

## Cooperation between a competent authority and stakeholders

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In Denmark, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration (DVFA) represents the competent authority for meat inspection. DVFA has a tradition of working together with stakeholders representing different food business operators (FBO) in projects dealing with the development of the meat inspection. DVFA and representatives of FBO have regular working meetings scheduled through the year, during which current projects are discussed and new ones developed.

It is the FBO representatives, who plan the projects based upon their needs. The role of the DVFA is to aid with legislation and ensure communication. Often, these projects involve staff employed by the DVFA, because the projects are carried out in slaughterhouses. The projects may subsequently lead to changes in the Danish meat inspection legislation, depending the outcome of the study and often followed by an independent risk assessment carried out by the Technical University of Denmark. The first priority is food safety.

Increasing difficulties in recruiting staff, both official veterinarians and official auxiliaries mean that we must look at other possibilities. New advanced camera-based vision technologies can be part of the solution and will likely be a part of meat inspection in the future. This is supported by the digital transformation vision of the DVFA.

An example of one of the projects, is the development of algorithms that can detect fecal contamination, and later also bile contamination and chronic pleurisy on carcasses from pigs at the post-mortem (PM) inspection. The object is to create a uniform an automatic system to support the PM inspection; and in addition, to share this information with the cleaner and final control.

Danish Technological Institute has developed a system with cameras that covers all visible surfaces of the carcass. Using both normal color and NIR cameras, a total of 48 pictures are taken of each carcass. Hence, artificial intelligence and graphics processing unit technology is used to develop the algorithms for detecting different kinds of contamination of the carcass.

Currently, a test system is installed in a Danish abattoir and the system is ready for test and validation.

However, individual Member States in the European Union (EU) cannot develop and implement new technologies, which are not in line with common legislation. The Member States shall inform the EU Commission and other Member States on scientific and technological developments, for consideration and further action as appropriate ((EC) 2019/627).

That is why the DVFA is working on changing the EU legislation at the same time as working on the projects with the FBO. Legislation relating to new technologies is discussed in the Expert Group on Food of Animal Origin in EU. The representative from Denmark has twice mediated contact between the EU Commission and the owner of a project on new computerized vision-based technologies, in order to have the project presented through this group to the EU Commission and the other Member States. In that way, the DVFA supports keeping new technologies on the agenda in the EU and maintain the discussion on how and when the legislation can and will be changed.

The talk will focus on the roles and responsibilities of the competent authorities and the FBO regarding modernization of meat inspection including use of new technologies.