


ANNEX

FVO assessment of the Action Plan submitted by the competent authorities of Belgium on 24 Jun 2015 in response to Report ref. DG(SANTE)/2014-7059-MR of the audit carried out from 24 November 2014 to 03 December 2014 in order to evaluate the animal welfare controls in place at slaughter and during related operations

N°	Recommendation	Action Proposed by the Competent Authority	FVO Assessment of CA Response
1	<p>To improve the system for providing certificates of competence by: publishing the legislation necessary to approve the training programme. targeting the animal welfare officer (AWO) training course at the particular operations, species and type of equipment for which each AWO is responsible in their slaughterhouse. and by setting an examination that provides full assurance of the operator's competence in certain operations. Recommendation based on conclusion No 12. Associated findings No 6, 7, 10 and 11. Legal basis for this recommendation: Articles 7(3), 21 and 29(2) of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009.</p>	<p>All Regions will publish the necessary legislation to approve the training programmes for the animal welfare officers and the personnel of the slaughterhouses.</p> <p>This legislation is at the moment in different stages at the different Regions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Flanders: the draft still has to pass the Inspector of Finances and the Council of State. Publication is expected in September – October 2015. - Wallonia: The project will be submitted to the Minister for approval. - Brussels-Capital : The project will be initiated in the Brussels-Capital Region <p>Concerning the training course for animal welfare officers. Belgium already goes beyond the requirements of the Regulation, demanding that this be a course on a university level, while the Regulation only requires a certificate of competence. Because of the number of participants it is not feasible to split up this course according to species,</p>	<p>OUT OF SCOPE</p> 

Pages 2, 5, 6 and 7 were entirely deleted, as they fall outside the scope of the request

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		<p>analysed centrally for each Region. This makes it easier to carry out a bench marking between slaughterhouses and this will allow to prioritize certain slaughterhouses or specific items for the inspections by the animal welfare inspectors of the Regions. If the veterinarians of the AFSCA would report a severe animal welfare problem in a slaughterhouse, an animal welfare inspector will inspect this slaughterhouse in short term. Other inspections by the animal welfare inspectors will be performed according to the risk analysis.</p>	
3	<p>To modify the instructions so that they state that new equipment brought into operation after 1 January 2013 is also required to comply with the rules set out in Annex II. Recommendation based on conclusion No 45. Associated finding No 28. Legal basis for this recommendation: Article 29(1) of Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009.</p>	<p>The checklist used for the inspections in the slaughterhouses has been adapted to clearly reflect that new equipment brought into operation after 1 January 2013 is also required to comply with the rules set out in Annex II.</p>	<p>OUT OF SCOPE</p>
4	<p>To ensure that waterbath stunning is carried out in accordance with the minimum currents laid down in table 2 in point 6(3) of Chapter II of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009. Recommendation based on conclusion No 47. Associated findings No 35 and No 36.</p>	<p>A lot of slaughterhouses report problems with the application of the standards for water bath stunning according to Annex I of Regulation 1099/2009, either for reasons of meat quality or for religious reasons because of the</p>	<p>Unsatisfactory</p> <p>The proposed action is unsatisfactory as the CCA does not plan to take any enforcement measure to ensure that the waterbath stunning of non-religious slaughtered poultry</p>

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	<p>Legal basis for this recommendation: Point 6(3) of Chapter II of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009.</p>	<p>possible irreversibility of the stun. Therefore, at the moment, small derogations to the parameters are allowed as long as the slaughterhouse operators can guarantee that the animals are sufficiently stunned, pending the results of a research project that's currently being carried out at the university of Ghent on the stunning of poultry and the application of the standards required by the Regulation 1099/2009. These results are expected by the end of 2017. When they are available the whole situation will be re-evaluated.</p> <p>The Brussels-Capital Region is not concerned by this recommendation, because there are no poultry slaughterhouses.</p>	<p>is carried out in accordance with the minimum currents laid down in table 2 in point 6(3) of Chapter II of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 before the end of 2017 when the results of a research project are expected to be available. This is a issue since EFSA reports that when using waterbath stunning parameters below those indicated in the Regulation, it is not possible to discern between stunned (and unconscious birds) and electrically immobilised birds.</p> <p>It should furthermore be noted that the parameters for electrical currents laid down in Table 2 of Chapter II of Annex I to this Regulation are considered to be the minimum required to ensure the animals are sufficiently stunned.</p> <p>This recommendation does not concern poultry slaughtered under religious rites, for which Article 4(4) allows derogating from the requirements of Annex I.</p> <p>The CCA should provide an action plan that ensures the enforcement of the minimum currents in a shorter deadline.</p>
5	<p>To ensure that animal keepers killing animals that are not productive or unfit for human consumption outside slaughterhouses have an adequate level of competence to do so without causing the animals any avoidable pain, distress or suffering.</p> <p>Recommendation based on conclusion No 55.</p>	<p>In Flanders, Wallonia and the Brussels-Capital Region the animal welfare administration will draw up instructions and recommendations on the killing of animals on</p>	<p>OUT OF SCOPE</p>