

## **Advice 09-2008 of the Scientific Committee of the FASFC: antimicrobial residues in injection-site lesions and in meat samples**

Antimicrobial residues can be detected in slaughtered animals with different microbiological or physicochemical methods. The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that the Belgian kidney test is a useful method for the pre-screening of slaughtered animals. When the kidney test yields a positive result, the meat sample needs to be analysed with the 4-plate method and a positive result thereof needs to be confirmed by a physicochemical analysis. Independently from the Belgian kidney test, in case an injection-site lesion is present, it always has to be sampled in combination with a meat sample and it has to be included in the investigation. The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that it is important to excise an injection-site lesion in accordance with the EMEA-guideline. This guideline is used for the determination of the withdrawal period and taking a smaller sample can result in a higher concentration of the antimicrobial residue and a wrong decision concerning the declaration of the carcass as being unfit for human consumption.

The Scientific Committee is of the opinion that, when residues of pharmacological substances above the MRL (Maximum Residue Limit) are present in the injection-site lesion, while the concentration in the meat sample is below the MRL, a partial rejection of the carcass is appropriate. However, the presence of an injection-site lesion always has to result in the declaration that the organs are unfit for human consumption.

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french, respectively under the section "Wetenschappelijk Comité/Adviezen" and "Comité scientifique/Avis".