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Be prepared for the new regulations.

The COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at time of killing is to come into force in 2013.

Parts of this Regulation refer to the stunning of animals and how the act of stunning must be monitored to evaluate the efficiency of the operation. It also refers to measurable criteria and recording procedures.

With these points in mind Meat and Livestock Commercial Services (MLCSL), in association with Hellenic Systems Limited (HSL) and Bristol University, has developed a Stun Assurance Monitor (SAM) to provide equipment to display and record the profile of individual stuns delivered at slaughter, primarily for pigs and sheep, and with adaptation for use with cattle.

The Stun Assurance Monitor system consists of a data capture terminal and a software installation package for a PC. It is designed to monitor, record and provide feedback on 'real time' stunning performance in abattoirs.

It can provide useful information on the effectiveness of the stun, training of personnel and the recording of each individual stun, which can be accessed by the relevant manager or authorised staff member. This record is also fully auditable.

In summary, the package provides

- A record of the current and duration of individual stuns
- Programmable settings to cope with all abattoir supply voltages
- Compatibility with all existing equipment, with easy connection between electrical supply and stunning tongs
- Security coding to restrict unauthorised access to the unit
- Reports by date, species, time, stun profile, batch, operator and tong identity