



25 August 2025

(25-5275)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1.	Notifying Member: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
3.	Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Pork and pork products
4.	Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All trading partners <input type="checkbox"/> Specific regions or countries:
5.	Title of the notified document: Visual Post-Mortem Inspection in Swine Slaughter Establishments. Language(s): English. Number of pages: 6 https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/08/19/2025-15749/visual-post-mortem-inspection-in-swine-slaughter-establishments https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2025/SPS/USA/25_05522_00_e.pdf
6.	Description of content: FSIS is proposing to end mandatory mandibular lymph nodes incision and viscera palpation of swine carcasses in all swine slaughter establishments (i.e., establishments operating under traditional swine slaughter inspection or the New Swine Slaughter Inspection System (NSIS)). Mandibular lymph nodes ("lymph nodes") incision and viscera palpation of swine carcasses are not needed to ensure food safety, as FSIS swine condemnation rates are low and disease conditions that are condemnable defects can be detected visually through other pathological changes in the carcass and its parts. Therefore, FSIS is proposing to amend the meat inspection regulations to remove requirements for establishment sorters to "incise mandibular lymph nodes and palpate the viscera" as part of their sorting activities before FSIS post-mortem inspection in NSIS establishments. FSIS is also proposing to amend the post-mortem swine inspection staffing standards table applicable to swine slaughter establishments operating under traditional inspection. This change would allow FSIS more flexibility to assign inspection program personnel (IPP) based on the establishment's line configuration, other establishment operations, and FSIS staffing needs.
7.	Objective and rationale: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> food safety, <input type="checkbox"/> animal health, <input type="checkbox"/> plant protection, <input type="checkbox"/> protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, <input type="checkbox"/> protect territory from other damage from pests.
8.	Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard: <input type="checkbox"/> Codex Alimentarius Commission (e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text): <input type="checkbox"/> World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):

<p><input type="checkbox"/> International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. <i>ISPM number</i>):</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:</p>
<p>9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:</p>
<p>10. Proposed date of adoption (dd/mm/yy): To be determined.</p> <p>Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): To be determined.</p>
<p>11. Proposed date of entry into force: <input type="checkbox"/> Six months from date of publication, and/or (dd/mm/yy): To be determined.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Trade facilitating measure</p>
<p>12. Final date for comments: <input type="checkbox"/> Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): 20 October 2025</p> <p>Agency or authority designated to handle comments: <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>Rachel Edelstein, Assistant Administrator, USDA FSIS Office of Policy and Program Development by telephone at +(202) 205 0495</p>
<p>13. Text(s) available from: <input type="checkbox"/> National Notification Authority, <input type="checkbox"/> National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:</p> <p>https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/08/19/2025-15749/visual-post-mortem-inspection-in-swine-slaughter-establishments</p>