

Country report on animal welfare during slaughter

TÜRKİYE

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WOAH Regional workshop on animal welfare during slaughter

11 - 12 February 2025, Tirana, Albania



World Organisation
for Animal Health





- **Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry**
- **General Directorate of Food and Control**
- **Department of Food Establishments and Codex**

- 527 (cattle and sheep) slaughterhouses / 58 poultry slaughterhouses
- Slaughterhouses must obtain approval from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry before they start operating

LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO ANIMAL WELFARE

Laws

- Law No. 5996 on Veterinary Services, Plant Health, Food and Feed
- Law No. 5199 on Animal Protection

Regulations

- Food Hygiene Regulation
- Regulation on Specific Hygiene Rules for Foods of Animal Origin
- Regulation on Specific Rules for Official Controls of Foods of Animal Origin
- Regulation on General Provisions Regarding the Welfare of Farm Animals
- Regulation on the Welfare and Protection of Animals During Their Transport



Veterinary Services, Plant Health, Food and Feed Law No. 5996

- Animal owners or those responsible for their care are obliged to meet the shelter, care, nutrition, health and other needs of animals in order to ensure animal welfare, and to take the necessary precautions against the negative effects that the animals under their responsibility may have on human, animal and environmental health.
- Slaughtering and killing of animals for disease control purposes shall be carried out using appropriate means without causing anxiety, pain and suffering to the animals.
- Euthanasia of animals is prohibited. However,
 - In cases of diseases that cause pain and suffering to animals or that do not heal,
 - In order to prevent or eradicate an acute contagious animal disease or in cases that pose a risk to human health,
 - In cases where their behaviors pose a danger to the life and health of humans and animals and negative behaviors cannot be controlled,a veterinarian may decide to perform euthanasia. Euthanasia is performed by a veterinarian or under the supervision of a veterinarian.



Veterinary Services, Plant Health, Food and Feed Law No. 5996

- The principles of animal welfare during sheltering, transportation, pre-slaughtering and slaughtering of animals are determined by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Animal slaughtering must be done in slaughterhouses approved by the Ministry.
- The procedures and principles regarding the implementation of this article are determined by the regulation to be issued by the Ministry.
- The Ministry assigns an official veterinarian to conduct pre-slaughter and post-slaughtering inspections in slaughterhouses, inspections and other official controls in places where meat processing is performed.



Law No. 5199 on the Protection of Animals

Slaughtering of animals

- The slaughtering of animals is carried out swiftly, without scaring or causing anxiety to the animal, in a way that minimizes pain, in compliance with hygienic rules and in accordance with the procedure, taking into account the special requirements of the religion of Islam. It is mandated that the slaughtering of animals is done by qualified persons.
- For those who wish to slaughter sacrificial animals for religious purposes, the regulations regarding the slaughter process in accordance with religious provisions, health conditions, environmental cleanliness, instantaneous slaughter that causes the least pain to the animal, the slaughtering places, the licensed slaughterers and other relevant issues are determined by the regulation to be issued by the Ministry to which the Presidency of Religious Affairs is affiliated, after consulting the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, institutions and organizations concerned.



General principles regarding the official controls on foods of animal origin

- The food business operator provides all kinds of assistance to the control officer to ensure that official controls are carried out effectively. The content and frequency of inspection tasks are determined based on the risks identified at the enterprise level. For this purpose, the Ministry regularly evaluates the following periodically:
 - Public health and, where appropriate, animal health risks,
 - Animal welfare in slaughterhouses,
 - The type and volume of operations carried out,
 - The food business operator's past records regarding compliance with the relevant legislation.

After carrying out the specified inspections, official veterinarians shall take appropriate measures, in particular with regard to the following points.

- Notification of inspection results,
- Decisions regarding food chain information,
- Decisions regarding live animals,
- Decisions regarding animal welfare,
- Decisions regarding meat



Within the scope of the official veterinarian's examination and inspection duties

- During the pre-mortem examination, it is investigated whether the animal welfare conditions have been met for each animal and whether there is any situation that would have a negative impact on human and animal health, paying special attention to the detection of zoonotic diseases and diseases determined by the Ministry.
- The official veterinarian verifies compliance with the legislation on animal welfare for the protection of animals during transportation and slaughter.

Reporting of examination and inspection results

- If the examinations and inspections reveal the existence of any disease that may affect public or animal health or any violation of animal welfare, the official veterinarian shall notify the food business operator.

Decisions regarding animal welfare

- The official veterinarian informs other relevant state authorities regarding animal welfare problems.

Professional competence of official veterinarians

- The Ministry may appoint veterinarians as official veterinarians if they pass the exam at the end of the training, which includes animal welfare legislation and animal welfare during production, transport and slaughtering stages.



New measures regarding animal welfare have been taken in the Regulation on Specific Hygiene Rules for Foods of Animal Origin, which has been re-arranged and is currently in the publication phase.

- In slaughterhouses, imaging systems with wide-angle imaging, high resolution and recording capacity for at least one month are installed in the animal waiting and slaughtering areas and the area where the post-slaughter treatments are carried out in order to monitor the movements of live animals, carcasses, by-products and personnel, and these systems are open to the access of the competent authority.

New measures regarding animal welfare have been taken in the Regulation on Specific Hygiene Rules for Foods of Animal Origin, which has been re-arranged and is currently in the publication phase.

- In slaughterhouses, the mechanical clamping of the feet of animals can not be used as the only method of fixation, animals cannot be hung or lifted by their feet while they are conscious. During fixation; it must have equipment that does not apply excessive pressure to the animal, has a non-slippery floor, works quietly and does not move suddenly, and has no sharp edges that could harm the animal and is positioned appropriately for fixation and slaughter.



Thank you

The background of the slide features a low-angle, upward-looking shot of a brick clock tower. The tower has two visible clock faces and is illuminated with a warm, golden-orange light, creating a soft glow. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional.

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