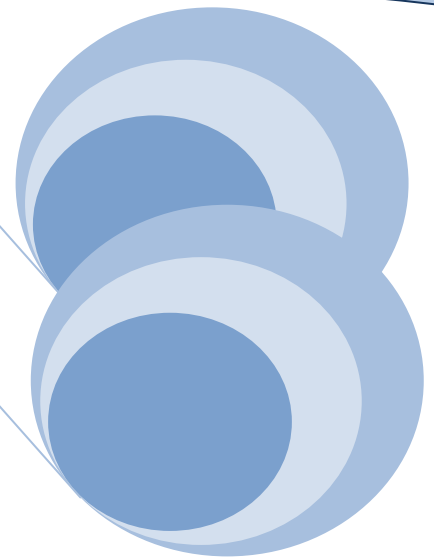


CONDITIONS FOR A PLANT INVOLVED IN THE HANDLING, SORTING AND SALTING OF SKINS/HIDES



GOVERNING EU AND NATIONAL LEGISLATION:

The European Union (Animal By-Products) Regulation 2014 (S.I. No. 187 of 2014) and in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1069 of 2009 and Regulation (EU) No. 142 of 2011.



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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

A

‘**Animal By-Products**’ (**ABP**) means entire bodies or parts of animals, products of animal origin or other products obtained from animals, which are not intended for human consumption, including oocytes, embryos and semen.

D

‘**DAFM**’ means the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;

‘**Derived products**’ means products obtained from one or more treatments, transformations or steps of processing of animal by-products;

E

‘**Establishment**’ or ‘**plant**’ means any place where any operation involving the handling of animal by-products or derived products is carried out, other than a fishing vessel;

‘**EU**’ means the European Union;

‘**Export**’ means movement from the Community to a third country;

O

‘**Operator**’ means the natural or legal persons having an animal by-product or derived product under their actual control, including carriers, traders and users.

‘**Organic fertilisers**’ and ‘**soil improvers (OF/SI)**’ means materials of animal origin used to maintain or improve plant nutrition and the physical and chemical properties and biological activity of soils, either separately or together; they may include manure, non-mineralised guano, digestive tract content, compost and digestion residues.

SECTION 1

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

- A plant involved in the handling, sorting, salting of skins/hides must be approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and hold a valid certificate of approval in accordance with Article 24 (h) of (EC) Regulation No. 1069/2009.
- The operator must comply with all relevant requirements listed in National legislation and EU Legislation (Regulation (EC) No.1069/2009 and Regulation (EU) No. 142/2011).
- The operator must notify DAFM immediately if significant changes are proposed to plant activities, plant personnel or if the plant ceases to handle or store Animal By-Products (ABP).
- Where the operator ceases to handle or store ABP, the plant must be decommissioned at this time and prior to use for any other activity. The procedure for decommissioning a skin/hide plant can be found at Appendix 1 on page 11.
- The operator must put in place, implement and maintain a system of checks to monitor compliance with the legislation.

SECTION 2

BIOSECURITY, PLANT STRUCTURE, HYGIENE AND TRANSPORT

2.1 PERIMETER

- The premises must be located at an adequate distance from thoroughfares and from all other premises sufficient to prevent cross-contamination of food and feed for humans and animals respectively. There must be an effective animal proof perimeter fence around the plant.

2.2 BUILDINGS/STRUCTURAL

- The plant must have a fully enclosed and dedicated building for receipt, handling, storage and dispatch of the hides/skins.
- In a plant authorised to supply trimmings and splittings from hides/skins from healthy slaughtered animals, for gelatine production for animal consumption or for the production of Organic Fertiliser and Soil Improver (OF/SI), there must be complete segregation of these hides from fallen animal hides from receipt through to dispatch.

Where export certification requires only hides from healthy slaughtered animals, there must be complete segregation of such hides from fallen animal hides, from receipt through to dispatch.

Where certification requires only hides which have originated in the Republic of Ireland, there must be complete segregation of such hides from hides which have originated from other Member States from receipt through to dispatch.

Segregation must be structural in nature. Separate equipment must be dedicated to each hide type.

- Floors and walls of the building/container up to the height to which hides/skins are stored must be constructed of a material that is easy to clean and disinfect, and must be kept in a satisfactory state of repair. Floors must be constructed and maintained so as to facilitate the draining of liquids.
- In plants authorised to supply trimmings and splittings from hides/skins from healthy slaughtered animals for gelatine production for animal consumption or for the production of OF/SI, there should be refrigeration facilities where appropriate.
- Suitable office facilities must be provided on site, which can be made available to the staff performing official controls.

2.3 PLANT HYGIENE

- The plant must be kept tidy and the building used to handle and store the hides/skins and any equipment used to handle the ABP must be kept clean.
- The plant must be equipped with adequate and effective facilities for cleaning and disinfection such as a power-washer with disinfectant, which must be maintained in good working condition.

2.4 PERSONNEL HYGIENE AND WORKFLOWS

- Operatives must use suitable dedicated protective clothing when handling hides/skins which must be removed, cleaned and disinfected or discarded before leaving the plant.
- Footbaths must be provided at all entrances and exits to the plant.
- There must be access to adequate facilities for personal hygiene including lavatories, changing rooms and washbasins for staff. The washing facilities must be equipped with hot water, soap and paper towels.

2.5 PESTS AND BIRDS

- The operator must have a documented pest control program (insects, rodents and birds) in place which includes the following:
 - a bait map;
 - service schedule for bait points;
 - service records for bait points.

The building must be bird-proof.

2.6 ABP TRANSPORT AND SIGNAGE

- Operators transporting ABP to the plant or from the plant must be registered ABP hauliers and listed on the DAFM's Animal By-Products transport register.
- ABP must be transported in sealed packaging or in bulk in covered leak-proof containers or vehicles.
- Vehicles or reusable containers used to transport ABP must be cleaned, washed and disinfected after each use and must be decommissioned before being used for other purposes.

The operator must also have facilities on site for cleaning and disinfecting the wheels of vehicles used to transport the ABP before they leave the premises. This may comprise a permanent wheel wash or effective manual wheel washing equipment such as a power-washer with disinfectant.

- Vehicles used to transport ABP must be permanently and prominently marked on both sides of the vehicle/container with the haulier registration code and receptacle number. During transport, a label with the following wording must be attached to each package or palette (in the case of packaged or palletted material) or the container or vehicle (in the case of non-packaged/palletted material):

"CATEGORY 3 - Not For Human Consumption"

Where the ABP is traded to other Member States, the label must be coloured green, with a high content of blue. Temporary labels may be acceptable in certain cases, e.g. when containers from a general international container pool are used. In such cases, the labels used must be sufficiently durable for the intended journey.

2.7 PLANT WASTE DISPOSAL

- Waste trimmings must be disposed of to a Category 1 or Category 3 rendering plant, or to an approved incinerator or co-incinerator.

Prior to dispatch, the waste material must be stored in leak-proof containers which must be stored inside, or outside if fully covered.

- The operator has a responsibility to dispose of packaging material in accordance with environmental legislation.
- The operator has a responsibility to ensure that waste water is treated in accordance with relevant Community environmental legislation. See Trader Notice 02/2011 which can be found on the DAFM website by using the following link:
<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/animalbyproducts/animalbyproducts-tradernotices/>

SECTION 3

INTAKE

3.1 RAW MATERIAL INTAKE PROCEDURES

- The plant may only accept Category 3 hides as specified in the plant certificate of approval. Category 3 hides and skins are hides and skins from healthy slaughtered animals which have tested negative for BSE (Article 10 (a), (b) (iii) of EC Regulation 1069/2009) and hides and skins from fallen animals where the hides/skins did not show signs of disease communicable to humans or animals, (Article 10 (n) of EC Regulation 1069/2009).

All types of Category 3 hides may be used for technical purposes such as leather production or for the production of OF/SI.

Where a plant is authorised to supply trimmings and splittings from hides for the production of gelatine for animal consumption, only Category 3 hide and skins referred to in Article 10 (a), (b) (iii), (healthy slaughtered animal hides which have tested negative for BSE) of EC Regulation 1069/2009 may be used.

Hides from ABP hide stores may not be used for the production of gelatine or collagen intended for human consumption.

3.2 DOCUMENTATION

- Hides/skins may only be accepted into the plant provided each consignment is accompanied by a fully completed commercial document. Operators must keep all commercial documents filed and in date order.

A copy of the commercial document must be returned by the plant operator to the place of origin.

Relevant Trader Notices can be found on the DAFM website by using the following link:

<http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/agri-foodindustry/animalbyproducts/animalbyproducts-tradernotices/>

- Operators must keep a separate intake log (separate from the commercial documents) in a form which is accessible to DAFM, for each consignment of hides/skins entering the plant, of
 - a) the place the hides/skins came from e.g.
 - in the case of hides/skins received from another registered or approved hide plant, the name, address and approval number of the plant;
 - in the case of hides/skins received from a slaughterhouse or abattoir, the name and address and approval number.

- b) the date of receipt of the hides/skins;
 - c) the quantity of hides/skins (number);
 - d) the type of hide/skin received, e.g.
 - hides/skins from healthy slaughtered animals - Article 10, (a) or (b) (iii);
 - hides/skins from fallen animals – Article 10 (n);
 - hides/skins from another Member State – from healthy slaughtered animals, Article 10, (a) or (b) (iii), or from fallen animals – Article 10 (n);
 - e) the name and address of the transporter and their ABP registration number.
- All records must be accessible to DAFM and must be kept for a minimum of 3 years.

SECTION 4

PROCESSING/HANDLING

4.1 PROCESSING/HANDLING REQUIREMENTS

- The plant must not engage in activities other than the acceptance, collection, sorting, trimming, treatment, temporary storage and dispatching of the Category 3 hides and skins. The plant must be dedicated when operational unless otherwise specified in the plant certificate of approval.
- **Hide traceability procedure**
 - Where hides are received from slaughter plants in advance of the BSE rapid test results being known, there must be a signed agreement in place between the slaughter plant operator and the hide store operator to abide by the 'Bovine Hide Removal protocol' in relation to the management of such hides.
The District Veterinary Office (DVO) Veterinary Inspector (VI) and the VI in charge of the slaughter plant must be sent a copy of this agreement.
 - In addition, a clear procedure for the traceability and retrieval of a BSE positive hide within the hide plant, must be in place, documented by the operator and signed off on by the DVO VI with responsibility for the plant.
 - Hides, dispatched to the hide store in advance of the BSE rapid test results being made known, must remain under DAFM official control at all times.
 - The local DVO in which the hide store is located must be informed by fax or e-mail on a daily basis by hide plant management of all consignments of hides entering the plant which contain hides which have been tested for BSE and which have not yet received a negative result.
 - Intake records for such consignments must be maintained by operator.
 - A system must be in place to reconcile the total number of hides delivered with the number specified on the commercial document.
 - Such hides should be allocated a batch number in the slaughter plant which is noted on the commercial document.
 - Slaughter plant management must individually identify all animal hides from animals being BSE tested with secure, tie-on waterproof plastic labels to facilitate identification of hides from BSE positive and inconclusive animals.
 - The label must bear the plant approval number or letter abbreviation and individual identifier which correspond to the carcase/head number.
 - Hides for which no BSE results have been received must be batched and held separately from hides derived from cattle that have passed the BSE test and from cattle that do not require testing, until negative results are received.
 - Beyond salting/icing, hides must not be processed in any way nor any parts removed until written confirmation has been received that all hides in the batch are derived from animals, which produced a negative result to the rapid test.
 - Tags/labels/other forms of identification must not be removed until written confirmation has been received that all hides in the batch are derived from animals, which produced a negative result to the rapid test.
 - BSE test results must be notified to the hide plant by the slaughter plant operator by hard copy (written notification/fax only) and must include a written request for

- the return of hides relating to positive and inconclusive rapid test results. The written request must include the individual identification of the hide
 - BSE test positive hides must be returned to the plant of origin on the day of test result availability accompanied by a commercial document (Category 1 ABP) which should include the individual ID number of the hide. A copy of this commercial document must be retained on file at the hide plant.
 - Where a hide corresponding to a BSE test positive animal cannot be identified (loss or removal of the label, the entire batch of hides must be returned to the plant of origin accompanied by a commercial document (Category 1 ABP) which must include detail of the batch number.
 - The cost of return of hides is the responsibility of slaughter plant management and/or the hide plant.
 - DAFM must supervise the movement of hides from animals which test BSE positive
 - It is prohibited to remove any hide which is subject to a BSE test to another jurisdiction until a negative result has been received.
- Treated hides/skins which are placed on the market must be treated by one of the methods specified below:
 - a) dried;
 - b) dry-salted or wet-salted for a period of at least 14 days prior to dispatch;
 - c) salted for a period of at least seven days in sea salt with the addition of 2% of sodium carbonate;
 - d) dried for a period of at least 42 days at a temperature of at least 200 °C; or
 - e) subject to a preservation process other than tanning.

The operator must have a system in place which must be documented, which verifies that treatment has taken place.

- In the case of trimmings and splitting derived from limed hides, they must be submitted to a treatment which ensures that no risks to public or animal health remain before being used for the production of gelatine for animal consumption or OF/SI.
- Hides/skins must be stored properly inside the ABP building until re-dispatched.
- Installations and equipment must be maintained in good condition.

4.3 CROSS-CONTAMINATION/BY-PASS

- All necessary measures must be taken to prevent contamination and the spreading of diseases communicable to humans or animals.

SECTION 5

STORAGE, DISPATCH AND TRACEABILITY/RECALL

5.1 DISPATCH PROCEDURES

- In general, hides/skins should be dispatched to an ABP approved or registered premises only, unless the hides/skins have reached their end-point, (i.e. completely tanned, wet-blue, pickled or lime-treated).
- Treated hides/skins may be placed on the market provided they have not been in contact with other animal products or live animals presenting a risk of spreading a serious transmissible disease. Precautions must be taken to avoid contamination with pathogenic agents.
- Plants which place untreated hides/skins on the market, if specified in the plant certificate of approval, may do so subject to the health conditions applicable to fresh meat, in accordance with Directive 2002/99/EC.
- A plant which has treated hides and skins to their end-point, if specified in the plant certificate of approval i.e.
 - a) complete tanning;
 - b) wet-blue;
 - c) pickled; or
 - d) lime-treated, i.e. treated with lime and in brine at a PH of 12 to 13 for at least 8 hours), may place those hides/skins on the market without restrictions subject to bullet point 3 at 5.2 Documentation below.
- The operator must ensure that any ABP or derived products suspected or discovered not to comply with the legislation or the specific plant approval requirements may not leave the plant unless destined for disposal.

5.2 DOCUMENTATION

- Operators must keep a dispatch log of:
 - a) the name, address and approval number of the premises to which the hides/skins are consigned;
 - b) the date of dispatch;
 - c) the quantity of hides/skins (number);
 - d) the type of hide/skin dispatched, e.g. hides/skins from healthy slaughtered animals, hides/skins from fallen animals, hides/skins from another Member State (healthy slaughtered animal hides, or fallen animal hides);
 - e) the name and address of the transporter and their ABP registration number.
- A fully completed ABP commercial document must accompany each load of ABP leaving the plant.

The commercial document must contain a statement indicating that all precautions have been taken to avoid contamination with pathogenic agents.

The commercial document must be assigned a unique identifiable number and must be produced in quadruplicate. The original and a copy must be given to the person receiving the ABP, a copy must be retained by the haulier and the final copy must be retained by the plant of origin. The person receiving the ABP must sign and date one copy and return it to the plant of origin to verify arrival.

In the case of ABP being dispatched to other EU countries or third countries, the EU commercial document must be used.

Operators must keep the copies of commercial documents for all outgoing loads filed and in date order.

- Where ‘pickled pelts’ and limed hides are supplied to plants producing petfood, OF/SI or biogas plants, a commercial document must accompany each load leaving the plant.
- Copies of all health certificates issued must be retained.

Health certificates may only be drawn up and signed by DAFM officials.

- On a monthly basis, hide store management must have reconciliation records for different types of hides (e.g. hides/skins from healthy slaughtered animals, hides/skins from fallen animals and hides/skins from another Member State - either healthy slaughtered animal hides/skins or fallen animal hides/skins) accepted and dispatched during that month taking into account numbers of hides/skins which were in stock at the beginning and at the end of the month.
- All records must be accessible to DAFM and must be kept for a minimum of 3 years.

CONTACT DETAILS

For Further Information contact:

**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine,
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Appendix 1

Procedure for the decommissioning of Category 3 skin/hide plants

Where an operator ceases to handle/store ABP, the plant must be decommissioned at this time and prior to use for any other activity.

Specific Procedure:

1. All visible ABP must be swept up and collected from all surfaces including floors, walls and roof. All ABP collected must be placed in a designated container on site pending dispatch off site in accordance with Regulation (EC) No. 1069/2009 and Regulation (EU) No. 142/2011.
2. All surfaces including the roof, floor and walls must be washed. This can be achieved for floors and walls using a power-washer.
3. All walls and floor surfaces must be sprayed using a DAFM approved disinfectant at the appropriate concentration. Surfaces may subsequently be rinsed down after the appropriate contact time for the disinfectant has elapsed, and then allowed to dry fully.
4. All waste water generated by the cleaning and disinfection procedure must be disposed off in accordance with environmental legislation.
5. A record must be maintained detailing the date of cleaning and decommissioning of the plant and the person who carried out the procedure. This record must be signed off by both the person who carried out the cleaning procedure and the plant owner as having been completed in accordance with this procedure. The plant owner or person in charge may carry out this procedure.