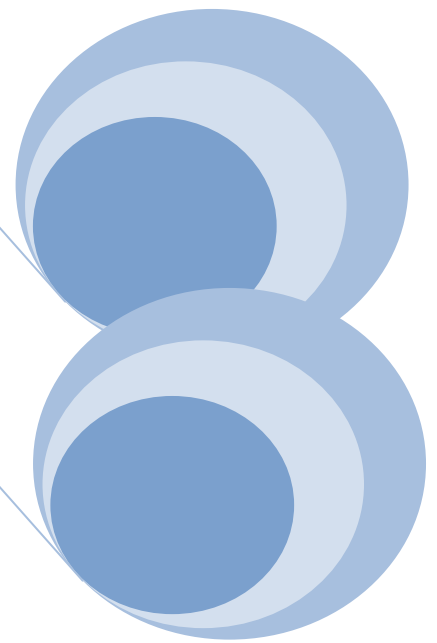


CONDITIONS FOR PLANTS INVOLVED IN THE HANDLING, SORTING, WASHING, PACKAGING OF WOOL/HAIR/FEATHERS/BRISTLES



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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Milk & Meat Hygiene/ABP/TSE Division

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<u>CONTENTS</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Glossary of terms	i
Section 1: General Information and Requirements	1
1.1 General Information and Requirements	1
Section 2: Biosecurity, Plant Structure, Hygiene and Transport	2-3
2.1 Perimeter	2
2.2 Buildings/Structural	2
2.3 Plant Hygiene	2
2.4 Personnel Hygiene and Workflows	2
2.5 Pests and Birds	3
2.6 ABP Transport and Signage	3
2.7 Plant Waste Disposal	3
Section 3: Intake	4
3.1 Raw Material Intake Procedures	4
3.2 Documentation	4
Section 4: Processing/Handling	5
4.1 Processing/Handling Requirements	5
4.2 Cross-Contamination/By-Pass	5
Section 5: Storage, Dispatch and Traceability/Recall	6
5.1 Dispatch Procedures	6
5.2 Documentation	6
Contact Details	7
Appendix 1: Procedure for the decommissioning of approved Category 3 Wool/Hair/Feather/Bristle Plants	8

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

‘**EU**’ means the European Union.

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.

SECTION 1

GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

1.1 GENERAL INFORMATION AND REQUIREMENTS

- A plant involved in handling, sorting, washing, packaging of wool, hair, feathers and bristles must be approved by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and hold a valid certificate of registration in accordance with Article 24 (h) of Regulation (EC) 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).
- Wool/hair which has been factory washed or treated by another method which ensures no unacceptable risks remain, may be placed on the market without restrictions. i.e. the wool/hair has reached an 'end point' in the Animal By-Product (ABP) chain and is no longer considered an ABP.

Feathers, parts of feathers and down which have been factory washed and treated with hot steam at 100 degrees Celsius for at least 30 minutes may be placed on the market without restrictions, i.e. the feathers/down has reached an 'end point' in the ABP chain and is no longer considered an ABP.

- The operator must notify DAFM immediately if significant changes are proposed in plant activities, plant personnel or if the plant ceases to handle/store ABP.
- The operator must put in place, implement and maintain a system of checks to monitor compliance with the legislation.
- Where the operator ceases to handle/store ABP, the plant must be decommissioned at this time and prior to use for any other activity.

Plants which are approved for specific time periods only during the year as detailed in the plant approval, must decommission the plant at the end of this time period.

The decommissioning procedure is attached to the plant approval and should be available on site. It is also available at Appendix 1 of this document. The record of decommissioning must be maintained on site.

SECTION 2

BIOSECURITY, PLANT STRUCTURE, HYGIENE AND TRANSPORT

2.1 PERIMETER

- The plant 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. Animals must not be allowed access to the plant. A perimeter fence and gate is not required in such plants.

2.2 BUILDINGS/STRUCTURAL

- The plant must have a fully enclosed and dedicated building for receipt, handling, storage and dispatch of the wool/hair/feathers/bristle. This building must not be used for storing food, feed, bedding or farm machinery.
- Floors and walls of the building/container up to the height to which ABP is stored must be constructed of a material that is easy to clean and disinfect.
- The plant must have office space, 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 ABP 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

- Operators must use suitable dedicated protective clothing when handling ABP 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;
 - a service schedule for bait points;
 - service records for bait points.

2.6 ABP TRANSPORT AND SIGNAGE

- Operators transporting ABP must be registered as an ABP haulier on 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 of 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 (in the case of packaged material) or the container or vehicle (in the case of non-packaged 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.

2.6 PLANT WASTE DISPOSAL

- Waste wool must be disposed of to a Category 1 or Category 3 rendering plant.
- 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 ABP as specified in the plant certificate of approval. Category 3 wool, hair, bristles and feathers have originated from live or dead animals that did not show any signs of disease communicable through that product to humans or animals.

3.2 DOCUMENTATION

- ABP, with the exception of wool sourced directly from the farm of origin, 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.

- Operators must keep a separate intake log (separate from the commercial documents) in a form which is accessible to DAFM, for each consignment of ABP entering the plant, including those collected by the operator themselves, of:
 - a) the place where the ABP came from:
 - in the case of ABP received from another registered or approved ABP plant, the name, address and approval/registration number of the plant;
 - in the case of wool received from farmers, the name and address of the farmer and their flock number.
 - b) in situations where the plant operator is transporting ABP to his/her own plant, a record must also be maintained of the place each load was collected if different than (a);
 - c) the date of receipt of the ABP;
 - d) the quantity of ABP;
 - e) where a number of different types are accepted into the plant, e.g. wool, hair, bristles, feathers, a description of the type of ABP;
 - f) the name and address of the transporter and their ABP registration number where applicable (farmers transporting their own wool are not required to be registered).
- 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

- ABP must be stored properly, i.e. dry, inside the ABP building until re-dispatched.
- The operator must not engage in activities other than the acceptance, collection, sorting, treatment, temporary storage and dispatching of the Category 3 ABP specified in the plant approval.
- Installations and equipment must be maintained in good condition.

4.2 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, ABP should be dispatched to an ABP approved or registered premises only, unless the ABP has reached its end-point.
- 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 should keep a dispatch log of:
 - a) the name, address and approval or registration number of the premises to which the ABP is consigned;
 - b) the date of dispatch;
 - c) the quantity of ABP;
 - d) 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 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 wool, a copy must be retained by the haulier and the final copy must be retained by the plant of origin. The person receiving the wool 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. These commercial documents are available from the address on Page 7.

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

- Copies of all health certificates issued must be retained.

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

- A reconciliation of the quantities of ABP traded must take place at least every 6 months and satisfactory records of same maintained.
- All records must be accessible to DAFM and must be kept for a minimum of 3 years.

CONTACT DETAILS

For Further Information contact:

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Email Address: AnimalByProducts@agriculture.gov.ie

Appendix 1

Procedure for the decommissioning of approved Category 3 Wool/Hair/Bristle/Feather plants

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

Plants which are approved to handle and store wool for a specific time period in a year, must be decommissioned when emptied of wool at the end of this period and prior to use of the wool plant for any other activity.

Specific Procedure:

1. All visible wool must be swept up and collected from all surfaces including floors, walls and roof. All wool 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. This container must be labelled '**CATEGORY 3 - Not For Human Consumption**'.
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 of in accordance with environmental legislation.
5. A record must be maintained detailing the date of cleaning and decommissioning of the wool 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 wool plant owner or person in charge may carry out this procedure.