# Organisation and implementation of official controls on welfare of farmed animals - the example of the Republic of Slovenia

Andreja Bizjak dr. vet.med.

former director of the inspection of the Republic of Slovenia for food safety, veterinary sector and plant protection

# Basic conditions for effective organization and implementation of official controls on welfare of farmed animals

(Content of the presentation)

- 1. National legislation
- 2. IT system and databases
- 3. Plan of official controls
- 4. Trainings, instructions, guidelines, checklists for staff performing official controls and necessary equipment.
- 5. The commitment of the management of the competent authority to the implementation of measures for the protection of animals

## National legislation

The protection of farm animals in the EU is regulated by directives and decisions of the Council and the Commission, therefore their <u>transposition into national</u> <u>legislation</u> is necessary.

### **National legislation:**

- A clearly defined competent authority for the implementation of official control
  in the field of animal welfare with all the necessary empowerments.
- Staff performing official controls must have the empowerment to carry out official controls.
- At the level of the law defined administrative measures that staff performing official controls may use to achieve compliance with regulations and standards.
- Prescribed effective and dissuasive penalties for violators of the law and swift enforcement procedures.

# National legislation: some of the empowerment of staff to carry out official controls in the field of farm animals

- to establish the identity of the animal keeper, if necessary, to photograph or record the violation, and the right to enter business or production premises, as well as vehicles where animals are located or suspected, without prior notice and without the permission of a legal or natural person.
- inspect premises, facilities, equipment, devices, work equipment, goods, substances, business books, contracts, documents and other documents of business operators as well as the state bodies, companies, institutes and other organizations and natural persones;
- review business books, contracts, documents and other documents as well as
  operations and documentation when they are managed and stored on an
  electronic medium and request the production of their written form, which
  must authentically confirm the electronic form,
- to hear parties and witnesses in administrative proceedings,

•

# National legislation: certain administrative measures concerning animal welfare

- to order the rectifying of irregularities within a specified period;
- to order the killing or slaughter of the animal at the expense of the owner, if, in the opinion of the veterinarian, there is irreparable pain or injury;
- temporarily or permanently take away the animal from the owner and forbid the owner any contact whith the animal for the protection of the animal;
- to prohibit the breeding of certain types of animals and the use of production or business premises, if the person has repeated violations;
- prohibit the loading and transport of animals;
- prohibit the slaughter of animals if prescribed stunning is not provided;

•

# IT system and databases (1)

Information from different databases is important for animal welfare risk assessment:

- On the registration of the farm, on the type and number of animals, on the identification of the animals, if they are individually marked;
- On the results of annual visits of agricultural holdings by veterinary practitioners (Veterinarians visit the farm once a year for the purpose of recording animal health and animal welfare issues on the farm, filling out a checklist and submitting data to the information system of the competent authority).
- on the mortality rate of animals on farms: number, type of animals and the proportion of dead animals on the farm.

# IT system and databases (2)

- data on the output of official control on farms;
- data on the output of official control from slaughterhouses: ante and post mortem examination - especially poultry, information on stunning methods;
- data on the output of official control of animal transporters and on transit transport;
- Register of animal transporters, animal dealers and collection centers.
- Register of approved ships for the transport of animals.
- Register of qualified persons for stunning and slaughtering animals.

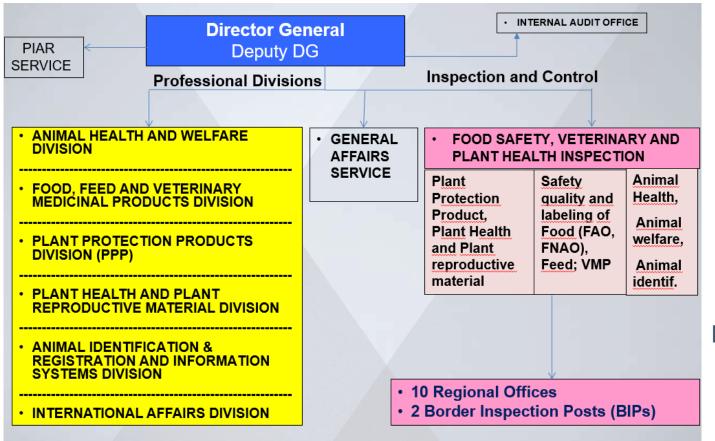
• .....

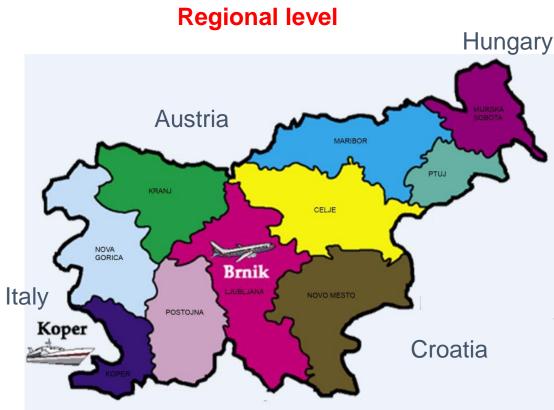
## Plan of official controls

The organizational structure of the competent authority is the basis for the implementation plan of official control for all areas, including animal welfare.

Organisational Structure of Administration of the Republic of Slovenia Food Safety, Veterinary sector and Plant Protection

Central level





### Planning of official control and other official activities - farmed animals

**Central level**: the general plan of regular tasks, to which the minister gives his consent.

- 1. Administrative tasks: description of the tasks to be implemented at the regional level: examples for farm animals
- Registration of transporters and issuance of type 1 and type 2 transport authorisation;
- registration of laying hens' barns;
- registration of collection centers and animal dealers;
- approval of increased population density above 39 to 42 kg/m2 in chicken farms for meat production;

- .....

### 2. Official control (OC) tasks: the following groups of OC tasks are defined:

- Checking conditions on farms where animals are raised (cattle, sheep, goats, ungulates, other poultry and rabbits, as well as wild animals of these species and on the farms);
- Checking the conditions of the farms of laying hens;
- Checking conditions on farms for rearing chickens for meat production;
- Checking the conditions of the farms for pig farming;
- Control of the transport of live animals at the exit point (port of Koper);
- Control of the transport of live animals and animals in transit
- Control over registered animal transporters
- Control of collection centers for animals
- Control of animal welfare in slaughterhouses

### Plan of official controls: Central level - the general plan of regular tasks

For each group of official control tasks, the general plan specifies:

- Legal basis;
- Description of the task;
- Place of performance;
- Staff performing official control;
- Reporting;
- The method of determining the frequency of official controls or the method of selecting farms for control;
- The estimated number of inspections.

# An example: laying hens - general plan

	Task type	Legal basis	Description of the task	Place of execution Staff	Reporting	The method of determining the frequency or the method of selecting farms for control	Estimated number of controls
1	Checking the conditions of the farms of laying hens	Animal Protection Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 38/13)  Regulations on the protection of farmed animals, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 51/10, 70/10, 63/23 and 69/23	The rearing conditions are checked in accordance with the prepared check list and in accordance with the recommendations for the control of laying hens published on the internal portal.  A record with a completed check list is considered for the performance of a regular inspection.	Registered breeding.  Agricultural holdings  The director of the regional office determines the person responsible for the task.	by 31 March, a report for the previous year is sent on the prescribed form from to the email address of the head of the Department for Veterinary Control.	A new four-year cycle 2024 - 2027 of laying hen breeding inspections with an emphasis on the inspection of alternative laying hen breeding.  Inspections may be performed at the same time as salmonella testing.	RO inspects 25% of registered alternative laying hen farms and all farms with identified non-compliances in 2023.

### An example: chickens for meat production - general plan

	Allexal
ŀ	Control of compliance with the conditions for rearing chickens for meat production

Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 38/13)

**Regulations on** the protection of farmed animals, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 51/10, 70/10, 63/23 and 69/23

Animal Protection | It is checked: rearing conditions in accordance with the **prepared check** list, and in accordance with the recommendations for

the implementation of control of the protection of broiler chickens published on the internal portal.

Inspections are carried out in the final phase of rearing (up to 10 days before the facility is emptied).

Barns on farms.

The director determines the person responsible for the task.

By March 31, a report for the previous year must be sent on the prescribed form from to the email address of the head of the Department for Veterinary Control.

All farms with a density of over 39 kg/m2.

For farms with a stocking density below 39 kg/m2, 20% of farms are inspected according to the following criteria:

- increased production with the same installation capacities,
- farms that have shorter breaks between moving in:
- which were not reviewed in the period 2020-2023.

The data is collected at the RU.

**Additional inspections** based on data (or feedback) on postmortem inspections in slaughterhouses.

The number of farms and stables where the populat density is below 39 kg/m<sup>2</sup>

RU	No. of farms
CE	44
KP	5
KR	2
LJ	2
MB	74
MS	35
NG	13
NM <sup>1</sup>	2
AFTER	20
PT	90

### An example: conditions for rearing on farms animal - general plan

Control over the fulfillment of conditions for rearing on animal farms (adult cattle, small animals, ungulates. other poultry and rabbits. as well as wild animals of these species and wild ruminants bred on the property)

Animal
Protection Act
(Official Gazette
of the Republic of
Slovenia, No.
38/13)

Regulations on the protection of farmed animals, Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 51/10, 70/10, 63/23 and 69/23 Requirements for staff, animal inspections, record keeping, freedom of movement, facilities and accommodation, automatic or mechanical equipment, feed, water and husbandry procedures are checked.

A regular inspection is considered to be an onfarm inspection, including a check of the data in the applications (VOLOS, EPI...)

Imposition of measures in the event of identified irregularities with escalation.

Agricultural holdings.

The director determines the person responsible for the task.

By March 31, a report for the previous year is sent on the prescribed form to the email address of the head of the Department for Veterinary Control.

3% of registered agricultural holdings according to the program prepared by the RU director based on the risk assessment:

- -irregularities identified in the previous year;
- the number of all animals on the farm;
- -the number of deaths on the farm;
- -irregularities found during official veterinary inspections of holdings by authorized veterinarians (EPI notification);
- -feedback from slaughterhouses;



pogini analiza.xlsx

Number of registered agricultural holdings

DII | 14/ II (

RU	Well. farm
CE	19,569
KR	10,456
KP	6,703
LJ	21,543
MB	18,349
MS	20,397
NG	6,564
NM	19,342
AFTE R	7,587
PT	14,574

# Plan of official controls: Regional level

For each group of tasks/official controls from the general plan, the following is determined at the regional level:

- determination of concrete farms, transporters, collection centers ..... where official control will be carried out;
- assigning control to an official;
- implementation schedule.

In addition to regular/planned control tasks, at the regional level also perform unplanned - extraordinary control tasks, which represent approximately 30% of the tasks in the field of animal welfare.

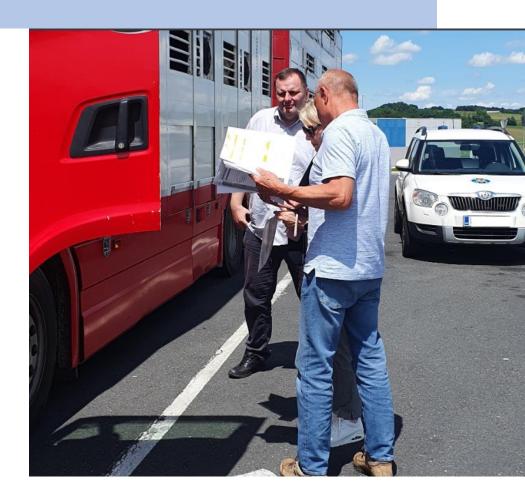
- reports from citizens, veterinarians or other institutions about the inappropriate condition of animals;
- reports from slaughterhouses;
- emergency situations.

# Trainings, instructions, guidelines, checklists for staff performing official controls and necessary equipment — the key elements for the successful implementation of controls

The trainings are specialized for individual groups of official control tasks;

Where possible, officials are specialized in carrying out a specific group of official controls;

Special feature: **a mobile unit** of official veterinarians who control the conditions of animal transport, especially on highways. They have special powers to stop trucks transporting animals.



# An example: laying hens

Training with practical measurement of enriched cages and calculation of certain parameters, parameters in stable rearing (especially the length of the corresponding shafts), laying period and interpretation of the provisions of national legislation.

Written instructions and checklists are prepared.



PROTECTION OF LAYING HENS IN BREEDING SUPERVISION RECOMMENDATIONS

$\sim$ 1		$\frown$			
	11		N	IST	

for carrying out inspections of holdings where they breedlaying hens in accordance with the Animal Protection Ac (Ur.I.RS 38/13, UPB-3) and with the Regulations on the protection of farmed animals (Ur.I.RS 51/2010, 70/2010)VERSION6, valid from 1/1/2020

SKRBNIK ŽIVALI (ime in priimek, naslov, ime nosilca dejavnosti)	Register number:
	NO.of animals:
	TYPE OF BREEDING :

Α	GENERAL PART
A	GENERAL PART
A.1	Staff
A.1.1	The animal keeper is responsible for the welfare of the animal. Animals are cared for by a suitable number of people with appropriate knowledge, training and a responsible attitude
A.2	Inspections C+CO O
A.2.1	Conditions for all necessary inspections are ensured, including sufficient lighting of the facili so that animals can be inspected at all times. (Art. 5)
A.2.2	All farmed animals in intensive farming are under the regular supervision of caretakers at least once a day. The animal keeper ensures regular checks on the animal's health and welfare so often that unnecessary suffering is avoided. (Art. 8 ZZŽiv)
A.2.3	Sick, injured and incapacitated animals are immediately cared for properly, so that unnecessary suffering is prevented. The animal keeper requests veterinary assistance and care for sick or injured animals in a timely manner, veterinary assistance in childbirth when necessary, and appropriate care for sick, injured and disabled animals. (Art. 8 ZZŽiv, Art. 6/
A.2.4	Adequate separate accommodation of sick, injured and disabled animals is ensured in suitable rooms with dry and comfortable bedding. (Art. 6/2)
A.3	Record keeping
A.3.1	The keeper of animals on the farm keeps records of deaths, which contain at least the date

	Preface		_	
	Introduction			
	l Minimum requirements for the protection of laying hens		6	
	III.1 Staff			
	III.2 Inspections	7		
	III.3 Handling of sick, injured or disabled animals 8			
	III.4 Record keeping	9		
	III.5 Freedom of movement		10	
	III.6 Facilities and environment	1	1	
	III.6.1 Ventilation, temperature	11		
	III.6.2 Lighting			
	III.6.3 Flooring	12		
	III.6.4 Noise			
	III.7 Automatic or mechanical equipment	13	3	
	III.8 Feed, water and other substances		14	
	III.9 Facilities and premises for accommodation		15	
	III.9.1 Alternative breeding systems		16	
	III.9.2 Non-enriched cages - battery rearing			
	III.9.3 Enriched cages	20		
	III.10 Mutilations	21		
	/ Breeding registration procedure		22	
V				
	IV.1 Procedure for registration of organic preeding of laving nens			
	IV.1 Procedure for registration of organic breeding of laying hens IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for			
	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedir	ng of laying hens -	
	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for	the breedir	ng of laying hens - 23	2
F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedir  it of prescr	ng of laying hens - 23	2
F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedir t of prescr 26	ng of laying hens - 23	2
F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedin t of prescr 26 27	ng of laying hens - 23	2
F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedin t of prescr 26 27	ng of laying hens - 23	1
F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedir 26 27 27	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	1
F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedin 	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	1
F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedir	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breeding to of prescripts of prescripts of prescripts of prescripts of the presc	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breeding the prescript of p	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breeding to of prescripts of prescripts of prescripts of prescripts of the presc	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedin	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
•	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedir	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
· F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedir	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
'	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedin	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
· F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedin	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
· •	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedir	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
1	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedin	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
· F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedin	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedin	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
· F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedin	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
· F	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedin	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	2
1	IV.2 The procedure for entering the farm into the register of barns for APPLICATION "TURNS"	the breedin	ng of laying hens - 23 ribed conditions	

# Content of written instructions

# An example: laying hens in enriched cages

regarding the ctipulation on the clope of the cage

regarding the stipulation on the height of the cage the prescribed provisions regarding claw wear devices to the prescribed provisions regarding the nest

to the prescribed provisions regarding the number of power supplies

to the prescribed provisions regarding the browsing area (flooring)

DA LI NE!

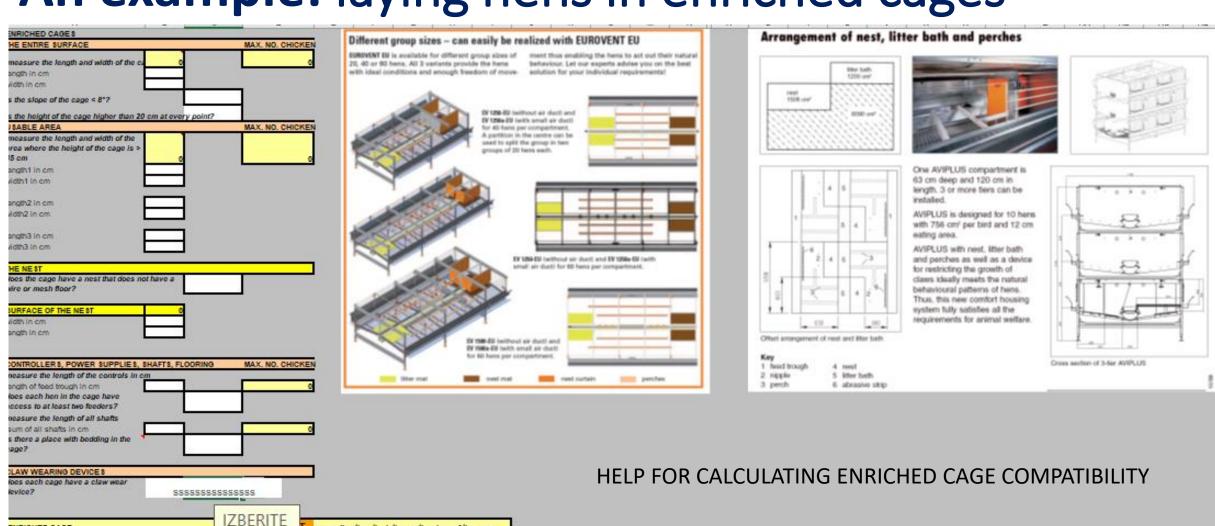
CORRECT

CORRECT

LAYING HENS

ENRICHED CAGE

UNDER MEASURED CONDITIONS, THE CAGE IS SUITABLE FOR



# An example: chickens for meat production

Trainings: - for the control of chickens during breeding;

- for the control of chickens in the slaughterhouse (transportation, handling during unloading, stunning, slaughtering);

### I. during breeding

Written **instructions** and **checklists** are prepared.



PROTECTION OF CHICKENS FOR PROCUREMENT

MEAT

SUPERVISION RECOMMENDATIONS

	CHEC	CKLIST		
, ,	8/13, UPB-3) and the Regulations on the Protection of	ns for meat production in accordance with the Animal Protection Ac Farmed Animals (Ur.I.RS 51/2010, 70/2010)VERSION 5, valid from 12/2017		
IIMAL kee siness op	per (first and last name, address, name of erator)	No of animals:	Ī	_
GISTRAT	ION NUMBER or KMG-MID	The age of the flock:		
		Usable area:m2/m2	┸	
Α	GENERAL PART		1	
A.1	Staff		F	-
A.1.1		are of the animal. Animals are cared for by an appropriate training and a responsible attitude towards animals	Ī	
A.1.2	Animal caretakers must be qualified to perform training or proof of qualification (Art. 53/1)	m their duties and have a valid certificate of completed		
A.2	Inspections		T	
A.2.1	The conditions for all necessary inspections a that animals can be inspected at any time (Art	re ensured, including sufficient lighting of the building, so t. 5).		
A.2.2	All farm animals are under the regular supervis	sion of caretakers at least once a day (Article 8 ZZŽiv).	Ī	۰
A.2.3	suffering is prevented. The animal keeper requanimals in a timely manner, veterinary assistantick, injured and disabled animals (Art. 6/1)	nmediately cared for properly, so that unnecessary uests veterinary assistance and care for sick or injured nce in childbirth when necessary, and appropriate care for injured and disabled animals in suitable rooms with dry and		
A.2.4	comfortable bedding is ensured (Art. 6/2).	gureu anu uisabieu ariimais in sultable rooms with dry and	L	_
A.3	Record keeping			
A.3.1	· ·	ords of deaths, which contain at least the date of inspection dead animals. The custodian keeps the records for at	L	
A.4	Freedom of movement		T	
A.4.1		t appropriate to their species, breed, age, stage of hich prevents unnecessary suffering or injury to animals	Ī	•
A.4.2	If the animal is permanently or regularly tied of physiological and ethological needs (Art. 8/2).	or confined, it has enough space in accordance with its		

## Written instructions

### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

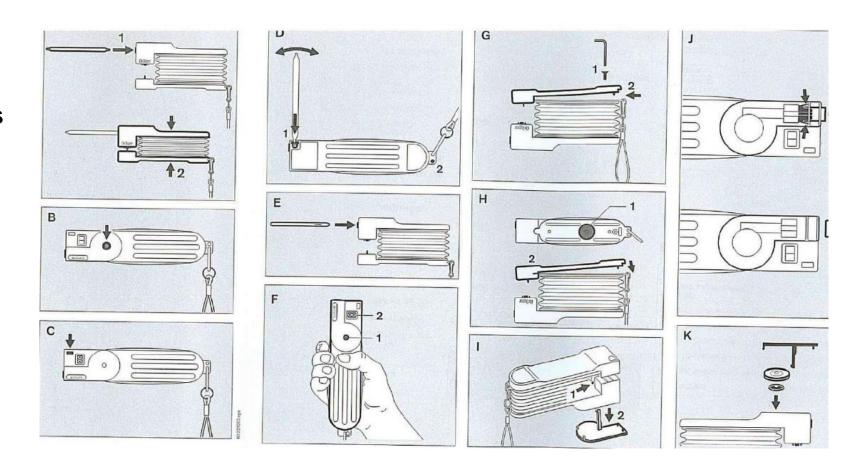
I Content and Scope

Il Recommendations for the implementation of control over the fulfillment of prescribed conditions

II.1 Implementation of control

II.2 Recommended control standards

II.3 Instructions for use of the hand pump and test tubes for measuring CO2 and NH3



## II. Control of chickens in the slaughterhouse

### Written instructions and checklists are prepared

A risk-based matrix to assis	t competent authorities and official veterinarians in prioritizing and	planning official animal welfare controls during trans	port of poultry for slaughter.	Ann	nex 2	_
Responsibility1	The biggest risks identified	Possible negative consequences and symptoms	Source of information	l understand goodness	References and on legal basis from	
	Predicted (weather forecasts) or actual extreme weather conditions (severe heat, extreme cold, floods, snow, storms, etc.)  Ignoring meteorological forecasts in the operator's standard operating procedure, which covers year-round variable weather conditions (extraordinary events) and preventive measures for an appropriate change in animal density, and/or inadequate changes or lack of changes in tarpaulin configuration, etc.	Greater heat stress*, suffering, greater mortality	Reliable meteorological sources Standard operating procedures of the operator		Addenies 7	
Caretaker Carrier Activity holder (planner/ organizer or)	The heat High heat stress involving high temperatures and humidity, for example container temperatures exceeding 24°C (assuming a relative humidity of at least 70%)	Risk of occurrence of hypothermia* and hyperthermia (paradoxical heat stress), external driving length* ### ################################	Transportation standard operating procedures or contingency plans		laughter)VERSION 2, valid from	
or)	Cold  Low ambient temperature and high air velocity (which is exacerbated if the birds are wet). Poor ventilation - inadequate distribution of air flow.  Temperature in the container (paradoxical heat stress) above 24 °C (when the relative humidity is at least 70 percent) resulting from inadequate use of tarpaulins.  For excluded laying hens, an outdoor temperature below 15 °C* can cause heat stress in passively ventilated open vehicles	* Refers to background information on page 9 on the potential impact of poor animal welfare conditions during transport on meat quality results.	temporary acco  1. Equipment  1.1. Equipment and device  1.2. Bridges, ramps and cr  1.3. Exit or entrance ramps  2. UNLOADING  2.1. Animals are unloaded adverse weather effects ar  2.2. Animals that are not savailable for watering from  2.3. Separation of animals  2.4. If the animals have be  3. PUSHING  3.1. The correct use of tre	es for unloading with a non- rossings with side guards is have the smallest possible it immediately upon arrival; and have adequate ventilation laughtered immediately up appropriate watering device that could injure each othe en exposed to high temper- taction devices they are used or to the could injure to the could be supposed to the could be	Region  D TEMPORARY PL  slip surface e slope if the delay is unavoidable, the non arrival at the slaughterhouses, or due to different species, seatures in humid weather, the	he animals are protected from use have water constantly ex, age or origin y should be cooled appropriately of the body in adult cattle and pics -

There are a number of legal obligations that one or more of the responsible persons listed below must meet when transporting poultry for slaughter. Different responsibilities apply at different stages throughout the document.

3.2. Animalsno raises the head, horns, ears, legs or tails

3.3. Animalsno he grabs his eyes, wags his tail, kicks and punches

. ------

#### Post-mortem examination to detect bleeding

#### Annex 6



This photo shows the difference between damage caused during processing, on the left, and damage caused during

by catching/carrying, on the right.

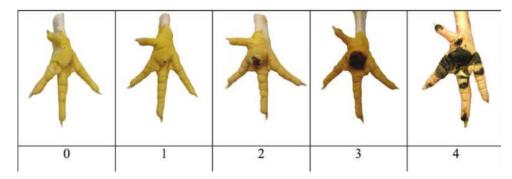
Small bright red hematomas are fresh (formed less than 1 minute ago) and occur during stunning (stunned animals) or handling (eg plucking)

#### Bleeding

during catching/transportation



Bleeding occurs during catching,
transport and, where appropriate, tilting of
birds and movement of live birds on
conveyor belts. Haemorrhages
considered hunting injuries are dark red in
color and large, diffuse and larger than 3
cm on the wings, legs or body. Small
bleedings (+1 cm) that are dark red in color
usually occur in the slaughterhouse during
unloading, attachment to hangers and



Scoring scale for pododermatitis (i.e., footpad disease) in broiler chickens.
Official veterinarians in the slaughterhouse check the dermatitis rate of the first 400 chickens in each flock.
Feedback to the officials where the stable is located to check the quality of the bedding.

# The commitment of the management of the competent authority to the implementation of measures for the protection of animals

The implementation of measures in the field of animal welfare can be an economic loss for irresponsible operators (closure of the slaughterhouse, seizure of animals during transport...).

The management of the competent authority never interferes with the procedures of official veterinarians - there is always the possibility of a judicial hearing of the case.

The management of the competent authority implements campaigns to raise public awareness about animal welfare

My animal my responsibility.



Thank you for your attention