

# Food Safety control of products of animal origin: **POULTRY**

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As a third world country, South Africa relies heavily on research output from Europe. Many of South Africa's Veterinary regulation attempt to follow European standards. It is not always possible due to restraints both financially and practically.

## PUBLIC HEALTH RISKS RELATED TO POULTRY MEAT PRODUCTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

1. Biological hazards	Priority in South Africa
1.1. Salmonella- Enteritidis and Typhimurium	- High priority - A problem with backyard chickens
1.2. Campylobacter- C. Jejuni (most frequent) and C. coli	- high priority - people affected may develop Guillain Barre Syndrome
1.3. Listeria Monocytogenes	- High to medium priority - associated with ready to eat products
1.4. E. coli	- High priority in South Africa since it is a developing country - People affected may develop the Haemolytic Uremic Syndrome
1.5 Toxoplasma gondii	- Medium to low priority - Important in immunocompromised individuals such as HIV positive people and pregnant women
1.6 Clostridia spp: - C. Botulinum - C. difficile	- High to medium priority for C. Botulinum - Not enough data on C. difficile
1.7 Staphylococcus aureus toxin	- Medium to priority

## POULTRY REGULATIONS: EU VS SA

South African poultry slaughterhouses rely heavily on management protocols used by poultry farmers in order to ensure the safety of the meat being produced. Many poultry slaughterhouses do not have a standard regime in place which tests for substance residues. Main points of the Post-mortem examinations are to identify gross pathological lesions as well as removing contaminated pieces of carcass.

### South Africa Limitations:

- Availability of finances for substance residue testing
- Slaughterhouses rely heavily on 'good faith' of farmers
- Low cost protein source in high demand
- Farmers have access to drugs which leave residues

### European Limitations:

- High demand for 'animal-friendly' farming techniques
- Strict drug control legislation
- Increasing demand for non-meat based protein

### South African growth possibilities:

- Growing population results in poultry industry strengthening
- Ostrich product industry has huge potential
- Global village concept allows South Africa to follow new trends

### European concepts that South Africa can adopt:

- Regular risk factor monitoring and protocol updates
- Mechanisation of slaughterhouses to increase surveillance
- By-product harvesting for other industries (eg. biodiesel)

## POULTRY WELFARE: EU VS SA

### Welfare in South Africa:

- Main concern is production levels
- Much less regulated than EU standards
- Mainstay of 'birds that produce well are happy birds'
- Financial implications of land allocation per bird
- Small scale farmers uneducated on welfare

### Welfare in EU:

- Incredibly high standards
- Willing to sacrifice production for welfare
- Financially viable to be bird-friendly
- Close monitoring of farms allows maintenance of high standards
- Consumer demand for welfare is higher

### South African opportunities to promote welfare:

- Include animal welfare in basic education
- Subsidise farmers who choose bird welfare over production levels
- Start educating small scale farmers on welfare issues
- State veterinary services should prioritise welfare

