

Advice 03-2009 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC in regard to the declaration of food chain information to the slaughterhouse by farmers about cattle older than 12 months and about sheep and/or goats, in order to guarantee the food safety.

The Scientific Committee established lists of clinical signs, disorders and diseases transmissible to humans via consumption of meat. Concerning the protection of public health, the Committee is of the opinion that it is important that all available information related to the mentioned zoonoses is declared to the slaughterhouse.

In regard to cattle older than 12 months, the Scientific Committee recommends the notification of :

- diseases and mortality concerning either the animal or the group of animals (in case of an individual slaughtering or slaughtering in group), or all the animals of the production batch (case of slaughtering of a batch), as well as concerning the animals of the exploitation of origin. In regard to nervous signs, each case has to be reported. In regard to the other diseases and to the mortality, a threshold value can be used, to be decided by the veterinarian in charge of the epidemiosurveillance of the exploitation. The declaration of this information has to concern the entire lifespan of the animals, due to the existence of persisting diseases. The veterinarian in charge of the epidemiosurveillance of the exploitation is the best placed to transmit this information;
- information contained in registers of veterinary drug use, in documents of administration and supply and in attestations of ongoing treatments, covering a minimal period of 28 days before slaughtering ;
- production data such as the reason for slaughtering (in case of individual slaughtering), abortions, production losses, etc.

In regard to sheep and goats, the Scientific Committee recommends the notification of:

- disorders or diseases concerning either the animal (in case of individual slaughtering), or all the animals of the production batch (in case of the slaughtering of a batch), as well as the animals of the exploitation of origin;
- mortality rates above 3% covering the entire period of fattening and covering all the animals of the production batch;
- any disease or disorder which has required a curative group treatment covering the entire fattening period (in case of slaughtering in batches) or in regard to all the diseases from which the animal has suffered during his entire life (in case of individual slaughtering);
- information contained in registers of veterinary drug use, in documents of administration and supply and in attestations of ongoing treatments, covering a minimal period of 28 days before slaughtering ;
- production data such as the reason for slaughtering (in case of individual slaughtering), abortions, production losses, etc.

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