

Animal welfare at slaughter

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[Draft](#) Commission Implementing Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing as regards the authorisation of non-penetrative captive bolt stunning and nitrogen high expansion foam stunning [[download](#)]

What is changing and why?

The European Commission proposes to allow the use of non-penetrative captive bolts as a slaughtering method of:

- piglets up to 5 kg
- lambs and kid goats up to 4.5 kg;

and for stunning before slaughter of:

- piglets between 5 and 10 kg
- lambs and kid goats between 4.5 and 10 kg.

The proposed Regulation sets specific requirements that ensure either death or loss of consciousness of the animal. In particular, it specifies the correct restraining and shooting position of the device on the head of the animal for animal welfare reasons.

Actions

The EU consultation via the [Have your say](#) webpage closed on 8 April 2026.

Timeline

The Regulation is likely to apply from the second quarter of 2026.

For more information see the [full record](#) on the AGRINFO website – where you can also view the latest [AGRINFO Update](#) newsletters and [search](#) the database.

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