12, 20, 21, 22 and 23(1)(b) any person who is authorised in writing by the Department, either generally or specially, to act in matters arising under those regulations;

“carcase” means—

- (a) the whole body of a slaughtered animal (other than an uneviscerated bird) after bleeding and dressing; or
- (b) the whole body of a slaughtered uneviscerated bird after bleeding;

“commercial operation”, in relation to an animal or batch of animals, means any of the following, namely—

- (a) selling, possessing for sale and offering, exposing or advertising for sale;
- (b) consigning or delivering by way of sale;
- (c) storing or transporting for the purpose of sale;
- (d) slaughtering or deriving food from it for the purpose of sale or for purposes connected with sale; and
- (e) importing and exporting;

“Council Directive 96/22” means Council Directive [96/22/EC](#) concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of beta-agonists, and repealing Directives [81/602/EEC](#), [88/146/EEC](#) and [88/299/EEC](#);

“Council Directive 96/23” means Council Directive [96/23/EC](#) on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives [85/358/EEC](#) and [86/469/EEC](#) and Decisions [89/187/EEC](#) and [91/664/EEC](#);

“the Department” means the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development;

“enforcement authority”, means the Department or a district council within its district, or both;

“examination” includes a physical examination of an animal or animal product or other article or substance and the taking, and any analysis of, an official sample;

“farm of origin”, in relation to an official sample taken from any animal or animal product means—

- (a) where the official sample was taken at a farm, that farm;
- (b) where the official sample was taken at any other place, the last farm on which the animal from which the sample was taken or derived was kept before being taken to that place;

“hormonal substance” means any substance within either of the following categories—

- (a) stilbenes and thyrostatic substances; or
- (b) substances with oestrogenic, androgenic or gestagenic action;

“list A substance” means a substance named in List A of Annex II to Council Directive 96/22;

“list B substance” means a substance named in List B of Annex II to Council Directive 96/22;

“marketing authorisation” has the same meaning as it bears in Article 5 of Directive [2001/82/EC](#)<sup>M11</sup> of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Community code relating to veterinary medicinal products [<sup>F1</sup>as last amended by Directive [2004/28/EC](#) of the European Parliament and of the Council] ;

“maximum residue limit” means, in relation to a concentration of a substance specified in the first column of Table 1 in the tissues or body fluids of an animal or in an animal product, the limit (if any) specified in the fourth column opposite the reference to that substance and the applicable animal species specified in the third column, where the substance is contained in the part of the animal specified opposite it in the fifth column or in an animal product derived from that part of the animal;

“offal” means meat other than that of the carcase whether or not naturally connected to the carcase;

“official sample” means a sample taken by an authorised officer for analysis for the purpose of these Regulations which bears a reference to the type, the amount or quantity concerned and the method of collection and, in the case of an animal or animal product, the species and, where appropriate, particulars identifying the sex and origin of the animal;

“the Order” means the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991;

“owner” includes, in relation to any animal, batch of animals or premises, the person in charge of such animal, batch of animals or premises, and in relation to any animal product the person in possession of such product;

“possession” in relation to any farm animal or aquaculture animal does not include possession under official control;

“primary analysis” means an analysis of an official sample carried out by an approved laboratory;

“primary analysis certificate” means an analyst's certificate specifying the finding of a primary analysis;

“prohibited substance” means any beta-agonist or hormonal substance administered to an animal contrary to the prohibition in regulation 5;

“reference analysis” means an analysis carried out by an approved laboratory to check the finding of a primary analysis;

“reference analysis certificate” means an analyst's certificate specifying the finding of a reference analysis;

“Regulation 470/2009” means Regulation (EC) No. 470/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down Community procedures for the establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin, repealing Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2377/90 and amending Directive 2001/82/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Regulation (EC) No. 726/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council<sup>M12</sup>;

“Regulation 37/2010” means Commission Regulation (EU) No. 37/2010 on pharmacologically active substances and their classification regarding maximum residue limits in foodstuffs of animal origin;

“sale” includes possess for sale, and offer, expose or advertise for sale, and “sale” and “sold” shall be construed accordingly;

“Table 1” means Table 1 of the Annex to Regulation 37/2010, and “Table 1 substance” means a substance specified in the first column of Table 1;

“Table 2 substance” means a substance specified in Table 2 of the Annex to Regulation 37/2010;

“unauthorised substance” means a Table 2 substance, a prohibited substance and any other substance or product the administration of which to animals is prohibited by or under European Union legislation;

“unlicensed substance” means a substance, other than a hormonal substance, beta-agonist or Table 2 substance which, if transmitted to an animal product, would be likely to be harmful to human health and which has been administered or is intended for administration in the United Kingdom to an animal or batch of animals or, which has been administered to an animal in a member State of the European Union <sup>F2</sup>... and at the time of administration neither that substance, nor any product containing it, was authorised for use in that animal in that State;

“veterinary surgeon” means a person registered in the register of veterinary surgeons or in the supplementary veterinary register; and

“withdrawal period”, in relation to an a veterinary medicinal product administered to an animal or batch of animals, means the period, specified in a current veterinary medicinal product licence or marketing authorisation relating to the product or (in the absence of any such specification) specified in a prescription given by a veterinary surgeon in respect of the administration of the product, which is required to elapse from the cessation of the medication of the animal or batch of animals with the product to the slaughter of the animal or batch of animals for human consumption or to the taking of animal products derived from the animal or batch of animals for human consumption.

(2) For the purpose of ascertaining whether the maximum residue limit has been exceeded for the purposes of these Regulations –

(a) the presence of the drug or drug metabolite (or combination thereof) specified in the second column (marker residue) of Table 1 opposite the corresponding entry in the first column (pharmacologically active substance) of that Table shall be taken to indicate the presence of that substance in that part of an animal or batch of animals, or in any animal product derived from that part of an animal or batch of animals, specified in the corresponding entry in the fifth column (target tissues) of that table; and

(b) the maximum residue limit (if any) specified in the fourth column of that Table in the entry corresponding to that substance shall apply in respect of the presence in such part of an animal or batch of animals, or in any animal product derived from such part of an animal or batch of animals, of any such drug or drug metabolite (or combination thereof) as if it were that substance;

(3) Other expressions used in these Regulations and in Council Directive 96/22, Council Directive 96/23 or Regulation 470/2009 have, in so far as the context admits, the same meaning as they bear in those Directives or that Regulation, as appropriate.

(4) Any reference in these Regulations to an Annex to Council Directive 96/22, Council Directive 96/23 or Regulation 37/2010 is a reference to that Annex, as amended from time to time.

(5) The Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954 <sup>M13</sup> shall apply to these Regulations as it applies to an Act of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

- F1** Words in reg. 2(1) added (15.3.2019) by [The Residues \(Charges and Examination\) \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2019 \(S.R. 2019/16\)](#), regs. 1(1), **3(2)**
- F2** Words in reg. 2(1) omitted (31.12.2020) by virtue of [The Agriculture, Animals and Aquaculture \(Health, Identification, Welfare, Trade etc.\) \(Amendment\) \(EU Exit\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2020 \(S.R. 2020/324\)](#), regs. 1(3), **3**

#### Marginal Citations

- M11** O.J. No. L311, 28.11.2001, p. 1. Article 5 was replaced by Directive 2004/28/EC (O.J. No. L136, 30.4.2004, p. 58).
- M12** O.J. No. L152, 16.6.2009, p. 1.
- M13** [1954 c. 33 \(N.I.\)](#).

## PART 2

### Prohibitions and Exceptions

#### **Prohibition on the sale of list A and list B substances**

3.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person shall not sell, for administration to any animal, any product which is, or which contains, a list A substance or a list B substance, if the animal or any product of that animal is intended for human consumption.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the sale of a product that complies with the requirements of regulation 25 and which is for administration in accordance with regulation 27.

(3) Any product sold which is, or which contains, a list A substance or a list B substance shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proven, to have been sold for administration to an animal which is, or any product of which is, intended for human consumption.

#### **Prohibition on possession of beta-agonists**

4. A person, other than a veterinary surgeon, shall not possess, on a farm, any veterinary medicinal product containing a beta-agonist which is authorised to be used for induction purposes in the treatment of tocolysis.

#### **Prohibition on administration of beta-agonists or hormonal substances**

5.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person shall not administer or knowingly cause or permit to be administered to any animal any—

- (a) substance listed in Annexes II or III of Council Directive 96/22; or
- (b) any product which is, or which contains a substance listed in either of those Annexes.

(2) The prohibition in paragraph (1) shall not apply to the administration of a compliant veterinary medicinal product —

- (a) containing testosterone, progesterone or a derivative of these substances which readily yields the parent compound on hydrolysis after absorption at the site of application, if that product is administered in accordance with regulation 26;
- (b) containing allyl trenbolone or a beta-agonist, if that product is administered in accordance with regulation 27; or
- (c) having oestrogenic action (but not containing oestradiol 17b or its ester-like derivatives), androgenic action or gestagenic action, if that product is administered in accordance with regulation 28.

(3) Paragraph (2), “compliant veterinary medicinal product” means a veterinary medicinal product which complies with the requirements of regulation 25.

#### **Prohibition of administration to animals of unlicensed substances or products**

6.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person shall not administer or knowingly cause or permit to be administered to an animal any unlicensed substance.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) shall prohibit the administration of any veterinary medicinal product in accordance with an exemption specified in paragraphs 1, 5 and 9 of Schedule 4 of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013 <sup>M14</sup>.

### Marginal Citations

M14 [S.I. 2013 No. 2033](#).

### Prohibition of administration of Table 2 substances

7. It is an offence to contravene Article 14(6) of Regulation 470/2009 (prohibition on administration of substances to food producing animals in certain circumstances).

### Prohibition of possession or slaughter of animals and of processing

8.—(1) A person shall not slaughter or otherwise be in possession on a farm of an animal intended for use for human consumption to which there has been administered, which contains, or in which the presence has been established of, any substance listed in Annex II or Annex III to Council Directive 96/22.

(2) A person shall not process the meat of an animal intended for human consumption where that animal contains or the presence in has been established of, or to which there has been administered, any substance listed in Annex II or Annex III to Council Directive 96/22.

(3) Any animal slaughtered or in the possession of a person on a farm which is commonly slaughtered or possessed for use for human consumption shall be presumed, until the contrary is proven, to have been slaughtered or possessed for such use and an animal commonly used for human consumption from which meat is processed shall be presumed, until the contrary is proven, to be an animal for such use.

### Prohibition on the sale of animals

9.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), a person shall not sell or supply, for slaughter for human consumption, any animal—

- (a) which contains or to which there has been administered an unauthorised substance or unlicensed substance;
- (b) to which there has been administered a substance in contravention of regulation 5;
- (c) that is an aquaculture animal to which a substance listed in Annexes II or III of Council Directive 96/22 has been administered;
- (d) to which a list A substance or a substance listed in Annex III of Council Directive 96/22 has been administered;
- (e) which contains a Table 1 substance at a concentration exceeding the maximum residue limit; or
- (f) to which a medicinal product has been administered if the withdrawal period for that product has not expired.

(2) Nothing in paragraph (1) (f) shall prohibit the sale before the end of the withdrawal period of any high-value horse to which has been administered allyl trenbolone or a beta-agonist in accordance with regulation 5, provided that the type and date of treatment was entered on the horse's passport by the veterinary surgeon directly responsible for the treatment.

### Prohibition of the sale of animal products

10.—(1) A person shall not sell for human consumption any animal product derived from an animal the sale or supply for slaughter of which is prohibited under regulation 9.

(2) A person shall not sell for human consumption any animal product which contains—

- (a) an unauthorised substance, an unlicensed substance; or
- (b) an authorised substance at a concentration exceeding the relevant maximum residue limit.

### **Prohibition of disposal of a slaughtered animal or batch of animals**

11. Where an animal or batch of animals has been slaughtered further to a notice issued under regulation 22, a person shall not dispose of the carcase or offal of that animal or of any animal of that batch of animals, or any part of such carcase or offal, for human or animal consumption.

### **Exception to prohibition on slaughter**

12.—(1) Notwithstanding the prohibition on slaughter of an animal or batch of animals by notice served pursuant to regulation 22(4), that animal or batch of animals may be slaughtered before the withdrawal of such notice, if the owner of that animal or batch of animals complies with paragraphs (2) to (5).

(2) Notice of the proposed date and place of slaughter shall be given to an authorised officer before that date.

(3) The animal or batch of animals, marked, or caused to be marked, by an authorised officer under regulation 21(2)(c), shall be accompanied to the place of slaughter by a certificate issued by an authorised officer identifying the animal or batch of animals and the farm of origin.

(4) After slaughter any animal product derived from the animal or from an animal of that batch of animals shall be retained in such place and manner as an authorised officer may specify, while it is subjected to such examination as he may reasonably consider necessary.

(5) Where the examination (the result of which shall be served by an authorised officer on the owner by notice in writing) confirms that any animal product referred to in paragraph (4) contains an authorised substance at a concentration exceeding the relevant maximum residue limit, the animal product shall be disposed of for a purpose other than human consumption.

## **PART 3**

### **Sampling and Analysis**

#### **Procurement of samples**

13. An authorised officer may—
- (a) take a sample of any article or substance which is found by him on or in any premises which he is authorised to enter and which he has reason to believe may be required as evidence in proceedings under any of the provisions of these Regulations; and
  - (b) take a sample from any animal, whether or not intended for human consumption, which is found by him on or in any such premises.

#### **Primary analysis of official samples**

14.—(1) An official sample shall be submitted for analysis at an approved laboratory and dealt with in accordance with paragraph (2) or (3).

(2) Except where the official sample is of a kind described in paragraph (3), part of that sample shall be subjected to a primary analysis, the remainder being retained for any reference analysis.



(3) Where the official sample contains the remains of any solid implant or injection site, the analyst shall prepare an extract of such implant or injection site and subject part of that extract to a primary analysis, the remainder of the extract being retained for any reference analysis.

### Results of primary analysis

15.—(1) Where the primary analysis shows that an official sample, or in the case of such a sample containing the remains of a solid implant or injection site, such remains of solid implant or injection site, contains—

- (a) an unauthorised substance or unlicensed substance;
- (b) a substance which an analyst reasonably suspects may be an unauthorised substance or unlicensed substance;
- (c) in the case of a sample taken from an animal or batch of animals, its excrement or body fluids or from its tissues, an authorised substance at a concentration which is notified to the analyst by an authorised officer as one which causes him reasonably to suspect that an animal product derived from that animal or batch of animals may contain an authorised substance at a concentration exceeding the relevant maximum residue limit; or
- (d) in the case of a sample taken from any animal product, an authorised substance at a concentration exceeding the relevant maximum residue limit,

the analyst shall record that information in a primary analysis certificate and provide a copy of that certificate to an authorised officer who shall then give that copy to the relevant person.

(2) Where the primary analysis does not show anything requiring a primary analysis certificate to be given under paragraph (1), the analyst shall notify an authorised officer of that fact and the authorised officer shall then notify the relevant person.

(3) For the purposes of this regulation and regulations 16 and 17, “relevant person” shall mean —

- (a) the owner of the premises where the sample was taken; or
- (b) in the event that the person in sub-paragraph (a) is not also the owner of the animal, batch of animals, animal product or other article or substance from which the sample was taken, the owner thereof,

whichever one of them that the authorised officer considers appropriate.

### Reference analysis

16.—(1) The finding specified in the primary analysis certificate shall be referred by an authorised officer to an approved laboratory for a reference analysis together with the remainder of the official sample retained by the analyst in accordance with regulation 14(2) or (3), as appropriate, if—

- (a) the finding shows that the official sample, whether or not an extract of any solid implant or injection site, contains a substance which is specified under the heading ‘Group A’ in Annex 1 to Council Directive 96/23; or
- (b) an authorised officer in any event so decides.

(2) The analyst shall record the result of the reference analysis in a reference analysis certificate and provide a copy of that certificate to an authorised officer who shall then give this copy to the relevant person.

(3) The relevant person may, on the basis of a contradictory analysis and by notice in writing served on an authorised officer, challenge the finding specified in a primary analysis certificate in relation to an official sample at any time before that sample, or part thereof, is referred for a reference analysis.

(4) Where, in accordance with paragraph (3), the relevant person challenges the finding specified in a primary analysis certificate he shall be liable for the costs of any reference analysis which confirms the finding specified in that certificate.

### Notification to analyst

**17.—(1)** An authorised officer who submits to an approved laboratory a sample for primary analysis shall inform the analyst of that approved laboratory of the name and address of the relevant person.

(2) An authorised officer who refers to an approved laboratory a finding specified in a primary analysis shall inform the analyst of that approved laboratory of the name and address of the relevant person.

### Methods of analysis

**18.** The analysis of an official sample shall be carried out in the accordance with methods authorised by Commission Decision [2002/657/EC](#) implementing Council Directive [96/23/EC](#) concerning the performance of analytical methods and the interpretation of results [<sup>F3</sup>as last amended by Commission [Decision 2004/25/EC](#)]<sup>M15</sup>.

**F3** Words in [reg. 18](#) added (15.3.2019) by [The Residues \(Charges and Examination\) \(Amendment\) Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2019](#) (S.R. 2019/16), regs. 1(1), **3(3)**

#### Marginal Citations

**M15** O.J. No. L221, 17.8.2002, p. 8, as last amended by Commission Decision 2004/25/EC (O.J. No. L6, 10.1.2004, p. 38).

### Certificates of analysis

**19.—(1)** Any certificate given by an analyst under these Regulations—

- (a) shall be signed by the analyst; and
- (b) shall specify the name of the authorised officer who submitted the sample for analysis and the name and address of the enforcement authority of which he is an officer.

(2) In any proceedings under these Regulations, the production by one of the parties—

- (a) of a document purporting to be a certificate given by an analyst under paragraph (1); or
- (b) of a document supplied to him by the other party as being a copy of such a certificate,

shall be sufficient evidence of the facts stated in it unless, in a case falling within sub-paragraph (a), the other party requires the analyst to be called as a witness.

### Animal inspections

**20.—(1)** An authorised officer may, by giving written notice, require—

- (a) the detention of an animal or a batch of animals in the place where the animal or the batch is located; or
- (b) the removal to, and the detention at, another place of an animal or batch of animals,

in order to carry out an inspection.

(2) An inspection under paragraph (1) is to be undertaken to ascertain whether—

- (a) any animal contains any unauthorised substance, unlicensed substance or a residue of any other substance which the authorised officer reasonably suspects may result in any animal product derived from the animal containing an unauthorised substance, an unlicensed substance or a Table 1 substance at a concentration exceeding the maximum residue limit; or
  - (b) any withdrawal period has expired.
- (3) Where detention alone is required, the notice is to be served on the owner of the premises where the animal or batch of animals is located.
- (4) Where removal and detention elsewhere is required the notice is to be served on the owner of the premises where the animal or batch of animals is located unless another person is the owner of the animal or batch of animals, in which case the authorised officer is to serve the notice on whichever one of them the officer considers appropriate.

### Examination of an animal or batch of animals

**21.—**(1) If it appears to an authorised officer, as a result of an inspection carried out for the purposes referred to in regulation 20, that any animal or batch of animals may contain an unauthorised substance, an unlicensed substance or a residue of an authorised substance which he reasonably suspects may result in any animal product derived from that animal or batch of animals containing an authorised substance at a concentration exceeding the relevant maximum residue limit or that the withdrawal period in relation to any animal has not expired, an authorised officer shall have the powers specified in paragraph (2) in relation to such an animal or batch of animals.

- (2) An authorised officer may—
- (a) serve a notice in writing on the owner of the animal or batch of animals that, until the notice is withdrawn by a further notice in writing—
    - (i) no commercial operations are to be carried out with respect to the animal or batch of animals;
    - (ii) the animal or batch of animals is not to be moved from the place where it then is or is not to be so moved except to a place specified in the notice; and
    - (iii) no animal, other than one within sub-paragraph (ii), shall be moved from the farm of origin except as specified in the notice;
  - (b) subject the animal or batch of animals to such examinations for the presence of substances or residues as the authorised officer may reasonably consider to be necessary;
  - (c) paint, stamp, clip, tag or otherwise mark, or cause to be marked, the animal or batch of animals in order to identify it or them for the purposes of these Regulations.

### Notice on completion of examination

**22.—**(1) On completion of an examination specified in regulation 21(2)(b), an authorised officer shall serve a notice in writing on the owner of the animal or batch of animals in accordance with paragraphs (2) to (5).

(2) Where such an examination shows that an animal or batch of animals does not contain any unauthorised substance, any unlicensed substance or the residue of any authorised substance at a concentration likely to result in any animal product derived from that animal or batch of animals having a concentration of the substance exceeding the relevant maximum residue limit or where an authorised officer considers that such an examination is unnecessary the notice shall so declare and shall withdraw any notice served on the owner of the animal or batch of animals under regulation 21(2)(a) in so far as it relates to that animal or batch of animals.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/2023.*

*Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016. (See end of Document for details)*

(3) Where the examination shows that the animal or batch of animals contains a prohibited substance, an unlicensed substance or a Table 2 substance, the notice shall so declare, shall specify the result of the examination and shall require the owner of the animal or batch of animals to slaughter the animal or batch of animals, or cause it or them to be slaughtered, within such a period and in accordance with such requirements as may be specified in the notice.

(4) Where the examination shows that an animal or batch of animals contains a concentration of an authorised substance which an authorised officer reasonably suspects may result in any animal product derived from that animal or batch of animals having a concentration of that substance exceeding the relevant maximum residue limit, the notice shall so declare, shall specify the result of the examination and shall, subject to regulation 12, prohibit the slaughter of that animal or batch of animals for human consumption.

(5) A notice served in accordance with paragraph (4) prohibiting the slaughter of any animal or batch of animals may at any time be withdrawn by a further notice in writing served by an authorised officer on the owner of the animal or batch of animals and a notice served in accordance with paragraph (4) shall be so withdrawn as soon as an authorised officer is satisfied that the animal or batch of animals does not contain a concentration of an authorised substance which may result in any animal product derived from the animal or batch of animals having a concentration of that substance exceeding the relevant maximum residue limit.

(6) If any person on whom a notice has been served under paragraph (3) fails to comply with the requirements of the notice relating to the slaughter of an animal or batch of animals, an authorised officer may, without prejudice to any proceedings arising out of such default, slaughter, or cause to be slaughtered, that animal or batch of animals.

(7) The Department may make a charge of an amount equal to the amount of expenses reasonably incurred by its authorised officer in the exercise of the powers conferred on him under—

- (a) regulation 21(2), if paragraph (3) or (4) applies; or
- (b) paragraph (6).

(8) The charge referred to in paragraph (7) shall be payable by the person in default and shall be recoverable by the Department as a civil debt.

## PART 4

### Offences, Penalties, Defences and Exceptions

#### Offences, penalties and enforcement

**23.**—(1) A person shall be guilty of an offence if he—

- (a) contravenes regulation 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 31(1), (2), (3) or (4) or any provision of a notice served on him under these Regulations; or
- (b) without the consent in writing of an authorised officer, defaces, obliterates or removes any marking made under regulation 21(2) (c) or attempts to do so.

(2) A person guilty of an offence under paragraph (1) or regulation 7 is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding the statutory maximum or on conviction on indictment to a fine.

(3) Each enforcement authority shall enforce these Regulations and shall give such assistance and information to each other enforcement authority as that other enforcement authority reasonably requires for the purpose of its duties under these Regulations.

(4) Prosecution for an offence under paragraph (1) or regulation 7 shall not be begun after the expiry of—

- (a) three years from the commission of the offence; or

(b) one year from its discovery by the prosecutor,  
whichever is the earlier.

### Defences and exceptions

24.—(1) In any proceedings for an offence alleging a contravention of regulation 4 it shall be a defence for the person charged to prove that the veterinary medicinal product to which the allegation relates is intended for purposes other than administration to an animal.

(2) In any proceedings for an offence alleging a contravention of regulation 8 it shall be a defence for the person charged to prove that the substance listed in Annex II or Annex III of Council Directive 96/22 contained or present in the animal or which has been administered to the animal was administered in accordance with regulation 5.

### Compliant Products

25.—(1) A product which is, or which contains, a substance listed in Annex II or Annex III of Council Directive 96/22 complies with the requirements of this regulation if—

- (a) a marketing authorisation has been issued in relation to it;
- (b) in the case of a product which is, or which contains, a beta-agonist, it has a withdrawal period of less than 28 days after the end of treatment; and
- (c) in the case of a product which is, or which contains, a hormonal substance, it is not a product which falls within paragraph (2).

(2) A product falls within this paragraph if it—

- (a) acts as a deposit;
- (b) has a withdrawal period of more than 15 days after the end of treatment; or
- (c) was authorised before 1st January 1995, has no known conditions of use and for which no reagents or equipment exists for use in the analytical techniques for detecting the presence of residues in excess of the prescribed limits.

### Exception to prohibition on administration for testosterone and progesterone

26.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), administration of any product which is, or which contains, testosterone or progesterone, is in accordance with this regulation if it is carried out by a veterinary surgeon for a therapeutic purpose on a farm animal by injection.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply to the treatment of ovarian dysfunction, in which case administration is in accordance with this regulation if it is carried out by a veterinary surgeon using a product in the form of vaginal spirals.

### Exception to prohibition on administration for allyl trenbolone and beta-agonists

27.—(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), administration of any product which is, or which contains, allyl trenbolone or beta-agonists, shall be in accordance with this regulation if it is carried out for a therapeutic purpose and it is carried out by a veterinary surgeon or under his direct responsibility.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall apply to a veterinary medicinal product which is, or which contains, allyl trenbolone only if it is authorised for oral administration, it is administered in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and it is administered to non-production animals.

(3) Paragraph (1) shall apply to a veterinary medicinal product which is, or which contains, a beta-agonist only if it is administered to a —

- (a) member of the equidae family; or
- (b) calving cow, by injection by a veterinary surgeon, to induce tocolysis during labour.

**Exception to prohibition on administration for products having oestrogenic, androgenic or gestagenic action**

**28.**—(1) Administration is in accordance with this regulation if, in the case of farm animals other than production animals —

- (a) it is carried out for the purpose of zootechnical treatment;
- (b) it is carried out, in the case of the synchronisation of oestrus or the preparation of donors or recipients for the implantation of embryos by, or under the direct responsibility of a veterinary surgeon, and in any other case, by a veterinary surgeon; and
- (c) the veterinary surgeon responsible for the treatment, issues a prescription for the products to be administered, whether he supplies them or not.

(2) Administration is in accordance with this regulation if, in the case of fish aged three months or less, the administration is of products with an androgenic action for sex inversion purposes.

## PART 5

### Miscellaneous

**Responsibilities of processors**

**29.** The owner of an establishment of initial processing of animal products shall, in respect of each animal or animal product brought into that establishment, ensure —

- (a) that it does not contain—
  - (i) a residue level which exceeds the maximum permitted limit;
  - (ii) any unauthorised substance or product or any unlicensed substance or product; and
- (b) any appropriate withdrawal period has been observed.

**Unavailability of defence**

**30.** It is hereby declared that a person shall not be entitled to rely on the defence provided by Article 20(1), (5) and (6) of the Order, as applied by regulation 32, in any proceedings alleging a contravention of regulation 8 or 10 if he has contravened regulation 29.

**Keeping and retention of records**

**31.**—(1) The owner of an establishment of initial processing of animal products shall keep such records as are sufficient, either alone or in combination with records or information held by some other person, to enable the animals from which those animal products were derived, and the farm of origin or departure of those animals, to be identified.

(2) Persons holding a manufacturing or wholesale dealer's authorisation granted under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2013, for purposes relating to a marketing authorisation for a product to which regulation 4 applies, shall, in relation to hormonal substances and beta-agonists, keep a record in chronological order of—

- (a) quantities produced;

- (b) quantities purchased or otherwise acquired and from whom each quantity was purchased or acquired;
- (c) quantities sold and to whom each quantity was sold; and
- (d) quantities used in the production of pharmaceutical or authorised veterinary products.

(3) Any person required to keep a record by paragraph (1) or (2) shall keep that record in a permanent and legible form and shall retain that record for a period of three years from the end of the calendar year to which such record relates save in the case of a prescription intended to show that withdrawal periods have been observed which shall be retained for a period of five years from the date of the commencement of the withdrawal period to which it relates.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5) if an authorised officer directs a person to produce for inspection a record which paragraph (1) or (2) requires him to keep, he shall comply with the direction.

(5) An authorised officer shall not give a direction under paragraph (4) in relation to a record after the end of the appropriate period mentioned in paragraph (3).

(6) The requirement in paragraph (3) to keep records in a permanent and legible form shall not prevent their being kept by means of computer.

(7) Where a record is so kept, the duty under paragraph (4) to produce it for inspection, is a duty to produce it in a form in which it can be taken away.

#### **Application and modification of provisions of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991**

**32.**—(1) The following provisions of the Order shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations and any reference in them to the Order shall be construed for the purposes of these Regulations as a reference to these Regulations—

- (a) Article 2 (extended meaning of “sale” etc.);
- (b) Article 4 (presumption that food is intended for human consumption);
- (c) Article 19 (offences due to fault of another person);
- (d) Article 20(1), (5) and (6) (defence of due diligence);
- (e) Article 21 (defence of publication in the course of business);
- (f) Article 34 (obstruction etc. of officers);
- (g) Article 36 (punishment of offences) in so far as it relates to offences under Article 34(1) and (2); and
- (h) Article 43 (protection of public analyst acting in good faith).

(2) Article 8 of the Order (inspection and seizure of suspected food) shall, subject to paragraph (3), apply for the purposes of these Regulations as if an animal product which it is an offence to sell under these Regulations were food which failed to comply with food safety requirements.

(3) Article 8 of the Order shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations subject to the modification that the reference in paragraph (5)(a) thereof to Articles 6 and 7 of the Order shall be construed as a reference to these Regulations.

(4) Article 29 of the Order (procurement of samples) shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations subject to the modification that for the words “Article 33” in paragraph (b)(ii) thereof shall be substituted “ Article 33 as applied by this regulation ”.

(5) Articles 30 and 31 of the Order (analysis etc. of samples) shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations subject to the modification that in each case after the words “Article 29” there shall be inserted the words “ , other than an official sample, ”.

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/10/2023.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016. (See end of Document for details)

(6) Article 33 of the Order (powers of entry) shall apply for the purposes of these Regulations with the omission of the word “food” in paragraph (6) thereof and the references to “regulations” in paragraph (1) thereof shall be construed as including a reference to Articles 14 (6) and 16 of Regulation 470/2009.

### **Revocations**

**33.** The Regulations specified in the Schedule are hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016.  
(L.S.)

*Colette McMaster*  
A senior officer of the  
Department of Agriculture and Rural  
Development

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2016.  
(L.S.)

*Heather Stevens*  
A senior officer of the  
Department of Health, Social Services and  
Public Safety



## SCHEDULE

Regulation 33

## Revocations

<i>Title</i>	<i>Reference</i>
Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998	S.R. 1998 No. 237
Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005	S.R. 2005 No. 451
Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006	S.R. 2006 No. 263
Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009	S.R. 2009 No. 298
The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013	S.R. 2013 No. 122

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

*(This note is not part of the Regulations)*

These Regulations replace provisions formerly contained in the Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1998 and Amending Regulations. In addition regulations 9, 10, 15, 20, 21 22 and 29 have been amended to include unlicensed substances in order to correct a previous omission.

The Regulations implement as respects Northern Ireland Council Directive [96/22/EC](#) (O.J. No. L125, 23.5.96, p. 3) concerning the prohibition on the use in stockfarming of certain substances having a hormonal or thyrostatic action and of beta-agonists, and repealing Directives [81/602/EEC](#), [88/146/EEC](#) and [88/299/EEC](#). The Regulations also implement as respects Northern Ireland Council Directive [96/23/EC](#) (O.J. No. L125, 23.5.96, p. 10) on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives [85/358/EEC](#) and [86/469/EEC](#) and Decisions [89/187/EEC](#) and [91/664/EEC](#) and provide for the enforcement of Regulation (EC) No. 470/2009 laying down Community procedures for the establishment of residue limits of pharmacologically active substances in foodstuffs of animal origin (O.J.No. L 152, 16.6.2009, p. 11) and Commission Regulation (EU) No. 37/2010 on pharmacologically active substances and their classification regarding maximum residue limits in foodstuffs of animal origin (O.J. No. L 15, 20.1.2010, p.1).

The Regulations—

- (a) prohibit the sale, possession or administration to animals of specified substances (regulations 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7);

**Status:** Point in time view as at 01/10/2023.

**Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the *The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016*. (See end of Document for details)

- (b) prohibit the possession, slaughter or processing the meat of, animals intended for human consumption which contain, or which have been administered with, specified substances (regulation 8);
- (c) prohibit the sale or supply for slaughter of animals if the appropriate withdrawal period has not expired and prohibit supply for slaughter or, subject to exceptions, the sale, of animals or the sale of animal products which contain unauthorised substances or an excess of authorised substances or unlicensed substances (regulations 9 and 10);
- (d) prohibit, subject to an exception, the disposal for human or animal consumption of slaughtered animals containing specified substances (regulations 11 and 12);
- (e) empower authorised officers to inspect and examine animals and to take samples and provide for the analysis of official samples (regulations 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22);
- (f) provide for offences and penalties and for enforcement by each enforcement authority as defined in regulation 2(1) (regulation 23);
- (g) provide specific defences and exceptions (regulations 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28);
- (h) specify responsibilities of processors (regulation 29);
- (i) deny to processors a due diligence defence in specified circumstances (regulations 30);
- (j) specify requirements relating to the keeping of records (regulation 31);
- (k) apply, with some modifications, provisions of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 including the defence of due diligence (regulation 32); and
- (l) revoke other legislation (regulation 33 and the Schedule).

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/10/2023.

**Changes to legislation:**

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the The Animals and Animal Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.