QUANTIFICATION OF THERMOTOLERANT COLIFORM IN DIFFERENT FROZEN POULTRY PRODUCTS

(QUANTIFICAÇÃO DE COLIFORMES TERMOTOLERANTES EM DIFERENTES PRODUTOS AVÍCOLAS CONGELADOS)

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Poultry meat is highlighted among the foods most frequently involved in outbreaks of foodborne illnesses. To evaluate the hygienic quality of poultry products, 36 samples of different frozen products were analyzed in 2012 at the Laboratório de Análises de Alimentos de Origem Animal e Água, of the Faculdade de Ciências Agrárias e Veterinárias, UNESP, Jaboticabal. The samples included four wings, of which 3 seasoned; 5 drumsticks/thighs, 4 breast, 2 sausages, 1 chicken carcass with inner parts (all received by the laboratory), and, furthermore, 20 seasoned turkey carcasses (acquired from different commercial shops). All samples underwent tests to determine most probable number (MPN) of fecal coliform according to the technique described by APHA, 2001. The results were analyzed according to the parameters required by RDC No. 12/2001 ANVISA, which states that the limit for fecal coliform in frozen meat, fresh poultry (whole carcasses, fractionated or cuts) and frozen, seasoned and prepared raw meats is up to 10^4 MPN/g while for sausage is up to 5×10^3 MPN/g. The largest coliform population was observed in frozen chicken carcass with inner parts, 1.1×10^3 MPN/g, but still within the limits. According to the standards required by Brazilian law for this type of products, the evaluated samples showed satisfactory sanitary conditions. Freezing as a way of preserving food does not destroy the microbiota present in the product, thus making it very important to control adequately the sanitary conditions during production, as suggested by the results. Thus the regulation of microbiological standards of food intended for human consumption is essential for assessment of good manufacturing practices, application of hazard analysis and critical control points and to elucidate food borne illnesses, as well.

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