

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD



THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE & FOOD
AN ROINN TALMHAÍOCHTA AGUS BIA

SLAUGHTER PREMIUM 2003 HELP SHEET

AND

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

(Covering slaughterings within the EU and live exports to non-EU countries, of bovine animals, 8 months and over, in the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003)

**PLEASE READ AND FOLLOW CAREFULLY THE
INSTRUCTIONS AND TERMS AND CONDITIONS ON
THIS HELP SHEET**

Q.1. Who is eligible for Slaughter Premium 2003?

A.1. Registered Herdowners who

- Held the animals slaughtered for a minimum of two months ending less than one month before the date of slaughter within the EU.
- Held the animals exported live to a non-EU country for a minimum of two months ending less than two months before the date of live export to a non-EU country.
- Were not producers deemed ineligible for bovine premium and Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance because of an offence relating to hormones or beta-agonists (see Term and Condition 22).

Q.2. Which cattle are eligible for Slaughter Premium 2003?

A.2. All bovine animals which

1. Were aged 8 months and over on the date of slaughter/export and were slaughtered in Licensed Meat Export Premises/Local Abattoirs within the EU, or exported live to a non-EU country in the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003.
2. Were properly identified with official BTE eartags in accordance with statutory requirements.
3. Were owned, possessed, held and maintained by the applicant for at least two months ending **less than one month** before the date of slaughter.
4. Were owned, possessed, held and maintained by the applicant for at least two months ending **less than two months** before the date of live export to a non-EU country.
5. Were accompanied to the plant of slaughter or point of export by their Cattle Identity Cards, Passports, or Movement Permits.
6. Were not deemed ineligible for bovine premium and Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance, because of an offence relating to hormones or beta-agonists (see Term and Condition 22).

Q.3. If I sell animals that are fit for slaughter through a livestock mart, will I qualify for the Slaughter Premium 2003?

- #### A.3.
- You will qualify for the Premium if the person who buys your animals slaughters them in the EU within a period of less than one month of the purchase date or exports them live to a non-EU country within a period of less than two months of the purchase date. Ensure, that when you are buying or selling an animal in the mart **your correct herdnumber** is quoted so that data on the Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS) is accurate.

Q.4. If I sell animals privately that are fit for slaughter, will I qualify for premium?

- #### A.4.
- You will qualify for the Premium if the person who buys your animals slaughters them in the EU within a period of less than one month of the purchase date or exports them live to a non-EU country within a period of less than two months of the purchase date. It is important to ensure that, in the case of all private sales (including sales to agents and dealers), the Cattle Movement Notification forms/movement permits are duly completed by **both the buyer and seller** and forwarded to South Western Services, Bandon, Co. Cork, **within 7 days**.

Q.5. What are the rates of payment under the scheme for 2003?

A.5. The premium payable on qualifying animals slaughtered/exported during 2003 will amount to €80 for each animal. However, a National Quota Ceiling of 1,776,668 million rights will apply and should the number of animals qualifying for the 2003 Slaughter Premium exceed this quota, the amount of the premium will be reduced accordingly.

Q.6. What will the payment arrangements be?

A.6. Payments for eligible animals will be made by way of a 60% advance payment payable from 16 October 2003. A balancing payment will be made the following year as soon as the quota position is established.

Q.7. How do I apply for the Slaughter Premium 2003?

A.7. Individual applications will not be necessary for animals slaughtered at Licensed Meat Export Premises or Local Abattoirs in the Republic of Ireland, or for animals exported live to non-EU countries. Slaughterings in the Republic of Ireland and live exports to non-EU countries will be recorded by the CATTLE MOVEMENT MONITORING SYSTEM (CMMS) which will assist the Department in determining the eligibility of these animals for premium. Payment will issue automatically where these animals are deemed to have met all the requirements of the Slaughter Premium Scheme.

HOWEVER, PRODUCERS OF ANIMALS EXPORTED FOR SLAUGHTER TO EU COUNTRIES, OTHER THAN NORTHERN IRELAND (SEE Q.8 OVER), WILL BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FORM ACCOMPANIED BY PROOF OF SLAUGHTER FROM THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE IN THE COUNTRY CONCERNED.

This proof, in the form of certified sales/slaughter dockets on headed paper, must show clearly the date of slaughter, the full BTE tagnumber of the animals slaughtered, their category and kill number. Animals should be listed on application forms in the same order as they appear on the relevant slaughter docket. Application for the premium must be made within 6 months of slaughter and not later than 29 February 2004. Producers of animals exported to EU countries for slaughter may submit up to 12 applications.

Q.8. If I slaughter animals in Northern Ireland will I need to complete an application form?

A.8. No, animals slaughtered in Northern Ireland will be recorded by DARD (Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland). The details of these slaughterings will be transferred onto our Slaughter Premium database and verified against the relevant export details held on the Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS). Payments will issue automatically where these animals are deemed to have met all the requirements of the Slaughter Premium Scheme.

Q.9. Will I need to complete a Producer's Acknowledgement form for 2003?

A.9. If you have submitted a Producer Acknowledgement previously, the Department will accept this form for the 2003 Slaughter Premium Scheme. However, if there is a change of ownership, a new Producer Acknowledgement form must be completed. Any producer with eligible animals in 2003 who did **not** submit a Producer Acknowledgement form **will automatically receive one from the Department for completion and return.**

Q.10. What is the purpose of completing a Producer Acknowledgement Form?

A.10. By completing a Producer Acknowledgement form, the producer agrees to abide by the Terms & Conditions of the scheme. As there may be changes to EU Regulations throughout the year, the producer must read carefully the Terms and Conditions of the scheme each year. If the producer no longer wishes to participate in the scheme, he/she must inform the Slaughter Premium Unit in writing.

Q.11. How will I know which animals qualify for premium?

A.11. You will be sent a regular statement outlining slaughtered/exported animals that were identified by the Department as being eligible.

NATIONAL ENVELOPE 2003

Q.12. What is the "National Envelope" and how will this money be paid?

A.12. The National Envelope is money given to all EU Member States to spend in the Beef Sector for the years 2000 to 2006 inclusive. The amount available under the National Envelope for 2003 is €31.4m. This will be used to:

- (i) continue the top-up of the Slaughter Premium on beef-breed heifers as introduced in 2000, €10.4m.
- (ii) continue the top-up of Suckler Cow Premium on replacement heifers in the Suckler Cow herd introduced in 2001.

In 2003, the remaining funds i.e. €10.4m will be used to top-up the premium on dry heifers qualifying for the Suckler Cow Premium up to a maximum of 15% of qualifying animals.

Q.13. What is meant by a beef breed heifer?

A.13. Qualifying heifers must belong to a meat breed. The breed will be determined by reference to the breed of the sire as registered with the South Western Services, Bandon.

Q.14. Are there any restrictions?

A.14. Yes, the heifers must:

- Have qualified for the Slaughter Premium 2003.
- Be at least 8 months and under 30 months on the date of slaughter within the EU or exported live to a non-EU country.

Each individual producer is limited to a top-up on 180 qualifying beef breed heifers.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE SLAUGHTER PREMIUM SCHEME 2003 AND NATIONAL ENVELOPE PAYMENT

(Covering slaughterings of bovine animals, 8 months and over, in Licensed Meat Export Premises or Local Abattoirs within the EU and live exports to non-EU countries)

DEFINITIONS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SCHEME

1. The “EU” means the European Union.
2. The “Minister” means the Minister for Agriculture and Food and the “Department” means the Department of Agriculture and Food.
3. The “CMMS” means the Cattle Movement Monitoring System. The CMMS is a computer database used to record all births, movements and deaths of animals.
4. A “producer” means an individual farmer (a) whose holding is situated in the State (b) who is a natural person over 18 or a legal person or group of persons regardless of the status of such a group or its members in Irish law and (c) who is a registered herdowner under the BTE Scheme.
5. These terms and conditions are governed by the following EU Regulations and as amended where such is relevant;
No 3508/92 Establishing an integrated administration and control system for certain community aid schemes
No 2629/97 On the identification and registration of bovine animals
No 2630/97 On the identification and registration of bovine animals
No 1254/99 On the common organisation of the market in beef and veal (Amended by 1512/01)
No 1257/99 On support for rural development
No 1258/99 On the financing of the common agriculture policy
No 1259/99 Establishing common rules for direct support schemes under the common agriculture policy
No 1760/00 Establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals
No 2342/99 Laying down detailed rules on the common organisation of the market in beef and veal as regards premium schemes (Amended by 2733/00, 1042/00, 1900/01, 1458/01, 192/01)
No 2419/01 Laying down detailed rules for applying the integrated administration and control system for community aid schemes
If the EU makes any changes to the regulations during 2003 which affect the operation of the scheme the changes will be binding on all producers immediately following EU publication
6. Unless indicated otherwise, “application” or “applications” means one form or more lodged under this Scheme with the Department in respect of 2003. Producers of animals exported to EU countries for slaughter may submit up to 12 applications for the 2003 scheme year. The Department has provided that information on the slaughter of animals forwarded to the CMMS by slaughterhouses/export points shall be regarded as applications for Slaughter Premium on behalf of the producers. These Terms and Conditions and the above Council and Commission Regulations govern all applications. **Should the EU make any changes in those Regulations which affect these Terms and Conditions, after their issue, the changes will be advertised to producers in all national daily morning newspapers and will be binding on all producers after the end of the next week following such advertisement.**
7. Unless indicated otherwise, “Premium” means Slaughter Premium 2003 payable on each eligible animal slaughtered in a Licensed Meat Export Premises or a Local Abattoir within the EU or exported live to a non-EU country during the period 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2003.
8. Unless indicated otherwise, “top-up” means National Envelope 2003 payable on the slaughter of qualifying beef breed heifers.
9. The “national quota limit” is 1,776,668 slaughtered animals qualifying for the Slaughter Premium. If the number of animals qualifying for the Slaughter Premium exceeds 1,776,668, by any percentage, the amount of the premium will be reduced accordingly.

CONDITIONS

10. If a producer wishes to claim 2003 Slaughter Premium:
 - All movements must be recorded on the Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS).
 - Animals must be 8 months or over on the date of slaughter within the EU or on the date of live export to a non-EU country.
 - Animals must be slaughtered in a Licensed Meat Export Premises or Local Abattoir within the EU or exported live to a non-EU country between 1 January 2003 and 31 December 2003.
 - Animals must be owned, possessed, held and maintained by the producer for a minimum of two months ending less than one month before the date of slaughter within the EU or ending less than two months before the date of live export to a non-EU country.
 - Animals must be properly tagged with official BTE eartags in accordance with statutory requirements.
 - Animals must be accompanied to the plant of slaughter or point of export by a properly completed Passport, Cattle Identity Card or Movement Permit.
 - **ANIMALS MUST BE ENTERED IN THE PRODUCER’S OFFICIAL BOVINE HERD REGISTER AND THAT THIS REGISTER IS MAINTAINED AND KEPT UP TO DATE AT ALL TIMES.**
 - **Animals must not have been deemed ineligible for bovine premium and Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance because of an offence relating to hormones or beta-agonists (see Term and Condition 22)**

APPLICATIONS

ENTITLEMENT AND ELIGIBILITY FOR ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED WITHIN THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, NORTHERN IRELAND OR EXPORTED LIVE TO NON-EU COUNTRIES, WILL BE DETERMINED AS FOLLOWS:

11. **Slaughterings within the Republic of Ireland** will be recorded by the Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS), which will assist the Department in determining the eligibility of these animals for premium. Payment will issue automatically where these animals are deemed to have met all the requirements of the Slaughter Premium Scheme.

12. **DARD (Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Northern Ireland)** will record Slaughtering in Northern Ireland. The details of these slaughtering will be transferred onto the Slaughter Premium database and verified against the relevant export details on the Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS). Payment will issue automatically where these animals are deemed to have met all the requirements of the Slaughter Premium Scheme.
13. **Live exports to Non-E.U. countries** will be recorded by the Cattle Movement Monitoring System (CMMS), which will assist the Department in determining the eligibility of these animals for premium. Payment will issue automatically where these animals are deemed to have met all the requirements of the Slaughter Premium Scheme.
14. **Force Majeure/Exceptional Circumstances**
The date of slaughter/export is the date of application. If an animal is removed during the retention period due to circumstances unforeseen, unavoidable and outside the producers control, consideration may be given to payment of Slaughter Premium for reasons of Force Majeure/Exceptional Circumstances. Consideration can only be given in cases where proof is provided that the animals concerned would have been slaughtered within 3 months of the date of the Force Majeure event, or exported to a non-EU country within 4 months of the Force Majeure event.

Consequently, it will not be necessary to complete an application form in respect of slaughtering at 11, 12 and 13 above.

PAPER APPLICATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED IN ANOTHER E.U. COUNTRY OTHER THAN NORTHERN IRELAND

15. **It will be necessary to complete an application form to participate in the scheme for animals exported for slaughter in another E.U. country. The following procedures apply:**
 - Animals must be slaughtered within one month of leaving the producers herd.
 - Producers of these animals must submit proof of slaughter from the slaughterhouse in the Member State concerned.
 - This proof must take the form of original slaughter dockets on headed paper (copies must be certified as true copies), stamped with the EU Veterinary Control Number Stamp of the slaughterhouse concerned and signed by the attending Veterinary Officer.
 - These certified dockets must show clearly the date of slaughter, the full BTE tagnumber of the animals slaughtered, their category and kill number.
 - Application forms are available from the Slaughter Premium Section, Old Abbeylax Rd, Portlaoise, Co. Laois.
 - The producer should complete the application in accordance with the attached HELPSHEET, in particular checking that each BTE tagnumber he or she has listed thereon is listed in the same order as it appears on the factory sales docket issued by the plant in the country of slaughter.
 - He or she should sign and date each application form, ensuring that the county code letter of his/her herd number is shown in the appropriate space, post or deliver that envelope to the Slaughter Premium Section of the Department of Agriculture and Food, Portlaoise in good time. A certificate of posting should be obtained from An Post and retained as proof of postage.
 - Such applications must be made within 6 months of the date of slaughter and no later than the 29 February 2004.

PRODUCERS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

16. **ALL PRODUCERS** wishing to avail of the Slaughter Premium are required to complete a “**Producer Acknowledgement**” and return it to the Slaughter Premium Section, Department of Agriculture and Food, Portlaoise.
Producer Acknowledgements accepted by the Department for the 2000-2002 Slaughter Premium Scheme will remain valid for the year 2003. **However, if there is a change of ownership a new Producer Acknowledgement form must be completed.** Any producer with eligible animals in 2003 who did not submit a Producer Acknowledgement form previously **will automatically receive one from the Department for completion and return.**

By returning a completed “**Producer Acknowledgement**” the producer agrees thereby:

- (a) To the Department’s carrying out any on-farm, office mart or factory checks deemed necessary, with or without prior notice at any reasonable time(s) whether or not the applicant or his/her agent chooses to be present (b) to answer any relevant queries raised and produce any relevant documentation requested by the Department during any of its controls without delay (c) to repay with interest any overpayment(s) or to have any overpayment(s) of premium plus interest thereon deducted from any other payment(s) which fall to be made to the producer by the Minister or by the Department (d) to refund additional fines

PRODUCER STATEMENT

17. Each producer will receive regular statements detailing the animals slaughtered or exported, during the preceding period. This statement will list the animals, which the Department has identified as being
 - Eligible
 - Ineligible
 - Under query, due to insufficient information to establish eligibility
18. **Obligations on receipt of Producer Statement**
 - Each producer, on receiving this statement, is required to check it carefully to ensure that the animals, identified as being eligible for the Slaughter Premium, were in fact in the herd for a minimum of two months, ending less than one month before the date of slaughter or ending less than two months before the date of live export to a non-EU country and were otherwise eligible. Each producer is required to report immediately any discrepancies to the Slaughter Premium Section of the Department of Agriculture and Food, Portlaoise.
 - Failure to carry out these checks may result in loss of premium and any overpayments being recouped, with interest, from that producer.
 - No payment will issue in respect of animals which do not meet the eligibility requirements.
 - Where the Department has been unable to determine eligibility, the producer will be required to ensure that all movements of the animal(s) concerned have been correctly recorded on CMMS at the points of purchase and/or sale (including private purchases and sales). Following any amendments to the CMMS records of the animal(s), eligibility will be re-examined.

19. Each producer must keep for 7 years and produce on request at or following any inspection or office check carried out during that period official mart, meat factory, export or Cattle Movement Notification dockets for any animals deemed eligible for the Slaughter Premium. These dockets must show clearly the sale date, name and address of purchaser, gender and tagnumber for each animal sold. This will allow the Department to check from these and any other relevant documents such as pre-movement herd test reports or movement permits etc. whether or not each such animal had been held by the producer for the minimum retention period and had been slaughtered within the EU or exported live to a non-EU country within a month of leaving the producers herd.

Other Obligations

20. Each producer must:
- (a) **Maintain and keep up to date in the Official Bovine Herd Register accurate and full records of all animals in the herd – this obligation applies at all times. Failure to keep the Register up to date will result in loss of premium and/or penalties.**
 - (b) **Accept notification of any on-farm inspection being carried out by the Department to check compliance with these Terms and Conditions and must arrange to be present at the inspection or to nominate an agent to be present instead.**
 - (c) **Answer all relevant queries arising and produce any relevant documentation requested at or after inspection without delay. Sign or allow any agent to sign the report on the inspection as confirmation of being present or add or allow any agent to add observations on the report if he or she wishes to.**
 - (d) **Complete a Producers Acknowledgement Form.**
 - (e) **Ensure all private sales and/or purchases are notified correctly to South Western Services, Bandon within 7 days.**
 - (f) **Ensure that his/her herdnumber is entered on the back of the Cattle Identity Card for all animals moved into the herd.**
 - (g) **Ensure that his/her herdnumber is quoted correctly at all times.**
21. Each producer must follow good farming practice, e.g. be compliant with the provisions of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977 and Amendment Act 1990, the Waste Management Act 1996 and the Fisheries (Consolidation) Act 1959. If during the course of an on-farm check, an applicant is found to be in contravention of any prescribed national environmental requirements, the matter will be brought to the attention of the relevant authority who will decide on appropriate action.
22. **Council Regulations (EC) Nos. 894/96 and 1254/99 provide for the exclusion from the various bovine premium and Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance of certain producers found to be in breach of EU Regulations relating to hormones and beta-agonists. Where, in contravention of Council Regulations Nos. 894/96 or 1254/99, an animal belonging to the bovine herd of a producer is found to be treated with an illegal substance or illegally with a legal substance or where such an illegal substance is found on the holding of a producer or where a producer obstructs an investigation, that producer shall be excluded for one calendar year from all payments under all bovine premium and Disadvantaged Areas Compensatory Allowance including this Slaughter Premium Scheme. In the event of a subsequent finding, the period of exclusion shall be five years.**

IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

23. EU Council Regulation 1760/00 and Commission Regulations 2629/97, 2630/97 and 2419/01 as amended etc require that since 1 January 1999 it is necessary to carry out more detailed checks regarding the Identification and Registration of animals to ensure compliance with traceability requirements. It is essential therefore that herdowners are aware of the requirements and the consequences of non-compliance. In relation to the Premia Schemes the following requirements apply:

Having satisfied the specific Scheme requirements an animal will be classified as “determined” (accepted for payment) if (a) it is properly tagged, (b) has a valid passport/card, (c) is registered on the CMMS database, (d) is recorded in the Herd Register of bovine animals, which must be kept up to date.

24. THE CHECKS

The Regulations require that checks be carried out to establish:

- (a) **that all animals on the farm are tagged with 2 yellow plastic tags and properly recorded on the CMMS database.**
 - (b) **that all bovine animals on the farm are entered correctly in the Bovine Herd Register.**
 - (c) **that the Bovine Herd Register is kept up to date regarding movements to and from the farm and on farm deaths and that all these events have been notified to the CMMS database and documentation on animals, which were moved, is available.**
 - (d) **by reference to the Bovine Herd Register that animals applied on during the current scheme year comply with the retention period requirements.**
 - (e) **that all animals on the farm are accompanied, where applicable, by valid passports/ cattle identity cards.**
 - (f) **that animals on the holding and /or animals, which were applied on in the past, were recorded correctly on the CMMS.**
- where there is non-compliance of the Identification and Registration requirements as set out at (b) and (e) above, the animal concerned will only be deemed as not determined if such non-compliance is found on at least two inspections within a period of 24 months. In all other cases, the animals concerned will be deemed as not determined already after the first inspection.**
25. The application of penalties shall not apply with regard to those parts of the premium application where the farmer informs the Department in writing that the aid application is incorrect or has become incorrect since it was lodged, provided that the farmer has not been informed of the Department’s intention to carry out an inspection or that the Slaughter Premium Unit has not already informed the farmer of any irregularity in the application. **Withdrawal of an application, or part of an application, is allowed at any time, except where irregularities have been uncovered, or where the applicant has been notified of an on farm inspection.**

PENALTIES ON CLAIMED ANIMALS

26. In 2003, all administrative and on farm checks will be carried out on an integrated holding based approach. The results of these checks will be accumulated over all Cattle Schemes and where non-compliance is found the penalty is based on the eligible animals for the schemes in question (Special Beef Premium, Suckler Cow and Slaughter Premium Schemes).
27. When calculating penalties the total number of animals found with irregularities on each Bovine Scheme will be combined and divided by the total number of bovine animals without irregularities on each Bovine Scheme. The penalty derived will be applied by deducting the amount due to the producer for all 2003 Bovine Schemes and Extensification Premium.

Calculating Penalties

28. Where some animals are rejected the premium payable on the eligible animals shall be reduced by
- the percentage arrived at, by dividing the rejected animals by the eligible animals where up to 3 animals or 10% (or less) of the eligible animals only are rejected.
 - twice the percentage arrived at, by dividing the rejected animals by the eligible animals, where the rejected animals exceed 3 animals or 10% but not more than 20% of the eligible animals.
 - where the rejected animals exceed 20% of the eligible animals no premium will be paid under the 2003 Bovine Premium Schemes
 - Greater than 50% - nil payment, plus the farmer will be excluded from receiving aid equal to the amount of aid that would have been due on the eligible animals on the holding. This amount shall be offset against aid payments under the bovine schemes to which the farmer is entitled in the context of applications he/she lodges during 2004, 2005 and 2006.
29. Where the difference found in an application results from irregularities committed INTENTIONALLY no aid shall be granted under the 2003 Bovine Premium Schemes.
30. Moreover, where as a result of irregularities committed intentionally the difference between the animals found eligible and those declared exceeds 20%, the farmer shall be excluded once again from receiving aid equal to that refused under the applications concerned. This further amount shall be offset against aid payments under the bovine schemes to which the farmer is entitled in the context of bovine applications he/she lodges during 2004, 2005 and 2006.

Identification and Registration Penalties (IDR Penalties) for non-scheme animals

31. All inspections will be carried out on an integrated, holding-based approach. Where unclaimed animals do not comply with the Identification and Registration requirements, as set out under Paragraph 22 and 23 above, penalties will be applied across all Bovine (Special Beef Premium, Suckler Cow Premium and Slaughter Premium) Schemes for which applications have been submitted, and where appropriate, after the application of penalties established under Paragraphs 28, 29 and 30 above. Any penalties applied to the Suckler Cow Premium and the Special Beef Premium will also be applied to Extensification Premium.

The reduction penalty shall be calculated on the basis of the formula referred to below.

$$\frac{a}{b} \times \frac{b + c}{2c} \times d$$

- (a) The number of non-compliant animals.
- (b) The number of Bovine animals present on the holding at the time of the on-the-spot check.
- (c) The average number of Bovine animals on the holding on five dates during the year as determined by the CMMS.
- (d) The total amount of Bovine Premia payable for the year concerned less any scheme penalties already applied.

Where more than one inspection is carried out during the year the average number obtained for (a) (b) will be applied to the formula.

Where non-compliance is found to be intentional NO PREMIA will be paid under the 2003 Bovine Premium Schemes.

32. Regarding declarations or certificates issued by slaughterhouses in connection with the Slaughter Premium as laid down in Article 35 of Regulation (EC) No. 2342/99, if it is found that the slaughterhouse gave a false certification or declaration as a result of serious negligence or intentionally, appropriate national sanctions shall apply. If such findings are established a second time the slaughterhouse involved shall be excluded for a period of at least one year from the right to make declarations or to issue certificates valid for premium purposes.
33. The Minister may refuse payment or recover any payment already made plus interest thereon in respect of the period between payment of the premium and its recovery in any case where the producer **fails to comply with these Terms and Conditions. The Minister's decision on all matters relating to this scheme shall be final. The Slaughter Premium Scheme and National Envelope top-up are fully financed** by the EU. Under the relevant EU Regulations, payment of 60% of estimated entitlement will commence on 16 October 2003. The balance shall be paid in 2004 when the quota position is established.

NATIONAL ENVELOPE 2003

34. All the above Terms and Conditions of the Slaughter Premium Scheme 2003 apply equally to the National Envelope 2003. In addition, it is a condition for top-up payment under the National Envelope arrangements that **beef breed heifers** must, in the first place, have qualified for the Slaughter Premium 2003.
35. Each individual producer will be limited to a top-up on a maximum of **180 qualifying beef breed heifers**.
36. Each animal must be **at least 8 months and under 30 months** on the date of slaughter within the EU or export live to a non-EU country.
37. Qualifying heifers must belong to a meat breed. The breed will be determined by reference to the breed of the sire as registered with the South Western Services, Bandon.

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