Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1375 of 10 August 2015 laying down specific rules on official controls for Trichinella in meat (Codification) (Text with EEA relevance)

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laying down specific rules on official controls for *Trichinella* in meat

(Codification)

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 laying down specific rules for the organisation of official controls on products of animal origin intended for human consumption[(1)], and in particular points 9 and 10 of Article 18 thereof,

Whereas:

(1) Commission Regulation (EC) No 2075/2005[(2)] has been substantially amended several times[(3)]. In the interests of clarity and rationality that Regulation should be codified.

(2) Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council[(4)], Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 and Regulation (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council[(5)] lay down the health rules and requirements regarding food of animal origin and the official controls required.

(3) In addition to those rules, more specific requirements should be laid down for *Trichinella*. Meat of domestic swine, wild boar, horses and other animal species may be infested with nematodes of the genus *Trichinella.* Consumption of meat infested with *Trichinella* can cause serious disease in humans. Measures should be put in place to prevent human disease caused by the consumption of meat infested with *Trichinella*.

(4) This Regulation should lay down rules for the sampling of carcasses of species susceptible to *Trichinella* infection, for the determination of the status of holdings and compartments and conditions for the import of meat into the Union. It should also provide for reference methods and equivalent methods for the detection of *Trichinella* in samples of carcasses.

(5) In order to facilitate the operation of cutting premises, the provision that allows the cutting of carcasses of domestic swine under certain conditions pending the results of the *Trichinella* examination, should also apply to horses under the same conditions.

(6) On 22 November 2001, the Scientific Committee on Veterinary Measures relating to Public Health adopted an opinion on trichinellosis, epidemiology, methods of detection

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and *Trichinella*-free pig production. On 1 December 2004, the Scientific Panel on Biological Hazards (Biohaz) of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) adopted an opinion on the suitability and details of freezing methods to allow human consumption of meat infected with *Trichinella* or *Cysticercus*. On 9 and 10 March 2005, Biohaz adopted an opinion on risk assessment of a revised inspection of slaughter animals in areas with low prevalence of *Trichinella.*

(7) On 3 October 2011, EFSA adopted a Scientific Opinion on the public health hazards to be covered by inspection of meat (swine)[(6)]. In that opinion, EFSA identified *Trichinella* as a medium risk for public health related to the consumption of pig meat and concludes that with respect to inspection methods for biological hazards, a pork carcass safety assurance, with a range of preventive measures and controls applied both on-farm and at slaughterhouse in an integrated way is the only way to ensure an effective control of the main hazards.

(8) EFSA identified certain epidemiological indicators in relation to *Trichinella*. Depending on the purpose and the epidemiological situation of the country, the indicators may be applied at national, regional, slaughterhouse or holding level.

(9) EFSA recognises the sporadic presence of *Trichinella* in the Union, mainly in free-ranging and backyard pigs. EFSA also identified that the type of production system is the single main risk factor for *Trichinella* infections. In addition, available data demonstrate that the risk of *Trichinella* infection in pigs from officially recognised controlled housing conditions is negligible.

(10) A negligible risk status for a country or region is no longer recognised in an international context by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). Instead, such recognition is linked to compartments of one or more holdings applying specific controlled housing conditions.

(11) In order to enhance the control system in accordance with the actual public health risks, the *Trichinella* risk mitigation measures, including import conditions, at slaughterhouses and the conditions for determination of the *Trichinella* infection status of countries, regions or holdings should be laid down taking into account, inter alia, international standards.

(12) In 2011, Belgium and Denmark notified a *Trichinella* negligible risk for their territory in accordance with Regulation (EC) No 2075/2005. Such negligible risk status for a country or region is, however, no longer recognised. Nevertheless, holdings and compartments in Belgium and Denmark complying with the conditions for controlled housing on 1 June 2014 should be allowed to apply the derogation for such holdings and compartments without additional prerequisites such as further requirements of post-official recognition by the competent authority.

(13) It should be provided that the operators must ensure that dead animals are collected, identified and transported without undue delay in accordance with Articles 21 and 22 of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council[(7)] and with Annex VIII to Commission Regulation (EU) No 142/2011[(8)].

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(14) The number of cases (imported and autochthonous) of *Trichinella* in humans, including epidemiological data, should be reported in accordance with Commission Decision 2000/96/EC[(9)].

(15) Information on the official recognition of the holding of origin as applying controlled housing conditions should be included by an official veterinarian in the animal health certificates provided for in Council Directive 64/432/EEC[(10)] as regards intra-Union trade in swine and in Commission Regulation (EU) No 206/2010[(11)] as regards imports into the Union of domestic swine from third countries in order to enable Member States to apply the appropriate *Trichinella* testing regime at slaughter and not to jeopardise the status of the holding of destination of swine for breeding or production.

(16) In order to ensure the correct application of this Regulation, third countries exporting domestic swine or meat thereof, should be listed in the relevant acts on import conditions if they apply the derogations on *Trichinella* sampling of domestic swine and if holdings or compartments are officially recognised as applying controlled housing conditions.

(17) The public health attestation of the *Trichinella* examination should be included in the veterinary certificates accompanying fresh meat in accordance with Regulation (EU) No 206/2010, meat preparations in accordance with Commission Decision 2000/572/EC[(12)] and meat products in accordance with Commission Decision 2007/777/EC[(13)].

(18) Various laboratory methods have been approved for the detection of *Trichinella* in fresh meat. The magnetic stirrer method for pooled-sample digestion is recommended as a reliable method for routine use. Sample size for parasitic analysis should be increased if the sample cannot be collected at the predilection site and if the type or species of animal is at higher risk of being infected. Trichinoscopic examination fails to detect non-encapsulated *Trichinella* species infecting domestic and sylvatic animals and humans and is no longer suitable as a detection method. Other methods, such as serological tests, can be useful for monitoring purposes once the tests have been validated by an EU reference laboratory appointed by the Commission. Serological tests are not suitable for detecting *Trichinella* infestation in individual animals intended for human consumption.

(19) New apparatus for *Trichinella* testing using the digestion method equivalent to the reference method started being produced by private companies. In line with these developments, guidelines for the validation of new apparatus for testing of *Trichinella* by the digestion method were endorsed unanimously during the meeting of the Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health on 16 December 2008.

(20) In accordance with those guidelines, in 2010 the EU reference laboratory for parasites validated a new apparatus method for testing of *Trichinella* in domestic swine under the code No EURLP_D_001/2011[(14)].

(21) Freezing meat under specified conditions can kill any parasites present but certain *Trichinella* species occurring in game and horses are resistant when freezing is carried out using the recommended temperature and time combinations.

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(22) Regular monitoring of domestic swine, wild boar, horses and foxes or other indicator animals is an important tool for assessing changes in disease prevalence. The results of such monitoring should be communicated in an annual report in accordance with Directive 2003/99/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council[15].

(23) This Regulation generally does not allow meat of domestic swine to leave slaughterhouses before the results of examination for *Trichinella* infestation have been communicated to the official veterinarian. However, it is appropriate to allow, under certain strict conditions, to apply the health mark and release the meat for transport before the results are known. Under such circumstances it is essential that the competent authority verifies that full traceability of the released meat is in place at all times.

(24) Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 does not apply to wild game or wild game meat directly supplied to the final consumer or to local retail establishments directly supplying the final consumer. It should therefore be the responsibility of the Member States to adopt national measures to mitigate the risk of *Trichinella*-infested wild boar meat reaching the final consumer.

(25) The measures provided in this Regulation are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

CHAPTER I

GENERAL PROVISION

Article 1

Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) '*Trichinella*' means any nematode belonging to the species of the genus *Trichinella*;

(2) 'controlled housing conditions' means a type of animal husbandry where swine are kept at all times under conditions controlled by the food business operator with regard to feeding and housing;

(3) 'compartment' means a group of holdings which apply controlled housing conditions. All holdings applying controlled housing conditions in a Member States, may be considered as one compartment.

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CHAPTER II

OBLIGATIONS OF COMPETENT AUTHORITIES AND OF FOOD BUSINESS OPERATORS

Article 2

Sampling of carcasses

1 Carcasses of domestic swine shall be sampled in slaughterhouses as part of the *post-mortem* examination as follows:

a all carcasses of breeding sows and boars or at least 10 % of carcasses of animals sent in for slaughter each year from each holding that is officially recognised as applying controlled housing conditions, shall be examined for *Trichinella*;

b all carcasses from holdings that are not officially recognised as applying controlled housing conditions shall be systematically examined for *Trichinella*.

A sample shall be collected from each carcass and the sample shall be examined for *Trichinella*, in a laboratory designated by the competent authority, using one of the following methods of detection:

a the reference method of detection set out in Chapter I of Annex I; or

b an equivalent method of detection set out in Chapter II of Annex I.

2 Carcasses of horses, wild boar and other farmed and wild animal species susceptible to *Trichinella* infestation shall be systematically sampled in slaughterhouses or game-handling establishments as part of the *post-mortem* examination.

A sample shall be collected from each carcass and the sample shall be examined in accordance with Annexes I and III in a laboratory designated by the competent authority.

3 Pending the results of the *Trichinella* examination and provided full traceability is guaranteed by the food business operator, carcasses of domestic swine and of horses may be cut up into a maximum of six parts in a slaughterhouse or in a cutting plant on the same premises.

[[F1]. . . . .**]**

Textual Amendments

F1 Deleted by Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/1478 of 14 October 2020 amending Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/1375 as regards sampling, the reference method for detection and import conditions related to Trichinella control (Text with EEA relevance).

Article 3

Derogations

1 By way of derogation from Article 2(1), meat of domestic swine that has undergone a freezing treatment in accordance with Annex II under the supervision of the competent authority shall be exempt from *Trichinella* examination.

2 By way of derogation from Article 2(1), carcasses and meat of not weaned domestic swine less than five weeks of age shall be exempt from *Trichinella* examination.