

27 January 2017

Dear Food Business Operator/Farmer

REGISTRATION OF FOOD BUSINESSES

My purpose of writing is to remind you of the requirement for registration as a food business if you place meat on the market.

During recent investigations into allegations of illegally slaughtered meat being placed on the market, it has come to the attention of the Local Authority that there are farmers who are having animals slaughtered legitimately in an approved slaughterhouse and then placing the meat on the market as defined by Article 3(8) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002.

You, as a farmer, may not be aware but this activity makes you a Food Business under Article 3(2) of Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, even if it is not your main source of income and regardless of whether or not the meat is supplied for profit.

Scenarios of where this may apply are as follow:-

- Selling the meat at a local farmers market
- Selling the meat from a fridge or freezer at their home
- Selling the meat to a local retailer, pub or restaurant

Food Businesses are required to register relevant activities with their Local Authority under Article 6(2) of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004. This can be done by contacting the Environmental Health Department of your Local Authority. Registration is a straightforward process that is free of charge and would be encouraged and supported by the Local Authority.

On the whole, most of the supplies by farmers seem to be butchered and packed in the slaughterhouse prior to returning the meat to the owner/farmer. If you then either chill or freeze the meat in your home or at a local farmers' market, it would be deemed as a low risk process. You need to ensure adequate storage temperatures are maintained and provide evidence of where the animals were slaughtered and butchered.

Registration will also assist the Local Authority in easily determining and eliminating a legitimate supply in the instances of illegal meat processing allegations. Further information on registration is available from <https://www.gov.uk/food-business-registration>

For any further information, please contact the Environmental Health Department of your local authority.

Yours sincerely

Tolu Odeleye

Tolu Odeleye
Meat Hygiene Policy Team
Food Standards Agency