

Meat inspection procedures: incisions, information, and health marks

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Draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down uniform practical arrangements for the performance of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption

What is changing and why?

To reduce the risk of cross-contamination, the EU proposes to change meat inspection rules. The proposed new Regulation states that post-mortem inspections of meat (veal, beef, lamb, sheep, goats, horses, and pigs) should only use the specific incisions and palpations relevant to abnormalities found by inspectors, rather than *all* incisions and palpations.

The farmer's obligation to communicate certain information prior to slaughter is extended to include emergency slaughter, and slaughter on farm.

Following inspections, inspectors must apply health marks to meat to indicate it is fit for consumption. The current rules refer only to meat from slaughterhouses; these rules will be extended to include meat from game-handling establishments.

Actions

Feedback to the WTO closed on 16 February 2025 ([G/SPS/N/EU/803](#)); feedback to the EU's [Have your say](#) webpage closed on 5 February 2025.

Timeline

The Regulation is expected to be adopted in March 2025.

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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