



Tail Docking – An overview of Food & Veterinary Office (FVO) Audits

**FVO audits in Member States from
2005 to 2012 on the implementation
of Directive 2008/120/EC**

Des Maguire
Food and Veterinary Office, DG Health and Food Safety

Food & Veterinary Office

- **Who are we?**
- **What do we do?**

- **Directorate F of DG Health and Food Safety**
- **7 Units**
- **Unit F6 Animal Health and Welfare**
- **Carry out audits to assess Member States' (MS) compliance with EU Law**



Directorate F - Food and Veterinary Office
Michael Scannel- Director




Unit F1
Country Profiles, Coordination of Follow-up

Unit F2
Food of Animal Origin – Mammals

Unit F3
Food of Animal Origin - Birds & Fish

Unit F4
**Food of Plant Origin, Plant Health,
processing and distribution**

Unit F5
Animal Nutrition, Import Controls, Residues

 **Unit F6**
Animal Health and Welfare

FVO Audit Series

- **An assessment based on sampling the performance of the Competent Authority (CA)**

CA procedures dealing with animal welfare

The practical implementation of the EU legal requirements

- **FVO missions to all MS between 2005-2012**

Tail Docking Legal references

Directive 2008/120/EC

Preamble

Annex I , Chapter I

General Conditions, Point 8

Countries Audited

Type of Audit	Year	Country	Number
Series on pig Directive	2005	NL, PT, ES, IT, LV, PL, EE	7
Mixed farm species	2006	AT, HU, Irl, SL, BE, UK, CY, FR, LT	9
Mixed farm species	2007	CZ, DK, SW, DE, EL, SI,	6
General audits (official controls)	2008	DE	1
General audits (official controls)	2009	BE, CY, EE, FI, EL, LV, LT, MT, PT, SI, UK	11
General audits (official controls)	2010	BU, CZ, DK, FR, IT, LX, PL, RO, SE	9
General audits (official controls)	2011	AT, BE, HU, IT, PT, SV	6
General audits (official controls)	2012	DE, LT, SI	3

Findings from Audits 2005

2005 specific audit series:

Slow progress in implementing main changes from amendments to Directive 91/630/EEC

Structured training for stockpersons not available in 50% of MS

Advice on avoidance of tail-docking, provision of rooting materials limited

FVO recommendations to CAs on the provision of materials for manipulation in order to avoid tail-docking and the availability of training courses for pig farmers

Findings from Audits 2006-2007

Audits on mixed farm species remaining MS + revisits

Widespread non-compliance with prevention of tail docking and provision of adequate, suitable manipulable material

Discussions starting on guidance provided to farmers on manipulable material

Use of veterinary certificates as justification very common

Further FVO recommendations to CAs on the provision of materials for manipulation in order to avoid tail-docking

Findings from Audits 2008-2012

General Audits focussing on CA's Official Controls

No targeted focus on pigs, included laying hens, transport and follow-up to previous audits

However, findings on pigs, where in scope, were similar to previous audits

Recommendations not always directly on prevention of tail docking or provision of manipulable material but on aspects of official controls e.g. SOPs, detection, guidance, enforcement etc

PETI report on routine tail docking of pigs- overall agreement – but some misunderstanding of context of FVO report findings

Follow up to Audits

- **Follow up process for Recommendations**
- **Audit unit assess MS action plan responding to recommendations**
- **Closing the audit cycle**
- **F1 General Follow up audits with MS to assess actions taken**
- **Brussels policy Unit Sante G3 input**

Summary Findings

- **Widespread non-compliance with requirements on prevention of tail docking and limited provision of manipulable material**
- **Lack of CA enforcement of Directive's requirements relating to environmental/management improvements before tail docking permitted**
- **Casual use of Veterinary Certificates**
- **Technical difficulties with straw**
- **Variable OV interpretations for use of manipulable material**
- **Organisation of the pig market: breeding and fattening farms, 2 economic interlocutors**

Summary Findings

- **Intra-community trade of piglets**
- **Overstocking**

For other issues invariably better implementation where:

- **Good planning**
- **Better execution**
- **Good training for inspectors**

Findings from recent training audits

Objective: Assess effectiveness and suitability of training for operators

- **FI** **Insufficient MM, but tail docking banned, industry buy-in to training on MM- some tail biting but limited**
- **IRL** **Strategy planned to work with industry to improve prevention of routine tail docking- using guidance, training and enforcement tools**

What could be done for better compliance?

Political Level

- **Commission and MS Strategy to ensure level playing field**

At Competent Authority level

- **Higher priority**
- **Adequate planning, target setting and analysis of outcomes**
- **Better execution – inspections recorded, reported and audited**
- **Improved training for inspectors**
- **Better co-ordination between MS**



What could be done for better compliance?

At farm level

- **Industry buy-in**
- **Sharing of solutions/best practice between MS**
- **More information/training for staff**



Topics for Discussion

What works effectively within the constraints of the existing legislative framework in preventing tail docking?

How can we share all the research carried out on indicators for the avoidance of tail docking and strategies for improvement of management practices?

What can we learn from the experiences of Sweden, Finland and Switzerland where ban on tail docking is effectively/more rigidly implemented?

Thank you for your attention

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