

Slaughter inside an FSA-approved slaughterhouse

You need a certificate of competence (CoC) from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to do any of the following in an FSA-approved slaughterhouse:

- handle animals before they're restrained
- restrain animals for stunning or killing
- stun animals
- check stunning has worked
- shackle or hoisting live animals
- bleed live animals
- religious slaughter
- pithing of a stunned animal
- check pithing has worked

What your CoC must cover

Your CoC must cover each type of animal you work with and each operation that you carry out. If you stun animals, your CoC must cover the different types of equipment you use.

If you need to add more operations or types of animal to your CoC, you must get a temporary CoC and complete training and assessment for the additional operation or animal.

Handling animals before restraint, killing with a free bullet, shackling poultry: CoC or temporary CoC

You need a full or temporary CoC if you do any of the following:

- handle animals before restraining them
- kill an animal with a free bullet for human consumption
- shackle poultry

Apply for a temporary or full CoC

You must be 18 or over to get a temporary or full CoC.

If you're 16 or over, you can do following activities without a temporary or full CoC:

- handling and care of animals before restraint

- shackling live poultry

Check the activities that you need a temporary or full CoC for.

When you apply, you need to tell the FSA in writing if you've ever:

- been convicted of an animal welfare offence
- been refused a licence in relation to killing an animal or a related operation
- had such a licence revoked (cancelled) or suspended

Temporary CoC

A temporary CoC is free and valid for 3 months. You can apply for a temporary CoC if you meet all of the following requirements:

- you work in a slaughterhouse
- you do not have a full CoC for an operation you're doing
- you've registered on an approved training course

You can work in a slaughterhouse with a temporary CoC as long as you're supervised by someone who has a full CoC that covers both of the following:

- the types of animal being slaughtered
- the operations you're doing

You can get a temporary CoC from an official vet (OV) at an FSA-approved slaughterhouse.

Temporary CoC: training

To get a temporary CoC you must register to train with an approved trainer, Shropshire Training are accredited by FDQ. They will register you for the Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing (WATOK) Qualification.

You'll need to show the OV evidence that you've registered before you can get your temporary CoC.

During the 3 months that your temporary CoC is valid, you must:

- complete your training
- successfully pass the assessment

Once that's done, you'll get a 'qualification certificate' - you can then apply for a full CoC.