

## Opinion 15-2022 of the Scientific Committee established at the FASFC on a draft royal decree establishing the frequencies of inspections requiring the presence of an officer of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain in establishments of the meat and fish sectors

### Background & terms of reference

The Scientific Committee is asked to give an opinion on the draft royal decree establishing the inspection frequencies requiring the presence of an agent of the Federal Agency for the Safety of the Food Chain in establishments of the meat and fish sectors in the framework of the Agency's control program.

This draft royal decree is part of the actions to be undertaken in the framework of the "Memorandum of Understanding in the meat sector: organisation of expertise and reevaluation of the contracts of the persons in charge of missions" signed on 23/12/2021 by the Minister of Agriculture, the Chief Executive Officer of the FASFC, the representatives of the veterinary organisations and the representatives of the sectors concerned.

### Method

This opinion is based on the opinion of experts and statistical analyses of the measures taken by the FASFC (2018-2021).

### Results

The evaluation of the trend curves of the number of measures taken (warnings, infringement notices and withdrawal or suspension of authorisations, approval or registration) during the period 2018-2021 showed that there was no deterioration in the situation. The evaluation also showed that the number of warnings remained stable over time and that the number of infringement notices issued for sectors of activity with more than 100 operators had decreased significantly over the four years studied.

### Conclusions

The Scientific Committee delivers a favorable opinion on the draft Royal Decree establishing the new inspection frequencies in the meat and fish processing sector, that was drafted in line with the recommendations of the HFAA audit and the previous SciCom opinion 20-2017. The Scientific Committee formulated a number of remarks and recommendations with the aim to improve the draft Royal Decree and assess its effects in the future.

### Recommendations

It is recommended to monitor the development over time of the proportion of operators receiving measures (warnings, infringement notice and withdrawal or suspension of authorisations, approval or registration) following the inspections of the FASFC per activity. The Scientific Committee recommends that this follow-up be carried out regularly after 2 or 3 years-long periods .

The full text is available on this website in dutch and in french.