Hygiene rules for fresh meat from domestic mammals

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Draft Commission Delegated Regulation amending Annex III to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 as regards hygiene rules on storage conditions of fresh meat of domestic ungulates before freezing

Draft Annex

What is changing and why?

The EU is proposing new hygiene rules for fresh meat from domestic mammals (ungulates) such as cows, pigs, sheep, goats, and horses. The proposal sets more specific time and temperature requirements for storing and transporting meat intended for freezing. Meat must be frozen after slaughter within:

- 6 days if it is stored/transported at a maximum of 7°C
- 14 days if it is stored/transported at a maximum of 3°C.

Other combinations remain possible if the operator can demonstrate to competent authorities the safety of those conditions.

Due to a lack of data, the new rules do not apply to farmed game meat. This meat will still have to be frozen without undue delay, taking into account any stabilisation period before freezing.

Actions

Competent authorities of countries that are members of the World Trade Organization can submit comments on the EU's proposal by emailing the EU SPS Enquiry Point up until **3 November 2026**.

The European Commission has also opened a consultation to all stakeholders via its Have Your Say webpage until **5 October 2026**.

Timeline

The EU intends to adopt the new Regulation in the fourth quarter of 2026. The new requirements are expected to apply from mid-2027.

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