

CAMPYLOBACTER IN CHICKEN CARCASSES AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract. This study was conducted to determine the *Campylobacter* contamination rate of chicken carcasses and the processing lines of modern processing plants in Malaysia. Three hundred sixty samples were collected from 24 flocks of broiler chickens at 12 modern poultry processing plants in 6 states of Malaysia. Fresh fecal droppings were collected from crates in the arrival area. Neck skin samples were taken from processed chicken carcasses at 3 different processing stages: before inside-outside washing, after inside-outside washing and post chilling. Swab samples from the scalding tank, chilling tank and conveyer belt before chilling were also collected to determine contamination with *Campylobacter* in the slaughter house environment prior to slaughter. Isolation for *Campylobacter* was performed following ISO 10272-1:2006(E). The overall of contamination rate with *Campylobacter* at the 12 plants was 61.0% (220/360). Eighty point six percent of the samples from before the inside-outside wishing step were contaminated with *Campylobacter*, as were 62.5% of the samples after the inside washing and 38.9% after the post-chilling step. This study shows extensive contamination of chicken carcasses and slaughtering houses in Malaysia with *Campylobacter*.

Keywords: *Campylobacter*, chicken carcasse, slaughterhouse, Malaysia

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