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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, ~~19.10~~11.12.2006
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Draft

COMMISSION REGULATION

of

laying down specific rules on official controls for the inspection of meat

(Text with EEA relevance)

(Memorandum from Mr Markos KYPRIANOU)

WORKING DOCUMENT

**DOES NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE OPINION OF THE COMMISSION
SERVICES**

Draft

COMMISSION REGULATION

of

laying down specific rules on official controls for the inspection of meat

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption¹, and in particular Article 16 and Article 18 (3), (7) and (12) thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Regulations (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin², (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules³ lay down the health rules and requirements regarding food of animal origin and the official controls required.
- (2) In addition to those rules, criteria should be determined on the basis of a risk analysis when the official veterinarian need not be present in slaughterhouses and game handling establishments throughout post-mortem inspection.
- (3) Establishments with discontinuous slaughter practice fulfil a social and economic function in rural communities and should be assisted as long as they comply with the legal and hygiene requirements.
- (4) More specific requirements should be laid down for the visual inspection of fattening pigs and ruminants of a young age.
- (5) On 24 February 2000, the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health adopted an opinion on "revision of meat inspection procedures", which deals with the general principles. It concludes that current inspection systems can be improved when supplemented with information from the complete production chain,

¹ OJ L 139, 30.04.2004, p.206, corrected by OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 83.

² OJ L 139, 30.04.2004, p.55, corrected by OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 22.

³ OJ L 165, 30.04.2004, p. 1, corrected by OJ L 191, 28.5.2004, p. 1.

introduction of HACCP in the slaughter plant and microbiological monitoring of faecal indicator organisms.

- (6) On 20-21 June 2001, the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health adopted an opinion on “identification of species/categories of meat-producing animals in integrated production systems where meat inspection may be revised”. It concludes that there are already a number of production systems in Member States where the criteria for application of a simplified meat inspection system have been fulfilled.
- (7) On 14-15 April 2003, the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health adopted an opinion on “revision of meat inspection in veal calves”, which recommends that visual inspection of veal calves reared in integrated systems is sufficient, but that as long as bovine tuberculosis has not been eradicated, surveillance for tuberculosis should be maintained in bovines at both farm and abattoir levels.
- (8) On 26 November 2003 EFSA adopted an opinion on “tuberculosis in bovine animals: risks for human health and control strategies”, which concludes that efficient post-mortem examination of specified lymph nodes and of the lungs represents an important element of national bovine tuberculosis eradication programmes, as well as being an integral part of veterinary meat inspection programmes aimed at the protection of human health.
- (9) On 1 December 2004, the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted an opinion on “revision of meat inspection for beef raised in integrated production systems”, which states that the incision of lymph nodes should continue as part of a revised post mortem meat inspection system in order to be able to detect tuberculous lesions.
- (10) On 18 May 2006 EFSA adopted an opinion on an assessment of the public and animal health risks associated with the adoption of a visual inspection system in veal calves raised in a Member State (or part of a Member State) considered free of tuberculosis. The opinion states that in case of veal calves reared in integrated production units and in officially bovine tuberculosis-free herds, post-mortem inspection can be restricted to observation and palpation of lymph nodes.
- (11) On 22 April 2004, EFSA adopted an opinion on “meat inspection procedures for lambs and goats”. The opinion states that the important pathological conditions seen at meat inspection of lambs and goat kids can be diagnosed by visual inspection, thus preventing cross contamination by less manipulation.
- (12) On 27-28 September 2000 the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health adopted an opinion on the control of taeniosis/cysticercosis in man and animals. It specifies the prerequisites necessary to ensure cysticercosis-free conditions.
- (13) On 26-27 January 2005 EFSA adopted an opinion on the risk assessment of a revised inspection of slaughter animals in areas with low prevalence of *Cysticercus*. It emphasises the need for risk profiling of the different calf production systems. Simplified post-mortem inspection can be applied for calves coming from integrated production systems previously assessed as of low-risk profile.

(14) A prerequisite for the visual inspection of carcasses will be the availability of food chain information 24 hours in advance of slaughter. Consequently the transitional arrangements as laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 2076/2005 will not apply.

(14)(15) The measures provided in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health.

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1
Definitions

For the purpose of this Regulation, the following definitions apply:

1. 'controlled housing conditions in integrated production systems' means a type of animal husbandry where animals are kept under conditions in compliance with Annex I to this Regulation.
2. "~~veal calf~~Young bovine animal" is a ~~young~~-bovine animal of either gender, which is not older than 8 months.
3. "~~lamb~~Young ovine animal" is an ~~young~~-ovine animal of either gender, which does not have any permanent incisor erupted ~~is not older than 12 months~~.
4. "~~goat kid~~Young caprine animal" is a ~~young~~-caprine animal of either gender, which is at the suckling stage and not older than 1 month of age.
5. "herd" means an animal or group of animals kept on a holding as an epidemiological unit; if more than one herd is kept on a holding, each of these herds shall form a distinct unit.
6. "holding" as defined in Regulation (EC) No 1760/2000⁴.
7. "Establishment carrying out discontinuous slaughter" activities means ~~that a slaughterhouse designated by the competent authority on the basis of a risk assessment, in which, in particular, the slaughter activities of small establishments do not take place either during the entire working day or during subsequent working days of the week. The competent authority shall designate the slaughterhouses that may fall under this definition based on a risk analysis taking into account the number of animals slaughtered over time, the animal species slaughtered, the throughput of the establishment, the historical performance of slaughter activities and other factors.~~

⁴ OJ L 204, 11.8.2000, p. 1

Article 2

Post mortem inspection in establishments with discontinuous slaughter activities

~~1. The competent authority shall designate the small slaughterhouses that may make use of the derogation mentioned in point 2 of this Article, based on a risk analysis taking into account the number of animals slaughtered over time, the animal species or class slaughtered, the throughput of the establishment, the historical performance of slaughter activities, the effectiveness of the HACCP system in place, audit records and other factors.~~

~~21. By way of derogation to point (1) of Annex I, Section III, Chapter II to Regulation (EC) No 854/2006, the official veterinarian may be replaced by an official auxiliary to perform the need not be present at all times during post-mortem inspection in the following circumstances:~~

(1) in establishments, which practice discontinuous slaughter activities and have sufficient facilities to detain meat with abnormalities until a final post-mortem inspection by the official veterinarian can take place

and

(2) if the competent authority has put in place a procedure to assess on a regular basis the performance of official auxiliaries in these establishments. Assessment shall include:

- a) monitoring individual performance;
- b) verification of documentation with regard to inspection findings and comparison with the corresponding carcasses ;
- c) check of carcasses in the storage room.

~~2. The risk analysis carried out by the competent authority to identify the establishments that may benefit from the derogation mentioned in point 1 of this Article, shall at least take account of the following elements: the number of animals slaughtered over time, the animal species or class slaughtered, the throughput of the establishment, the historical performance of slaughter activities, the effectiveness of the HACCP system in place and audit records.~~

Article 3

Requirements for visual inspection

~~1. It is allowed to carry out only visual post-mortem inspection of fattening pigs, when all of the following conditions apply without prejudice to Annex I, Section IV, Chapter IV, Part B, Point 2 to Regulation (EC) No 854/5004, the post-mortem inspection procedures of fattening pigs may be limited to visual inspection, provided that all of the following conditions are complied *at least* with:~~

- a) the food business operator shall ensure that the animals are kept under controlled housing conditions in an integrated production system as laid down in Annex I;

- b) the food business operator shall not benefit from the transitional arrangements with regard to food chain information as laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 2076/2005 shall not apply; ~~the food chain information is complied with~~
- c) the competent authority shall implement regular serological and/or microbiological monitoring of a selected number of animals based on a risk analysis of food safety hazards, which are present in live animals and relevant at the farm level ~~diseases of importance at national or regional level.~~
2. By way of derogation from Annex I, Section IV, Chapters I and II, the post-mortem-inspection procedures of young bovine, ovine and caprine animals may be limited to visual inspection, provided that it is allowed to carry out only visual post-mortem inspection of veal calves, lambs and goat kids when all of the following conditions apply are ~~at least~~ complied with:
- a) the food business operator shall ensure that ~~veal calves~~young bovine animals are kept under controlled housing conditions in an integrated production system as laid down in Annex I;
- b) the food business operator shall ensure that ~~veal calves~~young bovine animals shall be reared born and bred in an officially bovine tuberculosis-free herd;
- c) the food business operator shall not benefit from the transitional arrangements with regard to food chain information as laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 2076/2005 shall not apply; ~~the food chain information is complied with~~
- d) the competent authority shall implement regular serological and/or microbiological monitoring of a selected number of animals based on a risk analysis of food safety hazards, which are present in live animals and relevant at the farm level ~~diseases of importance at national or regional level;~~
- e) ~~visual post-mortem inspection of veal calves~~young bovine animals shall include at all times palpation of the retropharyngeal, bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes.
3. In case of any abnormality detected, the carcass and offal shall be subjected to a full post-mortem inspection ~~by the official veterinarian as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 854/2004.~~
4. ~~Lambs~~Young ovine and caprine animals, and goat kids and unweaned pigs ~~is there a need for a definition??~~ that do not go directly from farm of birth to slaughter may be moved on one occasion to another farm (for rearing or fattening) prior to going for slaughter. In such cases:
- a) regulated assembly centres may be used for young ovine or caprine animals between the farm of origin and the rearing/fattening farm, as well as between these farms and slaughter and
- b) traceability shall be ensured at the level of the individual animal.

Article 4
Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 January 2007.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
Markos KYPRIANOU
Member of the Commission

ANNEX I

'controlled housing conditions in integrated production systems' means that:

- (a) all feed shall have been obtained from a facility, which produces feed according to the principles as described in Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down requirements for feed hygiene. When roughage or crops are provided to the animals as feed, it shall be treated appropriately, preferably dried and/or pelleted.
- (b) an all-in/all-out system shall be applied as far as possible. In case animals are introduced into the herd, they shall be kept in isolation as long as required by the veterinary services to prevent introduction of diseases.
- (c) none of the animals shall have access to outdoor facilities unless the food business operator can show by a risk analysis to the satisfaction of the competent authority that the time period, facilities and circumstances of outdoor access do not pose a danger for introduction of disease in the herd.
- (d) detailed information shall be available concerning the animals from birth to slaughter and their management conditions as laid down in Section III, Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.
- (e) if bedding is provided for the animals, the presence or introduction of disease shall be avoided by appropriate treatment of the bedding material.
- (f) farm staff shall comply with the general hygiene provisions as laid down in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.
- (g) procedures shall be in place that control access to the premises where animals are kept.
- (h) the holding shall not provide facilities for tourists or for camping unless the food business operator can show by a risk analysis to the satisfaction of the competent authority that the facilities are sufficiently separated from the animal rearing units that direct and indirect contact between humans and animals is not possible.
- (i) animals shall not have access to garbage dumps or household garbage.
- (j) a pest management and control plan shall be in place.
- (k) silage feeding shall not be used unless the food business operator can show by a risk analysis to the satisfaction of the competent authority that the feed can not transmit any hazards to the animals.
- (l) effluent from sewage treatment plants shall not be released in areas accessible to the animals or be used for feed unless treated appropriately and to the satisfaction of the competent authority.

