

Request

i) Please can you let me know the number and location of regulated abattoirs presently operating in Great Britain authorised to slaughter horses for use in human food products?

ii) Can you also please tell me how horses destined for slaughter, for the same end product overseas, are regulated and recorded here? What is the data trail?

Response

I will answer your questions in the order in which you have asked them.

i) Please find below the table highlighting those abattoirs which are approved to slaughter horses. Please note that this information is available in the public domain. For future reference you can access this information at <http://www.food.gov.uk/enforcement/sectorrules/meatplantsprems/meatpremlicence> you would then need to choose the list of establishments for meat of domestic ungulates and choose the spreadsheet related to the country you are interested in.

Establishment		Species Category		
2163	England	Solipeds	Peter Boddy	Todmorden
2283	England	Solipeds	C H Meats	Sutton on the Forest
2572	England	Solipeds	Yorkshire Country Meats	Skegness
8070	England	Solipeds	P J Hayman & Sons	Ottery St Mary
8201	England	Solipeds	F Drury & Sons Ltd	Tockenham
8231	England	Solipeds	Stillmans (Somerset) Ltd	Taunton

To be aware there are no establishments in Wales or Scotland.

Please note that you have specified in your request those *“abattoirs presently operating in Great Britain authorised to slaughter horses **for use in human food products**”*. There is a presumption that any horse arriving at one of the above approved abattoirs will enter the food chain **unless** the Official Veterinarian deems it not fit for human consumption in which case the animal would then be disposed of in the appropriate way.

ii) In relation to your second question I note you have not specified whether you are referring to the regulation of live horses in the UK, the export of live horses or the export of horsemeat. The regulation of live horses in the UK, through the horse passport system, is Defra’s area of responsibility. The arrangements for the export of live horses to third countries are the responsibility of the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA).

The requirements for the exports of meat to a third country will differ by country and the product being exported, but APHA are responsible for issuing the appropriate Export Health Certificates where formal arrangements have been agreed between

Food Standards Agency: information released under the Freedom of Information Act

Date released: 2 November 2015

Defra and the authorities in the third country. Trade to countries within the European Union is considered to be intra-Community trade and, as such, there is free movement of goods. Products must meet EU requirements although they may be subject to customs and national checks. As such, we advise UK exporters to contact the authorities in the destination country to check if there are any specific restrictions before they attempt to export. I would therefore suggest that, depending on whether your query relates to live horse exports or the export certification of meat, you contact the relevant department responsible.

For Defra you can contact them at: defra.helpline@defra.gsi.gov.uk or write to them at Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR.

For APHA you can contact them at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/464598/contacts-international-trade.pdf or find further information at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening>.