



FVO Audits on Animal Welfare at slaughter

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Animal welfare at slaughter Regulation (EC) 1099/2009

- *New approach to AW at the time of killing*
- *Pilot audit in EE – June 2013*
- *Report template and audit plans based on experience from this pilot*
- *Audits to LV, IT, ES, UK, DK, CZ, DE, HU, AT, NL and BE scheduled for 2014*
- *PL and FR scheduled for 2015*
- *Overview report expected in 2015*





Audit objectives 1

The main objective of the audit was to:

- *evaluate the effectiveness of BOs' own controls;*
- *and*
- *official controls*

collectively in ensuring the objectives of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 (sparing animals from any avoidable pain, distress or suffering during their killing and related operations)





Main conclusions – objective 1

- *Overall, AW at slaughter improving*
- *Red meat generally better than poultry*
- *The main problem in poultry: electrical stunning*
 - **Lack of expertise**
 - **Lack of guidance from industry (DE, NL where good examples in this respect)**
 - **Lack of economic incentives – quality problems**
- *SME have some difficulties in implementation, particularly where Guides to good practice are missing*





Audit objectives 2

- *The assurances given by official controls regarding the business operators' compliance with applicable requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009; and*
- *Whether the Competent Authorities have implemented Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 in the context of animal welfare at the time of slaughter and whether the implementation is effective and suitable in achieving the objectives of that Regulation (high quality of official controls; and*
- *Member State's and Competent Authorities' compliance with specific requirements of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 and the effectiveness of implementation of those requirements*





Conclusions – risk-based prioritisation

- *Good progress in some Member States (HU, NL) where:*
 - **Water-bath stunning selected as a high-risk priority and effectively controlled + enforced**
- *Some other good examples (LV, ES) where:*
 - **Similar progress made in red meat sector**
- *"Intimidation" by private slaughterhouse vets was identified as a factor, which can prohibit effective enforcement if (central) control staff do not possess sufficient technical skills*





Conclusions – objective 2

- *Competent Authorities "lagging behind" industry*
 - **Industry implementation of the new approach often better than the CA change to a more audit based approach**
- *Training of staff; overall positive – some good practice identified in practical assessments*
- *Scientific support generally in place, but rarely utilised by the CA*
- *Slaughter without stunning a welfare problem, although progress is being made in refining these slaughter methods as far as possible*





Audit objectives 3

In addition to the main objective, and as the official controls in slaughterhouses contribute to controls on animal welfare on farms and welfare during transport, the audits also evaluate whether:

Indications of poor welfare conditions of chickens kept for the production of meat are being detected at slaughterhouse level and subsequently reported and acted on as required by Article 3 and Annex III of Directive 2007/43/EC; and





Conclusions – objective 3

- *Some good examples identified (DK and NL) but in other MSs indicators not largely used or/and subsequent actions missing*





Audit objectives 4

Only animals which are fit for transport are sent to slaughterhouses, as required by Article 3 and Chapter I of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, and whether this is supported by the implementation of procedures in Regulation 853/2004 Annex III section I chapter VI, which facilitates the killing of "emergency slaughter" animals on farm and their carcasses sent to the slaughterhouse.





Conclusions – objective 4

- *Very good progress made in Member States where this was identified as a problem in the past (IT)*
- *Still room for improvement... (ES)*





Audit objectives 5

Furthermore the audits seek to identify good practices recognised by the Competent Authorities in relation to Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009.





Conclusions – objective 5

- *Good practices identified in the following areas:*
 - **Risk-based controls**
 - **Water-bath stunning**
 - **Guides to good practice**
 - **Religious slaughter**
 - **Training and assessment of trainees**
 - **Scientific support**
 - **Use of indicators, fitness for transport**
- *The overview report will provide more details...*





Next steps

- *After the overview report a BTSF training will be arranged in October 2015 to:*
 - **Discuss problematic areas;**
 - **Share best practices;**
 - **Brain-storm solutions; and possibly**
 - **Propose new initiatives.**





Thank you

