Methods to be used for microbiological testing to be undertaken on meat intended for Finland and Sweden

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OBJECTIVE: to amend Decisions 95/409/EC, 95/410/EC and 95/411/EC in order to introduce the possibility of using a microbiological method offering equivalent guarantees. SUBSTANCE: following the accession of Austria, Finland and Sweden and in the context of protection against salmonella, additional guarantees were defined by the Council for consignments of fresh beef and veal and pigmeat, of poultry for slaughter and of poultrymeat intended for Finland and Sweden. Decisions 95/409/EC, 95/410 /EC and 95/411/EC provide for the microbiological testing method for the presence of salmonella in samples to be the standard method ISO 6579:1993 (International Organization for Standardization). In accordance with the opinion of the Scientific Veterinary Committee the method described by the Nordic Committee on Food Analysis (NMKL method) can be considered as equivalent to the ISO method. This proposal for a decision provides for the possibility to use the NMKL method as an alternative method. In case of conflicting results between Member States, the ISO method should be used. This decision has no impact on the Community budget.