

**Question for written answer E-002945/2017  
to the Commission**

Rule 130

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Subject: Micro-scale slaughterhouses

Regulation (EC) No 854/2004 sets out rules for official controls on products of animal origin for human consumption. Carcasses of bovine animals over six months old have to be split lengthways into half carcasses down the spinal column for a post-mortem inspection by a veterinarian.

This rule imposes a disproportionate cost burden on micro-scale slaughterhouses, which are attached to farms and slaughter a few hundred animals per year. If the height of their cold room does not allow lengthways-split carcasses to be hung awaiting inspection, carcasses have to be inspected one at a time. If, for example, three animals are slaughtered in the course of a single day, a veterinarian has to be present for practically the entire day, which significantly raises the cost of the meat.

The economic viability of micro-scale slaughterhouses would be helped by allowing a veterinarian to inspect cut half-carcasses. The symmetry of carcasses could be ensured by filming the halves before cutting.

The Ministry of Agriculture of Finland has not applied the above-mentioned exception provided for by the Commission, as it deems its success unlikely.

Would the Commission consider it possible to allow a veterinarian to inspect cut half-carcasses in micro-slaughterhouses which process, for example, under 500 animal units per year?