

By-law No. 6 : Veterinary food and commodity inspection

Preamble : The purpose of this By-law is to protect the health of consumers and food handlers, to prevent the spread of animal diseases through animal products and through establishments where animal products or feed are collected and distributed. It's purpose is also to raise the sanitary and quality level of animal products and related establishments, and thus to avoid losses from spoilage and make animal production more remunerative, raising the income level of farmers and enabling the country to move towards the National objective of self reliance. With regard to meat, it is the objective of this By-law to prevent that the provision of By-law No. 5 are evaded by the illegal marketting af uninspected meat.

1. The DAHO/DVO shall establish and maintain a register of all establishments in the area of his jurisdiction where edible animal products are commercially processed, handled, packed, stored, transported or marketted. He or his authorized representative is authorized to enter any such establishment or place at any time, in order to inspect the facilities, commodities, methods of operation and relevant documents, ledgers or other records, and to confiscate provisionally any product which constitutes a hazard to human or animal health.
2. The DAHO/DVO or his representative shall advise the owners and managers of the establishments referred to under the preceding paragraph about:
 - a) Hygienic practices in operation and maintenance.
 - b) Repairs or reconstruction of premises; installations and equipment, and repair or substitution of utensils, if so required for hygienic operation;
 - c) legal requirements concerning the movement, handling packing and storage of animal products and particularly temporary restrictions to the movement of animal products in times of disease outbreaks.
 - d) safe methods of vermin control, cleaning and disinfection.
3. The owner or manager shall follow the advice of the DAHO/DVO. If he finds himself unable to do so, and if no alternative solutions are practical, or if he persistantly refuses to follow the advice given, the DAHO/DVO shall refer the matter to the competent civil authority, with the official recommendation that part or all of the

establishment's operations should be suspended. The Dzongkhag Administration is empowered to implement such measures.

4. Establishments where fresh meat is handled shall be regularly inspected by the DAHO/DVO or his representative. The DAHO/DVO or his representative are empowered to provisionally confiscate any meat which is unfit for human consumption, which is known or reasonably suspected to originate from the restricted animal disease outbreak area, or which under the provisions of By-law No. 3 or 5 was permitted to be marketed.
5. Dairy establishments, premises where cheese, butter or ghee are prepared, milk collecting and sales points shall be regularly inspected by the DAHO/DVO or his representative. The tests for quality payment of milk shall be conducted by representatives of the DAHO/DVO or under their supervision. Milk which is found to be adulterated or spoiled or products which are a hazard to human or animal health shall be provisionally confiscated.
6. The Minister of Development may make orders from time to time with a view to gradually raising the sanitary and industrial level of dairy establishments and other establishments concerned with animal products.
7. Commercial feed mixing and feed trading establishments shall be regularly inspected to ensure the sanitary innocuity and the nutritional value of products concerned. Any product which is found to be adulterated or which is a hazard to human or animal health shall be provisionally confiscated.
8. Products destined for diagnosis, prevention or treatment of animal diseases are not allowed to be kept and handled in any place, except in the veterinary dispensaries of the Ministry of Development, Animal Husbandry Department and for limited purposes in specially licensed pharmacies and other establishments, which shall be strictly supervised by the DAHO/DVO.
9. The products provisionally confiscated under the provision of para, 4, 5, and 7 shall be handed over to the competent civil authority who shall confirm the confiscation and provide for the safe destruction of the products concerned, under the supervision of the DAHO/DVO or his representative.

10. The DAHO/DVO and his authorized representative are empowered to collect samples for laboratory examination, if so required for the purposes of the inspection concerned.
11. The Minister of Development may make orders from time to time to establish and operate official quality control and grading schemes for meat, meat products, milk, dairy products, poultry, eggs, hides and skins, wool, silk or any other edible or non-edible animal products.
12. Penalties: The penalty for violation of the By-law shall be a fine of Nu. 100/- and confiscation of the products concerned without compensation; in case of repeated violation suspension of the establishment's operation for a period of upto 10 days. The penalty for falsification of meat inspection stamps shall be prison upto 3 months.
13. Fees: No fee shall be charged for any inspection made under this By-law. Fees may be charged, however, in the framework of the official quality control and grading schemes established under the provisions of para 11 of this By-law, as may be specified in the relevant orders.