



EU legislation on the protection of animals at the time of killing

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Introduction

- EU Slaughterhouses
 - 360 Million pigs, cattle, sheep and goats
 - Several billion poultry
- Increasing interest for animal welfare
- Essential component for the consumer
- Directive outdated (1993)

References

- *Council Regulation 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing*
(OJ L 303, 18.11.2009, p. 1)
- Entry into application 1 Jan 2013
- Directive 93/119 still applicable til 2019 for certain aspects



Background

- EFSA opinions (2004-2006)
- OIE guidelines (2005)
- Technological developments
- Hygiene Package (2004)
- Action Plan on the Protection and Welfare of Animals (COM(2006)13)

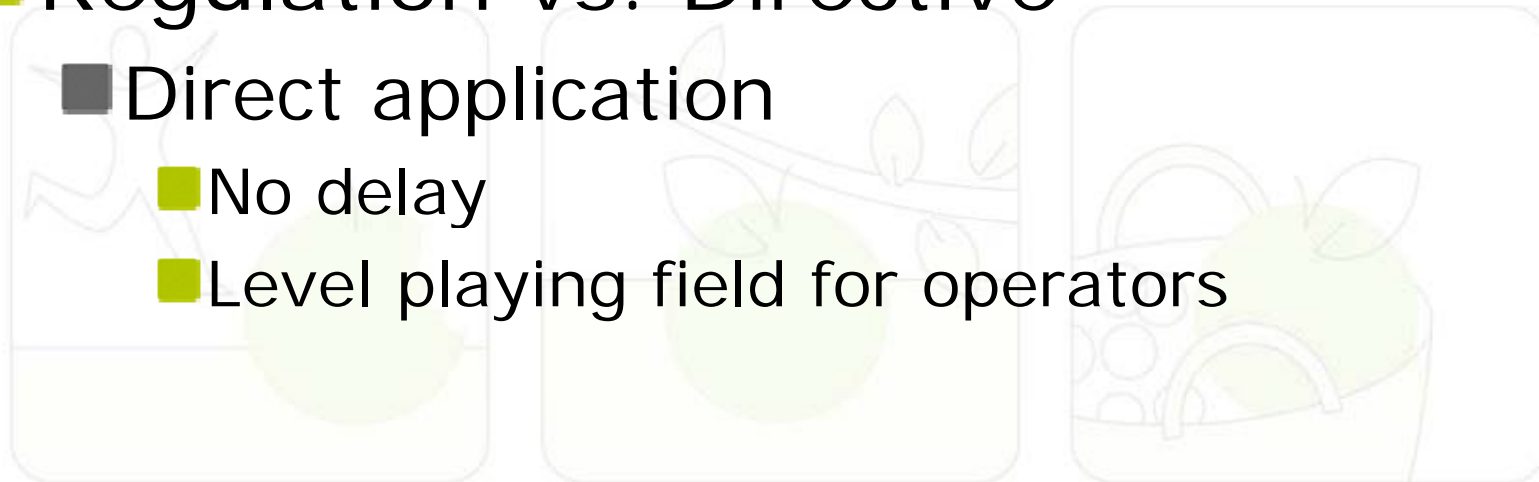
Outline of the new legislation (1)

■ Regulation vs. Directive

■ Direct application

- No delay

- Level playing field for operators



Outline of the new legislation (2)

■ Scope nearly unchanged

- Mainly slaughterhouses but also other cases (depopulation, fur farming)
- Not applicable to hunting, corridas and veterinary practices
- The case of farmed fish



Outline of the new legislation (3)

- Operators to take ownership of animal welfare
 - Standards Operating Procedures
 - Monitoring the effect of stunning on animals
 - Determining key parameters of stunning

Outline of the new legislation (4)

■ Competence of staff

- General obligation
- Certificate of competence
 - For staff in slaughterhouses
 - For fur farmers

■ Stunning and restraining equipments

- Instruction of use and maintenance
- Method for monitoring stunning efficiency on animals



Outline of the new legislation (5)

- List of approved stunning/killing methods
 - More precise definition and requirements
 - Possibly updated through comitology

Outline of the new legislation (6)

■ Slaughterhouses

- Standards on construction, layout and equipment integrated in the approval process
- Animal Welfare Officer
- Standard Operating Procedures
- Monitoring procedure with animal based indicators

Outline of the new legislation (7)

■ Killing for disease control

- Integration of AW plan within contingency plan
- Public reporting
- Possible derogation in case of emergency

Outline of the new legislation (8)

- Scientific support for
 - Approval of slaughterhouses and new stunning methods
 - Manufacturers instructions
 - Guides to good practice
 - Inspection and audits
 - Capacity of training bodies



Outline of the new legislation (9)

■ Stricter national rules

- Can be maintained
- Can be adopted in relation to
 - Ritual slaughter,
 - Farmed games,
 - Killing outside slaughterhouses

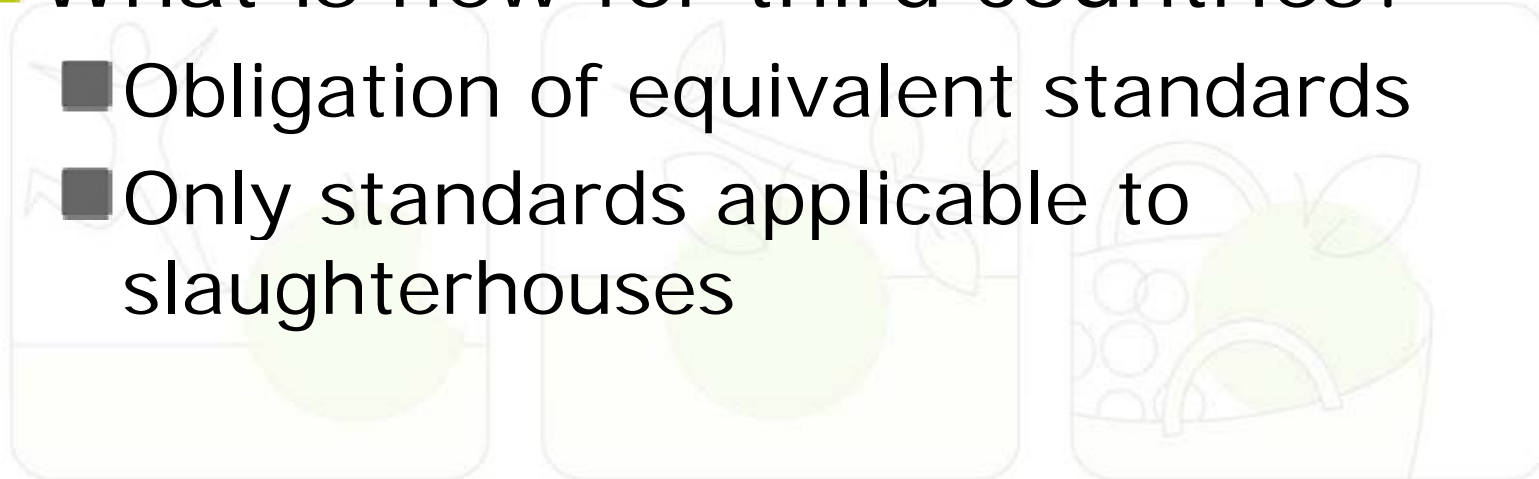


Outline of the new legislation (10)

- Reporting to EP and Council
 - 5 years (Dec 2014) on fish killing
 - 3 years (Dec 2012) on restraining systems for cattle in case of ritual slaughter
 - 4 years (Dec 2013) on stunning methods for poultry

Frequent Questions

- What is new for third countries?
 - Obligation of equivalent standards
 - Only standards applicable to slaughterhouses



Frequent Questions 2

■ Ritual slaughter

- No fundamental change in principle
- Systematic check of loss of consciousness
- Competence of slaughterman
- Mechanical restraint for ruminants and restraining by inversion limited
- Indicators of death before dressing



Conclusion

- New approach in line with the Hygiene Package
 - Flexible on the means
 - Prescriptive on the method
- Policy focused on developing learning mechanisms
 - Certificate of competence and scientific support