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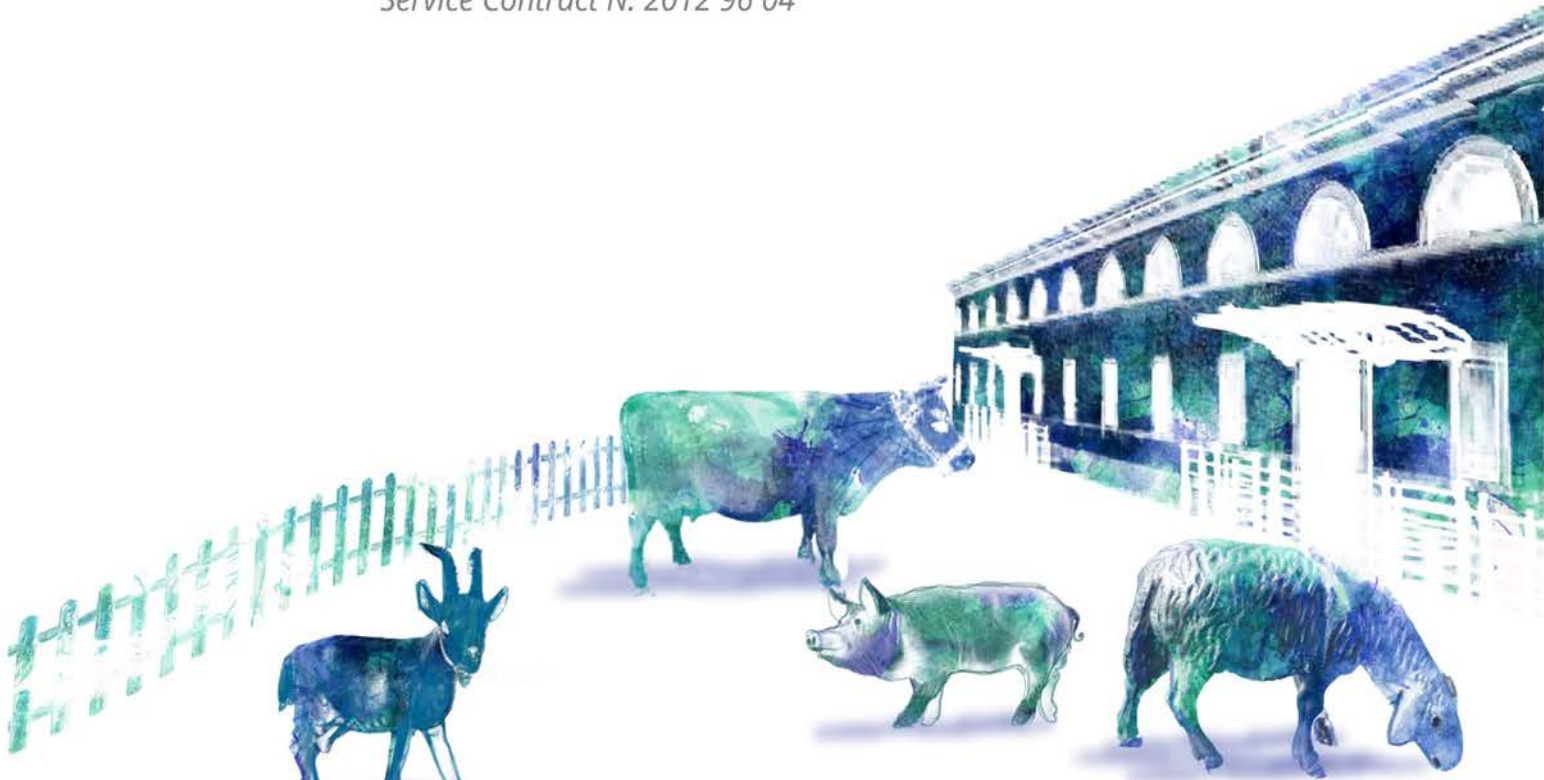
Agenda

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

Barcelona, Spain, 2-5 February 2016

*Training activities on Animal Welfare mainly for EU Member States
under the 'Better Training for Safer Food' Initiative.*

Service Contract N. 2012 96 04



Introduction

The Commission has been developing animal welfare legislation for over 30 years and has been at the forefront of initiatives to promote it internationally by its active participation in, and support for, initiatives of the Council of Europe and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) and in the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).

Animals are recognised as sentient beings by Article 13 of the Treaty on the Functioning of European Union (TFEU). In formulating and implementing the Union's agriculture, fisheries, transport, internal market, research and technological development and space policies, the Union and the Member States shall pay full regard to the welfare requirements of animals.

The European Commission adopted its EU strategy for the protection and welfare of animals 2012-2015 in January 2012. The strategy builds on the experience gained through the 2006-2010 Action Plan to propose lines of EU action for the next four years. This strategy in particular considers enforcement as priority and stresses the importance of training in this regard.

The EU strategy for the Protection and Welfare of animals 2012-2015 includes, as a key objective, support for international cooperation. At international level, the OIE has adopted standards on the protection of animals at the time of killing.

FAO is also working on capacity building on good animal welfare practices which may benefit livestock related livelihood in developing countries.

In this context the EU has actively promoted consideration of animal welfare within the framework of veterinary agreements with other Third Countries trading partners. The Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreement with Chile was the first ever bilateral agreement between the EC and a Third country to include animal welfare within its scope. It was followed by the EC-Canada JMC/Veterinary Agreement.

Furthermore, Cooperation Forums on Animal Welfare were established with New Zealand and Australia. Training in the areas of animal welfare issues is considered an important tool in view of developing best practices and compliance with EU legislation and international standards.

The relevant European context

Every year nearly 360 million pigs, sheep, goats and cattle as well as several billion poultry are killed in EU slaughterhouses. The European fur industry adds another 25 million animals to the figure. Hatcheries kill around 330 million day-old-chicks. The control of contagious diseases may also require the killing of thousands to millions of animals.

Conditions for animals at the time of killing should have considerably improved since January 1, 2013, when the Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 entered into force.

The 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 (as occurred, for example, in the UK for the control of Foot and Mouth Disease).Animal welfare is crucial not only for ethical reasons but also to ensure animal health and the quality of food. The new Regulation makes a real difference to the way animals are treated at the time of slaughter. This 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 new legislation in force contains several important changes, as below described.

- **It is a regulation:** this means that it is directly applicable, with no delays and no room for distortions. It facilitates a harmonised application in the EU and provides a level playing field for the operators concerned.
- **It increases operator responsibility:** each operator has to demonstrate compliance with the Regulation by devising, implementing and adhering to a standard operating procedure. Such methods are not new for slaughterhouse personnel as it is already required and in place for food safety controls (the so-called HACCP system = Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point). It is new to require standardised procedures that address animal welfare. Operators are required to evaluate the efficiency of their stunning method(s) by monitoring animal-based indicators. As a consequence, stunned animals have to be regularly checked to ensure that they do not regain consciousness before slaughter. Each slaughterhouse has to appoint an Animal Welfare Officer, accountable for implementing animal welfare measures. This system does not replace the official system of inspection and controls. There is a derogation for small slaughterhouses. Furthermore, the regulation requires manufacturers of stunning and restraining equipment to provide instructions on the use of their equipment, on how to monitor their efficiency and keep them in good working order.
- **It foresees training and research on animal welfare:** the regulation requires staff handling animals in slaughterhouses to possess a certificate of competence regarding the welfare aspects of their tasks. The certificate is issued following an independent examination set by bodies recognised by the competent authority. The regulation also requires scientific support on animal welfare which is to provide technical assistance for officials working in slaughterhouses. Although research centres exist in many Member States the outputs of their research and their technical competence may not be readily or sufficiently available to official inspectors. This contributes to the difficulties that inspectors encounter in assessing the outcomes of complex stunning systems. The regulation addresses this important issue.
- **It establishes new requirements concerning killing for disease control purposes:** culling animals on a large scale is sometimes the only tool to control highly contagious diseases (such as avian influenza or foot and mouth disease). As this affects public spending (and often the Community budget), the regulation aims at making the competent authority performing such initiatives more accountable for the welfare of the animals culled. In particular, the regulation provides for better planning, supervision and reporting. Use of less humane killing methods is no longer permitted except under exceptional circumstances (such as to protect human health or in case of an uncontrollable animal disease).

- **Updated standards:** the regulation introduces many technical changes. For example, the scope of stunning or killing methods is more strictly defined, and minimum electrical parameters are provided. A number of technical changes address the construction, layout and design of slaughterhouses and its equipment, for example, the lairage facilities or the electrical stunning equipment.
- **The impact on Third Countries:** the regulation requires slaughterhouses in third countries exporting meat to the EU to comply with similar standards to those in the regulation.
- **Costs for companies and Member States:** the Commission has performed an extensive impact assessment in order to evaluate the extent to which the measures affect companies and the Member States. This impact assessment is publicly available. It is based on a specific socio-economic study carried out by an external consultant. In addition, this initial Commission proposal has taken into consideration a large consultation with stakeholders and has been designed to minimise possible costs. For example, the requirement to appoint an Animal Welfare Officer is not obligatory for small slaughterhouses as such a measure would not be proportionate. Other measures have been granted a transitional period for implementation to allow operators or Member States to adapt progressively. This is the case for the standards applicable to the design of slaughterhouse facilities and for the implementation of the certificate of competence required by slaughterhouse staff. However, it should be underlined that a number of measures are already applied by some companies (on a voluntary basis) or by some Member States (as national legislation).
- **Stunning methods:** the regulation does not ban any major method of stunning presently in use. However, it limits the use of certain methods. The new regulation does not ban the use of waterbath stunner for poultry despite its welfare drawbacks. The use of carbon dioxide is still permitted in certain cases despite scientific opinions on its aversiveness for animals. However, the use of carbon dioxide over 40% is not permitted for stunning poultry in slaughterhouses. The reason for maintaining the possibility to use these methods of stunning is the lack of practical alternatives for the current conditions. In the case of the waterbath for poultry, alternatives exist (use of gas) but are presently not developed for the small or medium size slaughterhouses, which represent a considerable number of establishments in Europe. The regulation envisages that the Commission will present a report on the possible alternative for stunning poultry at the latest four years after the entry into force of the regulation. Similarly the use of carbon dioxide is not outlawed at present as there is no commercially viable alternative for certain species like pig or fur animals. In addition, it is still an important technique for the mass killing of poultry in emergency situations.

Specific learning 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
- small ruminants.

Agenda

Scientific Coordinator: **Dr. Antonio Velarde Calvo**

<i>Chairman: S. D'Albenzio</i>					
Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration	
2 February	13.30	Welcome buffet lunch	---	1 h	
	15.00	Welcome addresses	Generalitat de Catalunya delegate	10 m	
	15.10	Better Training for Safer Food presentation	Video presentation	S. D'Albenzio IZSAM	20 m
		Course background, objectives, expected results			
	15.30	Major outcomes from FVO audit reports on animal welfare at slaughter of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats	V. Antunes FVO	30 m	
	16.00	Slaughter of animals: OIE Animal Welfare Standards and perspectives	L. Stuardo OIE	30 m	
	16.30	Animal welfare at slaughter as last ring of the chain: the impact of farming and transport on the welfare conditions of the animals on arrival	D. Pritchard	30 m	
	17.00	Afternoon tea and coffee-break	---	15 m	
	17.15	Panel discussion on the online survey outcomes and relevant case studies presented by course participants Topics: - Interaction among Business Operator, Animal Welfare Officer and Competent Authority - official controls on Animal Welfare at arrival, unloading, lairage, moving the animals to the stunning area	Moderator: D. Pritchard Facilitators: V. Antunes R. Gili Cabanillas A.Velarde	1 h 30 m	
	18.45	End of the session and free time	---	---	
	20.00	Dinner	---	---	

Chairman (morning session): D. Pritchard
 Chairman (afternoon session): P. Dalla Villa

Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
3 February	9.00	Humane Handling of Livestock (principles, flight zone, species behavioural characteristics, stockman skills, equipment etc.)	A. Dalmau	20 m
	9.20	Preparing livestock for slaughter	A. Dalmau	30 m
	9.50	Restraint devices	H. Anil	30 m
	10.20	Malpractice in immobilisation of livestock	H. Anil	20 m
	10.40	Coffee break	---	20 m
	11.10	Group activity: case studies	All tutors facilitate	50 m
	12.00	Presentation of the group activity results: plenary session	Rapporteurs	30 m
	12.30	Welfare indicators for developing monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses for pigs stunned with electrical method or carbon dioxide at high concentration (toolboxes)	A. Velarde	30 m
	13.00	Lunch	---	1 h 15 m
	14.15	Welfare indicators for developing monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses for bovines stunned with penetrative captive bolt or slaughtered without stunning (toolboxes)	B. Lambooj	30 m
	14.45	Welfare indicators for developing monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses for sheep and goats stunned with electrical method or slaughtered without stunning (toolboxes)	A. Velarde	30 m
	15.15	Case studies on monitoring procedures at slaughterhouses presented by course participants	Moderator P. Dalla Villa	30 m
	15.45	Practical cases on official controls at slaughter (presentation and discussion in plenary session)	R. Gili Cabanillas	30 m
	16.15	Coffee break	---	15 m
	16.30	Good practices for official veterinarians to conduct an audit on AW at slaughter of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats	D. Pritchard	30 m
	17.00	Presentation of the slaughterhouses to be visited and the simulation exercise	A. Velarde	15 m
	17.15	Free time	--	2 h 15 m
	19.30	Dinner	--	1 h
	20.30	Free time	--	1 h 30 m
	22.00	Departure to ovine/bovine slaughterhouses and in field simulation exercises (only groups 1 and 2)	Tutors facilitate	2 h
24.00	Departure for the hotel	--	--	

Chairman (afternoon session): H. Anil

Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
4 February	7.30	Departure to pig slaughterhouses and in field simulation exercises (only groups 3 and 4)	Tutors facilitate	3 h 45 m
	11.15	Departure for the hotel	--	1 h
	13.15	Lunch	---	1h 15 m
	14.30	Group activity (groups 1; 2; 3: 4): discussion on the in-field simulation exercise and preparation of the in-field activity reports (ppt presentations)	All tutors facilitate	1 h 45 m
	16.15	Afternoon tea and coffee-break	---	15 m
	16.30	Presentation in plenary session of the in-field activity reports	Working groups rapporteurs	1 h
	17.30	End of the session	---	---
	17.45	Social Programme	---	---
	20.00	Social Dinner	---	---

Chairman: A. Velarde

Day	Time	Activity	Tutor	Duration
5 February	9.00	Relevant case studies presented by course participants	Moderator: A. Velarde	1 h
	10.00	EU and international cooperation on animal welfare	P. Dalla Villa	30 m
	10.30	Discussion forum	Moderator: A. Velarde	30 m
	11.00	Course major outcomes and final conclusions	A. Velarde	15 m
	11.15	Brunch	---	---
	12.00	Transfer from the hotel to the Airport	---	---

Training course methodologies

The course aims at improving participant practical skills to be applied in their daily work. They focus on developing the abilities of participants identifying critical points and solutions to main problems encountered in the everyday work.

Training methodology, drawn upon the experience of the trainees, takes into consideration that the trainee is in most cases already quite informed on the issues related to animal welfare standards.

On the basis of previous DG SANTE experiences and taking into account adult learning styles, the training methodologies will be the following ones:

Methods
Lectures by experts
Group works/facilitated group discussions
Study and discussion of typical cases
Structured exercises and simulations
Individual reading assignments and individual exercise
Demonstrations in field activities

A half-day visit to slaughterhouses will be organised for practicing simulation exercises.

Participants

Official veterinarians belonging to the National Competent Authorities of EU Countries, 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 they apply for.

Location

Hotel Alimara

Berruguete, 126 08035 Barcelona

Tel. 030/9901583

Website: <http://www.alimarahotel.com/en/home>