



Commission study on best practices on the protection of animals at the time of killing

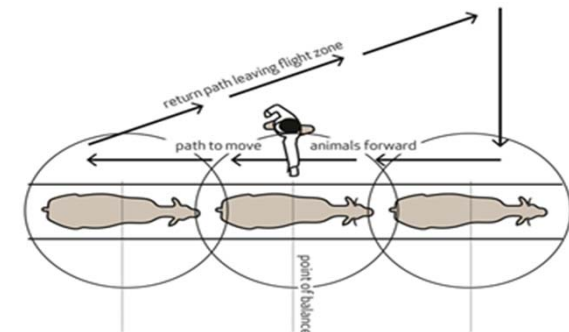
**Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed
17 January 2018, Brussels**

Animal Welfare Sector, Unit G2, DG SANTE
European Commission



Context of the study

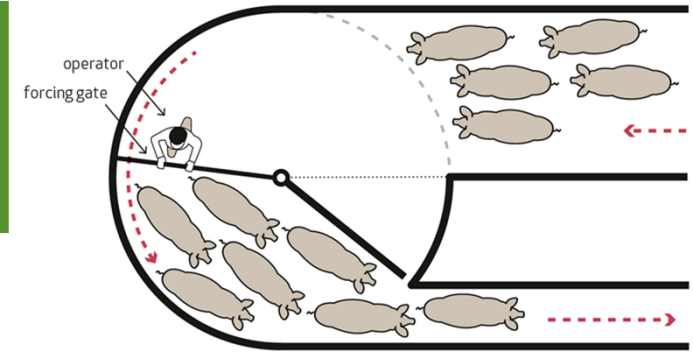
- Foreseen under the EU Animal Welfare Strategy 2012-2015
- Commission audits have indicated that information of best practices is particularly needed in certain areas like:
 - *Slaughter of animals in small slaughterhouses (poultry and mammals);*
 - *Development of standards operation procedures;*
 - *Slaughter of poultry using electrical waterbath;*
 - *Slaughter of animals without stunning in the context of ritual slaughter;*
 - *Killing on farm.*
- Study contractor company: ICF





Objectives and approach

- *To provide, assess and evaluate information in order to elaborate elements for best practices.*
- *For this purpose:*
 - Collect information on current practices;
 - Analyse and compare information sources and identify gaps;
 - Draft elements for best practices;
 - Consult stakeholders;
 - Finalize elements for best practices.
- *The intended audience were business operators, including animal welfare officers in slaughterhouses.*



Qualification of the practices

- **UNACCEPTABLE** practices are forbidden by law.



- **ACCEPTABLE** practices are authorised or required by law and provide **limited animal protection**.



- **GOOD** practices are authorised or required by law and provide **good animal protection**.



- **BEST** practices are authorised or required by law **and** (a) provide **enhanced animal protection**, or (b) they provide **other benefits** (for instance: they are more practical, or more cost-effective).





State of play

- **Scope**

- Existing materials developed by broad spectrum of stakeholders
- 10 MS, third countries, international organisations & NGOs

- **Tools**

- Data collection protocol, online tools
- Survey of country contacts

- **Analysis**

- Review of documents
- Comparative analysis
- Gap analysis



Consultation – findings

- ***101 submissions came from all stakeholder groups***
- ***The feedback on the drafts was positive overall***
 - including numerous suggestions for improvement
- ***Concerns***
 - Status of the documents (i.e. obligations for stakeholders)
 - Risk of encouraging practices that are not seen as desirable in some countries
 - Scope of the documents
 - Religious organisations concerns



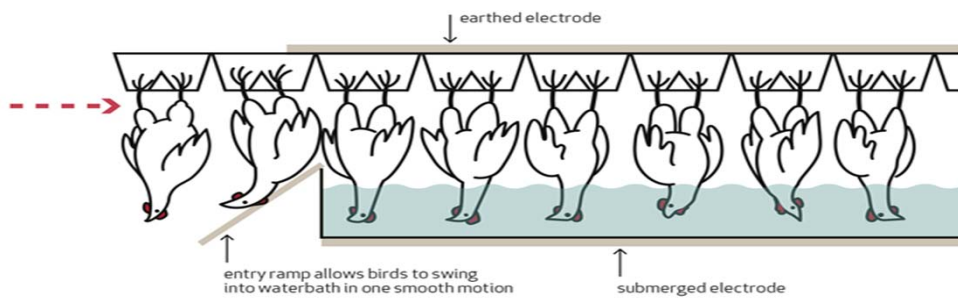
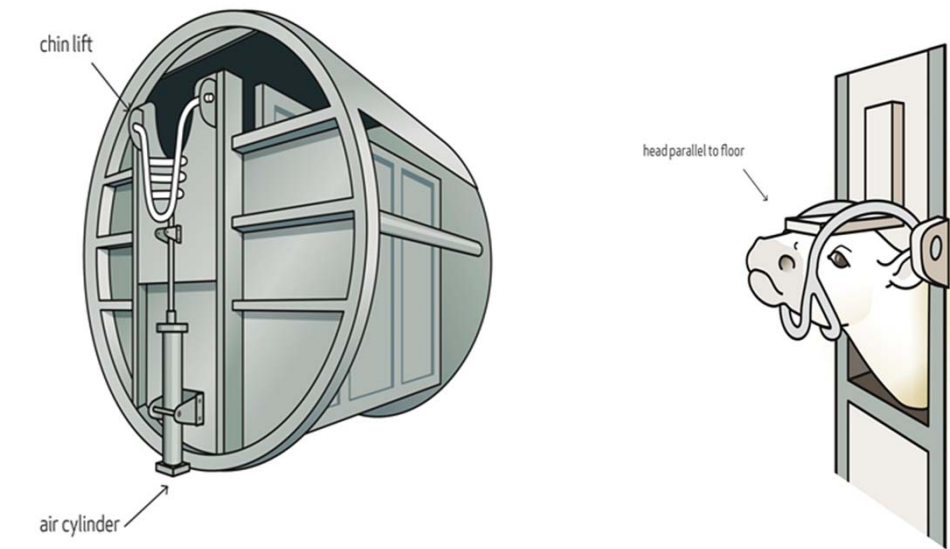
Main elements of best practices

- ***Slaughterhouse operations*** for Equids, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats and poultry (chicken and turkey):
 - *Layout, construction and equipment of slaughterhouse*
 - *Handling and restraining*
 - *Stunning*
 - *Control and monitoring procedures*
- ***Slaughter without stunning*** (prescribed by religious rites)
- ***On farm killing*** for Equids, cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits
 - *Basic rules*

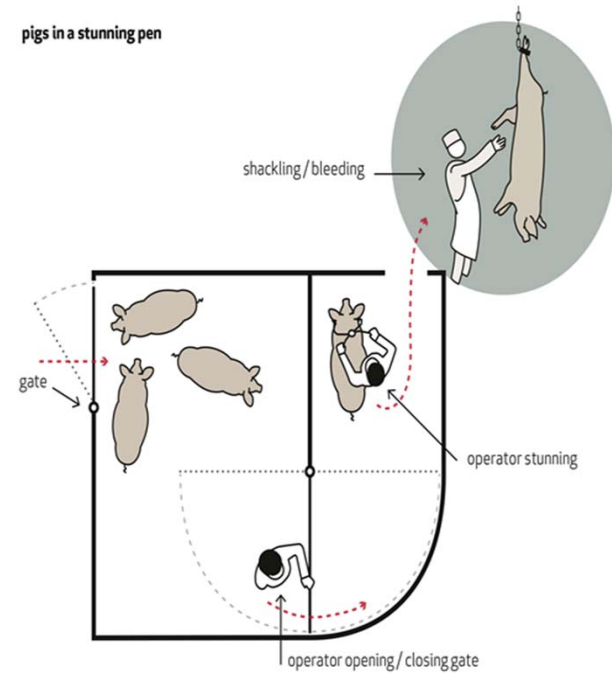


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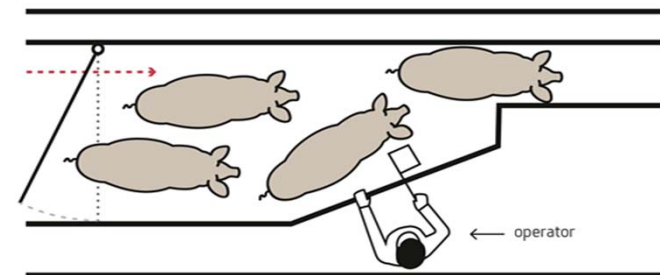
Sample of visuals



pigs in a stunning pen



stepped race



Health and
Food Safety



Future plans

- DG SANTE is currently working to develop educational materials on the protection of animals at the time of killing.
- The Commission will continue to assist Member States by providing the necessary tools.

Thank you for your attention!!!



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