

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(94) 491 final
Brussels, 17.11.1994

Proposal for a

COUNCIL DECISION

laying down the rules for the microbiological test by sampling of fresh meat intended
for Finland, Norway and Sweden

(presented by the Commission)

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

In application of article 5, 3 (a) of Council Directive 64/433/EEC of 26 June 1964 on health conditions for the production and marketing of fresh meat⁽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 meat intended for Finland, Norway 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 and half carcasses on the one hand and quarters, cuts and smaller pieces 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. 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, Norway and Sweden;
- shall not apply for meat originating in an establishment which is subject to a programme recognised as equivalent to the one applied by Finland, Norway and Sweden.

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

⁽¹⁾ OJ N° L 121, 29. 7. 1964, p. 2012/64

⁽²⁾ OJ N° C 241, 29. 8. 1994, p. 140



PROPOSAL FOR A
COUNCIL DECISION

of

laying down the rules for the microbiological test by sampling of fresh meat intended
for Finland, Norway and Sweden

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 64/433/EEC of 26 June 1964 on health conditions for the production and marketing of fresh meat¹, 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, 1, (d)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 carcasses and half carcasses on the one hand and quarters, cuts and smaller pieces on the other;

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, 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 64/433/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, Norway and Sweden,

¹ OJ N° L 121, 29. 7. 1964, p. 2012/64

² OJ N° C 241, 29. 8. 1994, p. 140

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 subject to the entry into force of the Treaty of accession of Austria, Sweden, Finland and Norway.

Article 5

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels

For the Council

ANNEX I

SAMPLING METHOD

1 Carcasses and half carcasses ("swab technique")

Samples using the surface swabbing method shall be taken before refrigeration of the carcass at sites likely to be contaminated. Surface swabbing shall include opening sides of the carcasses and cut surfaces. In addition beef and horse carcasses shall be swabbed in at least three areas (leg, flank and neck); whereas, pork, sheep and goat carcasses shall be swabbed in at least two areas (leg and brisket).

To avoid cross-contamination, samples shall be taken without handling the meat and by using sterile swabs and templates.

The sampling areas (20 cm X 20 cm) described in the above paragraph shall be swabbed with two sterile cotton swabs. The first swab shall be moistened with sterile peptone water and shall be rubbed firmly several times across the sampling area. The same sampling area shall be rubbed with the second swab used dry. Subsequently swabs shall be put into 100 ml of buffered peptone water.

Each sample shall be duly marked and identified.

2 quarters, cuts and smaller pieces ("destructive method")

Pieces of tissue are obtained by punching a sterile cork borer into the meat surface or cutting of a slice of tissue of ± 25 g with sterile instruments. The samples are aseptically transferred into a sample container or plastic dilution bag and homogenised (Stomacher or Blender). Samples of frozen meat shall remain frozen during transport to the laboratory. Samples from chilled carcasses shall not be frozen but kept refrigerated. Separate samples of the same consignment may be pooled.

Each sample shall be duly marked and identified.

ANNEX II

NUMBER OF SAMPLES TO BE TAKEN

1 Carcasses and half carcasses

The number of carcasses or half - carcasses (units) in a consignment of which separate random samples shall be taken shall be as follows:

<u>Consignment (number of units)</u>	<u>number of units to be sampled</u>
1 - 24	number equal to the number of 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

2 quarters, cuts and smaller pieces

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.

ISSN 0254-1475

COM(94) 491 final

DOCUMENTS

EN

03

Catalogue number : CB-CO-94-520-EN-C

ISBN 92-77-82056-X

Office for Official Publications of the European Communities
L-2985 Luxembourg