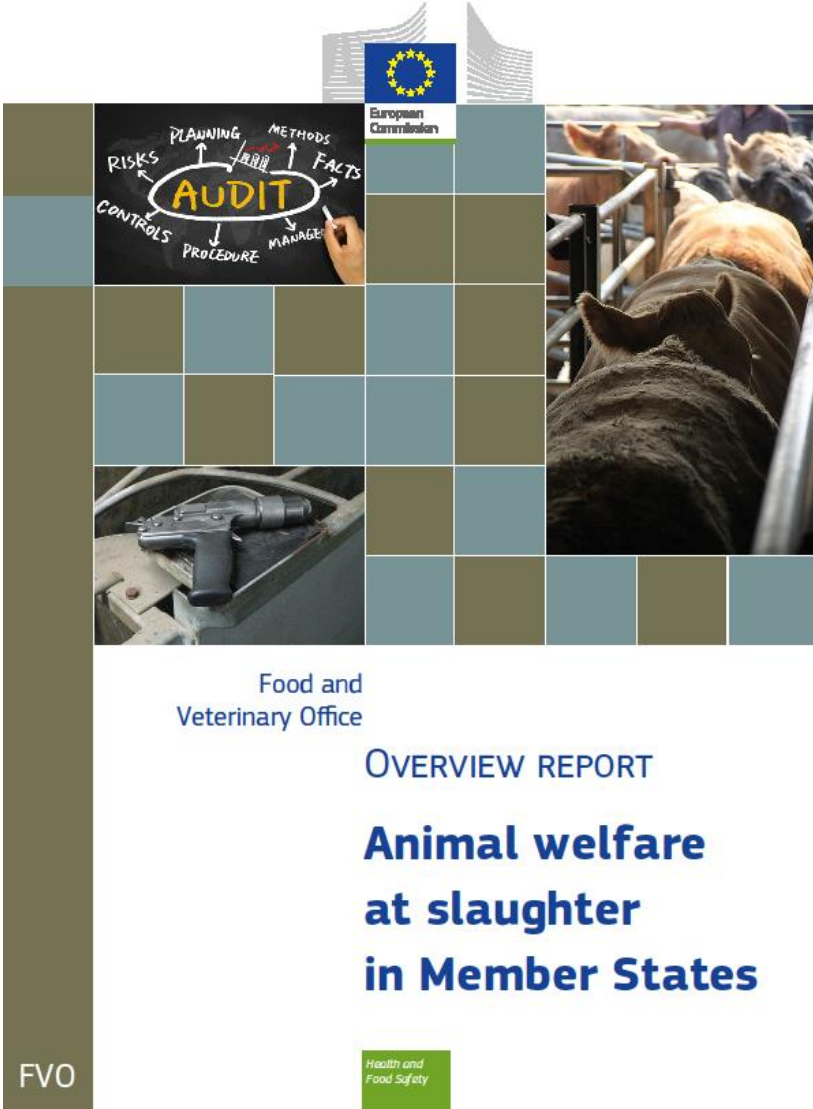


Overview report on FVO audits of welfare at slaughter





Report is published and available at:

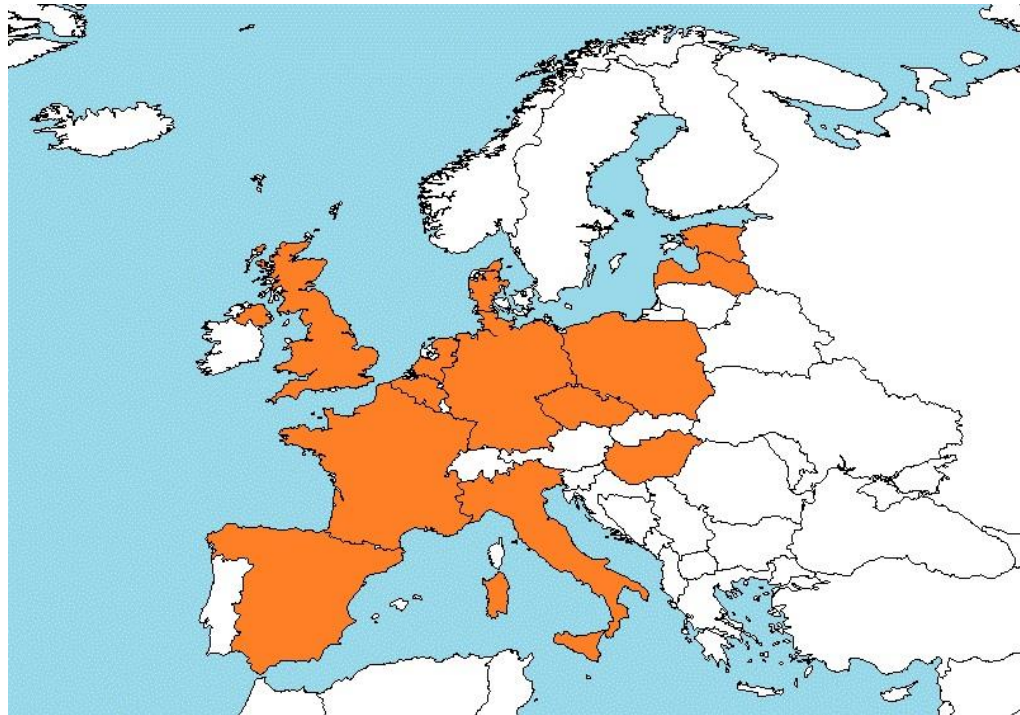
http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/overview_reports/index.cfm

Preceded by an FVO desk study 2013

*Based on a questionnaire to all Member States.
Study concluded that the procedures for controls in
The Netherlands and Poland were good models to
follow.*

13 audits: a pilot audit in 2012 the others in 2014/15

**80%
of EU
poultry
and
cattle**

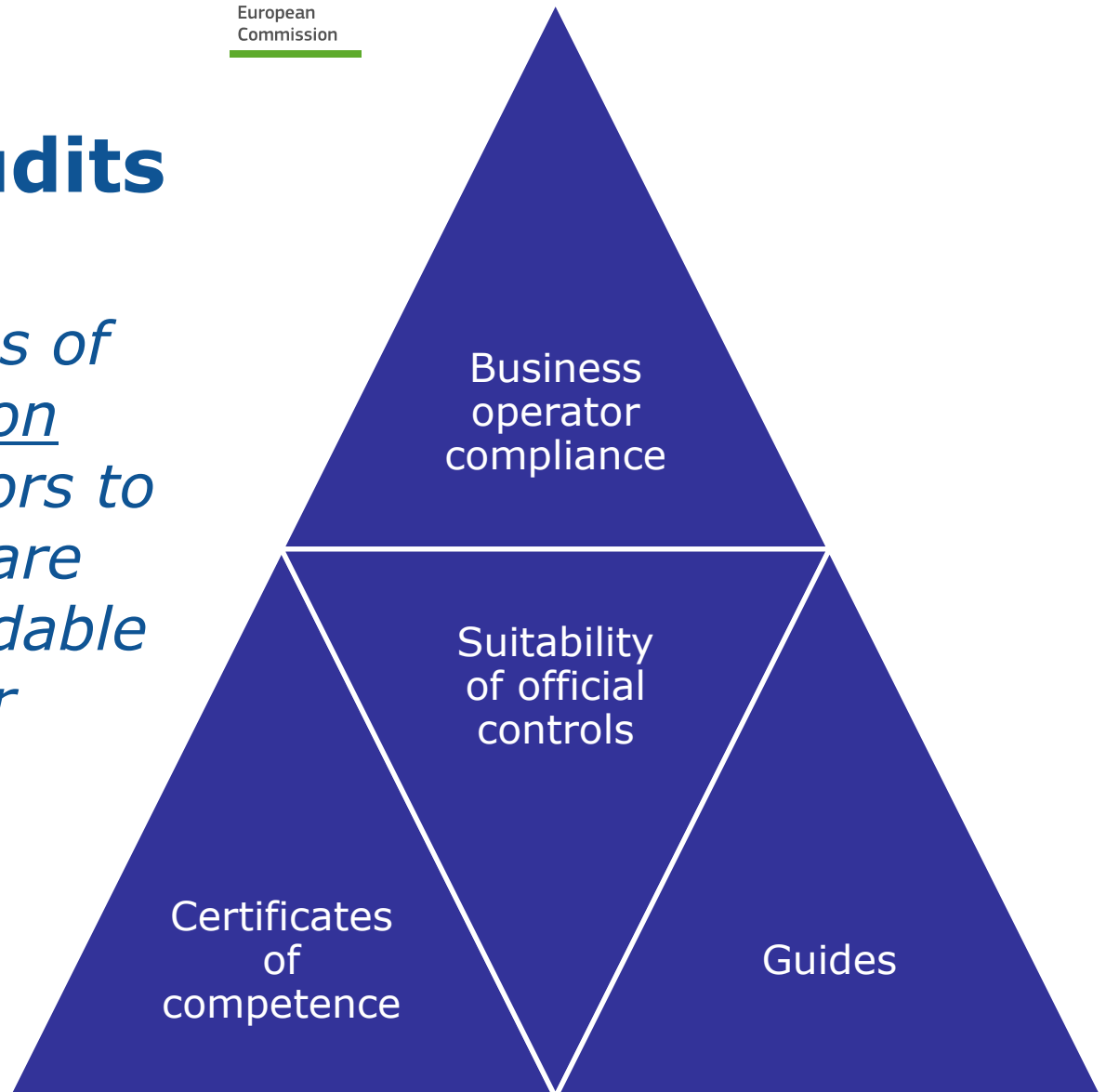




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Focus of Audits

The effectiveness of official controls on business operators to ensure animals are spared any avoidable pain, distress, or suffering.





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Supporting compliance: Certificates of competence

*Practical exams in four
Member States
(Italy, UK, Germany
and The Netherlands)*

ANNEX IV

CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN ACTIVITIES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR EXAMINATION OF COMPETENCE
(as referred to in Article 21)

Slaughter operations listed in Article 7(2)	Subjects for examination of competence
All operations listed in Article 7(2)(a) to (g).	Animal behaviour, animal suffering, consciousness and sensibility, stress in animals.
(a) the handling and care of animals before they are restrained;	Practical aspects of handling and restraining animals.
(b) the restraint of animals for the purpose of stunning or killing;	Knowledge of manufacturers' instructions on the type of restraint equipments used in case of mechanical restraint
(c) the stunning of animals;	Practical aspects of stunning techniques and knowledge of manufacturers' instructions on the type of stunning equipments used. Back-up stunning and/or killing methods. Basic maintenance and cleaning of stunning and/or killing equipment.
(d) the assessment of effective stunning;	Monitoring the effectiveness of stunning. Back-up stunning and/or killing methods.
(e) the shackling or hoisting of live animals;	Practical aspects of handling and restraining animals. Monitoring the effectiveness of stunning.
(f) the bleeding of live animals;	Monitoring the effectiveness of stunning and the absence of signs of life. Back-up stunning and/or killing methods. Appropriate use and maintenance of bleeding knives.
(g) the slaughtering in accordance with Article 4(4);	Appropriate use and maintenance of bleeding knives. Monitoring the absence of signs of life.



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Supporting compliance: Validated guides to good practice

<u>Member State</u>	<u>Subject</u>
Austria	All species
Denmark	Cattle, pigs
Finland	Cattle, Pigs, Poultry
France	Cattle
Germany	Cattle, Pigs
Italy	All species
Slovakia	Standard Operating Procedures

Supporting compliance? Manufacturer's instructions for restraining and stunning equipment

Slaughterhouse
Approval
procedures

Scientific support:
slaughterhouse approval,
manuf. Instructions, guides to
good practice, inspections and
audits, training bodies

Multi-annual
national
control plans
(risk planning,
implementing
powers)

Documented
procedures

Suitability
of official
controls

```
graph TD; A[Slaughterhouse Approval procedures] --> E((Suitability of official controls)); B[Scientific support: slaughterhouse approval, manuf. Instructions, guides to good practice, inspections and audits, training bodies] --> E; C[Multi-annual national control plans (risk planning, implementing powers)] --> E; D[Documented procedures] --> E;
```


NGOs



business operators



Guides to good practice

Use scientific support body?
practical trial?



competent authorities

had a strong influence on quality of SOPs

Quality of SOPs also better where:

- 1. CA audit the operator's system of checks*



- 2. Consultant/scientific support for FBO*

Issues not fully covered in SOPs

Planning the arrival of animals:

- *Scheduling > lairage capacity?*
- *Feed & bedding*
= 12 hour rule

*Fit for
transport?*





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DG Health and
Food Safety

OVERVIEW REPORT

Systems to prevent the transport of unfit animals in the EU



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Issues not fully covered in SOPs



manufacturers' instructions for operating equipment?



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Issues not fully covered in SOPs

Monitoring of stunning

*Address the requirements
of Article 16?*



EFSA supporting publication 2013:EN-541

TECHNICAL REPORT

Sample size calculation tool for monitoring stunning at slaughter^{1 2}

European Food Safety Authority^{3, 4}

European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), Parma, Italy

Suitability of official controls: audits rather than inspections = fewer gaps in SOPs.

'Audit' means a systematic and independent examination to determine whether activities and related results comply with planned arrangements and whether these arrangements are implemented effectively and are suitable to achieve objectives (Art 2(6) Reg 882/2004)



Are animals spared avoidable pain, distress, or suffering?

- *Yes, where guides to good practice and where official controls focus on operator's procedures and records.*
- *No, waterbath stunning of poultry, due partly to lack of guides in the sector. But where good targeting of official controls compliance achieved.*
- *Not always for animals "unfit for transport" (dairy cattle mainly).*



Slaughter without stunning

Wide variation in how Member States implement the derogation (Art.4(4))- from highly detailed and prescriptive to ... no system.

Specific requirements in Regulation for:

- 1. Training courses (Art.7(g), Annex IV): use /maintenance of knives, monitoring absence of life*
- 2. SOPS (Art. 6(c))*
- 3. Restraint and bleeding (Art.s 5(2), 15(2), Annex III(3.2))*
- 4. Systematic checks by operator (Art.s 5(2), 16(b))*

Administrative burden?

- 1. 1099/2009 - Small slaughterhouses if less than 1 000 livestock units per year*
- 2. Many even if >1 000 units per year still "small"*

Consequences: AWO and records of checks = an administrative burden + SOPs not good



Commission support to this Network

- *EFSA*

Directorate General Health and Food Safety

- *Unit F2 (Animals) of Directorate Health and Food Audits and Analysis (ex-FVO)*
- *Member States Animal Welfare Network*
- *Unit G2 (Animal health and welfare) of Directorate Crisis management in food, animals and plants*
- *Avoidance of duplication*



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Member States Animal Welfare Network (MSAWN)

- *Database with newsgroup functions where information on animal welfare (farm, transport and slaughter) is available to Member States and Candidate Countries to share good practice on animal welfare.*
- *Runs on Commission's CIRCABC platform (Communication and Information Resource Centre for Administrations): <https://circabc.europa.eu> Commission controls access*
- *Access on the web through ECAS sign-in (contact: Jakub.Hrabak@ec.europa.eu). Users upload, download information and can post and receive information on newsgroups*

