

## **Animal byproducts management in poultry slaughterhouses**

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### **Summary**

In our country, the poultry meat industry is a promising and dynamic sector, characterized by continuous modernization, adoption of innovative practices and vertically integrated production, in order to meet the ever-increasing demand for high-quality and low-priced meat. It covers 40% of the total domestic meat production and the degree of self-sufficiency reaches 77.5%. The increasing sizes of poultry meat also generate large amounts of animal by-products (A.B.Ps) throughout the production chain, from poultry farms, poultry slaughterhouses, to meat processing industries and the retail, with subsequent particular importance for the economy, public health, animal health and environmental protection. In this work, a special mention is made of the obligations of Food Business Operators of poultry slaughterhouses, with regard to the management of the produced waste products (inedible tissues, blood, feathers, limbs), due to their wide variety and significant volume, but also to the possibilities of exploiting their added value. The entrepreneurs of the sector must comply with specific requirements of the legislation of the ABPs, regarding the collection, categorization, labeling, temporary storage and shipping to approved management units, implementing a system of self-control. Also the official veterinarians are asked to verify the correct implementation of the legislation, in the context of exercise of their duties during the official inspection of poultry establishments. The traceability of ABPs, from their production to their shipment, is a fundamental obligation of F.B.O.s in poultry plants. With the proper management of ABPs, it is ensured that their return to the human food chain is impossible, public health is protected, the environmental burden is reduced and the circular economy is strengthened. That occurs through the production of products of economic interest, such as animal feed, fertilizers and bioenergy. The whole process of animal by-products management is a challenge for the entrepreneurs of the sector, who are called on one hand to bear the relevant costs for the implementation of the requirements of the legislation and on the other to exploit its benefits.

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