

WRITTEN QUESTION E-0760/03
by Elisabeth Jeggle (PPE-DE)
to the Commission

Subject: Operating conditions for incineration plants under Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002

The ban on feeding animal meal to non-ruminants resulting from the BSE crisis has made the destruction of carcasses and waste from slaughter highly cost-intensive. Many rendering establishments treating animal waste that are currently planning the renovation or rebuilding of their incineration plants are thus considering the possibility of using animal fat that they have produced themselves as a fuel.

Regarding the operation of an incineration plant, Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002,¹ Annex IV Chapter II Paragraph 3 ('Operating Conditions'), requires a minimum temperature of 850 °C, to be maintained for at least two seconds. However, without pre- and post-incineration chambers, which are very costly and occupy a great deal of space, a temperature of 1 400 °C is reached for a maximum of 0.6 seconds. Thus, the physical properties of animal fat as a liquid fuel for incineration place it outside the required parameters.

Does the Commission see a possibility of amending Regulation (EC) No 1774/2002 to reflect the current situation, granting potential applicants special permission to operate incineration plants using animal fats with the above parameters (1 400 °C for 0.6 seconds)?

¹ OJ L 273 of 10.10.2002, p. 1.