



Humane Slaughter Association

Media Release

10 November 2016

Seminar on Welfare of Animals at the Time Of Killing (WATOK) Regulations

On the 12th of October some 100 people involved in the slaughter industry attended the HSA WATOK One-Year-On seminar held in the East Midlands. Delegates came from across the UK to discuss the challenges faced since the new Welfare at the Time Of Killing (WATOK) regulations were introduced in England in November 2015.

Delegates heard from speakers who explained the changes from an administrative perspective and provided examples of how the change in legislation had impacted on members of industry. Large and small scale producers were present and a discussion period which followed the presentations gave all the delegates the opportunity to share their experiences and raise questions.

The main theme of the discussion was the finite life of the temporary Certificates of Competence (3 months), which causes particular problems for people operating in small slaughter plants and seasonal producers due to a potential inability to gain practical experience, be assessed and prove to be competent within this timeframe. Delegates felt that this was an area which should be addressed in the future by the industry and relevant competent authorities.

HSA's Technical Director Charles Mason said: "It was encouraging to see widespread support for the seminar and I'd like to thank all the delegates for their active and honest participation."

The presentations given by the speakers are now available on the charity's website. If you would like further information or advice on WATOK, please contact the HSA info@hsa.org.uk +44 (0)1582 831919.

-ENDS-

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Note to Editors:

The HSA is an independent charity recognised internationally for promoting scientific, technical and educational advances towards improving the welfare of food animals worldwide at slaughter, killing, marketing and transport.

Its work includes researching, refining and demonstrating humane slaughter methods, publishing material such as guidelines, best practice, books and videos, funding research projects and the development of equipment. Specialist technical staff provide expert and practical advice on all welfare issues relating to food animals.

The HSA is funded by voluntary donations, subscriptions and legacies.

For more information about the HSA's work call 01582 831919, email info@hsa.org.uk or visit www.hsa.org.uk

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