

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(94) 560 final
Brussels, 06.12.1994

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

laying down the rules for the microbiological test by sampling of fresh poultrymeat

intended for Finland and Sweden

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In application of article 5, 3 (a) of Council Directive 71/118/EEC of 15 February 1971 on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat⁽¹⁾, as amended by the Act concerning the conditions of accession and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the Union is founded⁽²⁾, the Council acting on a proposal of the Commission shall lay down the rules for the microbiological test by sampling of fresh poultrymeat intended for Finland and Sweden. This should be done before the date of entry into force of the Accession Treaty.

This proposal is presented with this objective.

The purpose of this draft Decision is to fix the sampling method, the number of samples to be taken as well as the microbiological method for the examination of the samples.

As concerns the sampling method, a distinction is made between carcasses on the one hand and carcass parts and offals on the other hand. The number of samples to be taken are based on statistical sampling schemes allowing the detection of 5 % contamination at a 95 % of confidence level and take into account the weight of packing units. The proposed microbiological method for the examination of the samples refers to an international standard.

It should be noted that the proposed provisions

- shall only apply after approval of operational programmes to be presented by Finland and Sweden;
- shall not apply for poultrymeat originating in an establishment which is subject to a programme recognised as equivalent to the one applied by Finland and Sweden.

This draft Decision has no financial consequences on the budget of the European Community.

⁽¹⁾ OJ N° L 55, 8.3.1971, p. 23

⁽²⁾ OJ N° C 241, 29. 8. 1994, p. 141

PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL DECISION

laying down the rules for the microbiological test by sampling of fresh poultrymeat
intended for Finland and Sweden

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 71/118/EEC of 15 February 1971 on health problems affecting trade in fresh poultrymeat¹, as amended by the Act concerning the conditions of accession and the adjustments to the Treaties on which the Union is founded, Annex I, V, E, part 1, chapter 3, 3, (b)², and in particular article 5, 3 (a),

Whereas, in order to lay down the rules for the microbiological test by sampling, it is necessary to fix the sampling method, the number of samples to be taken as well as the microbiological method for the examination of the samples;

Whereas, in so far as the sampling methods to be applied are concerned, it is appropriate to make a distinction between whole carcasses on one hand and parts of carcasses and offals on the other hand;

Whereas concerning the number of samples to be taken, it is appropriate to apply a confidence level of 95 % to detect a prevalence of salmonella of 5 %; whereas the weight of packing units should be taken into account;

Whereas, it is appropriate to take into account international methods for the microbiological examination of samples;

Whereas, in conformity with article 5, paragraph 4 of Council Directive 71/118/EEC the provisions provided for in this Decision shall apply only after approval by the Commission of an operational programme to be presented by Finland and Sweden,

¹ OJ N° L 55, 8.3.1971, p. 23

² OJ N° C 241, 29. 8. 1994, p. 141

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The sampling method is laid down in Annex I.

Article 2

The number of samples to be taken is laid down in Annex II.

Article 3

The microbiological method for the examination of the samples is laid down in Annex III.

Article 4

This Decision shall apply from 1 January 1995 is subject to the entry into force of the Treaty of accession of Austria, Sweden and Finland.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels

For the Council

ANNEX I

SAMPLING METHOD

1 Carcasses (with the neck skin still attached)

Random samples shall be evenly distributed through the consignment. Sampling shall consist of pieces of about 10 grams of neck skin (about 3 cm x 3 cm) to be removed aseptically with a sterile scalpel and tweezers. Samples should be kept refrigerated at 4°C until examination. For examination the samples are diluted 10 - fold in buffered peptone water (BPW) and incubated at 37°C for 16 to 20 hours. Subsequently the pre - enrichment broths are tested for the presence of Salmonella according to the method described in Annex III. Portions of the pre - enrichment broths may be pooled to a maximum of 10 for enrichment.

Samples shall be duly marked and identified.

2 Carcasses without neck - skin, carcass parts and offals

Pieces of tissue of about 25 grams are obtained by punching a sterile cork borer into the meat surface or cutting a slice of tissue with sterile instruments. Samples should be kept refrigerated at 4°C until examination. For examination the samples are diluted 10 - fold in buffered peptone water (BPW) and incubated at 37 °C for 16 to 20 hours. Subsequently the pre - enrichment broths are tested for the presence of Salmonella according to the method described in Annex III. Portions of the pre - enrichment broths may be pooled to a maximum of 10 for enrichment.

Samples shall be duly marked and identified.

ANNEX II

NUMBER OF SAMPLES TO BE TAKEN

The number of packing units in the consignment of which separate random samples shall be taken shall be as follows:

<u>consignment (number of packing units)</u>	<u>number of packing units to be sampled</u>
1 - 24	number equal to the number of packing units with a maximum of 20
25 - 29	20
30 - 39	25
40 - 49	30
50 - 59	35
60 - 89	40
90 - 199	50
200 - 499	55
500 or more	60

Depending on the weight of the packing units the number of samples can be reduced by multiplication by the following multiplication values:

Weight of packing units	>20 kg	10-20 kg	<10 kg
Multiplication value	x 1	x 3/4	x 1/2

ANNEX III

MICROBIOLOGICAL METHOD FOR THE EXAMINATION OF THE SAMPLES

Microbiological testing of the samples for Salmonella must be carried out according to the standard method of the International Standard Organisation, ISO 6579:1993.

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