

Advice 14-2011 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC: Meat inspection without incisions for fattening pigs and cattle until the age of eight months (Sci Com 2011/15)

The Scientific Committee has been asked to give an advice on the practical application of meat inspection without incisions (=visual meat inspection) for fattening pigs and cattle until the age of eight months as addressed in the EU Regulation 2074/2005.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the application of meat inspection without incisions is justified from the perspective of food safety. The less sensitive detection of potential lesions at the slaughter line in the case of visual inspection is outweighed by the advantage of reduced cross contamination between carcasses at the slaughter line due to palpation and incision of lymphnode.

Furthermore the Scientific Committee recommends to execute always a complete meat inspection (palpation and incision included) in case of detection of a lesion during visual meat inspection of cattle until the age of eight months.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that a monitoring of zoonotic agents before slaughter is important within the framework of a good surveillance of public health. This monitoring has however no direct implications for the actions that need to be performed during meat inspection.

With regard to the diseases of pigs for which a monitoring before slaughter might be executed, the Scientific Committee joins the scientific opinion of EFSA (2011) which deals with the revision of meat inspection of pigs. This scientific opinion states that *Salmonella* spp., *Yersinia enterocolitica*, *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Trichinella* spp. are the most important zoonotic agents under the current epidemiologic circumstances. The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that at least a monitoring for *Salmonella* spp. should be installed, and therefore it refers to the ongoing dossier Sci Com 2011/05 regarding the evaluation of the *Salmonella* action plan for pigs for which an advice is in preparation. With regard to the monitoring of *Trichinella* spp. it refers to its advice 23-2009.

This advice of the Scientific Committee does not provide a decision regarding the list of diseases for veal calves for which a monitoring should be installed before slaughter. This issue will be addressed in a subsequent advice.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".