

# Conditions for Rejection of Poultry at Post Mortem

**Other Factory (poor plucking, poor evisceration, requirements not met)**

## Post Mortem Disposition



**Figures 1 & 2:** Examples of poorly plucked birds.



**Figures 3 & 4:** Examples of carcasses that have failed to be eviscerated. The offal was subsequently removed and the carcass allowed to enter the food chain.



## FSS Responsibilities

### Post mortem disposition

**Partial rejection:** FBO must be provided with the opportunity to address the dressing deficiency.

**Total rejection:** if the carcass is not rectified or if this is beyond rectification.

### Average rejection levels in GB

Poultry: 0.01%

### Recording of the condition

The condition must be recorded on the "Other factory (poor plucking etc.)" entry under Post Mortem Inspection on OWS.

## Further Information

### Definition

Carcasses that have failed to be dressed, or have not been dressed to an acceptable standard. This includes un-eviscerated or poorly plucked carcasses.

**Note:** Partially eviscerated carcasses should only be processed if authorised by the competent authority

### Remarks/Consequences

The main abnormalities that are a result of poor dressing are the following:

- Poor plucking: where pluckers fail to remove feathers from carcasses to an acceptable level.
- Un-eviscerated/un-opened carcasses: when the evisceration machinery fails to open the cavity and/or remove offal (delayed and partially eviscerated (effilé) production excluded).

### Causes

Usually as a result of inadequate machinery setting such as:

- Scalding tank not set to a temperature that will enable effective plucking.
- Pluckers not set to the birds' size.
- Evisceration machine not set to the birds' size.

### Comments from Inspection Teams

It is important to note that on fast processing lines, a low percentage of carcasses will be presented for post mortem inspection not fully dressed and/or eviscerated. The FBO must be then given the opportunity to rectify such carcasses so it complies with the legal requirements. Agreed procedures would need to be developed between the FBO and FSS team to permit such rectifications.

In normal circumstances carcasses with missing viscera need not be rejected. On major processing failures or exceptionally diseased flocks the Official Veterinarian will need to take a decision whether any further actions need to be taken.

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

This information will allow the FBO to assess effectiveness of their dressing procedures and to take any action that may be required to improve any deficiencies that are highlighted.

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**Pictures:** Ana Perez (OV)