Meat inspection procedures: incisions, information, and health marks

Published by AGRINFO on 11 Jan 2025; Revised 29 Jul 2025

Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/1447 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 European Union (EU) has changed its meat inspection rules. This 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 the abnormalities found by inspectors, rather than *all* incisions and palpations.

The EU has established a system of food chain information exchange between the farmer sending animals to slaughter, the slaughterhouse, and the veterinarian carrying out controls. As changes to hygiene rules in 2024 allowed game-handling establishments to received farmed game slaughtered at origin, this Regulation extends the information requirements for slaughterhouses to include game-handling establishments. The obligation to communicate certain information before 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. This obligation previously applied to slaughterhouses, and is now extended to include meat from game-handling establishments.

Timeline

The revised rules apply from **10 August 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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