Qurbani Operating Procedures for abattoirs participating in partial chilling of offal

Following advice and education on the requirements for chilling offal, some consumers may still decide to collect their Qurbani offal when they collect their Qurbani carcase/meat directly from the abattoir. This document provides guidance for abattoirs that wish to participate in the delivery of such partially chilled offal (i.e. not chilled to 3°C or below) directly to the consumer. This facility is only available to consumers who collect their meat and offal directly from the abattoir. It is not intended for butchers acting as agents.

### Receiving orders

In the first instance, abattoirs should offer consumers fully chilled offal from previous slaughter – whether Qurbani or not. The scholar’s opinion document (EID11) can be shown to them to reassure them of its permissibility. If consumers still wish to collect the Qurbani offal from their own Qurbani carcases, then the abattoir should first offer to fully chill their Qurbani offal for later collection. Only if this option is not chosen can abattoirs then facilitate the collection of partially chilled offal. Participating abattoirs must ensure that each such consumer is provided with additional information on how to handle partially chilled offal (EID10) in addition to the information on handling partially chilled carcases (EID07).

Where the offal from the consumer’s Qurbani carcase has been rejected during post-mortem inspection, the consumer will be supplied an alternative fully chilled offal.

### Record keeping

Abattoirs must ensure that clear records and traceability are maintained for these purchases. This information will be held in addition to the requirements of the QOP.

### Chilling

Cook and consume the offal as soon as possible and follow good kitchen hygiene practices when handling this product. Prior to cooking, ensure you keep your offal in the coolest part of your fridge (below 5°C) until you are ready to cook it. It must then be cooked thoroughly to ensure that all microorganisms are killed. It is recommended that the offal is consumed within 24 hours from the time it leaves the abattoir, and unless you intend to do this, you will be able to ask for fully chilled offal from the abattoir.

Offal must be actively chilled for a minimum of 30 minutes before collection by the consumer, and a record must be kept of the temperature achieved. To ensure effective chilling, the offal must not be placed in the cavity of the carcase, as this hinders the chilling process of both the offal and the carcase.

It is not recommended that this partially chilled offal is transported in a cool box as this would have an insulating effect meaning the offal may not cool down to ambient temperature as quickly. This may be mitigated if the cool box has active chilling or ice and/or freeze packs, but abattoirs and consumers should be aware of, and take into consideration, that the chilling time and temperatures achieved will be variable.

### Cross-contamination during customer transportation

At the time of placing their Qurbani orders, abattoir operators should inform consumers of the risks associated with handling partially chilled offal. Efforts must therefore be made to protect the offal from all forms of contamination while in transit, e.g. a sealed bag or container.