

Advice 20-2017 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC on a draft royal decree on frequencies of inspections requiring the presence of an officer of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain in meat and fish sector establishments

Background & Terms of reference

Following the revision of frequencies of inspections requiring the presence of an officer of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain in meat and fish sector establishments, the Scientific Committee is requested to evaluate a new draft royal decree amending the previous ones (royal decrees of 23 December 2008 and 22 December 2005).

Methodology

The advice is based on an analysis of the results of inspections performed between 2011 and 2016 in the different types of facilities of the food chain.

Results and conclusions

The analysis showed that there is currently no deterioration of inspection results in sectors affected by frequency changes, except in 'rabbit cutting plants', 'stomach, gut and bladder plants' and 'wild game facilities' facilities. Accordingly, the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that a modification in inspection frequencies can be justified. However, it is important that the effects of the lowered inspection frequency are assessed at posteriori. To this end, it is recommended to develop relevant indicators which are yearly followed up especially with the above-mentioned operators whose results were less favorable. Additional arguments supporting the proposed change in inspection frequency are also given in this advice.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french.