



SUPPLY OF VENISON(1)

Aim

The aim of this guide is to outline the appropriate legislation associated with the supply of venison and to specify the different obligations imposed by the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996 and the Food Hygiene Regulations.

This guide also provides information on ways to add value to the venison product and maximise profit through venison sales.

Current legislation

Current directly relevant legislation is:

Legislation(1)	Range
Food Safety Act 2002	Lays down the general principles and requirements of food law and procedures in matters of food safety, including establishing traceability of food, feed and food producing animals.
Food Hygiene Regs 2006	These set out the basic hygiene requirements for all aspects of your business, from your premises and facilities to the personal hygiene of your staff. One of the key requirements of the law is that you must be able to show what you do to make or sell food that is safe to eat.
Deer (Scotland) Act 1996	The Deer (Scotland) Act requires that an individual who sells, offers or exposes for sale the carcass of a deer or any part of a carcass, must hold a Venison Dealer's Licence unless venison is being sold directly to or bought directly from an LVD. Licences may be granted by councils to any person regarded as being fit to deal in venison.

The following scenarios provide a summary of the venison producer's responsibilities in the most common situations.



Stalkers selling in-skin carcasses to an Approved Game Handling Establishment

Note:

- ◆ No restrictions on amount of carcasses sold.
- ◆ A venison dealer's licence is not required, provided the operator of the AGHE is an LVD.

Note any abnormal behaviour before culling.

- 2** A carcass must be inspected by a 'trained' person after death for abnormal signs of disease, parasites or contamination. Holding an approved qualification, such as updated DSC Level 1 or the Level 2 Certificate in Game Meat Hygiene, is the most robust way in which stalkers can show that they have the appropriate knowledge to be considered 'trained'. A declaration tag (available from the licensed processing plant) must be signed by a trained person.
- 1** Keep records that ensure traceability. Should return records of deer culled to Deer Commission for Scotland (Section 40 Deer (Scotland) Act 1996).
- 2** A carcass should reach the processor as soon as possible. Keep the carcass free from contamination throughout the whole process.
- 2** It is the responsibility of the producer to ensure they know that any food they produce is to be handled in accordance with the law in the next stage of the food production process.

Larder requirements

- 2** Larder must be registered with the Local Authority. Follow general hygiene principles laid out in the Food Standards Regulations.**
- 2** Carcass core temperature should be brought down to 7°C as soon as reasonably possible and be kept below this temperature. Access to a chill will be required in most cases.
- 2** For both the carcass and the larder, the producer must fulfil HACCP* (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point) requirements demanded by the Venison Dealer.

Glossary	
<i>Final consumer</i>	<i>Ultimate consumer of a foodstuff who will not use the venison as part of any food business operation or activity.</i>
<i>Hazard and Critical Control Points (HACCP)</i>	<i>The HACCP system* is internationally accepted as the system of choice for food safety management. It is a preventative approach to food safety based on identifying hazards and critical control points, and establishing, verifying, reviewing and recording food safety procedures and measures.</i>
<i>Larder</i>	<i>Premises used for keeping killed wild game, where primary products are stored prior to onward transport or processing.</i>
<i>Approved Game Handling Establishment (AGHE)</i>	<i>An establishment for processing wild game for general sale both within the UK and for exports. Approved by the Food Standards Agency.</i>
<i>Licensed Venison Dealer (LVD)</i>	<i>In Scotland, any persons wishing to sell large wild game require to be Licensed Venison Dealers (Deer (Scotland) Act 1996), unless they are selling directly to or purchasing directly from an LVD. A 'licensed venison dealer' means the holder of a Venison Dealer's Licence granted by the Local Authority within whose area the sale, offer or exposure for sale takes place, or where the premises concerned are situated.</i>
<i>Local supply</i>	<i>'Local' refers to local authority area, neighbouring Local Authority or a radius of 50 km whichever is greater. Also includes mail order and internet sales to the final consumer wherever they may be sent.</i>
<i>Small quantities</i>	<i>Has no absolute figure set as quantity will be self limiting.</i>
<i>Sale</i>	<i>Under Section 36(7) of the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996, the term 'sale' includes barter, exchange and other transactions by which venison is disposed of for value.</i>
<i>Venison</i>	<i>In Sections 33, 34 and 36 of the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996, 'venison' means the carcase or any edible part of the carcass of deer, and 'deer' means deer of any species, and includes farmed deer.</i>

* See BPG Handling Exceptional Numbers of Carcasses ** See BPG Basic Hygiene Principles and BPG Larder Hygiene & Waste Disposal.

continued in Supply of Venison(2)