



FEDERAL AGENCY FOR THE SAFETY OF THE FOOD CHAIN (AFSCA)

Laboratories Administration

Note intended for the approved laboratories

OFFICE CIRCULAR

Date : 29/11/2012
No BP/LABO/96403

Subject:

bacteriological testing of meat and testing for the detection of residues of substances with a bacteriostatic effect performed in relation to the Royal decree of 22 December 2005

Annexes : 1

Following our request, the Scientific Committee delivered an opinion on the bacteriological testing of meat and the testing for the detection of residues of substances with a bacteriostatic effect for emergency slaughters or other slaughter when appropriate. You will find this opinion (No 25-2012) annexed to this note.

Bacteriological testing of meat and the analysis of residues in kidneys are provided for in legislation in the case of emergency slaughter and in the presence of other indications as mentioned in article 8, § 1, 1° et 2° of the Royal decree of 22 December 2005 laying down additional measures on the organization of the official controls of products of animal origin intended for human consumption.

Currently, the testing for residues of substances with a bacteriostatic effect during the inspection of domestic hoofed animals that have undergone emergency slaughter is done by means of a kidney test as provided for in the Ministerial decree of 18 December 1973 determining the laboratory techniques to be used for the detection of residues of substances with a bacteriostatic effect, amended by the Ministerial decree of 19 June 1995. That Ministerial decree is now being amended because the detection limit of the current kidney test is not low enough for certain classes of antibiotics.

The aim of this office circular is, on the one hand, to describe the bacteriological tests that must be performed within the context of article 8, § 1, 1° and 2° of the abovementioned Royal decree of 22 December 2005, in particular as part of the tests performed within the context of the inspection and counter-inspection of meat of domestic hoofed animals, at the request of the veterinarians on assignment of the FASFC or of the owners of the product and, on the other hand, to give instructions for the testing on residues of substances with a bacteriostatic effect, awaiting the amended version of the abovementioned Ministerial decree of 18 December 1973.

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1. Bacteriological testing of meat

1.1. Analyses and analysis methods

Since the total anaerobic count within the context of bacteriological testing of meat is of little interest, the bacteriological testing of meat will, **as of 1 January 2013**, consist of a count of the total number of aerobic colonies and of *E. coli* in muscles as well as of the detection of *Salmonella* in 20 g of muscle and 5 g of spleen.

The analysis methods to be used within that context are either the ISO methods referred to in Regulation (EC) No 2073/2005 on microbiological criteria for foodstuffs or those mentioned in the list of microbiological methods approved by the Agency, which is available on the website of the Agency www.afsca.be > [business sectors](#) > [laboratories](#) > [approved laboratories](#) > [office circulars](#)

1.2. Criteria

Total aerobic count : < 100 cfu/g

E. coli : < 10 cfu/g

Salmonella : absence in 25 g

2. Testing for residues of substances with a bacteriostatic effect

Awaiting the publication of a new Ministerial decree amending the abovementioned Ministerial decree of 18 December 1973, the ILVO will supply the reference material as mentioned in that decree, as of 1 January 2013.

The price is set at € 11 (amount liable to indexation) per standard for 10 antibiotic disks. These disks will be manufactured and tested every two months by the ILVO-T&V. Laboratories that wish to buy these disks must inform the ILVO T&V (sigrid.ooghe@ilvo.vlaanderen.be and wim.reybroeck@ilvo.vlaanderen.be) no later than the 15th of every odd month (15 January, 15 March, ...) of the number of disks they want to order.

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