

Charges for official controls in meat premises

Who we charge

Food Business Operators (FBOs) of approved meat premises are charged for meat official controls. These premises are:

- slaughterhouses
- cutting plants
- game handling establishments
- cutting premises

This is regulated by EC official controls law and implemented by the domestic legislation that applies in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

FBOs of approved meat premises are also charged for work that is not regulated by EC official controls law. An example of this would be charging for the time spent on any extra duties carried out for:

- internal movement documentation
- export certification
- verification of compliance with third country export requirements

We charge Government departments and other customers for work we carry out on their behalf. For example, for checks on animal by-product controls or the provision of expert lecturers to universities.

Meat hygiene official controls (MOC) in NI these approved premises are carried out by the Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs ([DAERA](#)).

FBOs are charged for these controls through our NI invoicing system.

FBOs are not charged for time spent on Specified Risk Material (SRM) controls or for time spent on activities that DAERA has policy responsibility for.

The reason for charging

We are required to charge FBOs for official controls by EU law.

We are also required by HM Treasury, as stated in the [Managing Public Money](#) publication, to charge businesses for the services we provide to them.

How charges are carried out

We charge by the hour for the use of our staff resources. Discounts may be applied to some of these charges.

Resources

The grades of our staff are either an:

- employed or contracted Official Veterinarian (OV)
- employed or contracted Meat Hygiene Inspector (MHI)

In Northern Ireland the grades are:

- Senior MHI
- Poultry MHI
- Red meat MHI
- OV

Discounts

Discounts may be applied to official control charges for red meat slaughterhouses, poultry slaughterhouses and game handling establishments. Charges to cutting plants are not discounted.

Background

In September 2012, we asked the meat industry to work with us to develop a meat industry discount system which would:

- promote efficiency
- support improving compliance (within a de-regulatory remit)
- appropriately support small and medium enterprises (SMEs)
- provide more balanced and equitable discount arrangements

Industry representatives from the production and processing sectors were invited to set up the Steering Group for Meat Charging ('Steering Group') under an independent Chair.

For the first phase, the Steering Group consisted of fifteen representatives from across the production and processing sectors, the Chair and an FSA Board member.

The group's proposals were consulted on in 2015 and agreed by the government regulatory committees before implementation in April 2016.

You can find the specific details of the developed discount system in the [Steering Group on Meat Charging documents](#).

[The second phase of the Steering Group's work](#) was the development of a sustainable funding model for meat official controls.

The Steering Group reported to our Board in March 2017 and it was agreed that this group and its work would be suspended until after EU Exit.

Charges guide

This guide informs you how we charge for the delivery of official controls in approved meat establishments in England and Wales.

It explains the legal requirements that we must comply with in charging for official controls in meat premises, and how the charges are calculated:

- why charges are necessary
- who is charged and what they are charged
- what is included in your charges and what is not included
- how your charges are calculated
- how discount is applied
- ways to reduce your charges
- the methods of payment
- how charging is affected by the use of Plant Inspection Assistants (PIAs)
- the procedure to follow if you think that your charges are wrong
- the applicable rates - hourly charge-out and discount bands

England and Wales

[Charges guide for England and Wales 2018-2019](#) (293.06 KB)

England and Wales

[Charges guide for England and Wales 2017-2018](#) (544.76 KB)

England and Wales

[Charges guide for England and Wales 2016-2017](#) (584.94 KB)

This guide is for FBOs of approved slaughterhouses, cutting plants and game handling establishments in Northern Ireland. It covers the same topics as the England and Wales version and additionally:

- provides an overview on how to complete a Statement of Resources (SOR)
- includes annexes with the applicable DAERA hourly charge-out rates, the applicable FSA discount rates and an explanation of DAERA overheads

Northern Ireland

[Charges guide for Northern Ireland September 2018](#) (1 MB)

[National archives charges guides before 2016-2017](#)

Cost data

This information provides the breakdown of costs and explains how charges to industry are calculated for each financial year.

The FSA's meat related costs are shown in two categories: direct costs and indirect costs. They are also broken down by the costs of:

- Meat Hygiene Inspectors (MHIs)

- Official Veterinarians (OVs)

The total budgeted costs are divided by the budgeted number of hours worked to calculate the hourly charge-out rates for MHIs and OVs.

These charge-out rates are used to determine the monthly bill for each meat plant. The majority of plants have their bills discounted so they do not pay the full rate.

The cost data process is used to identify the proportion of FSA indirect costs that relate to meat official controls and which are apportioned to the OV and MHI rates. The cost data process and the calculation of the charge rates is subject to an external audit. For 2018-19 this was carried out by Mazars which is an external accountancy, audit, tax and consultancy company.

[Meat hygiene cost data 2018-2019](#) (776.44 KB)

[Meat hygiene cost data 2017-2018](#) (258.79 KB)

[National archives cost data before 2017-2018](#)

Charges calculator

This calculator is for FBOs in England and Wales considering changes to their operating hours and/or practices. It can be used before meeting with our field managers to find out how the changes would affect the charges for official controls.

The calculator has been divided into three sections to provide indicative estimates for:

- red meat slaughterhouses
- poultry slaughterhouses
- game handling establishments

These tools can only be used to calculate estimates for the specific year stated.

[Meat controls charges calculator 2018-2019](#) (169.47 KB)

[Meat controls charges calculator 2017-2018](#) (180.25 KB)