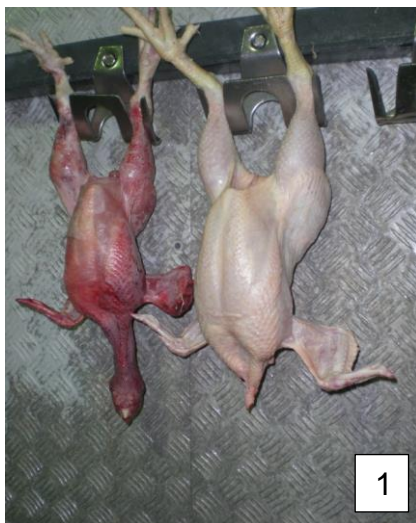


# Conditions for Rejection of Poultry at Post Mortem

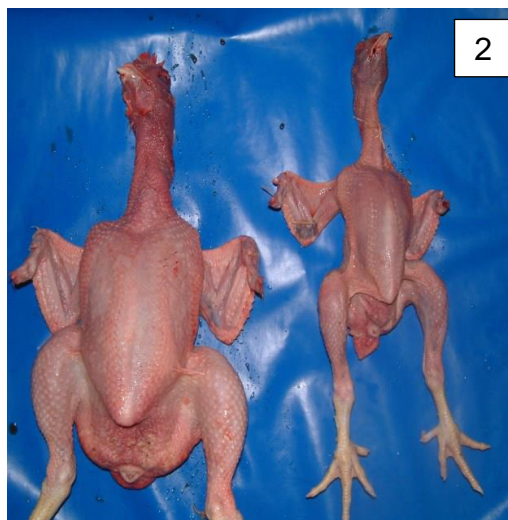
## Dead other than slaughter (uncut - badly bled, injuries)



**Fig 1:** Comparison of properly bled bird against an uncut neck bird.

**Fig 2:** Uncut neck bird compared with abnormal colour/feverish carcass. Note the brightness and cherry red colour of the uncut compared with the brown-red colour of the diseased chicken

**Fig 3:** A group of uncut neck birds. Back up slaughter man was formally cautioned.



**Fig 4:** Badly bled, note that although the bird has gone through the ANC this has failed to sever at least one of the carotids.



## FSS Responsibilities

### Post-mortem Disposition

**Total rejection** of carcass and offal.

### Average rejection levels in GB

Poultry: 0.005 %

### Recording of the condition

The condition must be recorded on the Death other entry on the Post Mortem Inspection section of OWS.



**Figure 5:** Bird with head trapped between crate and module. Catching team should be investigated.

## Further Information

### Description

Carcasses inadequately bled.  
Death due to injury during transport/catching.

### Remarks/Consequences

It is important to take into consideration the possible welfare implication on stun only systems (high frequency water bath stunners where birds are not subjected to cardiac arrest) as birds may recover from the stun with the possibility of entering alive into the scalding tank. Injuries during catching/transport are welfare issues and should be reported to the FBO ASAP.

### Causes

Failure of the automatic neck cutter (ANC) and/or back up slaughter man to sever at least one of the carotid arteries due to:

- Flock of uneven size
- Poorly adjusted/ maintained equipment
- Failure of back up slaughter man to address ANC inefficiencies.
- Insufficient bleeding time.

### Comments from inspection teams

Birds that do not conform to the average size of the flock (e.g. runts) to which the machinery has been set may miss the automatic neck cutter. It is important to monitor occurrence of the condition and performance of the back up slaughtermen. On stun only systems, immediate action must be taken due to the implications on the welfare of the poultry (e.g. birds entering the scalding tank alive).

### What is the data on rejects used for?

The data permits the OV to monitor welfare during slaughter in stun only systems, with special emphasis on ANC settings and back up slaughter men performance. Death due to catching/transport related injuries are reported as welfare cases to LA TS/APHA.

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**Pictures:** Camilla Brena (OV); Asier Pagazaurtundua (VM), British Veterinary Poultry Association