



22 May 2026

(26-3794)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

## NOTIFICATION

### *Addendum*

The following communication, received on 21 May 2026, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States of America.

#### Visual Post-Mortem Inspection in Swine Slaughter Establishments

FSIS is amending its regulations to end mandatory mandibular lymph nodes ("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 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 amending 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 postmortem inspection in NSIS establishments. FSIS is also amending the post-mortem swine inspection staffing standards table applicable to swine slaughter establishments operating under traditional inspection. This change will allow FSIS more flexibility to assign inspection program personnel (IPP) based on the establishment's line configuration, other establishment operations, and FSIS staffing needs.

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2026-05-21/pdf/2026-10186.pdf>  
[https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2026/SPS/USA/26\\_02700\\_00\\_e.pdf](https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2026/SPS/USA/26_02700_00_e.pdf)

#### **This addendum concerns a:**

- Modification of final date for comments
- Notification of adoption, publication or entry into force of regulation
- Modification of content and/or scope of previously notified draft regulation
- Withdrawal of proposed regulation
- Change in proposed date of adoption, publication or date of entry into force
- Other: Effective date: 20 July 2026

**Comment period: (If the addendum extends the scope of the previously notified measure in terms of products and/or potentially affected Members, a new deadline for receipt of comments should be provided, normally of at least 60 calendar days. Under other circumstances, such as extension of originally announced final date for comments, the comment period provided in the addendum may vary.)**

- Sixty days from the date of circulation of the addendum to the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): Not applicable

**Agency or authority designated to handle comments:**  National Notification Authority,  National Enquiry Point. **Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:**

**Text(s) available from:  National Notification Authority,  National Enquiry Point.  
Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:**

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