



DG Health
and Food Safety

COUNTRY PROFILE

Progress made in the implementation of audit recommendations

*Health and
Food Safety*

Audit 2014-7075 of 03 March 2014 in order to evaluate the animal welfare controls in place at slaughter and during related operations		
Recommendation	Basis for assessment	Current Status
2014-7075-8 To enforce the stunning parameters specified in Annex I of Regulation	<i>The report states that whereas the slaughter of animals without unnecessary pain or suffering is generally ensured in red meat slaughterhouses, in poultry slaughterhouses the welfare of the birds is compromised due to the absence of backup stunning equipment, the wrong</i>	Closed due to action taken

Audit 2014-7075 of 03 March 2014 in order to evaluate the animal welfare controls in place at slaughter and during related operations		
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<p>(EC) No 1099/2009 for electrical waterbath stunners so as to ensure the loss of consciousness and sensibility of the animals from the moment of stunning until the moment of death, as required by Article 4(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009.</p> <p>Conclusions and findings upon which this recommendation is based: 51, 57, 59 and 62</p>	<p><i>amperage used and the incorrect bleeding cut performed. The fact that SOPs in slaughterhouses do not include all the criteria required by the Regulation hinders business operators from identifying the problems causing unnecessary suffering to the animals. The CCA is however still allowing business operators of poultry slaughterhouses which were operating before the Regulation came into force, to apply currents for water-bath equipment that are below the minimum required by the Regulation.</i></p> <p>Competent authority response</p> <p>The CCA expressed their concerns regarding the electrical parameters of Regulation 1099/2009, suggesting that they should be modified, in order to guarantee welfare conditions and at the same time avoid haemorrhages. The central competent authority requested the National Reference Centre for Animal Welfare (IZS Brescia) to carry out, in collaboration with the stakeholders, a specific study aimed at identifying adequate electrical parameters for poultry stunning without relevant effect on meat quality [document provided].</p> <p>In the context of the 2016 GFA, the central competent authority explained that the Ministry of Health has received from the National Reference Centre for animal welfare a first report on the laboratory trial carried out to test stunning conditions for loss of consciousness in birds (copy provided). The results of this trial indicate ideal parameters to ensure effective stunning without causing haemorrhages and the suggested parameters are in line with the ones of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009. The central competent authority clarified that they intend to ensure that the stunning parameters specified in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 for electrical water bath stunners are complied with through verification within their sectoral audits. A copy of the report of an audit carried by the central competent authority in Lombardia in April 2016, which included in its scope the verification of compliance with legal requirements for the electrical parameters for the water bath stunning of birds, was provided.</p> <p>In the context of the general follow-up audit carried out in December 2018, the Italian Authority explained that letter n. 2791 of 3 February 2017 [copy provided] sent to the regional</p>	

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	<p>veterinary services requested them to verify the regular implementation of amperage parameters during the stunning of poultry in the slaughterhouses, in line with the requirements of Annex II of Regulation (EC) 1099/2009.</p> <p>The CCA explained that on 8 March 2017, a meeting took place with the regional authorities and representatives of industry associations concerning the “electrical water bath stunning”, which showed a mixed picture of the territory. Therefore, with letter 7941 of 28 March 2017 [copy provided] the Regions were asked to conduct a survey in order to identify which establishments did not comply with legislation.</p> <p>Lastly, with letter n. 24021 of 27 September 2018 [copy provided], the CCA urged the Regions to send up-dated information on actions taken to guarantee the respect of electrical parameters of stunning bath in slaughterhouses.</p> <p>The CCA stated that, following the letter above, 12 regions provided data that they have in total 58 poultry slaughterhouses using electrical water bath stunning following parameters specified in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009. 6 regions have no poultry slaughterhouses. However, two Regions provided unclear information.</p> <p>In reply to the draft country profile the Competent Authority provided in July 2019 the following update: Information concerning the enforcement of the electrical stunning parameters has been received for the two remaining regions (copies provided). These confirm that the concerned slaughterhouses apply the parameters specified in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 for electrical water bath stunners.</p> <p><u>Assessment:</u></p> <p><i>Progress has been made to comply with stunning parameters required by EU law, and information confirming enforcement of the stunning parameters specified in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 for electrical water bath stunners, has now been provided for all regions concerned, thus this recommendation has been addressed.</i></p>	