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COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

Brussels, 19.09.2006  
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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 consumption<sup>1</sup>, 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 origin<sup>2</sup>, (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 rules<sup>3</sup> 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,

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 139, 30.04.2004, p.206, corrected by OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 83.

<sup>2</sup> OJ L 139, 30.04.2004, p.55, corrected by OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 22.

<sup>3</sup> 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) 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” is a bovine animal of either gender, which is not older than 8 months.
3. “lamb” is an ovine animal of either gender, which is not older than 6 months and has a maximum carcass weight of 25 kg.
4. “goat kid” is a caprine animal of either gender, which is not older than 1 month of age and has a maximum carcass weight of 6 kg.
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 1760/2000<sup>4</sup>
7. “discontinuous slaughter” activities means that the slaughter activities do not take place either during the entire day or during every day of the week. Consequently, the slaughter activities concern a small number of animals. In order to refine the definition, the competent authority may, if necessary, limit the number of animals slaughtered per day or week taking into account the animal species slaughtered, the throughput of the establishment or other factors.
8. good farming practice means a management system, which at least includes the general hygiene provisions as described in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004<sup>5</sup>.

## *Article 2*

### *Post mortem inspection in establishments with discontinuous slaughter activities*

The official veterinarian may be replaced by an official auxiliary to perform the 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 the performance of official auxiliaries during post-mortem inspection in these establishments. Assessment shall include:

a) monitoring individual performance;

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<sup>4</sup> OJ L 204, 11.8.2000, p. 1

<sup>5</sup> OJ L 139, 30.4.2004, p. 1, corrected by OJ L 226, 25.6.2004, p. 3.

- b) verification of inspection records and comparison with carcase findings;
- c) check of carcasses in the storage room.

*Article 3*  
*Requirements for visual inspection*

1. It is allowed to carry out only visual post-mortem inspection of fattening pigs, veal calves, lambs and goat kids 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:
  - a) the food business operator shall implement good farming practices on the holding where the animals are born and bred;
  - b) the food business operator shall ensure that the animals are kept under controlled housing conditions in an integrated production system;
  - c) a quality assurance scheme shall be in place along the entire chain in case more than one establishment is concerned with the management of the animals;
  - d) regular serological monitoring of a selected number of animals for antibodies to salmonella in swine and bovines and to *Mycobacterium avium* in swine;
  - e) for calves under the age of 8 months, the animals are to be born and bred:
    - i) under controlled housing conditions and,
    - ii) in an officially bovine tuberculosis-free herd.
2. In addition to visual post-mortem inspection, the procedure shall include in veal calves palpation of the retropharyngeal, bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes.
3. In case of any abnormality detected, the carcase and offal shall be subjected to a full post-mortem inspection as laid down in Regulation (EC) No 854/2004.
4. Lambs and goat kids that do not go direct 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 between the farm of origin and the rearing/fattening farm, as well as between these farms and slaughter and
  - b) traceability shall be ensured either at the lot level or 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 (called food chain information).
- (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) visitors shall not be allowed to enter the animal premises except when they have been requested to do a professional task.
- (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.