

Slaughter licensing

How to get the required licensing to slaughter animals in a meat establishment.

Certificate of Competence

Certificates of Competence during COVID-19 outbreak restrictions.

We have considered the possibility of difficulties in the issue of CoCs, extension of TCoCs and assessment of trainees that may happen during the current COVID-19 outbreak control measures. Based on the most recent Government advice, travel to carry out assessments may be difficult.

Our procedures for CoCs and TCoCs (particularly extensions and reapplications) during the COVID-19 outbreak have been considered and for the next three months to 19th June 2020 the following arrangements will apply. These will be reviewed, amended or extended as needed.

- The requirements to obtain an initial TCoC remain the same – Evidence of registration must be provided to the OV to allow the TCoC to be issued.
- The duration of the TCoC remains the same – The certificate is valid for three months from the date of issue.
- The procedure for extension requests remains the same – Apply for a re-issue of the TCoC for a duration of three months after the previous one has run out, via the slaughterhouse OV.
- When considering connected extension requests because the TCoC holder has been unable to undertake a full CoC assessment, the requirement of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009, Article 21(5)(d) – “The competent authority may issue temporary certificates of competence provided that: (d) the applicant provides a written declaration stating that he/she has not previously been issued another temporary certificate of competence of the same scope or demonstrates to the satisfaction of the competent authority that he/she was unable to take the final examination” shall be considered to be met and the extension should be granted as soon as possible.

- Where a TCoC holder was unable to take a final examination and chose not to extend the TCoC, exceptional circumstances will apply and this would not prevent another application for a TCoC of the same scope. These applications will still be considered on a case by case basis but on successful completion of the relevant 'fit and proper' checks the TCoC should be issued as soon as possible.
- Regarding full CoCs, there may be a delay in issuing CoC cards so to make clear, a plant operative may work unattended if they have passed their full CoC assessment, have received confirmation from the assessor and can demonstrate it to the OV.
- We have confirmed with Defra Welfare Team that there can be no exception to the requirement for a TCoC holder to work "in the presence and under the direct supervision of another person who holds a certificate of competence issued for the specific activity to be undertaken".
- If you have any questions related to our issuing of TCoC and CoC please contact animalwelfare@food.gov.uk

Anyone carrying out certain slaughter operations must hold a Certificate of Competence, under the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing (WATOK) Regulations.

[The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing \(England\) Regulations 2015 SI 1782](#)

[The Welfare of Animals at the Time of Killing \(Wales\) Regulations 2014 SSI 951](#)

Temporary Certificates of Competence

A Temporary Certificate of Competence will allow you to work under the direct supervision of a full Certificate of Competence holder for the species and operations you are doing.

Evidence of registration must be provided to the Official Veterinarian to allow the Temporary Certificate of Competence to be issued.

This certificate is valid for three months from date of issue. You must undertake and successfully pass an assessment from an accredited provider to be awarded a qualification certificate.

This qualification certificate is required for a Certificate of Competence to be issued.

You can apply for a re-issue of the temporary certificate for three months after the previous one has run out if you are unable to complete the assessment. You can do this through the Official Veterinarian in the slaughterhouse.

Re-issuing of a temporary certificate is only for exceptional cases and each case will be considered on its own merits. The decision will be made by a panel from DEFRA animal welfare policy teams and us.

Your application for re-issue will be judged by us and the Welsh government.

How to apply

You can [apply for a certificate of competence or licence to slaughter or kill animals](#) on GOV.UK

The page provides information on the licence or certificate you need to slaughter or kill animals, the operations covered, and the application process.

Appeals in England and Wales

A decision made in England and Wales by us to refuse, suspend or revoke a Certificate of Competence can be appealed.

The appeal system entitles you to make written representations to and be heard by the General Regulatory Chamber First Tier Tribunal.

To do this you need to use the Ministry of Justice form T98 and send it within 28 days of the decision.

You will need to send the appeals form to:

General Regulatory Chamber
HM Courts and Tribunals Service
PO Box 9300
Leicester LE1 6ZX