New WATOK Legislation

New legislation concerning the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Kill (WATOK) came into force in 2015.

The legislation complies with EU regulation 1099/2009 on the protection and monitoring of animals entering the food chain. It states that anyone handling live poultry or animals at the point of killing requires a WATOK proficiency qualification.

Abattoir staff with existing licenses and relevant experience must apply to the FSA for a Certificate of Competence (CoC).

New operatives must register with a WATOK approved centre (like Kiwa PAI) before they can commence working with animals. The abattoir will contact their WATOK Centre to inform them of a new starter within their lairage/stunning areas. The Centre will register them with the approved body. The temporary CoC will last for 3 months, by which time the operative must have been assessed in the workplace by a WATOK Assessment Centre, and successfully completed 2 observations and answered related questions.

Kiwa PAI can assess your operatives at your abattoir to ensure they meet WATOK standards; your operatives can then apply for a Certificate of Competence. All operatives will need the WATOK qualification on all the units they undertake, so it makes sense to get your staff WATOK-qualified straight away.

For more information please email painenquiries@kiwa.co.uk or call us on 01423 878878