

Registration of ABP operators, establishments or plants

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Who or what requires to be registered?

The relevant EU legislation is:

- Regulation **1069/2009** hereafter referred to as the “Control Regulation”.
- Implementing Regulation **142/2011** hereafter referred to as the “Implementing Regulation”.

Any operator, establishment or plant that generates, transports, handles, processes, stores, places on the market, distributes, uses or disposes of animal by-products or derived products must be registered before commencing operations. This requirement is detailed in Article 23 of the EU Control Regulation.

There are some specific exceptions to this requirement and notification is not required for:

- plants that are already approved in accordance with Article 24 of the EU Control Regulation
- food establishments that are already registered or approved in accordance with Regulation (EC) **No 852/2004** or Regulation (EC) **No 853/2004**
- farms or other premises where animals are kept, bred or taken care of.

Previous legislation required certain categories of ABP plants to be approved, e.g. Technical Plants, Collection Centres, Authorised Final Users and Wool storage/packing plants. The new EU Control Regulation does not require approval in these cases instead these plants must be registered by the Animal Health and Welfare Department.

The EU Control Regulation also introduces the requirement for ABP hauliers to be registered by the Animal Health and Welfare Department. Approved ABP plants that also operate haulage from the same site will not require separate registration for that part of the business provided it is an integral part of the plant operations.

What does this actually mean?

Premises approved under the food hygiene regulations such as abattoirs or cutting plants will not need to be registered.

Approved ABP plants such as rendering plants, pet food manufacturers, etc. will not need to be registered.

Farms/livestock keepers that transport their own dead stock/ABP to a disposal point do not need to be registered.

All independent transporters that wish to transport raw ABPs or derived products must be registered under this regulation. This is an important change in the rules.

Transport that is run as a dedicated part of an already approved/registered ABP operation will not need dual registration. For example, a processing/rendering company that runs their own fleet of vehicles for collection of dead stock can do so under their overarching approval. This approval will not cover any third party that delivers dead stock to them or removes derived products from the site.

How can I become registered?

In order to become registered, you should contact Animal Health and Welfare Department, Triq il-Biccerija, Albertown Marsa on 22925372/76, or email abpsection.mafa@gov.mt You can also obtain an application form for your business sending a request to the same email address.

Various details will be required with regards to:

- the category of animal by-products or derived products under your control
- the nature of the operations performed using the animal by-products or derived products under your control
- once registered you must notify Veterinary Service of any change to your operation including closure of any plant under your control.

What will registration cost me?

Currently there is no charge for registration, but this may change in the future.

What requirements must I follow in a registered establishment/plant?

The requirements are laid out in Articles 36, 37, 38 and 39 of the EU Control Regulation. They state that:

- products can be placed on the market provided that they are not intended for feeding to farmed animals or application to land from which farmed animals are to be fed.
- you ensure that you control the risk to public and animal health by safe sourcing as detailed in Article 37 **and**
- you ensure safe treatment in accordance with Article 38 where safe sourcing does not ensure sufficient control, **or**
- you verify that the products are only used for safe end use in accordance with Article 39 where safe treatment does not ensure sufficient control.

What is safe sourcing?

This is specified at article 37 of the EU Control Regulation, it involves:

- using only material that poses no unacceptable risk to the public and animal health and transporting the material in a safe manner whether it originates from within the EU or is imported into it.

- being able to provide documentation that will confirm point above and where necessary provide proof of the bio-security measures taken.
- where the material is imported from outside the EU it must be accompanied by agreed health certificates.

What is safe treatment?

Safe treatment will involve the application of a manufacturing process that will reduce the risk to public and animal health to acceptable levels. It shall ensure that the derived product poses no unacceptable risk, in particular by means of testing of the end product.

What is safe end use?

Safe end use involves the use of the derived product:

- under conditions that pose no unacceptable risk to public or animal health.
- where they may pose a risk to public and animal health, but that risk is justified by objectives set out in Community legislation, in particular for promotion of public and animal health.

What facilities must a Registered Plant/Operator have?

These requirements are laid out in Regulation (EC) 142/2011 at Annex IX, Chapter IV. Registered operators must handle animal by-products under the following conditions:

- premises must be constructed in a way that allows effective cleaning and disinfection where appropriate.
- premises must have appropriate pest control policies.
- installations and equipment must be kept in a hygienic condition.
- Animal by-products and derived products must be stored in a manner that will prevent contamination.

In addition, operators must keep records in a form that is accessible to allow effective inspection by the Animal Health and Welfare Department.

Registered operators transporting animal by-products or derived products, other than between premises of the same operator, must:

- Have information at their disposal with regards to the identification of their vehicles, which will allow verification of the use of the vehicles for the transport of ABPs and derived products.
- Clean and disinfect the vehicles as appropriate.
- Take all other necessary precautions to prevent contamination and the spread of disease communicable to humans and animals.

Will I be subject to official inspection?

The EU Control Regulation requires the Animal Health and Welfare Department to carry out official controls and supervision of the handling of ABPs and derived products at registered

plants on a risk basis. Annex XVI of Regulation (EC) provides for access to a list of all approved and registered plants. Article 40 of (EC) ABP regulations allows for further implementing regulations to be laid down at a later date that could alter the requirements that you may need to follow.