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COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No .../..

of XXX

laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards the indication of the country of origin or place of provenance for fresh, chilled and frozen meat of swine, sheep, goats and poultry

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union,

Having regard to Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 October 2011 on the provision of food information to consumers, amending Regulations (EC) No 1924/2006 and (EC) No 1925/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council, and repealing Commission Directive 87/250/EEC, Council Directive 90/496/EEC, Commission Directive 1999/10/EC, Directive 2000/13/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, Commission Directives 2002/67/EC and 2008/5/EC and Commission Regulation (EC) No 608/2004¹, and in particular Article 26(8) thereof,

Whereas: **[to be completed]**

(1) (...)

(2) (...)

(...)

HAS ADOPTED THIS REGULATION:

Article 1

Subject matter and scope

This Regulation lays down rules on the indication of the country of origin or place of provenance on the label of pre-packed fresh, chilled and frozen meat of swine, meat of sheep or goats, and meat of poultry, falling within the respective Combined Nomenclature codes listed in Annex XI to Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011.

¹ OJ L 304, 22.11.2011, p. 18.

Article 2

Definitions

1. For the purposes of this Regulation, the definitions in Article 2 of Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, , the definition of "food business operator" in point (3) of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) N° 178/2002, the definition of "establishment" in point 1(c) of Article 2 of Regulation (EC) N° 852/2004, as well as the definitions of "minced meat", "slaughterhouse" and "cutting plant" in points 1.13, 1.16 and 1.17 of Annex I to Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 shall apply.
2. The following definitions shall also apply:
 - (a) 'trimmings' means small pieces of meat, falling within the Combined Nomenclature codes listed in Annex XI to Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, recognised as fit for human consumption and produced exclusively during trimming operations, when boning of carcasses or when cutting up of meat;
 - (b) 'batch' means meat, falling within the Combined Nomenclature codes listed in Annex XI to Regulation (EU) No 1169/2011, obtained from a single species, with or without bone, whether or not cut or minced, packed together under practically identical conditions.

Article 3

Traceability

1. Food business operators shall have in place an identification and registration system at each of their various stages of production and distribution of the meat referred to in Article 1.
2. That system shall be applied in such a way as to ensure:
 - a) the link between the meat and the animal or group of animals from which the meat has been obtained, as that animal or group of animals has been identified by the slaughterhouse, and
 - b) the transmission of the information relating to the indications referred to in Article 5(1) together with the meat to the operators at the subsequent stages of production and distribution.

Each food business operator shall be responsible for the application of the identification and registration system, as laid down in the first subparagraph, within the stage of production and distribution at which it operates.
3. The system referred to in paragraph 1 shall record, in particular, the arrival at and the departure from the establishment of the food business operator, of animals, carcasses or cuts, as appropriate, and ensure a correspondence between arrivals and departures.

Article 4

Group of animals

1. The size of the group of animals referred to in Articles 3 and 5 shall be defined by:
 - (a) the number of carcasses cut together and constituting one batch for the cutting plant concerned in case of cutting of carcasses;
 - (b) the number of carcasses whose meat constitutes one batch for the cutting or mincing plant concerned in case of further cutting or mincing.
2. The size of a batch shall not exceed the production of one day in a single establishment.
3. *When constituting the batches, the establishments in which meat is cut or minced shall ensure that all carcasses in a batch come from animals reared in only one Member State or third country and have been slaughtered in only one Member State or third country..*

For the purposes of applying Article 7, the establishments in which meat is cut or minced may derogate from the first subparagraph of this Article.

Article 5

Labelling of meat

1. The label of meat referred to in Article 1 intended for supplying to the final consumer or to mass caterers shall contain the following indications:
 - (a) the Member State or third country in which the last period of rearing of at least two months for swine, sheep and goats and one month for poultry took place, indicated as 'Reared in: (name of the Member State or third country)'. If the minimum period of rearing has not been met, that indication shall refer to the Member State or third country in which the animal or group of animals were last reared before the period of 15 days preceding the day of the slaughter for swine, sheep and goats, and before the period of 5 days preceding the day of the slaughter for poultry;
 - (b) the Member State or third country in which slaughter took place indicated as 'Slaughtered in: (name of the Member State or third country)';
 - (c) a reference code ensuring the link between the meat and the animal or group of animals.

2. Where the application of points (a) and (b) of paragraph 1 results in providing indications that refer to the same Member State or the same third country, those indications may be replaced by 'Reared and slaughtered in: (name of Member State or third country)'.
3. Where several cuts of meat of the same or of different species, obtained from animals reared and slaughtered in different Member States or third countries, are packed in the same pack, the label shall indicate:
- a) the list of Member States or third countries of rearing and slaughtering, in accordance with points (a) and (b) of paragraph 1, for each species
 - b) a reference code ensuring the link between the meat of each species and the previous production batches of the single species.

Article 6

Derogation for meat from third countries

By way of derogation from Article 5(1) (a) and (b), the label of meat, as referred to in Article 1, imported into the Union for placing on the internal market, and for which not all the information provided for in Article 5(1) is available, shall contain the indication 'Reared in: non-EU', 'Slaughtered in: (name of the third country where the animals were slaughtered)'.

Article 7

Derogations for minced meat and trimmings

By way of derogation from Article 5(1) (a) and (b), as regards minced meat and trimmings, the following indications may be applied:

- (a) 'Reared and slaughtered in: EU', where minced meat or trimmings are produced exclusively from meat obtained from animals reared and slaughtered in different Member States;
- (b) 'Reared and slaughtered in: non-EU', where minced meat or trimmings are produced exclusively from meat imported into the Union or from meat obtained from animals imported into the Union;
- (c) 'Reared in: non-EU' and 'Slaughtered in: (*Name of the Member State*)' where minced meat or trimmings are produced exclusively from meat obtained from animals imported into the Union as animals for slaughter and slaughtered in a Member State;
- (d) 'Reared and slaughtered in: EU and non-EU' where minced meat or trimmings are produced from meat obtained from animals reared and slaughtered in different Member States and from meat imported into the Union or from meat obtained from animals imported into the Union and slaughtered in different Member States.

Article 8

Entry into force

This Regulation shall enter into force on the third day following its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 1 April 2015.

Meat which has been lawfully placed on the EU market before that date may be further cut, minced or packed and continue to be sold until stock is exhausted.

It shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.

Done at Brussels,

For the Commission

The President

José Manuel BARROSO