Animal Welfare at slaughter of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats

FACT SHEET

Background information

The Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 entered into force in January 1, 2013; this Regulation addresses the killing of animals in slaughterhouses as well as the killing of fur animals, day-old chicks in hatcheries. It also concerns the killing of animals for disease control purposes. The Regulation includes minimising distress and avoiding pain throughout the pre-slaughter and slaughtering processes. It also promotes innovation and it provides a level playing field for operators.

The Regulation in force contains several important changes: among the others, it increases operator responsibility that has to demonstrate compliance with the Regulation by devising, implementing and adhering to a standard operating procedure; it foresees training and research on animal welfare and requires staff handling animals in slaughterhouses to possess a certificate of competence regarding the welfare aspects of their tasks. The Regulation foresees many technical improvements: scope of stunning or killing methods more strictly defined and limits to the use of certain methods established, minimum electrical parameters provided, a number of technical changes addressing the construction, layout and design of slaughterhouses and its equipment foreseen.

The Regulation also requires slaughterhouses in Third Countries exporting meat to the EU to comply with similar standards to those in the regulation.

Objectives

The course is aimed at allowing participants to acquire advanced level knowledge and practical skills on:

- the impact of farming and transport on the welfare conditions of the animals on arrival at the slaughter plant,
- proper pre-slaughter handling, stunning, slaughter and killing of animals;
- animal lairage, housing, handling and assessment of keeping facilities;
- main stunning and killing techniques at slaughter in Europe;
- resource and management – based measures,
✓ welfare indicators for developing monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses for bovines stunned with penetrative captive bolt or slaughtered without stunning,
✓ welfare indicators for developing monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses for pigs stunned with electrical method or carbon dioxide at high concentration,
✓ welfare indicators for developing monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses for sheep and goats stunned with electrical method or slaughtered without stunning,
✓ how to perform inspections and audits on animal welfare at slaughter.

The scientific contents will be mainly focused on the following animal species: cattle, pigs and small ruminants.

Content of the training

The main contents of the training course are listed below:

- Major outcomes from FVO audit reports on animal welfare at slaughter of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats;
- EFSA work on animal welfare at slaughter of cattle, pigs and small ruminants;
- Slaughter of animals: OIE Animal Welfare Standards and perspectives;
- EU and international cooperation on animal welfare.
- Key-actors, their role and interactions: Business Operator, Animal Welfare Officer and Competent Authority;
- Animal welfare at slaughter as last ring of the chain;
- Preparing livestock for slaughter;
- Humane Handling of Livestock; restraint devices; malpractice in immobilisation of livestock;
- Welfare indicators for developing monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses for bovines stunned with penetrative captive bolt or slaughtered without stunning, for pigs stunned with electrical method or carbon dioxide at high concentration, for sheep and goats stunned with electrical method or slaughtered without stunning;
- Good practices to conduct an audit on AW at slaughter.

Targeted audience

Official veterinarians belonging to the NCAs of EU MSs, EFTA, Candidate and Third Countries, involved in official controls on Animal Welfare aspects during the stunning and killing operations at slaughterhouses; development of good practices to improve the implementation of the EU legislation and/or international standards.

Candidate participants have to demonstrate their participation in previous BTSF training course/s on the subject of the course.

Calendar and locations

I edition: 20-23 October 2015, Italy
II edition: 2-5 February 2016, Spain