



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, XXX
PLAN/2026/711 for feedback
(POOL/G5/2026/711/711-EN.docx)
[...] (2026) XXX draft

COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../...

of XXX

amending Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 as regards ante- and post-mortem inspections in low-capacity slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments

(Text with EEA relevance)

This draft has not been adopted or endorsed by the European Commission. Any views expressed are the preliminary views of the Commission services and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the Commission.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. CONTEXT OF THE DELEGATED ACT

Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council¹ lays down rules for the performance of official controls and other official activities by the competent authorities of the Member States.

Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624² supplements Regulation (EU) 2017/625 by laying down specific rules for the performance of official controls on the production of meat, including for ante- and post-mortem inspection in slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments.

Competent authorities in several Member States are facing difficulties to comply with the requirements on the physical presence of the official veterinarian during these inspections in particular in low-capacity slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments.

The purpose of the proposed amendment is to allow remote ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection under the responsibility of the official veterinarian in low-capacity slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments, with on-the-spot presence of official auxiliaries, under specific conditions guaranteeing that animal health and welfare, and public health remain ensured. New technologies e. g. video links, will be used for that purpose. Since official auxiliaries will play a more important role in ante-mortem inspection, training requirements for this purpose should be enhanced. Finally, the limit to consider small establishments as low-capacity ones should also be increased from 5% to 10% of the total amount of meat produced in that Member State in order to allow more small slaughterhouses and game-handling establishment to make use of the facilitations for low-capacity establishments.

2. CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO THE ADOPTION OF THE ACT

Member States' experts were consulted within the Commission Expert Groups on Food Hygiene and Control of Food of Animal Origin³, which met to discuss the concerned subjects on 17 April 2026.

Before adopting this Delegated Regulation, the Commission conducted open and transparent public consultations in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Inter-institutional Agreement on Better Law-Making⁴.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation) (OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1.) ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>.

² Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 of 8 February 2019 concerning specific rules for the performance of official controls on the production of meat and for production and relaying areas of live bivalve molluscs in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 131, 17.5.2019, p. 1) ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2019/624/oj.

³ Reference E03522 in the Register of Commission Expert Groups and other similar entities.

⁴ OJ L 123, 12.5.2016, p. 1.

As the Delegated Regulation is largely only providing consistency with existing acts, no impact assessment has been carried out.

3. LEGAL ELEMENTS OF THE DELEGATED ACT

The legal basis for the Delegated Regulation is Article 18(7) points (a), (b), (e), (j) and (k) of Regulation (EU) 2017/625.

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COMMISSION DELEGATED REGULATION (EU) .../...

of **XXX**

amending Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 as regards ante- and post-mortem inspections in low-capacity slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments

(Text with EEA relevance)

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

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

Having regard to Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products, amending Regulations (EC) No 999/2001, (EC) No 396/2005, (EC) No 1069/2009, (EC) No 1107/2009, (EU) No 1151/2012, (EU) No 652/2014, (EU) 2016/429 and (EU) 2016/2031 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Regulations (EC) No 1/2005 and (EC) No 1099/2009 and Council Directives 98/58/EC, 1999/74/EC, 2007/43/EC, 2008/119/EC and 2008/120/EC, and repealing Regulations (EC) No 854/2004 and (EC) No 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council, Council Directives 89/608/EEC, 89/662/EEC, 90/425/EEC, 91/496/EEC, 96/23/EC, 96/93/EC and 97/78/EC and Council Decision 92/438/EEC (Official Controls Regulation)⁵, and in particular Article 18(7), points (a), (b), (e), (j) and (k), thereof,

Whereas:

- (1) Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624⁶ supplements Regulation (EU) 2017/625 by laying down specific rules for the performance of official controls on the production of meat, including for ante- and post-mortem inspections in slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments.
- (2) Competent authorities in certain Member States are facing difficulties to comply with the requirements on the physical presence of the official veterinarian during these inspections, in particular in low-capacity slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments. There is a lack of official veterinarians available to carry out ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections in slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments. Cameras and video applications on smartphones offer official veterinarians tools to conduct ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections remotely, , provided that official auxiliaries are present on site. In this way, the number of official veterinarians needed on site for ante- and post-mortem inspections can be reduced.
- (3) By way of derogation from Article 18(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, Article 3(2) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 lays down criteria and conditions under which ante-mortem inspections are allowed to be performed on all species by an

⁵ OJ L 95, 7.4.2017, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/625/oj>.

⁶ Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 of 8 February 2019 concerning specific rules for the performance of official controls on the production of meat and for production and relaying areas of live bivalve molluscs in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of the European Parliament and of the Council (OJ L 131, 17.5.2019, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_del/2019/624/oj).

official auxiliary in a slaughterhouse under the responsibility of the official veterinarian. In order to facilitate compliance with the requirement of ante-mortem inspection, it is appropriate to provide for a derogation allowing the official auxiliary to perform ante-mortem inspections in a low-capacity slaughterhouse through remote consultation of the official veterinarian, including by using cameras or other video applications such as on smartphones. Article 3 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 should be amended accordingly.

- (4) Article 3(3) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 lists the animals to which the derogations set out in Article 3(1) and Article 3(2) do not apply. In addition, those derogations should not apply to animals that are presented in slaughterhouses by determination of the competent authority for animal welfare reasons, or for reasons of control of diseases not included in Article 3(3), points (a) to (f), of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 (for example enzootic bovine leukosis. Article 3(3) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 should be amended accordingly.
- (5) Article 7(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 lays down the threshold competent authorities are to use to determine the slaughterhouses and the game-handling establishments which benefit from the derogation for low-capacity slaughterhouses or game-handling establishments. This threshold is currently set at a combined annual production of these establishments of a maximum of 5 % of the total amount of fresh meat produced in a Member State. This threshold should be increased to a maximum of 10 % of the total amount of fresh meat produced in a Member State, to allow more low-capacity slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments to benefit from that derogation, given the lack of official veterinarians present in person in such establishments.
- (6) Article 7(1), point (d), of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 lays down that the official veterinarian is to be present in the establishment at least once a day, including regularly during slaughter activities. The reference to ‘regularly’ results in different interpretations in Member States regarding the extent of the presence of the veterinarian during slaughter activities. In addition, the correct implementation of Article 7(1) can be better verified when the official veterinarian is present during slaughter activities. The word ‘regularly’ should therefore be deleted in Article 7(1), point (d), of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624.
- (7) By way of derogation from Article 18(2), point (c), of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, Article 7(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 also lays down criteria and conditions under which post-mortem inspections are allowed to be performed on all species by an official auxiliary in a low-capacity slaughterhouse or game-handling establishment under the responsibility of the official veterinarian. In order to ensure compliance with the requirement of post-mortem inspection, it is appropriate to provide for a derogation allowing official auxiliaries to perform post-mortem inspections through remote consultation of the official veterinarian, including by using cameras or other video applications such as on smartphones. Article 7(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 should be amended accordingly.
- (8) Annex II to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 lays down specific minimum requirements for official auxiliaries and staff designated by the competent authorities. The detection of possible animal diseases subject to notification in accordance with Articles 3 and 4 of Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002⁷ is an

⁷ Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/2002 of 7 December 2020 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to

essential part of ante-mortem inspection. Since official auxiliaries play a more substantial role in the ante-mortem inspection, requirements on the knowledge of the measures to be taken in cases of suspicion of certain controlled animal diseases and of clinical symptoms of these diseases should be tightened to guarantee the same level of animal health protection. Annex II to Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 should therefore be amended accordingly.

(9) Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 should therefore be amended accordingly,

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Delegated Regulation (EU) 2019/624 is amended as follows:

(1) Article 3 is amended as follows:

(a) the following paragraph 2a is inserted:

‘2a. By way of derogation from Article 18(2), point (a), of Regulation (EU) 2017/625, ante-mortem inspections may be performed on all species by an official auxiliary in a low-capacity slaughterhouse under the responsibility of the official veterinarian, provided that the following criteria and conditions are met:

(a) the official auxiliary performing the inspection consults remotely and immediately the official veterinarian where possible abnormalities are observed or suspected, using technology which allows for the accurate and complete transmission of images, including by camera or other video application such as on a smartphone;

(b) the official veterinarian carries out the ante-mortem inspection in person when, following the consultation referred to in point (a), the official veterinarian has any doubts in relation to the ante-mortem inspection;

(c) the competent authority has validated the remote consultation procedure referred to in point (a) as equivalent to ante-mortem inspection by the official veterinary in person for the relevant species;

(d) the official veterinarian regularly verifies that the official auxiliary is carrying out the tasks properly;

(e) training for official auxiliaries covers all subjects listed in Chapter II, point 5, of Annex II and tests confirm knowledge of all those subjects.

The competent authority shall inform the Commission and the other Member States through the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed on the application of points (a) to (e), including the validation procedure referred to in point (c), the name of the Member State and the species are recorded in the minutes of the Standing Committee.’;

(b) paragraph 3 is amended as follows:

(i) the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

Union notification and Union reporting of listed diseases, to formats and procedures for submission and reporting of Union surveillance programmes and of eradication programmes and for application for recognition of disease-free status, and to the computerised information system (OJ L 412, 8.12.2020, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg_impl/2020/2002/oj).

‘The derogations in paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a shall not apply.’;

(ii) the following point (g) is added:

‘(g) to animals whose slaughter has been ordered by the competent authority for reasons of animal welfare or animal health not included in points (a) to (f).’

(2) Article 7(1) is amended as follows:

(a) in point (b), the introductory sentence is replaced by the following:

‘(b) the competent authority may increase the thresholds laid down in point (a) ensuring that the derogation is applied in the smallest slaughterhouses and game-handling establishments complying with the definition of low-capacity slaughterhouse or game-handling establishment and provided that the combined annual production of these establishments does not exceed 10 % of the total amount of fresh meat produced in a Member State.’;

(b) point (d) is replaced by the following:

‘(d) the official veterinarian is present in the establishment during slaughter activities

(i) either, at least once a day and the official veterinarian is immediately informed by the official auxiliary performing the inspection when possible abnormalities are observed or suspected and the official veterinarian then carries out the ante-mortem inspection in person

(ii) or, at least once a week subject to the following conditions:

(a) the official auxiliary performing the post-mortem inspection, consults remotely and immediately the official veterinarian where possible abnormalities are observed or suspected, using technology which allows for the accurate and complete transmission of images, including by camera or other video application such as on a smartphone;

(b) the official veterinarian carries out the post-mortem inspection in person when, following the consultation referred to in point (a), the official veterinarian has any doubts in relation to the post-mortem inspection;

(c) the competent authority has validated the remote consultation procedure referred to in point (a) as equivalent to post-mortem inspection by the official veterinary in person for the relevant species;’

(c) the following point 3 is added:

3. The competent authority shall inform the Commission and the other Member States through the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed on the application of point 2(d)(ii). The name of the Member State and the species shall be recorded in the minutes of the Standing Committee’;

(3) Annex II is amended in accordance with the Annex to this Regulation.

Article 2

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission
The President
Ursula VON DER LEYEN

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