

CHAPTER 20

SLAUGHTER

INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the legal basis and the procedures to be followed for slaughter conducted on infected premises or as a precaution on contact premises or premises at risk. It includes the requirements for slaughter of wild susceptible species that may be present in the vicinity of an infected premises. Where possible the slaughter, disposal and preliminary cleaning and disinfection operations should be supervised by the same Infected Premises Officer. This chapter also contains instructions for this. Detailed instructions for disposal are set out in Chapter 21, **Disposal of carcasses**. Instructions for the final cleaning and disinfection, to be carried out by a separate team, are given in Chapter 22, **Cleaning and disinfection of Infected Premises**.

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1. Legislation

- 1.1 Section 3 of the Diseases of Animals Act, 1966 allows the Minister to order the slaughter of animals affected with FMD, suspected of being affected with FMD and those that may have been exposed to infection.
- 1.2 Slaughter and killing of livestock for disease control purposes must be carried out in accordance with European Communities (Protection of Animals at time of Slaughter) Regulations, 1995 (S.I. No. 114 of 1995) which gives effect to Council Directive 93/119 EEC. A derogation is permitted in an emergency situation.
- 1.3 Articles 5 and 6 of Council Directive 85/511/EEC requires all animals of **susceptible species** on all production units on Infected Premises to be killed.
- 1.4 Under Article 14 of the draft Commission proposal to amend Council Directive 85/511/EEC (Document COM (2002) 736 final), the possibility of preventive slaughter of **epidemiologically linked holdings** (dangerous contacts) or **adjoining holdings** (contiguous holdings) is permitted, providing the animals have been clinically examined and sampled and the Commission has been notified in advance (if possible).
- 1.5 If it can be confirmed that a **production unit** is managed entirely separately from the rest of the units on the holding in regard to housing, keeping and feeding, a production unit may be spared slaughter. Under Article 18 of the new draft Commission proposal this may be permitted if the official veterinarian has confirmed that the following conditions apply:
 - the structure and size of the premises allow complete separation of housing and keeping of susceptible species (including separate air space)
 - the operations of the different production units are completely separate and carried out by different personnel (housing and pasture management, feeding, removal of dung/manure)
 - the machinery, equipment, installations, instruments and disinfection facilities used in the production units are completely separate.
- 1.6 Article 14 of the draft Commission proposal also allows for the possibility of slaughtering animals of **non-susceptible species** on the Infected Premises. However, this does not apply to animals which can be isolated and effectively cleaned and disinfected – in particular horses and dogs – providing they are individually identified. Horses must be identified in accordance with Community legislation.
- 1.7 Under Article 15 of the draft Commission proposal, a derogation from slaughter is permitted where FMD has been confirmed in susceptible species in a **laboratory, zoo, wildlife park or fenced area, or in a body, institute or centre approved in accordance with Article 13 (2) of Council Directive 92/65/EEC where animals are kept for scientific purposes or purposes relating to the conservation of rare breeds**. In this case the basic interests of the Community must not be endangered and all necessary measures must be taken to prevent the spread of disease. The details must be notified to the Commission and will be reviewed at the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

2. SITUATIONS IN WHICH SLAUGHTER IS CARRIED OUT

2.1 There are three cull situations:

- Emergency slaughter
- Planned cull
- Wildlife cull

3. EMERGENCY ON-FARM SLAUGHTER

3.1 Principles

- a) This will be required on an Infected Premises (IP), Dangerous Contact or Contiguous Premises and will involve diseased, suspect or in-contact animals.
- b) Article 5 of Council Directive 85/511/EEC requires that slaughter of animals on an Infected Premises must take place “*on the spot under official supervision in such a way as to avoid all risk of spreading FMD virus*”.
- c) As this must be done quickly it should be part of a seamless process involving valuation, slaughter and disposal.
- d) The priorities are to:
 - stop virus excretion
 - ensure that slaughter, disposal and preliminary cleaning and disinfection are completed as soon as possible. This will minimise the length of time that area controls remain in place (see section 8.3 below).
- e) It is recommended that there should be a Garda presence at the site entrance to ensure that no unauthorised person enters the site (e.g. journalists or photographers).
- f) While slaughter is normally carried out on site, Article 10 of the draft proposal to amend Council Directive 85/511/EEC allows for animals to be killed at the nearest suitable place in **exceptional circumstances**. In this situation the Commission must be notified of the precise circumstances.

3.2 Personnel

- a) An **Infected Premises Officer (IPO)** will be appointed to the IP with responsibility for:
 - co-ordinating all activities on site
 - Health & Safety briefing of staff
 - setting up a decontamination unit at the entrance to the IP
 - logging staff onto and off the site – name and time
 - recording details of contractors and equipment used (trucks, tractors, machinery) and number of hours worked
 - recording details of items burned, buried, removed
 - recording details of damage caused

- communications with LDCC
- providing hot food etc.
- liaison with Valuation and Disposal personnel.

If possible, the IPO should take photographs of buildings and structures before commencing operations in order to identify any existing damage.

- b) A **valuation/slaughter/disposal team** will be assembled and at a minimum the team will comprise:
- A Veterinary Inspector experienced in slaughter (normally the team leader)
 - A Slaughterman with skills relevant to the animals presented (this may be a second VI or a registered slaughterman)
 - Technical Agricultural Officers
 - A Marksman (as appropriate) – Army, Duchas
 - A Valuer
 - Disposal personnel (as appropriate)
 - Laboratory personnel (as appropriate).

The number and type of animals to be slaughtered will determine the size of the team.

3.3 Equipment

The following equipment must be available:

- Free bullet pistol or rifle and ammunition
- Captive bolt pistols, suitable sized cartridges and rods for pithing
- Barbiturate injection, syringes and needles
- Rompun
- Sampling equipment
- Penning gates, lighting, mobile crushes
- Polythene sheeting (to protect the slaughtered animals from public view).

3.4 Preparation prior to entering the farm

- a) The Team leader should contact the owner/manager of the herd or flock in advance of visiting the farm, and explain in a sympathetic manner the task to be completed.
- b) The herdowner and family members should be consulted as to whether they wish to be present during the cull. Any help should be welcomed, but it must be made clear that the team leader is in sole charge. Should the herdowner not wish to be present, this must be respected.
- c) All necessary information should be sought from the herd/flock owner prior to commencement of the operation.
- d) **It cannot be emphasised enough that slaughter must be completed safely, humanely and competently while showing due compassion for the family involved.**

3.5 Sampling

- a) **It is very important that vital epidemiological evidence is not lost in the course of slaughter.** This includes evidence of clinical signs or sero- conversion.
- b) This is especially important in the case of contiguous herds or trace-back herds, which may be the primary source of the disease.
- c) Before arriving at the farm the VI in charge of the slaughter team must consult the Epidemiology Section to determine which epidemiological groups to sample and the frequency of sampling. (See Chapter 18, **Epidemiology** for explanation.)
- d) If clinical examination or serological sampling are requested, the VI should ensure that he or she has a copy of the map/diagram of the premises which was drawn up during the completion of the Suspect Premises Report (if relevant). This will show the location within the farm of the animal groupings and, in particular, the affected/suspect animals.
- e) All epidemiological groups of animals should be identified on arrival at the farm and maintained as separate groups, until the necessary sampling has been completed.

3.6 On-farm procedures

The procedures for carrying out on-farm slaughter are described in the Protocol for On-Farm Slaughter in **Annex 1**.

4. PRE-PLANNED CULL (ON OR OFF-FARM)

4.1 Principles

- a) Planned slaughter of livestock will take place for preventive or welfare reasons.
- b) Planned slaughter will take place at a centralised cull site where possible, in order to facilitate:
 - humane slaughter
 - safe disposal of carcasses and
 - health and safety of personnel.
- c) This will be a designated slaughterhouse within the (3 km) Protection or (10 km) Surveillance Zones if available. If no slaughter plant is available, an alternative premises may be chosen by the NDCC in consultation with the LDCC.
- d) The following procedure will be carried out:
 - valuation of the animals on farm
 - clinical examination (+ blood sampling if required – see **section 3.5** on Sampling above) on farm
 - transport to the cull site
 - slaughter at the cull site (+ blood sampling if this is not possible on farm).

4.2 Personnel

a) Cull site co-ordinator

A cull site co-ordinator will be appointed with responsibility for:

- briefing of staff on Health and Safety
- decontamination unit at the entrance to the site
- logging staff onto and off the site – name and time
- recording details of contractors and equipment used (trucks, tractors, machinery) and number of hours worked
- recording details of damage caused
- communications with LDCC
- provision of hot food, etc.

Take photographs, ideally before commencing operations, of buildings and structures so that any pre-existing damage is recorded.

b) Cull team (on-farm)

- Veterinary Inspector (usually team leader)
- valuer
- Agricultural Officers
- transport personnel.

4.3 On-farm procedures

The on-farm procedures will be followed as per the Protocol for Valuation, Clinical Examination and Sampling Prior to Off-Farm Slaughter in **Annex 2** below. Detailed rules for valuation are included in Chapter 19, **Valuation**.

4.4 Off-farm slaughter

The Protocol for Off-Farm Slaughter is set out in **Annex 3** below.

5. SUSCEPTIBLE WILDLIFE

5.1 Wildlife distributions in Ireland are described in 'Exploring Irish Mammals' by Tom Hayden and Rory Harrington (Duchas publication). FMD-susceptible species include deer, wild goats and hedgehogs.

5.2 Requirements:

- local knowledge (DAF staff, hunters, OPW Wildlife Rangers)
- trained marksmen – Army/Wildlife service
- examination, sampling, and sero-surveillance – Veterinary officer
- Army helicopters, all terrain vehicles – location/surveillance
- disposal protocol.



6. METHODS OF SLAUGHTER

The methods of humane slaughter are described in **Annex 4** below.

7. DISPOSAL OF CARCASES AND OTHER INFECTIVE MATERIAL

7.1 The method of disposal of carcasses and other infective material will be decided by the LDCC in conjunction with the IPO and the NDCC. The method chosen will be in accordance with the requirements for the disposal of Category 1 and 2 waste as laid down in Council Regulation 2002/1774/EC (as applicable). (See Annex 1, Chapter 21, **Disposal of carcasses**).

7.2 Unless otherwise directed, the IPO will be responsible for supervising the disposal operation.

- 7.3 Procedures for disposal are laid down in Chapter 21, **Disposal of carcasses**.
- 7.4 It is important to arrange for disposal of carcasses as quickly as possible after slaughter has been carried out.
- 7.5 A delay in disposal will create a number of problems:
- carcasses remain a source of infection
 - it will delay the removal of area controls (See **section 8.3** below)
 - it is a source of extra stress for the owners of the premises
 - it may generate bad publicity for the Department.



8. PRELIMINARY CLEANING AND DISINFECTION

- 8.1 Unless otherwise directed, the IPO will be responsible for the preliminary Cleaning and Disinfection of the premises.
- 8.2 When carcasses and all associated wastes have been removed, a preliminary Cleaning and Disinfection must be carried out.
- The parts of the holding in which animals were housed and any parts that may have been contaminated during the slaughter and disposal operation must be sprayed with approved disinfectant.
 - The disinfectant must remain on the surface for 24 hours.
 - Final Cleaning & Disinfection of the IP must then be completed as per Chapter 22, **Cleaning & Disinfection of Infected Premises**.
- 8.3 The Protection and Surveillance Zone restrictions remain in place for a **minimum of 30 days** following completion of the preliminary Cleaning and Disinfection on the last IP. Any delay in completion of this operation will delay the lifting of area restrictions and will therefore have economic and welfare implications.

ANNEX 1

PROTOCOL FOR ON-FARM SLAUGHTER

1. TRANSPORT OF PERSONNEL TO THE FARM

- a) The team transport vehicle should be selected on the basis of size, terrain mobility and manoeuvrability and suitability for internal disinfection on completion of the cull.
- b) The exterior of the transport vehicle must be easy to clean and disinfect.

2. ON ARRIVAL AT THE FARM

On arrival at the farm, the slaughter team leader should introduce him/herself to the herd/flock owner, and outline in a sympathetic manner the task to be completed.

3. NON-SUSCEPTIBLE SPECIES

Ensure that animals which are not to be destroyed, including domestic pets, are confined.

4. VALUATION

- a) Valuation, including all documentation, must be completed prior to commencement of slaughter. See Chapter 19, **Valuation**.
- b) The documentation generated will include a list of stock, which in turn will serve as the definitive list for the slaughter team.
- c) Animals which are born or die after valuation and prior to slaughter also need to be added to the valuation/slaughter list, e.g. lambs.

5. SELECTION OF SLAUGHTER SITE

- a) Factors to be considered:
 - facilities available
 - animal security
 - proximity and ease of access to disposal site
 - safety to personnel
 - acceptability to the owner/manager
 - likelihood of damage to property and services
 - protection from public view.
- (b) Any additional facilities and equipment required such as penning gates, lighting, mobile crushes, polythene should be ordered in at this point, if not already supplied.

6. ORDER OF SLAUGHTER

- a) Animals should be slaughtered in the following order of priority:
 - affected animals
 - their direct contacts
 - other susceptible animals in descending order of epidemiological importance.
- b) Pigs should be destroyed before other species, as they produce larger amounts of virus than other species.
- c) Within these groups fractious and potentially dangerous animals, e.g. bulls, sows with litters, and boars, should be destroyed first.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- a) The safety of personnel is of paramount importance.
- b) The use of free bullets should be confined to areas where ricochets will not take place.
- c) **While speed is of the essence, the slaughter must be done, and be seen to be done, in a safe, humane, and competent manner.**

8. REST BREAKS

- a) If possible, an entire epidemiological unit should be culled before breaking for food or rest.
- b) If large numbers are present, suitable break points should be predetermined.

9. RECONCILIATION

- a) On completion of the cull, the carcasses must be counted, and cross-checked with the valuation list, to ensure that all animals have been slaughtered.
- b) All animals must be verified as dead by the VI.

10. REPORT

It is important to record:

- details of all sampling and clinical findings (including the location, type and age of any affected animals)
- map of locations, methods and times of slaughter and disposal operations.

11. BIOSECURITY

- a) Biosecurity of the 'cull team' is essential. Personnel must be familiar with Chapter 15, **Procedures for Personnel Biosecurity** and Chapter 16, **Local Biosecurity Centre** before arriving at the site.
- b) When the cull is completed the team should gather all equipment for removal. This should be disinfected and sealed to ensure maximum biosecurity.
- c) Again, with biosecurity paramount, the cull team must remove their outer garments after disinfection and before boarding the team vehicle. The decontamination unit ensures the biosecurity of the team vehicle before departure.
- d) If necessary, the team will travel to the next farm fragment.
- e) On return to the Local Biosecurity Centre, the VI must liaise with the centre supervisor to ensure biosecurity for all returned equipment.

ANNEX 2

PROTOCOL FOR VALUATION, CLINICAL EXAMINATION AND SAMPLING ON-FARM PRIOR TO OFF-FARM SLAUGHTER

1. PRIOR TO VISITING THE FARM

- a) The team leader will contact the farmer in advance of visiting the farm and explain, in a sympathetic manner, the task to be completed and arrange a time for the visit.
- b) The cull team will initially travel to the farm without the valuer.

2. ON ARRIVAL ON THE FARM

- a) The team leader will contact the farmer and will ensure that he or she understands why and how the cull is to be carried out.
- b) When the team leader is satisfied that the farmer has fully understood and is agreeable to the procedure, he or she will contact the valuer.
- c) A decontamination/security point will be set up at the entrance to the farm.
- d) All animal groups on the farm should be identified and the team leader must ensure that any groups requiring sampling are maintained as discrete groups until the relevant sampling has been carried out.

3. VALUATION

- a) The valuation process will generate a list of stock, which will serve as the definitive checklist for the rest of the operation.
- b) Animals born after valuation will need to be added to the lists.

4. CLINICAL EXAMINATION AND SAMPLING OF LIVESTOCK

All stock must be clinically examined by veterinary officers and sampled as requested by the Epidemiology Section (see Sampling, section 3.5 of this chapter).

5. TRANSPORT FROM FARM TO CULL SITE

- a) When valuation, clinical examination and sampling have been completed, the team leader should contact the LDCC to arrange the necessary transport vehicle(s).
- b) If possible, arrangements should be made to transport all animals off site, with special arrangements made for young animals.
- c) Animals deemed unfit for transportation will be euthanased on the farm by appropriate means (generally this will entail lethal injection of young stock with barbiturate).
- d) If it is necessary to use barbiturate injection in young animals on site, the intra-cardiac route is the recommended option.
- e) Euthanasia must be carried out humanely and safely, out of sight of the farm family, public and media.
- f) The carcasses of dead animals will be removed under permit to a high risk rendering plant (SRM plant for carcasses of ruminants or other high risk plant for carcasses of non-ruminants).
- g) The remainder of the stock will be transported under movement permit to the cull site.
- h) The **movement permit** records:
 - name and address of farm of origin
 - name and address of destination
 - the number and species of animals loaded
 - herd/flock number
 - list of ear-tags
 - the vehicle registration number
 - the driver name
 - the seal number
 - date and time of departure.
- i) The permit must be countersigned by the herd/flock owner and must accompany the stock to the cull site.
- j) Cattle passports and sheep and pig dispatch documents must also accompany the load.
- k) The livestock vehicle must be sealed and should be escorted by a TAO, whenever possible.
- l) Strict biosecurity precautions must be observed at all times. (For full details see Chapter 15, **Procedures for Personnel Biosecurity** and Chapter 16, **Local Biosecurity Centre**).

ANNEX 3

PROTOCOL FOR OFF-FARM SLAUGHTER

1. DELIVERY OF LIVE ANIMALS

- a) Animals for slaughter will arrive in sealed vehicles under movement permit, and should be accompanied by a TAO, whenever possible.
- b) On arrival the movement permit should be checked for the following details:
 - name and address of farm of origin
 - name and address of destination
 - the number and species of animals loaded
 - herd/flock number
 - list of ear-tags
 - the vehicle registration number
 - the driver name
 - the seal number
 - date and time of departure
- c) The animals must be counted and the ear-tags read by a TAO as they are off-loaded. The details must be checked against the movement permit. Any changes, e.g. deaths on route, should be noted.
- d) A log must be kept of the animals arriving from each premises.
- e) All cattle passports, sheep and pig dispatch documents and movement permits must be filed.
- f) The movement permit must be signed and the date and time of arrival at the cull site recorded.
- g) Any deficiencies in documentation or apparent delays between leaving the farm and arrival at the slaughter site must be investigated.
- h) All transport vehicles used for delivery of animals must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after each use.
- i) A certificate of cleaning and disinfection must be issued or, if relevant, the log book signed to record the date and time of completion.

2. SLAUGHTER

- a) The methods of slaughter used must be in accordance with the Methods of Slaughter listed in **Annex 4**.
- b) The numbers of animals slaughtered from each premises must be reconciled with the number arriving.

- c) Details of the slaughter figures, including the herd/flock numbers, names and addresses and numbers of animals of each species must be faxed to the LDCC Valuation/Slaughter/Disposal Section at the end of each day.
- d) The animals slaughtered from each holding must be reconciled with the date, time, vehicle registration, numbers of carcasses of each species (or weight of carcasses) and details relating to the carcasses sent for disposal.

3. DISPATCH OF CARCASSES AND WASTE

- a) The date and time, destination, weights, vehicle registration and methods of disposal and treatment of all waste (blood, slurry, wash water etc.) from the site must be recorded.
- b) All dispatch vehicles for rendering or burial of carcasses should arrive at the site accompanied by a cleaning and disinfection certificate issued at the site of disposal.
- c) The exterior of all dispatch vehicles must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before leaving the slaughter premises.
- d) All dispatch vehicles must be accompanied by a **movement permit** with the following details:
 - name and address of slaughter premises
 - name and address of destination
 - the number and species of animals loaded
 - herd/flock number
 - list of ear-tags
 - the vehicle registration number
 - the driver name
 - the seal number
 - date and time of departure.
- e) The movement permit must be officially stamped on arrival at destination, with details of the date and time of arrival and net weight of carcasses delivered.
- f) A copy of the stamped permit must be faxed to the slaughter site (or the LDCC Valuation/Slaughter/Disposal Section if a fax is not available at the slaughter site).

4. BIOSECURITY MEASURES

- a) All biosecurity protocols must be in accordance with the procedures in Chapter 15, **Procedures for Personnel Biosecurity**.
- b) A record of biosecurity measures and protocols and verification of their operation must be kept (including dilution rates and details of disinfectants used).

- c) A protocol for final cleaning and disinfection of the premises must be drawn up by the VI in charge.
- d) When cleaning and disinfection has been completed to the satisfaction of the VI, a Cleaning and Disinfection Certificate should be issued (see Chapter 16, Notices).

5. RESOURCES

- a) The following **personnel** are required for the operation of a cull site:
 - 1 VI
 - 1 SAO
 - 4 TAOs
- b) The following **equipment and other resources** are required (in addition to normal slaughterplant equipment):
 - mechanical industrial loaders
 - forklift machines
 - disinfection materials (disinfectant tanks, mats, wet suits, scaffolding etc.)
 - hot and cold power washers
 - protective clothing
 - storage and treatment of effluent
 - contract cleaners (if necessary)
 - overnight accommodation and meals – for plant/haulier/DAF personnel (if necessary).

6. SECURITY

Security is necessary for the following reasons:

- a) To prevent the movement on and off the premises without a permit/ authorisation of:
 - people
 - vehicles
 - carcasses
 - equipment.
- b) Secure parking will be required for vehicles overnight:
 - effluent tankers
 - livestock transport
 - mechanical industrial loaders
 - rendering trailers and lorries.

ANNEX 4

METHODS OF HUMANE SLAUGHTER

The extent of a Class A outbreak will influence the choice of slaughter method. **Table 1** is a useful guide as to the most appropriate means of emergency slaughter in a small Class A outbreak.

SPECIES	METHOD
Adult bovine	Humane killer + pithing (prior tranquillisation is a useful option)
Young bovine	Humane killer + pithing Intra cardiac/intravenous barbiturate
Sheep/goats	Humane killer + pithing
Young lambs/kids	Intra cardiac/intravenous barbiturate
Pigs	Humane killer + pithing (if electrocution not available) (Free bullet for boars)
Piglets	Intra cardiac/intravenous barbiturate
Wild animals	Rifle

In a large outbreak more use would be made of the free bullet. The use of free bullet has certain advantages over the humane killer but is compromised on safety. The advantages and disadvantages of free bullet versus humane killer are outlined in **Table 2**.

	HUMANE KILLER	FREE BULLET
Advantages	Safe	Fast No handling of animals once penned
Disadvantages	Slow Handling or restraint needed Equipment requires maintenance Equipment overheats	Health and Safety risk

NOTES FOR SLAUGHTERMEN

1. The Health and Safety of the operatives must never be compromised.
2. The animals to be slaughtered must be spared unnecessary suffering. The animals should be assembled according to species and further segregated according to size (otherwise live lambs may be found under slaughtered ewes).
3. Captive bolts should be regularly cleaned and maintained to ensure that they are in good working order. Furthermore, if they are being fired rapidly, they may over-heat and seize. It is advisable that slaughtermen would have 'spare' captive bolts available.
4. Pithing can be achieved with a rigid metal rod (a six-inch screwdriver will suffice).
5. For safety reasons, where a rifle and free bullet is used, it is essential that there are no on-lookers while the operation is in progress. Rifles used for this purpose should be equipped with telescopic laser sights.

ANNEX 5

PROTOCOL FOR SLAUGHTER AND DISPOSAL OF SUSPECT/ CONFIRMED SUSCEPTIBLE ANIMALS ON AN INFECTED PREMISES

1. FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF FIELD STAFF INVOLVED IN SLAUGHTER AND DISPOSAL DUTIES

1. Rapid slaughter and safe disposal is essential in order to:
 - stop virus excretion and
 - prevent spread of infection.
- 1.1 Instructions for clinical examinations, sampling, method of slaughter and method and location of disposal will be issued by the LDCC.
- 1.2 Staff involved in these duties must also familiarize themselves with Chapters 19 **Valuation**, 20 **Slaughter**, 21 **Disposal of carcasses**, 15 **Procedures for personnel biosecurity**, 16 **Local Biosecurity Centre** and 22 **Cleaning and disinfection of Infected Premises**.

2. PREPARATION

- 2.1 **Quantify the task:** Seek details of the type and number of animals from the Suspect Premises Report and existing databases, e.g. CMMS. If possible, discuss with VS who completed the Suspect Premises Report. Large-scale satellite photos/maps of the premises are useful.
- 2.2 **Calculate the resources** required:
 - slaughter methods equipment
 - slaughter team
 - minibus for slaughter team
 - extent of pre-slaughter clinical examinations and samples and equipment required
 - machinery required for removing slaughtered animals and for their disposal
 - plastic covers, if required, for animals pending disposal.
 - emergency lighting and food deliveries, if necessary.
- 2.3 **Biosecurity measures:** Ensure facilities for staff at the beginning and end of each day. [For relevant details see Chapter 15, **Procedures for Personnel Biosecurity**, Chapter 16, **Local Biosecurity Centre**, and Chapter 22, **Cleaning and Disinfection of Infected Premises**]. Also ensure site disinfection – at entrance, for equipment exiting and for preliminary disinfection.
- 2.4 **Communications:** ensure that all relevant contact names and mobile numbers are available to the team leader, including LDCC, infected premises team, gardai, local authority, farmer, valuer.
- 2.5 **Briefing:** The team should be instructed on slaughter and disposal methods, health and safety matters and biosecurity protocols. Ensure VI and TAO have all necessary restriction notices, forms, permits, seals and reports.

3. OPERATION

The farmer may offer to assist, but usually chooses not to.

- 3.1 Ensure the premises is secure – Gardai and TAO at entrance, signs etc.
- 3.2 Explain sympathetically to the farmer what is to happen.
- 3.3 Quickly assess the premises and facilities as previous plans may need to be amended on the spot in conjunction with the LDCC VI if necessary.
- 3.4 Identify potential hazards.
- 3.5 Always begin with valuation.
- 3.6 The VI should decide the order, and location(s) for clinical examinations, sampling and slaughter.
- 3.7 Slaughter and disposal should take place out of sight of the family, public and media.
- 3.8 The valuation records should be reconciled and signed off by the VI after slaughter.
- 3.9 **It is imperative that all animals are confirmed dead.**
- 3.10 Non-susceptible species should be housed and decontaminated, or destroyed, on the instructions of the LDCC VI.
- 3.11 The slaughter team may have to deal with another similar premises as soon as slaughter is completed. The VI should ensure that a report for the IP C&D team is commenced for each premises before departure, including current information in relation to areas where susceptible animals were kept and slaughtered and a note of any other high risk areas (e.g. burial sites).
- 3.12 A TAO who has been involved from the beginning of the operation should be left to supervise disposal, preliminary disinfection and continuing biosecurity, including rodent baiting. The TAO completes the report for the IP C&D team and marks the locations of disposal if carcasses are being buried or burned.
- 3.13 Any off-farm machinery and equipment used should be subjected to C&D and released under permit.
- 3.14 A diary should be kept of all events and a record of all staff and machinery used on the site. Copies should be kept on the premises file.
- 3.15 As soon as preliminary disinfection is complete this should be signed off by the TAO and by the VI in charge of the operation.
- 3.16 The time of signing off of preliminary disinfection must be immediately communicated to the LDCC.