

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Trader Notice MH 22/2015

To: All Approved Slaughter Establishments

Subject: Use of Couriers to transport TSE Samples to Rapid Test Laboratories

It has come to the attention of this Department that FBOs at several slaughtering establishments are using couriers to collect TSE samples on a Friday evening. These samples are subsequently not delivered to the Rapid Test Laboratories (RTLs) by the couriers until Monday morning.

This practice is ***not acceptable*** from several viewpoints:

1. A rapid test service is available on Friday evenings
2. Sample Security may be compromised
3. Sample deterioration is possible over the weekend.

With immediate effect, FBOs must ensure that their contract with a courier service for delivery of TSE samples includes a provision that samples collected on a Friday evening will be delivered to the RTLs that ***same*** evening.

If the courier service provider is not in a position to fulfil this obligation then the onus is on the FBO to make alternative arrangements to ensure that all TSE samples are delivered to the laboratories in the manner outlined above.

This Department will continue to monitor the arrival of TSE samples at the RTLs.

Audrey Lyons
Meat Hygiene Division

27th October 2015