

Country report on animal welfare during slaughter

Republic of Moldova

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WOAH Regional workshop on animal welfare during slaughter

11 - 12 February 2025, Tirana, Albania



World Organisation
for Animal Health





Overview of the country situation

Annually, at the central level of the ANSA, national official surveillance and control programs are developed in all areas of ANSA's competence. These are approved by order of the Director General and distributed to the territories for execution. Based on the national programs, each subdivision develops annual numerical plans for planning activities for the entire year. These contain the measures and categories of units. Subsequently, monthly plans are developed each month, which contain the type of units to be inspected, the number of units, the frequency of the inspection, the persons designated to carry out the inspection, the materials and technical equipment used to carry out the inspection.

- *Number of establishments at the end of 2024 / average throughputs*

1.	Slaughterhouses/slaughtering points of domestic ungulates	111
2.	Slaughterhouses/slaughtering points for poultry and lagomorphs	40

- Following the sanitary-veterinary supervision in 2024, 17686294 animals/birds were slaughtered.
- *Main slaughtered species and restrain/slaughter methods*
 - - Cattle – 20359; mecanice
 - - Sheep/goats–28046; mecanice
 - - Swine –308289; electrice/gaz
 - - Broiler chickens– 16128130; electrice
 - - Other species (rabbits)– 35506;

Regulatory framework Legal acts and regulations on animal welfare during slaughter in Republic of Moldova

*L A W No. 50/2013 on official controls to verify compliance with feed and food law and animal health and welfare rules - transpose the Titles I, II, III, V, VI (Chapter II) and VII (Chapter I) of **Council Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004***

L A W No. 221/2007 on sanitary and veterinary activity;

*Government Decision No. 369/2015 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on the protection of animals at the time of killing – transpose **Council Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009**;*

*Government Decision No. 793/2012 approving the sanitary-veterinary rule on the protection and welfare of animals during transport - partially transpose **Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 of 22 December 2004**;*

Order No. 57 of 27.06.2023 regarding the approval of the checklists for the control areas of the National Agency for Food Safety;

The specific procedure No. PS/SA-PA-01-01 for carrying out ante and post mortem inspection in poultry slaughter units;



Competent Authority responsible for animal welfare during slaughter

National Food Safety Agency - *At the central level of the competent authority within the Directorate for the Safety of Food Products of Animal Origin, the Section for the Control of Authorized Sanitary Veterinary Units, in which 5 inspectors work, having the following responsibilities:*

- *developing and implementing norms,*
- *operational procedures and instructions regarding official control,*
- *sampling of food products,*
- *controlling the application of principles based on hazard analysis and critical control points (HACCP) and good hygiene practices by food operators;*

At the territorial level, verification of compliance with the requirements is ensured by 95 sanitary veterinary inspectors, who report to the central authority on the non-conformities detected.

National Food Safety Agency

Directorate for the safety of food products of animal origin

Animal Health and Welfare Directorate

Animal Protection, Welfare and Registration Section

Animal disease control and veterinary measures management section

Section for the control of authorized sanitary and veterinary units

Animal origin food safety monitoring section



National animal welfare standards

- Are the established minimum requirements on animal welfare during slaughter in your country, including
 - development and implementation of an operating plan
 - training and competency of personnel;
 - design of premises and choice of equipment;
 - standard operating procedure;
 - recording, reporting adverse incidents, and taking corrective actions;
 - throughput (number of animals slaughtered per hour);
 - maintenance and cleaning procedures of equipment and premises;
 - emergency plans.

- In accordance with

*Government Decision No. 369/2015 approving the Sanitary and Veterinary Norm on the protection of animals at the time of killing – transpose **Council Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009**;*



Training a competency of slaughterhouse/abattoir personnel

What are the standards established in your country for the competencies of animal handlers and other slaughterhouse/abattoir personnel, including those carrying out restrain, stunning and bleeding operations?

Ensuring the implementation of the requirements of the legal framework takes place through the approval by the competent authority of certain orders and procedures with specific requirements, checklists, which require animal breeders to operate in accordance with welfare requirements, and their compliance with the requirements is verified during official inspections.

What is the level of awareness and understanding of animal welfare among slaughterhouse staff in your county?

Unfortunately, the current level of awareness needs improvement and better involvement. During official controls carried out by the competent authority, a series of violations involving animal welfare are detected.



Training and competency Veterinary Services

What are the training systems and regulatory country for the competencies on animal welfare veterinary services in your county?

In order to raise public awareness, the competent meetings with livestock breeders both, at the territorial level.





Implementation of the standards

How is the Competent Authority implementing standards on animal welfare during slaughter in your country?

- 25. Economic operators:
 - 1) plan in advance the killing of animals and related operations, which they carry out in accordance with standard operating procedures;
 - 2) design and implement standard operating procedures, including those described in the guides to good practice provided for in this veterinary sanitary norm, to ensure that killing and related operations avoid any pain, suffering or distress.
- 26. Regarding stunning, the standard operating procedures must:
 - 1) take into account the manufacturer's recommendations;
 - 2) provide for measures to be taken if the checks referred to in this veterinary sanitary norm indicate that an animal is not properly stunned or, in the case of slaughtering in a slaughterhouse of animals by special methods of slaughter provided for by certain religious rituals, that the stunned animal still shows signs of life;
 - 3) be made available to ANSA, upon its request.



Monitoring and evaluation

How is the Competent Authority monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of standards on animal welfare during slaughter in your country?

Section 5

64. The person responsible for animal welfare:

- 1) is designated by the economic operators for each slaughterhouse;
- 2) is under the direct management of the economic operator and reports directly to him information relating to animal welfare;
- 3) provides the necessary assistance to ensure that the provisions of this Sanitary and Veterinary Norm are complied with in the slaughterhouse;
- 4) requires that the slaughterhouse staff take the necessary corrective measures to ensure compliance with the provisions of this Sanitary and Veterinary Norm;
- 5) performs his duties in accordance with the standard operating procedures of the slaughterhouses and effectively brings them to the attention of the staff concerned;
- 6) holds a certificate of competence, issued for all operations carried out in the slaughterhouses for which he is responsible;
- 7) keeps a record of the measures taken to ensure the welfare of animals in the slaughterhouse where it operates, which it keeps for at least one year and makes available to ANSA, upon its request.



Conclusions - gaps/weaknesses or challenges

Overall, do you consider that your country is in compliance with the WOAH standards regarding animal welfare during the slaughter?

Please list the main **gaps/weaknesses or challenges** for the Competent Authority(ies) in your country to implement WOAH standards and country legislation and requirements for animal welfare during the slaughter.

Conclusions - support requirements and next steps

What support or assistance would your county need to effectively implement a national animal welfare training program for slaughterhouse personnel and/or Veterinary Services?

Which stakeholders and partners (government agencies, NGOs, farmers, veterinary professionals, education establishments) should be involved in the development of an animal welfare training program for slaughterhouse personnel and/or Veterinary Services?

Thank you



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