

costs of inspection are low, a reduction of up to 55% from the standard charges will be permitted until 1993(1). From January 1, 1992, all meat produced within the Community will have to be inspected in accordance with common rules. Further proposals are expected from the Commission on the requirements for personnel responsible for public health inspections.

It is proposed that an official veterinarian should supervise and inspect cutting premises and storage rooms for poultry, but where these are separated from abattoirs, then other suitably qualified people (i.e., an environmental health officer) may qualify (Com(81)504). For meat products, supervision of hygiene, inspection and certification must be carried out by a veterinarian.

Decisions are to be taken before October 1, 1989 on the extent to which the Community's requirements on structure and layout should be applied to all slaughterhouses. Common standards are likely to be those of premises currently engaged in intra-Community trade. However, it is possible that less strict standards will be applied to premises producing only for a "local" market and which are not capable of reaching export-approved standard by the end of 1992(2).

Potential Impact

- i) The main impact of 1992 will be improved guarantees in the safety of meat and animal products with regard to human and animal health.
- ii) Slaughterhouses and manufacturing establishments will be subject to Community inspections and common standards of design, which will be along the lines of present export-approved standards. Some Canadian establishments will have to make considerable investments in order to meet these standards, if they wish to remain competitive and trade within the Community.
- iii) The present problems faced by Canadian exporters of beef and various meat products to the Community illustrate how the adoption of common health and sanitary policies can adversely affect Canada. The sources of the current problems are

1 MAFF News Release (231/88), 20 June 1988

2 Department for Enterprise (September 1988). The Single Market: The Facts, Second Edition