

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/627 of 15 March 2019 laying down uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council and amending Commission Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 as regards official controls (Text with EEA relevance)

TITLE III

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL CONTROLS AND THE UNIFORM MINIMUM FREQUENCY FOR OFFICIAL CONTROLS ON FRESH MEAT

CHAPTER II

Official controls on fresh meat

Article 8

Relevance of audit results

When carrying out official controls in accordance with this Chapter, the official veterinarian shall take into account the results of the audits carried out in accordance with Chapter I. Where appropriate, the official veterinarian shall target official controls to deficiencies detected during previous audits.

Section 1

Checks of documents

Article 9

Obligations of the competent authorities as regards checks of documents

1 The competent authorities shall inform the food business operator of the holding of provenance of the minimum elements of food chain information to be supplied to the slaughterhouse operator in accordance with Section III of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

2 The competent authorities shall perform the necessary checks of documents to verify that:

- a the food chain information is consistently and effectively communicated between the food business operator who raised or kept the animals before dispatch and the slaughterhouse operator;
- b the food chain information is valid and reliable;
- c feedback of relevant information to the holding of provenance, if applicable, is provided in accordance with Article 39(5).

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3 Where animals are dispatched for slaughter to another Member State, the competent authorities at the holding of provenance and the place of slaughter shall cooperate to ensure that the food chain information provided by the food business operator of the holding of provenance is easily accessible to the slaughterhouse operator receiving it.

Article 10

Obligations of the official veterinarian as regards checks of documents

1 The official veterinarian shall verify the results of the checks and evaluations of food chain information provided by the slaughterhouse operator in accordance with Section III of Annex II to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004. The official veterinarian shall take those checks and evaluations into account when carrying out ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections, together with any other relevant information from the records of the animals' holding of provenance.

2 When carrying out ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections, the official veterinarian shall take into account official certificates provided for in accordance with Article 29 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/628⁽¹⁾, and any declarations by veterinarians carrying out official controls or other checks at the level of primary production.

3 In the case of the emergency slaughter of domestic ungulates outside the slaughterhouse, the official veterinarian at the slaughterhouse shall examine the certification provided for in accordance with Article 29 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/628 and issued by the official veterinarian who carried out the ante-mortem inspection in accordance with point 6 of Chapter VI of Section I of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 and any other relevant information provided by the food business operator.

4 In the case of large wild game, the official veterinarian at the game-handling establishment shall examine and take into account the declaration accompanying the body of the animal, as issued by a trained person in accordance with point 4(a) of Chapter II of Section IV of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004.

Section 2

Ante-mortem inspection

Article 11

Requirements as regards ante-mortem inspection at the slaughterhouse

1 All animals shall be subjected to ante-mortem inspection before slaughter. However, inspection can be limited to a representative sample of birds from each flock and a representative sample of lagomorphs from each holding of provenance of lagomorphs.

2 Ante-mortem inspection shall take place within 24 hours of arrival of the animals at the slaughterhouse and less than 24 hours before slaughter. The official veterinarian may require an additional ante-mortem inspection at any other time.

3 Ante-mortem inspections shall determine whether, as regards the particular animal inspected, there is any sign:

- a that the health and welfare of the animal has been compromised;

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- b of any condition, abnormalities or disease that make the fresh meat unfit for human consumption or that might adversely affect animal health, paying particular attention to the detection of zoonotic diseases and animal diseases for which animal health rules are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429;
- c of the use of prohibited or unauthorised substances, misuse of veterinary medicinal products or the presence of chemical residues or contaminants.

4 Ante-mortem inspection shall include verification of food business operators' compliance with their obligation to ensure that animals have a clean hide, skin or fleece, so as to avoid any unacceptable risk of contamination of the fresh meat during slaughter.

5 The official veterinarian shall carry out a clinical inspection of all animals that the food business operator or an official auxiliary may have put aside for a more thorough ante-mortem inspection.

6 Where the ante-mortem inspection is carried out at the holding of provenance in accordance with Article 5 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624, the official veterinarian at the slaughterhouse shall carry out ante-mortem inspection only when and to the extent specified.

Section 3

Post-mortem inspection

Article 12

Requirements for post-mortem inspection

1 Subject to the derogation stipulated in Point 4 of Chapter II of Section IV to Annex III of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, carcasses and accompanying offals, shall be subjected to post-mortem inspection:

- a without delay after slaughter, or
- b as soon as possible after arrival at the game-handling establishment.

2 The competent authorities may require the food business operator to provide special technical facilities and sufficient space to check offal.

3 The competent authorities shall:

- a check all external surfaces, including those of body cavities of carcasses, as well as offal;
- b pay particular attention to the detection of zoonotic diseases and animal diseases for which animal health rules are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

4 The speed of the slaughter line and the number of inspection staff present shall be such as to allow for proper inspection.

Article 13

Derogation on the timing of post-mortem inspection

1 By way of derogation from Article 12(1), the competent authorities may allow that, when neither the official veterinarian nor the official auxiliary are present in the game-handling establishment or slaughterhouse during slaughter and dressing, the post-mortem inspection is

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delayed by a maximum period of 24 hours from slaughter or arrival in the game-handling establishment, provided that:

- a the animals concerned are slaughtered in a low-capacity slaughterhouse or handled in a low-capacity game-handling establishment that slaughters or handles:
 - (i) fewer than 1 000 livestock units per year; or
 - (ii) fewer than 150 000 poultry, lagomorphs and small wild game per year;
- b sufficient facilities exist within an establishment to store the fresh meat and offal so that they can be examined;
- c the post-mortem inspection is carried out by the official veterinarian.

2 The competent authorities may increase the thresholds laid down in point (a) (i) and (ii) of paragraph 1 ensuring that the derogation is applied in the smallest slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments complying with the definition of low-capacity slaughterhouse or low-capacity game-handling establishment and provided that the combined annual production of these establishments does not exceed 5 % of the total amount of fresh meat produced in a Member State:

- a for the species concerned;
- b or for all ungulates together;
- c of all poultry together; or,
- d of all birds and lagomorphs together.

In such case, the competent authorities shall notify this derogation and the evidence to support it in accordance with the procedure laid down in Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council⁽²⁾;

3 For the purpose of point (a) (i) of paragraph 1, the conversion rates laid down in Article 17(6) of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 shall be used. However in case of ovine and caprine animals and small (< 100 kg life weight) *Cervidae* a conversion rate of 0,05 livestock units, and in case of other large game a conversion rate of 0,2 livestock units shall be used.

Article 14

Additional examination requirements for post-mortem inspection

1 Additional examinations, such as palpation and incision of parts of the carcase and offal, and laboratory tests, shall be carried out if needed to:

- a reach a definitive diagnosis of a suspected hazard; or
- b detect the presence of:
 - (i) an animal disease for which animal health rules are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429;
 - (ii) chemical residues or contaminants as referred to in Directive 96/23/EC and Decision 97/747/EC, especially:
 - chemical residues in excess of the levels laid down in Regulations (EU) No 37/2010 and (EC) No 396/2005;
 - contaminants exceeding the maximum levels laid down in Regulations (EC) No 1881/2006 and (EC) No 124/2009; or
 - residues of substances that are prohibited or unauthorised in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 37/2010 or Directive 96/22/EC;

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- (iii) non-compliance with the microbiological criteria referred to in Article 3(1) (b) of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 or the possible presence of other microbiological hazards that would make the fresh meat unfit for human consumption;
- (iv) other factors that might require the fresh meat to be declared unfit for human consumption or restrictions to be placed on its use.

2 During the post-mortem inspection, precautions shall be taken to ensure that contamination of fresh meat by actions such as palpation, cutting or incision is kept to a minimum.

Article 15

Requirements for post-mortem inspection of domestic solipeds, bovine animals over eight months old and domestic swine more than five weeks old, and large wild game

1 The requirements in this Article shall apply in addition to the requirements in Articles 12 and 14.

2 The official veterinarian shall require that carcasses of domestic solipeds, bovine animals over eight months old and domestic swine more than five weeks old are submitted for post-mortem inspection split lengthways into half carcasses down the spinal column.

3 If the post-mortem inspection so necessitates, the official veterinarian may require any head or any carcase to be split lengthways. However, to take account of particular eating habits, technological developments or specific sanitary situations, the official veterinarian may authorise the submission for post-mortem inspection of carcasses of domestic solipeds, bovine animals more than eight months old and domestic swine more than five weeks old that are not split in half.

4 In low-capacity slaughterhouses or low-capacity game-handling establishments handling fewer than 1 000 livestock units per year, the official veterinarian may, for sanitary reasons, authorise the cutting into quarter carcasses of adult domestic solipeds, adult bovine animals and adult large wild game before post-mortem inspection.

Article 16

Additional requirements for post-mortem inspection in cases of emergency slaughter

In the event of emergency slaughter, the carcase shall be subjected to post-mortem inspection as soon as possible in accordance with Articles 12, 13, 14 and 15 before it is released for human consumption.

Article 17

Practical arrangements for post-mortem inspection of domestic bovine animals, domestic sheep and goats, domestic solipeds and domestic swine

Where the post-mortem inspection is performed by an official veterinarian, under the supervision of the official veterinarian or, where sufficient guarantees are in place, under the responsibility of the official veterinarian in accordance with Article 18(2)(c)

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of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and Article 7 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624, the competent authorities shall ensure that the practical arrangements laid down in the following Articles 18 to 24 are complied with in the cases of domestic bovine animals, domestic sheep and goats, domestic solipeds and domestic swine in addition to the requirements laid down in Articles 12, 14 and 15.

Article 18

Young bovine animals

1 Carcasses and offal of the following bovine animals shall undergo the post-mortem inspection procedures laid down in paragraph 2:

- a animals under eight months old; and,
- b animals under 20 months old if reared without access to pasture land during their whole life in an officially tuberculosis-free Member State or region of a Member State in accordance with Article 1 of Decision 2003/467/EC.

2 The post-mortem inspection procedures shall include at least a visual inspection of the following:

- a the head and throat; together with palpation and examination of the retropharyngeal lymph nodes (*Lnn. retropharyngiales*), however, in order to ensure the surveillance of the officially tuberculosis free status, Member States may decide to carry out further investigations; inspection of the mouth and fauces;
- b the lungs, trachea and oesophagus; palpation of the lungs; palpation and examination of the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes (*Lnn. bifurcationes, eparteriales* and *mediastinales*);
- c the pericardium and heart;
- d the diaphragm;
- e the liver and the hepatic and pancreatic lymph nodes, (*Lnn. portales*);
- f the gastro-intestinal tract, the mesentery and gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes (*Lnn. gastrici, mesenterici, craniales* and *caudales*);
- g the spleen;
- h the kidneys;
- i the pleura and peritoneum;
- j the umbilical region and the joints of young animals.

3 The official veterinarian shall proceed with the following post-mortem inspection procedures using incision and palpation of the carcass and offal, when there are indications of a possible risk to human health, animal health or animal welfare indicated in accordance with Article 24:

- a incision of the retropharyngeal lymph nodes (*Lnn. retropharyngiales*); palpation of the tongue;
- b incision of the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes (*Lnn. bifurcationes, eparteriales* and *mediastinales*); lengthwise opening of the trachea and the main branches of the bronchi; the lungs shall be incised in their posterior third, perpendicular to their main axes; these incisions are not necessary where the lungs are excluded from human consumption;
- c lengthways incision of the heart so as to open the ventricles and cut through the interventricular septum;
- d incision of the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes;

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- e palpation of the spleen;
- f incision of the kidneys and the renal lymph nodes (*Lnn. renales*);
- g palpation of the umbilical region and the joints. The umbilical region shall be incised and the joints opened; the synovial fluid must be examined.

Article 19

Other bovine animals

1 Carcasses and offal of bovine animals other than those referred to in Article 18(1) shall undergo the following post-mortem inspection procedures:

- a a visual inspection of the head and throat; incision and examination of the retropharyngeal lymph nodes (*Lnn. retropharyngiales*); examination of the external masseters, in which two incisions shall be made parallel to the mandible, and the internal masseters (internal pterygoid muscles), which shall be incised along one plane. The tongue shall be freed to permit a detailed visual inspection of the mouth and the fauces;
- b an inspection of the trachea and oesophagus; visual inspection and palpation of the lungs; incision and examination of the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes (*Lnn. bifurcationes, eparteriales* and *mediastinales*);
- c a visual inspection of the pericardium and heart, the latter being incised lengthways so as to open the ventricles and cut through the interventricular septum;
- d a visual inspection of the diaphragm;
- e a visual inspection of the liver and the hepatic and pancreatic lymph nodes (*Lnn. portales*);
- f a visual inspection of the gastro-intestinal tract, the mesentery, the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes (*Lnn. gastrici, mesenterici, craniales* and *caudales*); palpation of the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes;
- g a visual inspection of the spleen;
- h a visual inspection of the kidneys;
- i a visual inspection of the pleura and the peritoneum;
- j a visual inspection of the genital organs (except for the penis, if already discarded);
- k a visual inspection of the udder and its lymph nodes (*Lnn. supramammarii*).

2 The official veterinarian shall proceed with the following post-mortem inspection procedures using incision and palpation of the carcass and offal, when there are indications of a possible risk to human health, animal health or animal welfare indicated in accordance with Article 24:

- a an incision and examination of the sub-maxillary and parotid lymph nodes (*Lnn. mandibulares* and *parotidei*); palpation of the tongue and the fauces;
- b an incision of the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes (*Lnn. bifurcationes, eparteriales* and *mediastinales*); lengthwise opening of the trachea and the main branches of the bronchi; the lungs shall be incised in their posterior third, perpendicular to their main axes; these incisions are not necessary where the lungs are excluded from human consumption;
- c a palpation of the liver and the hepatic and pancreatic lymph nodes (*Lnn. portales*); incision of the gastric surface of the liver and at the base of the caudate lobe to examine the bile ducts;
- d an incision of the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes;
- e a palpation of the spleen;

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- f an incision of the kidneys and the renal lymph nodes (*Lnn. renales*);
- g a palpation and incision of the udder and its lymph nodes (*Lnn. supramammarii*) in cows. Each half of the udder shall be opened by a long, deep incision as far as the lactiferous sinuses (*sinus lactiferes*) and the lymph nodes of the udder shall be incised, except where the udder is excluded from human consumption.

Article 20

Young domestic sheep and goats and sheep with no eruption of permanent incisors

1 Carcasses and offal of sheep not having any permanent incisor erupted or less than 12 months of age, and goats less than six months of age, shall undergo the following post-mortem inspection procedures:

- a a visual inspection of the head, including the throat, mouth, tongue and parotid and retropharyngeal lymph nodes. These examinations are not necessary if the competent authorities are able to guarantee that the head, including the tongue and the brains, will be excluded from human consumption;
- b a visual inspection of the lungs, trachea and oesophagus and the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes (*Lnn. bifurcationes, eparteriales* and *mediastinales*);
- c a visual inspection of the pericardium and heart;
- d a visual inspection of the diaphragm;
- e a visual inspection of the liver and the hepatic and pancreatic lymph nodes (*Lnn. portales*);
- f a visual inspection of the gastro-intestinal tract, the mesentery and the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes (*Lnn. gastrici, mesenterici, craniales* and *caudales*);
- g a visual inspection of the spleen;
- h a visual inspection of the kidneys;
- i a visual inspection of the pleura and peritoneum;
- j a visual inspection of the umbilical region and joints.

2 The official veterinarian shall proceed with the following post-mortem inspection procedures using incision and palpation of the carcass and offal, when there are indications of a possible risk to human health, animal health or animal welfare indicated in accordance with Article 24:

- a a palpation of the throat, mouth, tongue and parotid lymph nodes. Unless animal-health rules provide otherwise, these examinations are not necessary if the competent authorities are able to guarantee that the head, including the tongue and the brains, will be excluded from human consumption;
- b a palpation of the lungs; incision of the lungs, trachea, oesophagus, bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes;
- c an incision of the heart;
- d a palpation of the liver and its lymph nodes; incision of the gastric surface of the liver to examine the bile ducts;
- e a palpation of the spleen;
- f an incision of the kidneys and the renal lymph nodes (*Lnn. renales*);
- g a palpation of the umbilical region and joints; the umbilical region shall be incised and the joints opened; the synovial fluid shall be examined.

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Article 21

Other domestic sheep and goats

1 Carcasses and offal of sheep having a permanent incisor erupted or 12 months of age or more, and goats six months of age or more, shall undergo the following post-mortem inspection procedures:

- a a visual inspection of the head, including the throat, mouth, tongue and parotid lymph nodes and palpation of the retropharyngeal lymph nodes. These examinations are not necessary if the competent authorities are able to guarantee that the head, including the tongue and the brains, will be excluded from human consumption;
- b a visual inspection of the lungs, trachea and oesophagus; palpation of the lungs, the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes (*Lnn. bifurcationes, eparteriales and mediastinales*);
- c a visual inspection of the pericardium and heart;
- d a visual inspection of the diaphragm;
- e a visual inspection of the liver and the hepatic and pancreatic lymph nodes (*Lnn. portales*); palpation of the liver and its lymph nodes; incision of the gastric surface of the liver to examine the bile ducts;
- f a visual inspection of the gastro-intestinal tract, the mesentery and the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes (*Lnn. gastrici, mesenterici, craniales and caudales*);
- g a visual inspection of the spleen;
- h a visual inspection of the kidneys;
- i a visual inspection of the pleura and peritoneum;
- j a visual inspection of the genital organs (except for the penis, if already discarded);
- k a visual inspection of the udder and its lymph nodes.

2 The official veterinarian shall proceed with the following post-mortem inspection procedures using incision and palpation of the carcass and offal when there are indications of a possible risk to human health, animal health or animal welfare indicated in accordance with Article 24:

- a a palpation of the throat, mouth, tongue and parotid lymph nodes. Unless animal-health rules provide otherwise, these examinations are not necessary if the competent authorities are able to guarantee that the head, including the tongue and the brains, will be excluded from human consumption;
- b an incision of the lungs, trachea, oesophagus and the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes;
- c an incision of the heart;
- d a palpation of the spleen;
- e an incision of the kidneys and the renal lymph nodes (*Lnn. renales*).

Article 22

Domestic solipeds

1 Carcasses and offal of domestic solipeds shall undergo the following post-mortem inspection procedures:

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- a a visual inspection of the head and, after freeing the tongue, the throat; the tongue shall be freed to permit a detailed visual inspection of the mouth and the fauces and must itself be visually examined;
 - b a visual inspection of the lungs, trachea, oesophagus and the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes (*Lnn. bifurcationes, eparteriales* and *mediastinales*);
 - c a visual inspection of the pericardium and the heart;
 - d a visual inspection of the diaphragm;
 - e a visual inspection of the liver and the hepatic and pancreatic lymph nodes (*Lnn. portales*);
 - f a visual inspection of the gastro-intestinal tract, the mesentery and the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes (*Lnn. gastrici, mesenterici, craniales* and *caudales*);
 - g a visual inspection of the spleen;
 - h a visual inspection of the kidneys;
 - i a visual inspection of the pleura and peritoneum;
 - j a visual inspection of the genital organs of stallions (except for the penis, if already discarded) and mares;
 - k a visual inspection of the udder and its lymph nodes (*Lnn. supramammarii*);
 - l a visual inspection of the umbilical region and joints of young animals;
 - m examination of the muscles and lymph nodes (*Lnn. subrhomboides*) of the shoulders beneath the scapular cartilage after loosening the attachment of one shoulder, in the case grey horses, in order to inspect for melanosis and melanomata. The kidneys shall be exposed.
- 2 The official veterinarian shall proceed with the following post-mortem inspection procedures using incision and palpation of the carcass and offal, when there are indications of a possible risk to human health, animal health or animal welfare indicated in accordance with Article 24:
- a a palpation and incision of the sub-maxillary, retropharyngeal and parotid lymph nodes (*Lnn. retropharyngiales, mandibulares* and *parotidei*); palpation of the tongue;
 - b a palpation of the lungs; palpation and incision of the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes. The trachea and the main branches of the bronchi shall be opened lengthwise and the lungs shall be incised in their posterior third, perpendicular to their main axes; however, these incisions are not necessary where the lungs are excluded from human consumption;
 - c an incision of the heart lengthwise, so as to open the ventricles and cut through the interventricular septum;
 - d a palpation and incision of the liver and the hepatic and pancreatic lymph nodes, (*Lnn. portales*);
 - e an incision of the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes;
 - f a palpation of the spleen;
 - g a palpation of the kidneys and incision of the kidneys and the renal lymph nodes (*Lnn. renales*);
 - h an incision of the supramammary lymph nodes;
 - i a palpation of the umbilical region and joints of young animals. In cases of doubt, the umbilical region shall be incised and the joints opened; the synovial fluid must be examined;
 - j an incision through the entire kidney in grey horses.

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Article 23

Domestic swine

1 Carcasses and offal of domestic swine shall undergo the following post-mortem inspection procedures:

- a a visual inspection of the head and throat;
- b a visual inspection of the mouth, fauces and tongue;
- c a visual inspection of the lungs, trachea and oesophagus;
- d a visual inspection of the pericardium and heart;
- e a visual inspection of the diaphragm;
- f a visual inspection of the liver and the hepatic and pancreatic lymph nodes (*Lnn. portales*); visual inspection of the gastro-intestinal tract, the mesentery, the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes (*Lnn. gastrici, mesenterici, craniales* and *caudales*);
- g a visual inspection of the spleen; visual inspection of the kidneys; visual inspection of the pleura and peritoneum;
- h a visual inspection of the genital organs (except for the penis, if already discarded);
- i a visual inspection of the udder and its lymph nodes (*Lnn. supramammarii*);
- j a visual inspection of the umbilical region and joints of young animals.

2 The official veterinarian shall proceed with the following post-mortem inspection procedures using incision and palpation of the carcase and offal, when there are indications of a possible risk to human health, animal health or animal welfare indicated in accordance with Article 24:

- a an incision and examination of the submaxillary lymph nodes (*Lnn. mandibulares*);
- b a palpation of the lungs and the bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes (*Lnn. bifurcationes, eparteriales* and *mediastinales*). The trachea and the main branches of the bronchi shall be opened lengthwise and the lungs shall be incised in their posterior third, perpendicular to their main axes; those incisions are not necessary where the lungs are excluded from human consumption;
- c an incision of the heart lengthwise so as to open the ventricles and cut through the interventricular septum;
- d a palpation of the liver and its lymph nodes;
- e a palpation and, if necessary, incision of the gastric and mesenteric lymph nodes;
- f a palpation of the spleen;
- g an incision of the kidneys and the renal lymph nodes (*Lnn. renales*);
- h an incision of the supramammary lymph nodes;
- i a palpation of the umbilical region and joints of young animals and, if necessary, incision of the umbilical region and opening of the joints.

Article 24

Indications of a possible risks to human health, animal health or animal welfare in domestic bovine animals, domestic sheep and goats, domestic solipeds and domestic swine

The official veterinarian shall proceed with the additional post-mortem inspection procedures referred to in Articles 18(3), 19(2), 20(2), 21(2), 22(2) and 23(2) using

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incision and palpation of the carcase and offal, where, in his/her opinion, one of the following indicates a possible risk to human health, animal health or animal welfare:

- (a) the checks and analysis of the checks of documents carried out in accordance with Articles 9 and 10;
- (b) the findings of the ante-mortem inspection carried out in accordance with Article 11;
- (c) the results of the verifications of compliance with animal welfare rules carried out in accordance with Article 38;
- (d) the findings of post-mortem inspection carried out in accordance with Articles 12 to 24;
- (e) additional epidemiological data or other data from the holding of provenance of the animals.

Article 25

Practical arrangements for post-mortem inspection of poultry

1 All poultry shall undergo post-mortem inspection which may include the assistance of slaughterhouse staff in accordance with Article 18(3) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625. The official veterinarian or official auxiliary, in accordance with Article 18(2)(c) of that Regulation shall personally carry out the following checks:

- a daily inspection of the viscera and body cavities of a representative sample of each flock;
- b a detailed inspection of a random sample of parts of birds or entire birds declared unfit for human consumption following post-mortem inspection from each flock;
- c any further investigations necessary where there is reason to suspect that the meat from the birds concerned could be unfit for human consumption.

2 By way of derogation from paragraph 1, the competent authorities may decide that only a representative sample of poultry from each flock undergoes post-mortem inspection if:

- a food business operators have a system in place to the satisfaction of the official veterinarian, that allows the detection and the separation of birds with abnormalities, contamination or defects;
- b the slaughterhouse has a longstanding history of compliance with the requirements as regards:
 - (i) general and specific requirements in accordance with Article 4 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004, including the microbiological criteria applicable to Point 1.28 and 2.1.5 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005;
 - (ii) procedures based on the HACCP principles in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 852/2004; and
 - (iii) specific hygiene rules in accordance with Article 5 and Section II of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004;
- c no abnormalities that may indicate a serious problem for human or animal health that may indicate the need for measures laid down in Articles 40 to 44, have been found during ante-mortem inspection or verification of food chain information.

3 In case of poultry reared for the production of *foie gras* and delayed eviscerated poultry obtained at the holding of provenance in accordance with Points 8 and 9 of Chapter VI to Section

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II of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, post-mortem inspection shall take place at the cutting plant where such carcasses are transported directly from the holding of provenance.

Article 26

Practical arrangements for post-mortem inspection of farmed lagomorphs

The practical arrangements for post-mortem inspection in poultry in accordance with Article 25, shall apply to farmed lagomorphs. The provisions applicable to a single poultry flock in Article 25 shall apply to farmed lagomorphs slaughtered the same day from a single holding of provenance.

Article 27

Practical arrangements for post-mortem inspection of farmed game

- 1 The following post-mortem inspection procedures shall apply to farmed game:
 - a in the case of small (< 100 kg) *Cervidae*, the post-mortem procedures for ovine animals laid down in Article 21, however in the case of reindeer the post-mortem procedures for ovine animals laid down in Article 20 shall be used and the tongue may be used for human consumption without inspection of the head;
 - b in the case of game of the family *Suidae*, the post-mortem procedures for domestic swine laid down in Article 23;
 - c in the case of large game of the family *Cervidae* and other large game, not covered by paragraph (a) and in the case of large game of the family *Suidae* not covered by paragraph (b), the post-mortem procedures for bovine animals laid down in Article 19;
 - d in the case of ratites, the post-mortem procedures for poultry laid down in Article 25(1).
- 2 Where the animals have been slaughtered outside the slaughterhouse, the official veterinarian at the slaughterhouse shall verify the certificate.

Article 28

Practical arrangements for post-mortem inspection of wild game

- 1 The official veterinarian shall verify that a health certificate conforming to the specimen set out in the Annex to Regulation (EU) No 636/2014, or the declaration(s) in accordance with point 8(b) of Chapter II of Section IV of Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004, accompanies unskinned large wild game transported to the game-handling establishment from the territory of another Member State. The official veterinarian shall take into account the content of that certificate or declaration(s).
- 2 During post-mortem inspection, the official veterinarian shall carry out:
 - a a visual inspection of the carcass, its cavities and, where appropriate, organs with a view to:
 - (i) detecting any abnormalities not resulting from the hunting process. For this purpose, the diagnosis may be based on any information that the trained person has provided concerning the behaviour of the animal before killing;
 - (ii) checking that death was not due to reasons other than hunting;
 - b an investigation of organoleptic abnormalities;

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- c palpation and incisions of organs, where appropriate;
 - d where there are serious grounds for suspecting the presence of residues or contaminants, an analysis by sampling of residues not resulting from the hunting process, including environmental contaminants. Where a more extensive inspection is made on the basis of such suspicions, the veterinarian shall wait until that inspection has been concluded before assessing all the wild game killed during a specific hunt, or those parts suspected of showing the same abnormalities;
 - e examination for characteristics indicating that the meat presents a health risk, including:
 - (i) abnormal behaviour or disturbance of the general condition of the live animal, as reported by the hunter;
 - (ii) the generalised presence of tumours or abscesses affecting different internal organs or muscles;
 - (iii) arthritis, orchitis, pathological changes in the liver or the spleen, inflammation of the intestines or the umbilical region;
 - (iv) the presence of foreign bodies not resulting from the hunting process in the body cavities, stomach, intestines or urine, where the pleura or peritoneum are discoloured (when relevant viscera are present);
 - (v) the presence of parasites;
 - (vi) formation of a significant amount of gas in the gastro-intestinal tract with discolouring of the internal organs (when these viscera are present);
 - (vii) significant abnormalities of colour, consistency or odour of muscle tissue or organs;
 - (viii) aged open fractures;
 - (ix) emaciation and/or general or localised oedema;
 - (x) recent pleural or peritoneal adhesions;
 - (xi) other obvious extensive changes, such as putrefaction.
- 3 Where the official veterinarian so requires, the vertebral column and the head shall be split lengthwise.
- 4 In the case of small wild game not eviscerated immediately after killing, the official veterinarian shall carry out a post-mortem inspection on a representative sample of animals from the same source. Where inspection reveals a disease transmissible to humans or any of the characteristics listed in point (e) in paragraph 2, the official veterinarian shall carry out more checks on the entire batch to determine whether it shall be declared unfit for human consumption or whether each carcass shall be inspected individually.
- 5 The official veterinarian may perform any further cuts and inspections of the relevant parts of the animals that are necessary to reach a final diagnosis. If an assessment cannot be made on the basis of the practical arrangements in paragraph 2, additional investigations shall be carried out in a laboratory.
- 6 In addition to the cases provided for in Article 45, meat presenting during post-mortem inspection any of the characteristics listed in point (e) in paragraph 2 shall be declared unfit for human consumption.

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Section 4

Official controls on specific hazards and laboratory testing

Article 29

Practical arrangements for official controls for transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs)

1 In addition to the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 concerning the official controls to be carried out in relation to TSEs, the official veterinarian shall check the removal, separation and, where appropriate, marking of specified risk material also in accordance with the rules laid down in Article 8(1) of that Regulation and in Article 12 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 on animal by-products.

2 The official veterinarian shall ensure that the food business operator takes all necessary measures to avoid contaminating meat with specified risk material during slaughter, including stunning. This includes the removal of specified risk material.

Article 30

Practical arrangements for official controls for cysticercosis during post-mortem inspection in domestic bovine animals and *Suidae*

1 The post-mortem inspection procedures described in Articles 18, 19 and 23 shall be the minimum requirements for the examination for cysticercosis in bovine animals and *Suidae* (domestic swine, farmed game and wild game). In the case of bovine animals referred to in Article 19, the competent authorities may decide that incision of the masseters at post-mortem inspection is not compulsory if:

- a a specific serological test is used;
- b the animals have been raised on a holding of provenance officially certified to be free of cysticercosis; or,
- c the prevalence of the source population or in a well-defined subpopulation is below one in a million, has been demonstrated with 95 % certainty or no cases have been detected in all slaughtered animals in the past five years (or two years where supported and justified by the competent authorities' risk analysis) based on data from reporting carried out in accordance with Article 9(1) of Directive 2003/99/EC.

2 Meat infected with cysticerci shall be declared unfit for human consumption. However, where the animal is not generally infected with cysticercus, the parts not infected may be declared fit for human consumption after having undergone a cold treatment.

Article 31

Practical arrangements for official controls for *Trichinella* during post-mortem inspection

1 Carcasses of *Suidae*, solipeds and other species susceptible to *Trichinella* shall be examined for *Trichinella* in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2015/1375 unless one of the derogations set out in Article 3 of that Regulation applies.

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2 Meat from animals infected with trichinae shall be declared unfit for human consumption.

Article 32

Practical arrangements for official controls for glanders during post-mortem inspection of solipeds

1 Fresh meat of solipeds shall be placed on the market only if it was produced from solipeds kept for at least 90 days prior to the date of slaughter in a Member State or in a third country or region thereof from which it is authorised to bring solipeds into the Union.

2 In the case of solipeds originating from a Member State or third country or region thereof not meeting the World Organisation for Animal Health criteria for a glanders-free country, solipeds shall be inspected for glanders by a careful examination of the mucous membranes of the trachea, larynx, nasal cavities and sinuses and their ramifications, after splitting the head in the median plane and excising the nasal septum.

3 Meat produced from solipeds in which glanders has been diagnosed shall be declared unfit for human consumption.

Article 33

Practical arrangements for official controls for tuberculosis during post-mortem inspection

1 Where animals have reacted positively or inconclusively to tuberculin, or there are other grounds for suspecting infection, they shall be slaughtered separately from other animals, taking precautions to avoid the risk of contamination of other carcasses, the slaughter line and staff present in the slaughterhouse.

2 All meat from animals in which post-mortem inspection has revealed localised lesions similar to tuberculoid lesions in a number of organs or a number of areas of the carcase shall be declared unfit for human consumption. However, where a tuberculoid lesion has been found in the lymph nodes of only one organ or part of the carcase, only the affected organ or part of the carcase and the associated lymph nodes shall be declared unfit for human consumption.

Article 34

Practical arrangements for official controls for brucellosis during post-mortem inspection

1 Where animals have reacted positively or inconclusively to a brucellosis test, or there are other grounds for suspecting infection, they shall be slaughtered separately from other animals, taking precautions to avoid the risk of contamination of other carcasses, the slaughter line and staff present in the slaughterhouse.

2 Meat from animals in which post-mortem inspection has revealed lesions indicating acute brucellosis shall be declared unfit for human consumption. In the case of animals reacting positively or inconclusively to a brucellosis test, the udder, genital tract and blood shall be declared unfit for human consumption even if no such lesion is found.

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Article 35

Practical arrangements for official controls for *Salmonella*

1 The competent authorities shall verify the correct implementation by food business operators of points 2.1.3, 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 of Chapter 2 of Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 by applying one or more of the following measures:

- a official sampling using the same method and sampling area as food business operators. At least 49 random samples⁽⁹⁾ shall be taken in each slaughterhouse each year. This number of samples may be reduced in small slaughterhouses based on a risk evaluation;
- b collecting all information on the total number and the number of *Salmonella*-positive samples taken by food business operators in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005, in the framework of points 2.1.3, 2.1.4 and 2.1.5 of Chapter 2 of Annex I thereto;
- c collecting all information on the total number and the number of *Salmonella*-positive samples taken in the framework of national control programmes in Member States or regions of Member States for which special guarantees have been approved in accordance with Article 8 of Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 as regards ruminant, equine, swine and poultry production.

2 Where the food business operator fails on several occasions to comply with the process hygiene criterion, the competent authorities shall require it to submit an action plan and shall strictly supervise its outcome.

3 The total number and the number of *Salmonella*-positive samples, differentiating between samples taken under points (a), (b) and (c) in paragraph 1, when applied, shall be reported in accordance with Article 9(1) of Directive 2003/99/EC.

Article 36

Practical arrangements for official controls for *Campylobacter*

1 The competent authorities shall verify the correct implementation by food business operators of point 2.1.9 (process hygiene criterion for *Campylobacter* on carcasses of broilers) of Chapter 2 of Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 by applying the following measures:

- a official sampling using the same method and sampling area as food business operators. At least 49 random samples shall be taken in each slaughterhouse each year. This number of samples may be reduced in small slaughterhouses based on a risk evaluation; or
- b collecting all information on the total number and the number of *Campylobacter* samples with more than 1 000 cfu/g taken by food business operators in accordance with Article 5 of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005, in the framework of point 2.1.9 of Chapter 2 of Annex I thereto.

2 Where the food business operator fails on several occasions to comply with the process hygiene criterion, the competent authorities shall require it to submit an action plan and shall strictly supervise its outcome.

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3 The total number and the number of *Campylobacter* samples with more than 1 000 cfu/g, differentiating between samples taken under points (a) and (b) in paragraph 1, when applied, shall be reported in accordance with Article 9(1) of Directive 2003/99/EC.

Article 37

Specific requirements as regards laboratory tests

1 When performing laboratory tests in accordance with Article 18(2)(d)(ii) and (iv) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, the official veterinarian shall ensure that, when sampling takes place, samples are appropriately identified and handled and sent to the appropriate laboratory in the framework of:

- a the monitoring and control of zoonoses and zoonotic agents;
- b the annual programme for the monitoring of TSEs in accordance with Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 999/2001;
- c the detection of pharmacologically active substances or products either prohibited or unauthorised, and controls for regulated pharmacologically active substances, pesticides, feed additives and contaminants exceeding applicable maximum Union limits, in particular in the framework of the national plans for the detection of residues or substances referred to in Article 110(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and in Article 5 of Directive 96/23/EC;
- d the detection of animal diseases for which animal health rules are laid down in Regulation (EU) 2016/429.

2 The official veterinarian shall ensure that any additional laboratory testing deemed necessary for the fulfilment the obligations under Article 18(2) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 takes place as required.

Section 5

Official controls on animal welfare

Article 38

Official controls on animal welfare at transport and slaughter

The official veterinarian shall verify compliance with the rules concerning the protection of animals during transport in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 and at the time of slaughter in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 and national rules on animal welfare.

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- (1) Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2019/628 of 8 April 2019 concerning model official certificates for certain animals and goods and amending Regulation (EC) No 2074/2005 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2016/759 as regards these model certificates (see page 101 of this Official Journal).
- (2) Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 September 2015 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services ([OJ L 241, 17.9.2015, p. 1](#)).
- (3) If all are negative, 95 % statistical certainty is provided that the prevalence is below 6 %.

Status:

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