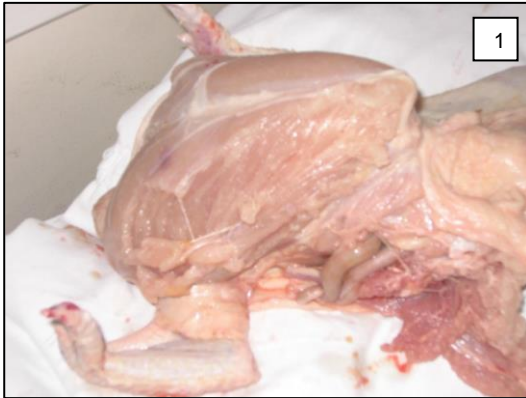


# Conditions for Rejection of Poultry at Post Mortem

## Machine Damage

### Post Mortem Disposition



**Figure 1:** Extensively damaged carcass which was totally condemned.



**Figure 2:** Note localised damage to the breast muscle. This damage is usually caused by the plucking machine. Carcass is fit after removal of affected area.



**Figure 3:** Trauma & bruising, note associated bruising that confirms damage occurred pre-slaughter. This must not be recorded as machine damage.



**Figure 4:** Trauma with no associated bruising (compared with previous picture).

### FSS Responsibilities

#### Post mortem disposition

**Partial rejection:** if the damage affects only a part or an area that can be trimmed off (e.g. a wing or leg).

**Total rejection:** if the carcass is generally affected and it is beyond rectification.

#### Average rejection levels in GB

Poultry: 0.277%

#### Recording of the condition

The condition must be recorded under the “Machine Damage” entry in the Post Mortem Inspection section of OWS. It must be clearly indicated whether there has been total or partial condemnation of the carcass.

## Further Information

### Definition

Damage to the poultry carcase caused by online processing machinery. This can be due to inadequate management of machinery or unevenness of poultry carcasses.

### Remarks/Consequences

Damage occurs **after death**. This is differentiated from pre-slaughter injuries due to bruising which is not associated with machine damage. Most damage occurs at the de-feathering and evisceration machine, where the skin can be torn, extremities broken or dislocated, and breast muscles can also be spoiled.

If the damage occurs **before slaughter** bruising will be observed due to bleeding. Legs or wings can be bruised or fractured during shackling, the loading and unloading process or due to catching on the farm. This condition must be recorded under the bruising/fractures entry.

### Judgement

The assessment of the fitness of the carcase depends of the state of the subcutaneous tissue and musculature, in terms of damage and possible contamination risks. Localised trimming may be sufficient in most cases. However deep tissue damage should result in rejection of the affected part. Carcasses which are extensively damaged or mutilated by machinery should be rejected as unfit for human consumption.

### Comments from Inspection Teams

It is key for the FBO to develop a procedure to trim carcasses with localised lesions with which the OV is content, so that partial rejection of such carcasses can be carried out safely.

Birds which fall outside the average bird size of the flock being processed are more prone to suffer from the condition. Bigger birds are more likely to be blemished by the pluckers and smaller birds to be damaged by the EV machinery.

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

This information provides useful data to the FBO on machinery efficiency so corrective actions can be taken when there is an increase of the incidence.

### Acknowledgments to:

Development of the condition card: Anabel Perona (OV), British Veterinary Poultry Association

**Pictures:** Anabel Perona (OV); Asier Pagazaurtundua (VM)