

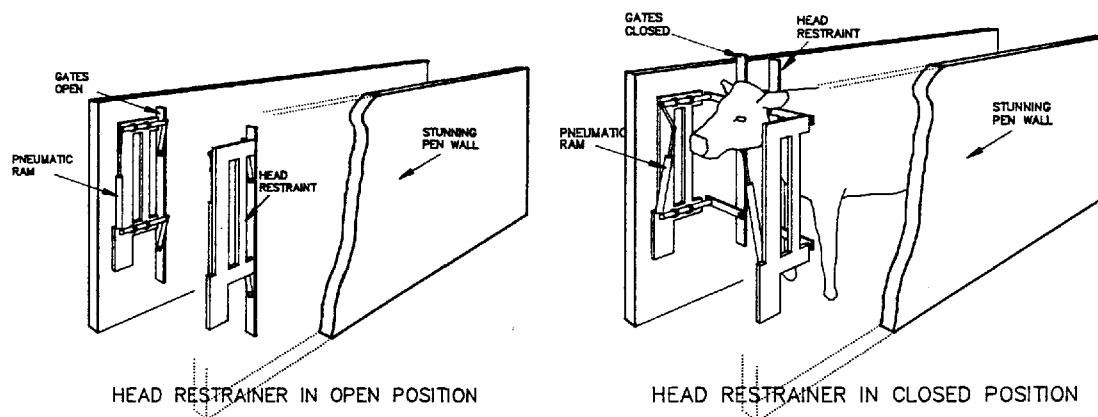
## REPORTS AND COMMENTS

### Head-restraint design

The Meat and Livestock Commission (MLC) has recently (June 1992) produced a leaflet which describes a design of head restraining equipment which would, seemingly, allow UK slaughterhouses to conform with the requirements of the *Slaughter of Animals (Humane Conditions) Regulations 1990*.

One of the regulations which came into effect on 5 July 1992, demands, amongst other things, that a cattle stunning pen should be so constructed that it 'restricts the movement of the head of the animal confined in it so as to permit accurate stunning and allows the head of an animal to be released immediately after the animal has been stunned, and allows unimpeded access to the forehead of an animal confined in it.'

The design offered, see diagrams, was developed under a MLC contract by Dr Clyde Daly of the Department of Meat Animal Science, University of Bristol and the device is now available through a number of listed abattoir equipment manufacturers. It appears that it can be fitted to most existing cattle stunning pens at modest cost.



Restraint is by means of two vertical bars which, in the open position are folded back to the inside of the front of the pen. When activated the two bars are pushed, by pneumatic pistons, towards the mid-line of the pen and grip the animal's neck between them. This restricts the movement of the head and should thus make it easier for an accurate stun to be carried out.

**Important Notice to Slaughterers - changes to the law from 5 July 1992** by the Meat and Livestock Commission (1992). 6 pp. Obtainable free of charge from Dr M J Kelly, MLC, P O Box 44, Winterhill House, Snowdon Drive, Milton Keynes MK6 1AX.