



DG Health
and Food Safety

COUNTRY PROFILE

Progress made in the implementation of audit recommendations

Health and
Food Safety

Audit 2014-7059 of 24 November 2014 in order to evaluate the animal welfare controls in place at slaughter and during related operations

| Recommendation | Basis for assessment | Current Status |
|---|---|--------------------|
| | | |
| <p>2014-7059-4 To ensure that waterbath stunning is carried out in accordance with the</p> | <p>This recommendation was based on the conclusion and associated findings regarding the use of lower electrical parameters in waterbath stunning than those required by the Regulation. The CCA instruction provided that ‘due to problems affecting the quality of the carcasses, it is</p> | <p>In Progress</p> |

| Audit 2014-7059 of 24 November 2014 in order to evaluate the animal welfare controls in place at slaughter and during related operations | | |
|---|---|----------------|
| Recommendation | Basis for assessment | Current Status |
| <p>minimum currents laid down in table 2 in point 6(3) of Chapter II of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009.</p> <p>Recommendation based on conclusion No 47. Associated findings No 35 and No 36.</p> <p>Legal basis for this recommendation: Point 6(3) of Chapter II of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009.</p> | <p>provisionally still acceptable to use slightly lower intensities provided that the animals were completely stunned'. This derogation was granted pending the results of a four-year research project being carried out at the University of Ghent on the stunning of poultry and the application of the standards required by the Regulation. The project includes making an inventory of practices in all slaughterhouses.</p> <p>The Belgian response stated that 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 possible irreversibility of the stun. Therefore, 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 the research project which were expected by the end of 2017. When they are available the whole situation would be re-evaluated.</p> <p>A further response in September 2015 stated that the competent authority would enforce the waterbath stunning parameters as required by Regulation 1099/2009. A meeting on the subject with the poultry slaughterhouses was planned for October 2015.</p> <p>In the context of the administrative up-date of the country profile initiated in 2017, the competent authorities provided the following up-dates:</p> <p>Région de Bruxelles Capitale: "The Brussels Region has no poultry slaughterhouse."</p> <p>Vlaamse overheid: "There's a re-evaluation of the situation planned in the beginning of 2018, when the research results become available."</p> <p>Service public de Wallonie: "The situation did not evolve in anticipation of the results of the Ghent study."</p> <p>A further update in September and 2018 provided the following information:</p> <p>Flanders: The results of the study by the University of Ghent became available in June 2018.</p> | |

| Audit 2014-7059 of 24 November 2014 in order to evaluate the animal welfare controls in place at slaughter and during related operations | | |
|--|--|----------------|
| Recommendation | Basis for assessment | Current Status |
| | <p>They indicate that the electrical parameters mentioned in the Regulation 1099/2009 do not lead to significantly more carcass damage, nor to significantly more dead birds when compared to lower parameters. In light of this study, the Flemish government will start to strictly enforce these parameters. A meeting was planned with the slaughterhouse representatives at the end of August 2018.</p> <p>SPW: At first sight the results of the Ghent study are going in the direction of the strict respect of the norms. If this is confirmed after analysis, Wallonia will enforce the waterbath stunning parameters as required by Regulation 1099/2009.</p> <p>In November, 2018 the Flemish CA provided the following additional information:</p> <p>The meeting took place and the sector was informed about the new control policy and the intention to strictly enforce the foreseen parameters. These controls will start on 1/1/2019, in parallel with the new legislation forbidding slaughter without stunning.</p> <p>An update on the implementation of these undertakings will be followed up during Audit 2019-6666 in September, 2019.</p> | |
| | | |