

**Germany – Federal Administrative Court – File no.: 3 B 51/14, 3 B 52/14. 3 B 50/14 -  
Date of decision: 2015-07-20, 2015-07-16**

**Total fee for meat inspections and cutting plant inspections**

A slaughtering and cutting plant objected to the charging of an overall fee for the official meat and cutting inspections that were carried out.

The senate decided that article 27 section 7 of Regulation (EC) no. 882/2004 does not prohibit a member state from charging a total fee consisting of the respective union-law-related minimum amounts for meat and cutting plant inspections, if the two inspections do not overlap and if costs accrue as a result of the inspections. It emphasises that article 27 sections 2 and 3 of Regulation (EC) no. 882/2004 obligate member states to charge fees for official inspections. These fees may not be less than the minimum amounts specified in annexe IV section B. A reduction of these minimum amounts would only come into question in conjunction with the requirements specified in article 27 section 6 of Regulation (EC) no. 882/2004 (ECJ, verdict dated 7 July 2011 - C-523/09 [ECLI:EU:C:2011:460], *Rakvere Piim and Maag Piimatööstus* - Margin numbers 22 and 26 f.). Furthermore, it is pointed out that article 27 section 3 and annexe IV section B of Regulation (EC) no. 882/2004 do not grant the member states any margin of discretion for the determination of the minimum amounts, and therefore do not necessitate the promulgation of additional implementing measures at the national level.