Effect of the new EU reference dissection method on pig carcass classification

S u m m a r y

The study was conducted on 286 carcasses of growing-finishing pigs representative of the livestock purchased in Poland. Left half-carcasses were assessed according to the method developed by Walstra and Markus (1996), and lean meat content was determined by the reference dissection method obligatory in the European Union until 7 August 2006, and by introduced new method, based on Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1197/2006 of 7 August 2006, containing scale for grading pig carcasses. It was found that the lean meat content of a carcass calculated according to the new reference dissection method was by 1.96% higher, compared to that determined by the previously applied method. This indicates that the instruments used for estimating the lean meat content of a carcass should be calibrated and approved again, to assure the required accuracy of classification. Moreover, it is expected that the carcasses of pigs with lower live weight will have a higher percentage content of lean meat when graded in accordance with the new regression equation.