

Rapid advice 23-2012 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on the use of lactic acid on bovine carcasses

The Scientific Committee supports the EFSA opinion stating that the use of lactic acid on bovine carcasses in the proposed concentrations is safe. According to the Scientific Committee, the application of good hygienic practices (GHP) and the use of lactic acid cannot be considered as equivalent. The application of GHP is a first essential step for ensuring food safety. The use of lactic acid is but an additional aid that allows for a further reduction of the microorganisms and can definitely not replace GHP. The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that it is not justified to use lactic acid at specific locations in the slaughter line and recommends to apply lactic acid only in automated booths before cooling. If lactic acid is applied at the slaughter line, the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that a reliable sampling is no longer possible to assess the overall carcass hygiene. If it is allowed to let some carcasses pass the slaughter line without the application of lactic acid in order to sample them correctly, this prejudices Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005, since such sampling can no longer take place at random. Finally, the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that it is difficult to lower the microbiological criteria of Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 with only one single factor that represents the expected beneficial effect of the use of lactic acid, with the purpose of giving a similar image of the slaughter hygiene with and without the use of lactic acid.

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