

Advice 01-2008 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC: declaration of food chain information to the slaughterhouse by holders of veal calves and horses.

The Scientific Committee was asked to provide an advice on the declaration of food chain information which has to be communicated by holders of veal calves and horses to the slaughterhouse, in order to guarantee the safety of the food chain. This information concerns mainly diseases, disorders (chemical contaminations included), clinical signs, mortality and morbidity, veterinary drug use and the relevant period of life of the animals to which these data have to be related.

The main food-borne zoonotic diseases, disorders and clinical signs concerning these two animal species are listed in the opinion.

Concerning the veal calves, the Scientific Committee is of opinion that declaration has to be done of a mortality rate above 3% and, in regard to morbidity, of each disease or disorder which has required a group treatment. Declarations have to cover the complete fattening period of the production batch, including data related to veterinary drug treatments.

The equine sector is characterised by certain specificities which are taken into account in the opinion (animals kept individually; frequent change of ownership before slaughter; prior decision about the status of the slaughter animal at the time of electronic identification (chip); unforeseeable age and time of slaughter, etc.). The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the data concerning diseases and the use of veterinary drugs have to include the entire lifespan of the horses, principally because the time of slaughter is generally not known in advance. It is also recommended that production data, such as the reason for slaughtering or an eventual stay abroad or in a group of animals, are declared in order to allow a targeted expertise at slaughter.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".