

## EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT - RESULTS

<p><b>Title of Policy</b></p>	<p>The Animal Welfare and Food Safety (International Professional Qualification Recognition Agreement Implementation) (Miscellaneous Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2023</p>
<p><b>Summary of aims and desired outcomes of Policy</b></p>	<p>The proposed instrument will amend the definition of “qualification certificate” in the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations 2012 (WATOK(S)) to include a qualification which has been recognised under Part 2 of the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Amendment) Regulations 2023 in relation to an operation specified in regulation 5 of WATOK(S). It will also make an amendment regarding Food Examiner qualifications listed in Schedule 2 of The Food Safety (Sampling and Qualifications) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 (<a href="#">link here</a>) to accommodate EEA-EFTA states derived qualifications. This will be achieved by adding those EEA-EFTA states to S2, Parts 1 and 2 so that the current definition of a “degree” includes qualifications from those states. These changes will ensure that Scotland is compliant with the UK-EEA EFTA FTA with regard to the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.</p>
<p><b>Directorate: Division: team</b></p>	<p>ARE: Animal Health and Welfare:</p>

## **Executive summary**

The changes to existing legislation made by the proposed instrument are legally required ensure that Scotland is compliant with the UK-EEA EFTA FTA with regard to the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

Removing potential conflict within domestic legislation with an already existing legal requirement for mutual recognition of professional qualifications in slaughter and food safety put in place by the UK Government, will have a positive impact on some protected characteristics as laid out in the EQIA

The widening of types of qualifications accepted to include those relevant to the professions involved and equivalent to relevant Scottish qualifications would promote opportunities and good relations around race, age and disability. However the legal requirement for mutual recognition was put in place by the UK-EEA EFTA FTA, and the numbers of workers likely to be affected is estimated at nil to very low.

## **Background**

The proposed instrument will amend the definition of “qualification certificate” in the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing Regulations 2012 (WATOK(S)) to include a qualification which has been recognised under Part 2 of the Recognition of Professional Qualifications and Implementation of International Recognition Agreements (Amendment) Regulations 2023 in relation to an operation specified in regulation 5 of WATOK(S). It will also make an amendment regarding Food Examiner qualifications listed in Schedule 2 of The Food Safety (Sampling and Qualifications) (Scotland) Regulations 2013 ([link here](#)) to accommodate EEA-EFTA states derived qualifications. This will be achieved by adding those EEA-EFTA states to S2, Parts 1 and 2 so that the current definition of a “degree” includes qualifications from those states. These changes will ensure that Scotland is compliant with the UK-EEA EFTA FTA with regard to the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

## **The Scope of the EQIA**

Light touch as the regulations are making technical amendments to remove conflict within domestic legislation with a requirement for mutual recognition already put in place by the UK-EEA EFTA FTA.

## **Key Findings**

The changes to existing legislation made by the proposed instrument are legally required ensure that Scotland is compliant with the UK-EEA EFTA FTA with regard to the mutual recognition of professional qualifications.

Removing potential conflict within domestic legislation with an already existing legal requirement for mutual recognition of professional qualifications in slaughter and food safety put in place by the UK Government, will have a positive impact on some protected characteristics as laid out in the EQIA.

The widening of types of qualifications accepted to include those relevant to the professions involved and equivalent to relevant Scottish qualifications would promote opportunities and good relations around race, age and disability. However the legal requirement for mutual recognition was put in place by the UK-EEA EFTA FTA, and the numbers of workers likely to be affected is estimated at nil to very low.

## **Recommendations and Conclusion**

None.