

**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**

**Trader Notice MH 17/2016**

**To All Food Business Operators**

**Subject - Reminder - Official Detention of Carcasses and Meat by Department staff in  
DAFM approved Establishments**

**Background**

Carcasses and meat are routinely detained by the VI for the following reasons:

- For final inspection and decision in relation to carcasses detained for reasons of pathology.
- For routine and suspect sampling for residues and detained pending results of the test.
- For routine microbiological sampling e.g. STEC and detained pending results of the test.

Carcasses or meat may be detained by the VI for any other reason deemed necessary to ensure the protection of public health or animal health.

You are reminded that under SI 432/2009 and in line with Point 1 of the Ministerial Conditions of approval, the FBO has a statutory obligation to ensure

- (1) the secure detention (lockable facilities) of carcasses and meat
- (2) every assistance is provided to the VI and Technical Staff in the matter of detaining carcasses and meat and
- (3) that the VI and Technical Staff are in no way impeded in their duties concerning the detention of carcasses and meat.

It is an offence under SI 432/2009 to obstruct or interfere with the official detention procedure.

Such offences will give rise to enforcement action, may occasion a recall/withdrawal under Article 19 of Regulation 178/2002 and are punishable by prosecution and/or suspension or revocation of approval under Regulation 4 and the removal of the establishment from third country approved lists.