

# Food Chain Information for Cattle, Sheep and Goats



## What is Food Chain Information?

Food Chain Information (FCI) details the health status of the animals being sent for slaughter and other information relevant to the safety of meat derived from the animals. This could include medicines that may have been administered to them.

## Why is it necessary?

FCI is an important part of 'farm to fork' food safety controls and it becomes a legal requirement for cattle, sheep and goats from 1st January 2010 bringing them into line with other species.

## Who provides the FCI to a slaughterhouse or livestock market?

Livestock producers will be required to provide this information for **all animals sent for slaughter – either directly or through a livestock market**. Copies of the FCI declaration are available in abattoirs, local DARD offices and livestock markets as well as to download from the Food Standards Agency website [www.food.gov.uk](http://www.food.gov.uk)

## Requirements of FCI for Cattle, Sheep and Goats

Some of the requirements of FCI are currently held by the Animal and Public Health Information System (APHIS). However, from 1st January 2010 confirmation of the following information will be required for cattle, sheep and goats:

- Withdrawal periods have been observed for all veterinary medicines and other treatments administered to the animals while on your holding and previous holdings.
- To the best of your knowledge the animals are not suffering from any disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat derived from them.
- No analysis of samples taken from animals on the holding, or other samples, has shown that the animals in this consignment may have been exposed to any disease or condition that may affect the safety of meat or to substances likely to result in residues in meat.

If any of the above statements are **not fulfilled** you will need to provide additional information.



**FOOD  
STANDARDS  
AGENCY**  
**NORTHERN  
IRELAND**

For further information contact:

Food Standards Agency in Northern Ireland

**Phone:** 028 9041 7700

**E-mail:** [infosani@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:infosani@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk)

Guidance is also available on the Agency's website: [food.gov.uk](http://food.gov.uk)