

Status: Point in time view as at 29/07/2011.

Changes to legislation: There are outstanding changes not yet made to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council (repealed). Any changes that have already been made to the legislation appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)

[^{X1}ANNEX I

FRESH MEAT

Editorial Information

- X1** Substituted by [Corrigendum to Regulation \(EC\) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption \(Official Journal of the European Union L 139 of 30 April 2004\)](#).

SECTION I:

TASKS OF THE OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN

CHAPTER II:

INSPECTION TASKS

When carrying out inspection tasks in accordance with this Chapter, the official veterinarian is to take account of the results of the auditing tasks carried out in accordance with Article 4 and Chapter I of this Annex. Where appropriate he or she is to target inspection tasks accordingly.

- A. Food chain information
1. The official veterinarian is to check and analyse relevant information from the records of the holding of provenance of animals intended for slaughter and to take account of the documented results of this check and analysis when carrying out ante- and post-mortem inspection.
 2. When carrying out inspection tasks, the official veterinarian is to take account of official certificates accompanying animals, and any declarations made by veterinarians carrying out controls at the level of primary production, including official veterinarians and approved veterinarians.
 3. When food business operators in the food chain take additional measures to guarantee food safety by implementing integrated systems, private control systems, independent third party certification or by other means, and when these measures are documented and animals covered by these schemes clearly identifiable, the official veterinarian may take this into account when carrying out inspection tasks and reviewing the HACCP-based procedures.
- B. Ante-mortem inspection
1. Subject to paragraphs 4 and 5:
 - (a) the official veterinarian is to carry out an ante-mortem inspection of all animals before slaughter;
 - (b) that inspection must take place within 24 hours of arrival at the slaughterhouse and less than 24 hours before slaughter.

In addition, the official veterinarian may require inspection at any other time.

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2. Ante-mortem inspection must in particular determine whether, as regards the particular animal inspected, there is any sign:
 - (a) that welfare has been compromised;
 - or
 - (b) [^{F1}of any condition which might adversely affect human or animal health, paying particular attention to the detection of zoonotic diseases and animal diseases for which animal health rules are laid down in Union legislation.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Substituted by [Commission Implementing Regulation \(EU\) No 739/2011 of 27 July 2011 amending Annex I to Regulation \(EC\) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption \(Text with EEA relevance\).](#)

3. In addition to routine ante-mortem inspection, the official veterinarian is to carry out a clinical inspection of all animals that the food business operator or an official auxiliary may have put aside.
 4. In the case of emergency slaughter outside the slaughterhouse and of hunted wild game, the official veterinarian at the slaughterhouse or game handling establishment is to examine the declaration accompanying the body of the animal issued by the veterinarian or the trained person in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.
 5. Where provided for in Section III, Chapter II, or in Section IV, ante-mortem inspection may be carried out at the holding of provenance. In such cases, the official veterinarian at the slaughterhouse need carry out ante-mortem inspection only when and to the extent specified.
- C. Animal welfare

The official veterinarian is to verify compliance with relevant Community and national rules on animal welfare, such as rules concerning the protection of animals at the time of slaughter and during transport.

D. Post-mortem inspection

- [^{F1}1. Carcasses and accompanying offal must be subjected without delay after slaughter to post-mortem inspection. All external surfaces must be viewed. Minimal handling of the carcasses and offal or special technical facilities may be required for that purpose. Particular attention must be paid to the detection of zoonotic diseases and animal diseases for which animal health rules are laid down in Union legislation. The speed of the slaughter line and the number of inspection staff present must be such as to allow for proper inspection.]
2. Additional examinations are to take place, such as palpation and incision of parts of the carcase and offal and laboratory tests, whenever considered necessary:
 - (a) to reach a definitive diagnosis;
 - or
 - (b) to detect the presence of:

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- (i) an animal disease,
 - (ii) residues or contaminants in excess of the levels laid down under Community legislation,
 - (iii) non-compliance with microbiological criteria,
- or
- (iv) other factors that might require the meat to be declared unfit for human consumption or restrictions to be placed on its use,

particularly in the case of animals having undergone emergency slaughter.

3. The official veterinarian is to require carcasses of domestic solipeds, bovine animals over six months old, and domestic swine over four weeks old to be submitted for post-mortem inspection split lengthways into half carcasses down the spinal column. If the inspection so necessitates, the official veterinarian may also require any head or any carcass to be split lengthways. However, to take account of particular eating habits, technological developments or specific sanitary situations, the competent authority may authorise the submission for inspection of carcasses of domestic solipeds, bovine animals over six months old, and domestic swine over four weeks old, not split in half.
4. During the inspection, precautions must be taken to ensure that contamination of the meat by actions such as palpation, cutting or incision is kept to a minimum.
5. In the event of an emergency slaughter, the carcass shall be subjected to post-mortem examination as soon as possible in accordance with paragraphs 1 to 4 before it is released for human consumption.

E. Specified risk material and other animal by-products

In accordance with specific Community rules on specified risk material and other animal by-products, the official veterinarian is to check the removal, separation and, where appropriate, marking of such products. The official veterinarian is to ensure that the food business operator takes all necessary measures to avoid contaminating meat with specified risk material during slaughter (including stunning) and removal of specified risk material.

F. Laboratory testing

1. The official veterinarian is to ensure that sampling takes place and that samples are appropriately identified and handled and sent to the appropriate laboratory within the framework of:
 - (a) the monitoring and control of zoonoses and zoonotic agents;
 - (b) specific laboratory testing for the diagnosis of TSEs in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽¹⁾;
 - (c) the detection of unauthorised substances or products and the control of regulated substances, in particular within the framework of the National Residue Plans referred to in Council Directive 96/23/EC⁽²⁾;
- and
- (d) ^{[F1}the detection of animal diseases for which animal health rules are laid down in Union legislation.]

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2. The official veterinarian is also to ensure that any other necessary laboratory testing takes place.]

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- (1) [^{X1}OJ L 147, 31.5.2001, p. 1. Regulation as last amended by Commission Regulation (EC) No 2245/2003 (OJ L 333, 20.12.2003, p. 28).
- (2) OJ L 125, 23.5.1996, p. 10. Directive as amended by Regulation (EC) No 806/2003 (OJ L 122, 16.5.2003, p. 1).]

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