

Advice 25-2012 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on bacteriological and antimicrobial residue examination of meat at emergency slaughter and at routine slaughtering when indicated

The Scientific Committee of the FASFC has formulated an answer on the raised questions regarding the bacteriological and antimicrobial residue examination of meat at emergency slaughter. The Scientific Committee has extended the scope of its advice to all cases for which a bacteriological and antimicrobial residue examination of meat has to be executed according to the royal decree of 22th December 2005.

Based on expert opinion and on the evaluation of results of performed analyses, the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that determination of total anaerobic germ count has little added value in regard to bacteriological examination of meat. The Committee therefore proposes to no longer execute the determination of total anaerobic germ count. The determination of total aerobic germ count, *E. coli* count and *Salmonella* detection on the other hand needs to be maintained.

The Scientific Committee recommends to base the methods of analysis for total aerobic plate count, *E. coli* count and *Salmonella* detection on the respective ISO methods as mentioned in Regulation (EC) N° 2073/2005 or on the respective methods as mentioned in the list with by the FASFC approved methods.

Based on expert opinion and on the evaluation of the results of performed analyses, the Scientific Committee proposes to lower the criterion for carcass condemnation in regard to total aerobic plate count from 500 cfu/g to 100 cfu/g. Furthermore the Committee proposes to set the criterion for carcass condemnation in regard to *E. coli* count on 10 cfu/g. Finally the criterion for *Salmonella* can remain unchanged: absence in 25 g.

Regarding the detection of antimicrobial residues, the Scientific Committee compared the available tests on their limits of detection for the most important families of antimicrobials, their ease of use and duration. This should allow the FASFC to select an appropriate test for the replacement of the current renal test.

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