

SHEEPMET (LABELLING REQUIREMENTS)

SCOPE

The Cabinet of Ministers draft regulation sets the requirement for slaughterhouses to identify all sheep by age with a mark on the carcass thus distinguishing lamb, that is, sheep who at the time of slaughter are under 12 months, from other sheep, that is, sheep who at the time of slaughter are 12 months or older.

The identification is required to ensure traceability and information continuity and therefore it should be maintained in the marks of sheep meat at all stages of food handling.

LATVIAN REGULATIONS

Cabinet Regulation No. 272, adopted on 2th June, 2009 "[Regulation for the additional requirement of marking sheep meat](#)"

PRIOR AUTHORIZATION

Not required

CONTACTS

AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR REGULATIONS

Ministry of Agriculture

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MARKET SURVEILLANCE AUTHORITY

Food and Veterinary Service

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MAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR ECONOMIC OPERATORS

Identification is necessary to ensure traceability and continuity of information and should therefore be retained on the label of sheepmeat at all stages of the food chain. In this way, the consumer is not misled as to the age, quality and taste of the sheep. The requirements apply to sheepmeat reared and slaughtered in Latvia and intended for distribution on the domestic market of Latvia.

Within 60 minutes of the slaughter of the animal, the slaughterhouse worker shall mark the carcasses with the identification letter of the relevant category:

- "J" if the sheep were slaughtered before the age of 12 months;
- "A" if the sheep were slaughtered at the age of 12 months or more.

The labeling of sheep carcasses shall show next to the identification letter of the relevant category:

- in the first line - the date of slaughter XxxD, where X is the last number of the year, xx is the week of the year, D is the day of the week;
- in the second line, the slaughter serial number (in Arabic numerals) for the day in question.

The outer surface of sheep carcasses shall be marked with a stamp. Where sheep carcasses are divided into half-carcasses or quarters or half-carcasses into three parts, each piece of sheep carcass shall be marked.

An indelible and non-toxic ink shall be used for the stamp.

The letters and numbers used on the label must be at least two centimeters high and clearly legible.

The labeling and accompanying documents for fresh, chilled or frozen sheepmeat (whether or not cut) shall indicate at all stages of the food chain the name used for trade in sheepmeat:

- "Lamb" if the sheep are slaughtered before the age of 12 months;
- "Sheepmeat" if the sheep were slaughtered at the age of 12 months or more.