



## CHAPTER 22.

**An Act respecting the Slaughtering of Animals and the  
Inspection, Storage, Handling, and Preparation of  
Meat and Meat Products.**

*[Assented to 14th April, 1954.]*

**H**ER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the  
Legislative Assembly of the Province of British Columbia, enacts  
as follows:—

Short title.

**1.** This Act may be cited as the "Meat Inspection Act."

Interpretation.

**2.** In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:—

"Approved municipal inspection" means a meat inspection service, provided by a city or municipality, that has been approved by the Minister:

"Animal" means any bull, cow, steer, heifer, calf, horse, sheep, swine, goat, domestic rabbit, or poultry:

"Can" includes any hermetically sealed glass bottle, package, or container:

"Container" means a receptacle or covering in which any carcass, portion, or product is placed:

"Carcass" means the carcass of any animal:

"Establishment" means any abattoir, slaughter-house, packing-house, or other premises in which animals are slaughtered, or in which portions or products thereof are prepared for food, or are stored:

"Farmer" means a person whose recognized occupation is that of farming, and who slaughters only such animals as are fed by him on his own farm, and has done so for a time satisfactory to the Minister:

"Food" means every article used for food or drink by man and every ingredient used for mixing with the food or drink of man for any purpose:

"Inspector" means an Inspector appointed or approved by the Minister under this Act or the regulations:

"Minister" means the Minister of Agriculture:

"Portion" means one of the usual cuts derived from a carcass, such as sides, quarters, shoulders, hams, and bellies, and also entire organs, such as tongues, livers, and hearts:

"Product" means anything derived from a carcass, or a portion thereof.

Slaughter-house  
licence

3. No person other than a bona fide farmer slaughtering his own animals on his own premises shall slaughter any animal unless he is the holder of a licence issued by the Minister.

Application for  
licence.

4. (1) The application for a licence to slaughter animals shall be made in the manner and form prescribed by the Minister, and shall be accompanied by payment of the licence fee fixed by the regulations, and thereupon the Minister may cause to be issued to the applicant a licence therefor prescribed by the Minister. Every licence issued under this section shall expire at midnight on the thirty-first day of December, of the year in respect of which it was issued.

(2) Where a licensee holding a licence issued under this section contravenes any provision of this Act, the Minister, upon proof to his satisfaction of the fact or existence of the contravention and after hearing the licensee if he requests to be heard, may suspend the licence and all rights of the licensee thereunder for such period as the Minister may see fit or may cancel the licence.

Appointment of  
Inspectors

5. The Minister may appoint Inspectors whose duties shall be to carry out the provisions of this Act.

Authority  
to inspect

6. The production by an Inspector of a certificate of his appointment, purporting to be signed by the Minister, shall be prima facie evidence of the facts stated in the certificate, and conclusive evidence of the authority of the Inspector to inspect carcasses, portions, or products.

Powers of  
Inspector

7. An Inspector may, for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of this Act or the regulations:—

- (a) Enter any establishment and inspect the plant machinery and sanitation, and any carcass, portion or product found therein:
- (b) Order the cessation of work in any establishment, or in any part thereof, for such period of time as he deems necessary:
- (c) Stop any conveyance which he believes to contain any carcass, portion, or product, and inspect the conveyance and any carcass, portion, or product found therein, and may detain

such conveyance, and may direct such conveyance to any place for the reinspection of the carcasses, portions, or products being transported on such conveyance, and for the disposition of any such carcasses, portions, or products, as directed by the Inspector:

- (d) Require the production or furnishing of copies of, or extracts from, any book, shipping bills, bills of lading, or other records relating to any carcass, portion, or product.

Inspection of animals entering slaughter-house.

8. (1) All animals intended for slaughter in any establishment where inspection service is provided shall be inspected as provided by the regulations, and no animal shall be allowed to enter the parts of an establishment where slaughtering is carried on unless it has undergone such inspection.

(2) An animal slaughtered by a farmer may be accepted for post-mortem inspection at an establishment without first having received ante-mortem inspection as provided by the regulations.

Disposal of diseased animals.

9. Every establishment receiving animals affected, or suspected of being affected, with disease shall have such animals slaughtered under the supervision of an Inspector and disposed of as provided by the regulations.

Inspection of carcasses

10. All carcasses, portions, and products of all animals slaughtered in an establishment shall be inspected as provided by the regulations. Every carcass, or portion or product thereof, found to be healthy and fit for human food shall be marked by an Inspector in such manner as is provided by the regulations.

Inspection and marking of packaged food

11. (1) Every carcass, portion, or product prepared for food in any establishment, and packed in cans, packages, or similar receptacles, shall be subject to inspection during the whole course of preparation and packing.

(2) After all the requirements of the Act regarding inspection have been complied with, all such cans, packages, and receptacles shall be marked by an Inspector in such manner as is provided by the regulations.

Reinspection of carcass for deterioration.

12. The Inspector may at any time reinspect a carcass, portion, or product in order to ascertain whether, subsequent to the first inspection thereof, it has undergone decomposition, or has otherwise deteriorated, or has been tampered with or adulterated by the use of preservatives.

Condemnation of carcasses unfit for food.

13. Every carcass, portion, or product found, upon inspection or reinspection, to be unhealthy or unfit for food, or which contains ingredients or preservatives that may render it unfit for food, shall be marked by an Inspector as provided by the regulations, and thereupon be deemed to be condemned as unfit for food, and shall be disposed of as provided by the regulations.

Power of Minister to  
refuse inspection

**14.** If any of the provisions of the Act or the regulations are not complied with in any establishment, the Minister may refuse inspection, marking, and certification of the food prepared therein.

Prohibition against  
sale

**15.** No establishment under inspection shall offer or expose or have in its possession for sale any article subject to inspection under this Act unless all requirements of the Act respecting the said article have been complied with.

Prohibition against  
transporting

**16.** No person shall ship or transport within the Province any carcass, portion, or product subject to inspection under this Act, except as provided by the regulations.

Offences and  
penalties

**17.** (1) Every person is guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, for a first offence to a penalty of not less than twenty-five dollars and not more than one hundred dollars, and, in default of payment forthwith to imprisonment for any period not exceeding one month with hard labour, and for a second or subsequent offence to a penalty of not less than one hundred dollars and not more than five hundred dollars, and in default of payment forthwith to imprisonment for not less than one month and not more than six months, who:—

- (a) Obstructs an Inspector, or refuses to permit an Inspector to examine any carcass, portion, or product, in his possession or under his control:
- (b) Furnishes an Inspector with a false name or address, or any false information:
- (c) Alters, effaces, obliterates, or removes, or causes to be altered, effaced, obliterated, or removed, wholly or partially, any mark, tag, label, or certificate placed on or attached to any article under this Act or the regulations:
- (d) Uses or imitates, without authority, any mark, tag, label, or certificate prescribed under this Act or the regulations:
- (e) Knowingly sells or offers for sale meat from immature, diseased, or treated animals which have received medicinal or other treatment which may make the meat unfit for food:
- (f) Violates any provision of this Act or the regulations.

(2) (a) In a prosecution for an offence under this Act or the regulations, proof that a person is regularly engaged in the business of dealing in meat or meat products shall be prima facie evidence of his knowledge of the source of supply of such meat or meat products.

(b) In a prosecution for an offence under this Act or the regulations, it is not necessary for the informant or person prosecuting to prove that the carcass, portion, or product in respect of which the prosecution is instituted was produced in the Province, or in any designated part of the Province; and if the defendant pleads or alleges that the carcass, portion, or product was not produced in the Province, or in any

designated part of the Province, the burden of proof thereof shall be on him

Regulations.

18. (1) The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may make regulations not inconsistent with this Act for carrying out the provisions of this Act, and such regulations shall be forthwith published in the Gazette, and thereupon shall have the same force and effect as if incorporated in this Act.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), the power of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council shall extend to making regulations:—

- (a) Providing for suitable classification of establishments:
- (b) Providing for standards for construction and equipment of establishments:
- (c) Providing for the establishing of procedures for the slaughtering and inspection of animals and carcasses, and for the supervision of all practices in an establishment and the general sanitation of an establishment:
- (d) Providing for the establishing of standards for containers, packages, labels, and tags:
- (e) Providing for the control and supervision of feed-lots, yards, and holding-pens adjacent to an establishment under inspection, and for the care and disposition of animals in these feed-lots, yards, and holding-pens:
- (f) Providing for the establishing of areas for the control of live-stock slaughtering, and for the storage and sale of all meats and meat products within such areas:
- (g) Providing for approved municipal inspection:
- (h) Providing for the withdrawal of inspection at any establishment

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