

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 5th meeting of the Working Group on LAPS for stunning of poultry

Held on 24 10 2013, Parma

(Agreed on 06 11 2013)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Howard Browman
 - Mohan Raj
 - Antonio Velarde
 - Graham Scott has participated via teleconference
- **EFSA:**
 - AHAW Unit: Sandra Correia

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topics for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on LAPS for stunning of poultry ([EFSA-Q-2013-00322](#))

Discussion on the consistency with the "Guidance on the assessment criteria for studies evaluating the effectiveness of stunning interventions regarding animal protection at the time

¹ <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencepolicy.pdf>

² <http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/keydocs/docs/independencerules.pdf>

of killing” ([EFSA-Q-2013-00532](#)). As further changes were made during the AHAW plenary meeting on the day before, the suggestions for improving the Guidance document developed during this meeting, mainly in relation to the LAPS, will be incorporated afterwards.

The evaluation of the four studies submitted, was finalised by the experts. Final revision of the draft opinion was done as this was the last WG meeting.

5. Any Other Business

5.2 Tasks and deadline

The experts will still have the chance to revise the draft before it is circulated to the AHAW Panel for discussion at the next AHAW plenary meeting (26, 27 November). Tasks were assigned and deadlines agreed.

6. Next meetings

None

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 4th meeting of the Working Group on LAPS for stunning of poultry

Held on 04 10 2013, Parma
(Agreed on 09 10 2013)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Howard Browman
 - Mohan Raj
 - Antonio Velarde
- **EFSA:**
 - AHAW Unit: Sandra Correia, Maria Ferrara

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topics for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on LAPS for stunning of poultry ([EFSA-Q-2013-00322](#))

Short discussion on the consistency with the "Guidance on the assessment criteria for studies evaluating the effectiveness of stunning interventions regarding animal protection at the time of killing" ([EFSA-Q-2013-00532](#)). As the last meeting of the latter WG was on the

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day before, the suggestions for improving the Guidance document developed during this meeting, mainly in relation to the LAPS, will be incorporated afterwards.

Parts of the draft were revised considering the data provided in the studies to be evaluated and the input from the expert on avian respiratory physiology (during the previous web conference meeting on the 2 October).

5. Update on literature review

The search made using the terms decided during the last meeting could not retrieve more articles/ studies than the ones one already collected.

6. Any Other Business

5.2 Tasks and deadline

The new expert, specialised in avian respiratory physiology will be invited to participate by web conference to the WG meeting on the 24 October. Tasks were assigned and deadlines agreed.

7. Next meetings

24 October 2013 (physical meeting, Parma)

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 3rd meeting of the Working Group on LAPS for stunning of poultry

WEB-conference, 02 10 2013

(Agreed on 09 10 2013)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Howard Browman
 - Mohan Raj
 - Graham Scott
- **EFSA:**
 - AHAW Unit: Sandra Correia, Maria Ferrara

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants. Apologies were received from Antonio Velarde.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topics for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on LAPS for stunning of poultry ([EFSA-Q-2013-00322](#))

The chair explained the background of this mandate as well its ToR. The work being developed until now was shortly explained to the new expert.

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Some specific issues were asked to the new expert regarding: a) the avian respiratory physiology on what concerns the effect of low atmosphere pressure; b) the welfare consequences of rapid decompression in chickens (terrestrial bird species that doesn't fly at high altitudes) and c) the current content of the opinion, mainly focusing on the areas related to his expertise.

In relation to the evaluation of the specific studies provided by the EC, the consequences of the intervention in respect to the poultry respiratory physiology and therefore, the impact on the animal welfare, were thoroughly addressed. The discussions will be reflected in the revision of the assessment.

The expert was asked to provide and share with the other experts any other article or study relevant for this mandate.

5. Any Other Business

5.2 Tasks and deadline

The new expert, specialised in avian respiratory physiology will be invited to participate by web conference to the WG meeting on the 24 October. Tasks were assigned and deadlines agreed.

6. Next meetings

4 October 2013 (physical meeting, Parma)

24 October 2013 (physical meeting, Parma)

AHAW UNIT

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 2nd meeting of the Working Group on LAPS for stunning of poultry

WEB-conference, 12 09 2013

(Agreed on 19 09 2013)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Howard Browman
 - Mohan Raj
 - Antonio Velarde
- **EFSA:**
 - AHAW Unit: Maria Ferrara, Sandra Correia, Andrea Gervelmeyer

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted with changes. A new point concerning the EFSA “Guidance on the assessment criteria for studies evaluating the effectiveness of stunning interventions regarding animal protection at the time of killing”, was added.

3. Declarations of interest

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4. Scientific topics for discussion

4.1. Draft opinion on LAPS for stunning of poultry ([EFSA-Q-2013-00322](#))

- Discussion of the structure of the draft Opinion and consistency of approach/assessment in relation to the “Guidance on the assessment criteria for studies evaluating the

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effectiveness of stunning interventions regarding animal protection at the time of killing”
(EFSA-Q-2013-00322):

The current structure of the draft and the consistency to the Guidance document were discussed. Some changes were made and pending tasks identified related to the eligibility assessment of the studies provided by the EC addressing the animal welfare implications of LAPS.

- Drafting/revision of specific sections of the draft opinion:

Some sections of the draft were revised and expanded in order to better reflect the evaluation of those studies. It was clearly identified the need to get more information in relation to the avian respiratory physiology, reason why an expert in that area is being contacted to participate in the discussions.

5. Update on literature review

The experts were asked to comment on the current literature search and to advice on further developments.

6. Any Other Business

5.2 Tasks and deadline

The organisation of the next meetings mainly concerning the participation of an expert in avian respiratory physiology was agreed. Tasks and deadlines were agreed.

7. Next meetings

2 October 2013 (web conference with the expert in avian respiratory physiology)

4 October 2013 (physical meeting, Parma)

24 October 2013 (web conference)

AHAW UNIT

Scientific Panel on Animal Health and Welfare

Minutes of the 1st meeting of the Working Group on LAPS for stunning of poultry

WEB-conference, 25 07 2013

(Agreed on 30 07 2013)

Participants

- **Working Group Experts:**
 - Howard Browman, Mohan Raj, Antonio Velarde

- **EFSA:**
 - AHAW Unit: Maria Ferrara

1. Welcome and apologies for absence

The Chair welcomed the participants.

2. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

3. Declarations of interest

In accordance with EFSA's Policy on Independence and Scientific Decision-Making Processes¹ and the Decision of the Executive Director implementing this Policy regarding Declarations of Interests², EFSA screened the Annual Declaration of interest and the Specific Declaration of interest filled in by the experts invited for the present meeting. No conflicts of interests related to the issues discussed in this meeting have been identified during the screening process or at the Oral Declaration of interest at the beginning of this meeting.

4. Scientific topics for discussion

4.1. Discussion of the methodological approach ([EFSA-Q-2013-00322](#))

Introduction:

- The mandate as received from the Commission and its background were presented. The work, already carried out in the frame of the draft Guidance on the assessment criteria for studies evaluating the effectiveness of stunning interventions regarding animal protection at the time of killing, was recalled.

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Approach:

- The submitted studies will be assessed following the approach used for the previously adopted Scientific Opinions on the electrical parameters for the stunning of lambs and kid goats and on the use of carbon dioxide for stunning rabbits, and as outlined in the above-referred draft Guidance.
- The assessment will focus on the studies addressing the animal welfare implications of LAPS.
- The eligibility assessment of the studies and next steps were discussed, following the criteria for LAPS identified in the draft Guidance on the assessment criteria for studies evaluating the effectiveness of stunning interventions regarding animal protection at the time of killing.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Discussion of the roadmap

The roadmap was discussed and agreed.

5.2 Tasks and deadline

Tasks and deadlines were agreed.

6. Next meetings

12 September 2013 (web conference)

4 October 2013 (physical meeting, Parma)