

MEAT INSPECTION LEGISLATION IN SERBIA

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The aim of this work is to present the current legislative framework of the Republic of Serbia (RS) in the field of meat inspection.

INTRODUCTION

Serbia, as a candidate country for membership in the European Union (EU) since 2012, started to harmonize legislation with the EU and published a set of laws and regulations related to animal welfare and food safety, including the official control of the food production, processing and distribution.

The Law on Veterinary Matters (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 91/05).

The veterinary inspector's duties can be performed by a veterinary graduate with at least three years of work experience in the field, who successfully passed the Inspector Exam.

In addition, meat inspection can be performed by a veterinarian with a license issued by the Serbian Veterinary Chamber after having completed a professional training program and being employed at the veterinary station (official veterinarian, OV).

The Law on Food Safety (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 41/2009) lists food business operators' (FBOs) duties and responsibilities to ensure that food meets all the hygiene and safety requirements. Based on that national law and regulations adopted on a basis of it, competent authorities perform official controls of FBO's compliance with the relevant requirements.

The Rulebook on the form and content of the stamp, i.e. the certificate of game safety for human consumption, as well as the method and procedure of marking food of animal origin (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 44/2007)

The Rulebook on the method of performing official control of animals before and after their slaughter (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 99/2010)

The Rulebook on veterinary-sanitary conditions, in terms of regulation on general and specific food hygiene of food of animal origin (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 25/2011)

The Rulebook on the method of official control of animals before and after their slaughter for the presence of *Trichinella* in meat (“Official Gazette of the RS”, No. 48/2022)

CONCLUSION

The legal framework for the adoption of Serbian regulations aligned with the EU acquis is established through the adopted rulebooks, and will be further harmonized with the recent EU legislation on meat inspection (i.e. Regulation EU 2019/627).