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|  | **EUROPEAN COMMISSION****CONSUMERS, HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD EXECUTIVE AGENCY****Contract 2013 96 10**Organisation and implementation of training activities on strengthening Member States' response to Union audits under the Better Training for Safer Food initiative |

Invitation to attend BTSF Workshop

CONTROL OF ANIMAL WELFARE AT SLAUGHTER

To be held at FVO, Grange, Ireland on 13-15 OCTOBER 2015

Dear participant

You are invited to attend the BTSF workshop: ‘Control of animal welfare at slaughter’ to be held at the European Commission Food and Veterinary Office (FVO), Grange, Dunsany, County Meath, Ireland from Tuesday 13 – Thursday 15 October 2015.

The workshop is being organised by Food Safety Training Solutions (FSTS) under the European Commission Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) initiative.

**Overall objective**

The overall objective of BTSF training under this contract is to strengthen Member States’ (MSs) response to FVO audits.

Regulation (EC) No. 882/2004 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerns official controls performed to ensure the verification of compliance with feed and food law, animal health and animal welfare rules. Article 45 of the Regulation requires that Commission experts carry out general and specific audits in MSs. The main purpose is to verify that official controls take place in MSs in accordance with multi-annual national control plans and in compliance with Community law.

Audits are carried out by the FVO of the European Commission Directorate General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE).

The **goals** of the workshop are that participants and their respective authorities:

1. take ownership of the findings and conclusions of audit overview reports and use them to improve their official control activities;
2. gain an understanding of good practices in the EU and how they might be adopted in their own situation, possibly with modification to the specific structures and organisation of controls;
3. discuss weaknesses and recurring problems with a view to identifying possible root causes and solutions to remedy or alleviate the problems.

**Specific objectives of the workshop**

The FVO carried out 13 audits in the Member States during 2013-2015 to evaluate the official controls of animal welfare at slaughter. An overview report on this audit series will be published later in 2015.

The FVO audits revealed that one of the main weaknesses in official controls was that the majority of competent authorities (CAs) did not audit business operator performance sufficiently well. Where this was successfully implemented by officials, the industry had been active in developing its own standard operating procedures (SOPs) and checks. Higher levels of the CA had been involved in site visits and had developed procedures so that audits of these “own checks”, as well as inspections of operations, were included in official controls.

The specific objectives of this workshop are to increase and deepen the knowledge of competent authorities in Member States and EEA/EFTA states on:

1. Auditing techniques (SOPs and own checks)
2. Risk-based planning
3. Sharing of good practices
4. Interpretation issues regarding Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009.

**Pre-conditions for high impact of the training**

1. This workshop is focused on controls at slaughterhouses and is targeted at field auditors who specifically audit animal welfare at slaughterhouses. However, it will also be valuable for officials at central or regional level, who are involved in relevant policy making, planning of controls and staff training. Most participants will be from Member States with a small number from EFTA/EEA states.
2. The workshop will involve presentation of the findings and discussion of the forthcoming FVO overview report.
3. Invited Member State experts will present specific examples of good practice.
4. Participants should guarantee to disseminate the findings from the workshop on return to their competent authorities. Dissemination methods will be addressed in group discussions and follow-up support will be provided, including the use of web tools.
5. Information packages will be forwarded to participants before the workshop.
6. The format of the workshop is designed to encourage participation, peer group discussions and sharing of ideas. Participants will have an opportunity to share their experiences in the group and plenary sessions.
7. Please note that the workshop will be conducted in English and interpretation will not be available.

The workshop is being organised by the Food Safety Training Solutions (FSTS) Consortium who will act as facilitators and provide pedagogical support. This will include specific web-based services before, during and after the event.

**DG SANTE contributors**

The following DG SANTE staff will take part in the workshop:

**Unit F6**: Vasco Antunes, Terence Cassidy, Ana Ramirez Vela, Juha Juntilla, Ignacio Carro Perez, Patrick Caruana, Desmond Maguire.

**Unit G3:** Denis Simonin

**Contributors from participating countries:**

Invited speakers from participating countries are indicated in the agenda below.

**Timing**

The workshop sessions will start on Tuesday, 13 October 2015 at 14:30hrs and end on Thursday, 15 October 2015 at 12:30hrs.

Depending on flight schedules to Dublin airport, it is expected that most participants will travel to FVO, Grange, Ireland on the morning of Tuesday, 13 October 2015 and return home on Thursday afternoon, 15 October 2015.

Participants for whom it is not possible to arrange suitable flight connections may arrive one day earlier on Monday 12 October, or return one day later on Friday 16 October.

**TRAINING AGENDA**

**Tuesday, 13 October 2015**

***Afternoon session***

14:15-14:30 Registration

14:30-15:00 Welcome, M. Scannell (Director FVO) and the Workshop Chairman (FSTS). Presentation of tutors

15:00-15:30 Legal framework and possible future developments (Denis Simonin, SANTE G3)

15:30-16:00 Coffee break

16:00-17:30 Participant introductions and expectations from the workshop

**Wednesday, 14 October 2015**

***Morning session***

09:00-09:45 Overview report on the FVO audits (F6 auditors)

09:45-10:30 Audits and inspections an approach to controls in Spain (Miguel Angel Gomez Fierros)

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-12:30 Scenarios for break out groups

1. Pigs - Gas stunning
2. Cattle - Welfare at arrival and ritual slaughter
3. Sheep - Maintenance of equipment and manufacturer's instructions
4. Poultry ‑ Water bath stunning
5. Training of staff

***Afternoon session***

13:30-15:00 Presentation by each group on outcomes from scenario

15:00-15:30 Coffee break

15:30-17:30 Plenary discussion of issues raised in scenarios

**Thursday, 15 October 2015**

***Morning session***

09:00-09:30 Deciding control frequencies (Simone Schöning, Germany)

09:45-10:30 Organisation of controls on a risk basis with emphasis on water bath stunning of poultry (C.J. de Vries, Netherlands)

10:30-11:00 Coffee break

11:00-11:30 Work of EFSA and scientific contact point network

11:45-12:00 CIRCABC sharing best practice

12:00-12:30 Final conclusions and outcomes

**12:30 End of workshop, lunch and depart**

Further information and course material will be made available to participants on a dedicated website before the start of the event.

**Background documents**

 Overview report (DG(SANCO) 2015-7213) Official controls of animal welfare at slaughter, based on audits carried out in Member States in 2013-2015 (to be forwarded in advance of workshop)

Report (DG(SANCO) 2013-7124) Desk study on documented procedures for official controls and guides to good practice on Council Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing. [**http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/overview\_reports/details.cfm?rep\_id=60**](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/overview_reports/details.cfm?rep_id=60)

Overview report (ref DG(SANCO) 2011-6261) “Fact finding missions in 2011 concerning animal welfare at slaughter in non-EU countries with regard to future compliance with Regulation (EC) No. 1099/2009. [**http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/overview\_reports/details.cfm?rep\_id=10**](http://ec.europa.eu/food/fvo/overview_reports/details.cfm?rep_id=10)

The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) four scientific opinions on the welfare of cattle, pigs, sheep and goats, and poultry during the slaughter process.

[**http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/animalwelfare.htm**](http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/topics/topic/animalwelfare.htm)

Better Training for Safer Food (BTSF) e-learning module on animal welfare at slaughter and killing for disease control. [**http://www.btsf-elearning-campus.eu/moodle/**](http://www.btsf-elearning-campus.eu/moodle/)

European Commission brochure “The Animal Welfare officer in the EU” available in 22 languages.

 [**http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health\_food-safety/information\_sources/docs/ahw/brochure\_24102012\_en.pdf**](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_food-safety/information_sources/docs/ahw/brochure_24102012_en.pdf)

**Social events**

A welcome cocktail party will be held at the hotel on the first evening. FVO staff and course tutors will be invited. This will be followed by dinner for participants.

A three course dinner will be held on the second evening followed by Irish music and entertainment.

**Logistical arrangements**

The Food Safety Training Solutions Consortium (FSTS) led by Agri-Livestock Consultants Ltd (ALC) has been appointed to organise the event and make logistical arrangements. The FSTS contact address is alc.btsf.welfare@gmail.com. Participant arrangements will be made by Anne Martin, who can be contacted at this address.

The following participant costs will be paid by the European Commission:

1. Economy class (or equivalent) flights from the nearest convenient airport to Dublin or first-class train or bus travel as appropriate; transfer from and to Dublin airport to the hotel; transfers from the hotel to FVO offices and any visit locations.
2. Travel costs from the participant’s home to the nearest airport/bus station/train station will be covered if requested together with an estimate of the costs. You are expected to travel by public transport wherever possible.
3. Full board accommodation including room, breakfast, lunch and dinner.
4. Refreshments during morning and afternoon coffee breaks.

**Travel**

It is anticipated that most participants will arrive at FVO, Grange on Tuesday morning, 13 October 2015. Some participants may need to arrive on Monday, 12 October 2015 if it is not possible to arrange flights on Tuesday morning. Most participants will depart on Thursday 15 October unless it is not possible to arrange flight connections and it is necessary to stay an extra night.

**Hotel**

Accommodation will be provided at the Trim Castle Hotel, a short journey from the FVO offices at Grange:

Trim Castle Hotel, Castle Street, Trim, Co. Meath, Ireland
Telephone: +353 (0)46 948 3000

Fax: +353 (0)46 948 3077
Email: info@trimcastlehotel.com

Web: <http://www.trimcastlehotel.com/>

**Acceptance of invitation and logistical arrangements**

Please complete the attached form indicating whether you are able to attend and providing logistical details.

Please send the completed application form to your national contact point (NCP) for BTSF training with a copy to alc.btsf.welfare@gmail.com.

A list of NCPs is available from the website: <http://ec.europa.eu/food/training_strategy/participants/ms_contact_points_en.htm>

We apologise for the very short response time. Unfortunately it has not been possible to make all the arrangements any sooner. We have planned the workshop in close cooperation with the FVO. In many cases the FVO has already contacted officials in Member States and EFTA/EEA states about this course. If you have not already been contacted, we hope that you are able to accept this invitation at this late stage.

To ensure a good attendance and the success of the workshop, please make every effort to send your application to your NCP with a copy to alc.btsf.welfare@gmail.com by **Monday 21 September 2015**. If you are unable to finalise your application by this date, please let us know and we can discuss your specific arrangements.

**Application to attend BTSF training**

Control of animal welfare at slaughter

**To be held at FVO, Grange, Ireland on 13 – 15 October 2015**

**Please complete the following application details:**

I wish to attend the above training course on 13 – 15 October 2015 Yes / No

I agree to participate in follow up activities to disseminate

the knowledge gained on return to my home country Yes / No

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|  | Title (Mr, Mrs, Ms) |  |
|  | Academic Title (Dr., Prof.) |  |
| i | **Full name as in passport:** |  |
|  | First name |  |
|  | Family name |  |
| ii | Position |  |
| iii | Organisation / department |  |
| iv | Address |  |
| v | City |  |
| vi | Country |  |
| vii | Email address |  |
| viii | Contact telephone |  |
| ix | Preferred airport of departure |  |
| x | Do you have adequate English language skills to attend the above course as no interpretation or translation facilities will be available? | Yes / No |
| xi | Please indicate any special physical or dietary needs that need to be considered? |  |
| xii | Have you already been contacted by the FVO concerning your participation at this event? | Yes / No |
| xiii | Will you require reimbursement of your travel costs between your home and the airport. Please indicate the type of transport and the expected cost to and from the airport. Provide additional information on a separate sheet of paper if necessary. | Yes / No |

Do you have any queries or comments concerning the training course?

If so, please explain in the box below:

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**Please complete the application and respond to your National Contact Point (NCP) with a copy to** alc.btsf.welfare@gmail.com by **Monday 21 September 2015**. If you are unable to finalise your application by this date, please let us know and we can discuss your specific arrangements.

Thank you for your cooperation and we looking forward to meeting you at the workshop.

Anne Martin

FSTS Consortium

alc.btsf.welfare@gmail.com