



[www.organicfederation.ca](http://www.organicfederation.ca)

**CAN/CGSB-32.310- 2015**

Comparison between  
CAN/CGSB-32.310-2015 amended 2018 and CAN/CGSB-32.310-2020

**Section 6 –Livestock production**

Changes are highlighted in yellow

**CAN/CGSB-32.310- 2020**

**6 Livestock production**

Livestock excludes apiculture which is covered in 7.1. Subclause 8.4 on Transport applies when organic livestock is transported.

**6.1 General**

**6.1.1** Livestock can make an important contribution to an organic agricultural system by

- 1) improving and maintaining the fertility of the soil;
- 2) managing the flora through grazing; and
- 3) enhancing biodiversity and facilitating complementary interactions on the operation.

**6.1.2** Organic livestock products shall be from livestock raised according to this standard.

**6.1.3** Livestock production is a land-related activity.

- a) Herbivores shall have access to pasture during the grazing season and access to the open air at other times whenever weather conditions permit:
  - 1) calculated on the basis of dry matter intake, the consumption of grazed forage by ruminants that have reached sexual maturity shall represent a minimum of 30% of the total forage intake;
  - 2) consumption of grazed forage shall rise above 30% during high forage growth periods;
  - 3) a minimum of 0.13 ha (0.33 ac.)/animal unit shall be devoted to grazing. [One animal unit = one cow or one bull, or two calves, each 102 to 227 kg (225 to 500 lb) or five calves, each less than 102 kg (225 lb), or four ewes and their lambs, or six does and their kids];
- b) Other livestock, including poultry, shall have access to the outdoors whenever weather conditions permit;

**6 Livestock production**

Livestock excludes apiculture which is covered in 7.1.

Subclause 8.4 on Transport applies to the transportation of organic livestock.

**6.1 General**

**6.1.1** Livestock can make an important contribution to an organic agricultural system by:

- a) improving and maintaining the fertility of the soil;
- b) managing the flora through grazing;
- c) enhancing biodiversity; and
- d) facilitating complementary interactions on the operation.

**6.1.2** Organic livestock products shall be from livestock raised according to this standard.

**6.1.3** Livestock production is a land-related activity.

- a) Herbivores shall have access to pasture during the grazing season and access to the open air at other times whenever weather conditions permit:
  - 1) calculated on the basis of dry matter intake, the consumption of grazed forage by ruminants that have reached sexual maturity shall represent a minimum of 30% of the total forage intake;
  - 2) consumption of grazed forage shall rise above 30% during high forage growth periods;
  - 3) a minimum of 0.13 ha (0.33 ac.) per animal unit shall be devoted to grazing. [One animal unit = one cow or one bull, or two calves each 102 to 227 kg (225 to 500 lb), or five calves, each less than 102 kg (225 lb), or four ewes and their lambs, or six does and their kids];
- b) Other livestock, including poultry, shall have access to the outdoors whenever weather conditions permit;

- c) Winter-only production of poultry is restricted to operations that are able to comply with land-related requirements for the specific livestock type, regardless of the time of year (see 6.13.9);
- d) Derogations in 6.7.2 and 6.11 may apply.

**6.1.4** Livestock stocking rates shall correspond to local agri-climatic conditions and take into consideration feed production capacity, stock health, nutrient balance and environmental impact.

**6.1.5** Livestock management shall aim to utilize natural breeding methods, minimize stress, prevent disease, progressively eliminate the use of chemical allopathic veterinary drugs, including antibiotics, and maintain animal health and welfare.

**6.1.6** As a general principle, the operator shall demonstrate their commitment to animal welfare. When an animal welfare issue is identified, the operator shall develop a corrective action plan. The operator shall document demonstrated improvements in animal welfare practices and shall make available upon request any documents or assessments mandated by industry associations.

## **6.2 Origin of livestock**

### **6.2.1** Livestock breeds, strains and types shall be

- a) suitable for and able to adapt to site-specific conditions within the local environment and production system;
- b) known for their absence of disease and health problems, specific to breeds or strains;
- c) recognized for their vitality and resistance to prevalent diseases and parasites.

### **6.2.2** Livestock breeders shall

- a) use natural methods of reproduction. Artificial insemination is permitted, including the use of sexed semen if it is mechanically separated;
- b) not use embryo transfer techniques or breeding techniques using genetic engineering or related technology;
- c) not use reproductive hormones to trigger and synchronize estrus.

### **6.2.3** Livestock used for organic livestock products shall

- a) be born or hatched on organic production units;
- b) be the offspring of organic parents;
- c) be managed organically throughout their lifetime;

- c) Winter-only production of poultry is restricted to operations that are able to comply with land-related requirements for the specific livestock type, regardless of the time of year (see 6.13.13);
- d) Exceptions in 6.7.2 and 6.11 may apply.

**6.1.4** Livestock stocking rates shall correspond to local agri-climatic conditions and take into consideration feed production capacity, stock health, nutrient balance and environmental impact.

**6.1.5** Livestock management shall aim to utilize natural breeding methods, minimize stress, prevent disease, progressively eliminate the use of chemical allopathic veterinary drugs, including antibiotics, and maintain animal health and welfare.

**6.1.6** As a general principle, the operator shall demonstrate their commitment to animal welfare. When an animal welfare issue is identified, the operator shall develop a corrective action plan. The operator shall document demonstrated improvements in animal welfare practices and shall make available upon request any documents or assessments mandated by industry associations.

## **6.2 Origin of livestock**

### **6.2.1** Livestock breeds, strains and types shall be

- a) suitable for, and able to adapt to, site-specific conditions within the local environment and production system;
- b) known for their absence of disease and health problems, specific to breeds or strains;
- c) recognized for their vitality and resistance to prevalent diseases and parasites.

### **6.2.2** Livestock breeders shall

- a) use natural methods of reproduction. Artificial insemination is permitted, including the use of sexed semen if it is mechanically separated;
- b) not use embryo transfer techniques or breeding techniques using genetic engineering or related technology;
- c) not use reproductive hormones to trigger and synchronize estrus.

### **6.2.3** Livestock used for organic livestock products

#### **6.2.3.1** Livestock used for organic livestock products (e.g., eggs, milk, meat, etc.) shall

- a) be born or hatched on organic production units;
- b) be the offspring of organic parents;
- c) be managed organically throughout their lifetime.

**6.2.3.2** Exceptions to 6.2.3 a), b), and c) apply to poultry:

- a) poultry products shall be from poultry that has been under continuous organic management, beginning no later than the second day of life; and
- b) neither day-old chicks nor the fertilized eggs they hatched from shall be given medication other than vaccines;

**6.2.3.3** An exception to 6.2.3 a), b) and c) applies when herds and individual animals are converted to organic production:

- a) animals used for milk production shall have been under continuous organic management for at least 12 months; and
- b) animals used for meat shall have been under continuous organic management from the beginning of the last third of the dam's gestation period.

**6.2.4** Animals purchased for breeding shall be organic. However:

- a) if suitable organic breeding stock is not commercially available, non-organic, non-gestating breeder animals and breeding males may be brought onto an organic operation and integrated into the organic system. Meat from such animals shall be non-organic;
- b) if transferred outside the organic operation, livestock obtained from non-organic sources in accordance with 6.2.4 a) shall be considered non-organic, either for breeding or slaughter;
- c) when expanding a herd and increasing the land-base, breeding stock brought on to the operation may graze third-year transitional pasture until the end of the second trimester.

**6.2.5** Livestock or livestock products removed from an organic operation and subsequently managed on a non-organic operation shall be considered non-organic.

**6.3** Transition of livestock production units to organic production

**6.3.1** If an entire dairy herd is under conversion to organic production, the operator shall:

- a) provide, in the first nine months of the 12-month transition period, a minimum of 80% feed, calculated in terms of dry matter intake, that is either organic or raised on land included in the organic system plan and that is managed in accordance with clause 5 of this standard;

**6.2.3.2** Exceptions to 6.2.3.1 a), b), and c) apply to poultry:

- a) poultry products shall be from poultry that has been under continuous organic management, beginning no later than the second day of life; and
- b) no medication other than vaccines shall be used to treat fertilized eggs or day-old poultry.

**6.2.3.3** An exception to 6.2.3.1 a), b) and c) applies when herds and individual animals (used as new breeding stock), whether from within or from outside the operation (according to 6.2.4), are converted to organic production:

- a) animals used for milk production shall have been under continuous organic management for at least 12 months; and
- b) animals used for meat shall have been under continuous organic management from the beginning of the last third of the dam's gestation period.

**6.2.4** Animals purchased for breeding shall be organic. However:

- a) if suitable organic breeding stock is not commercially available, non-organic, non-gestating breeder animals and non-organic breeding males may be brought onto an organic operation and integrated into the organic system. Meat from such animals shall be non-organic;
- b) if transferred outside the organic operation, livestock obtained from non-organic sources in accordance with 6.2.4 a) shall be considered non-organic, either for breeding or slaughter;
- c) when expanding a herd and increasing the land-base, breeding stock brought onto the operation may graze third-year transitional pasture until the end of the second trimester;
- d) non-organic animals brought into a milk production unit shall be non-lactating;
- e) in case of catastrophic events, such as a barn fire or disease leading to a need for herd repopulation, non-organic breeding stock (excluding poultry) may be brought onto an organic operation before the last third of gestation if suitable organic animals are not commercially available.

**6.2.5** Livestock or livestock products removed from an organic operation and subsequently managed on a non-organic operation shall be considered non-organic.

**6.3** Transition of livestock production units to organic production [except poultry covered by 6.13.1]

**6.3.1** If an entire dairy herd is under conversion to organic production, the operator shall provide:

- a) in the first nine months of the 12-month transition period, a minimum of 80% feed, calculated in terms of dry matter intake, that is either organic or raised on land included in the organic system plan that is managed in accordance with clause 5 (Crop Production) of this standard; and

b) provide only organic feed during the final three months of the 12-month transition period.

**6.3.2** Transition of land intended for feed crops or pasture shall comply with 5.1.

**6.3.3** When an animal production unit, with an entire herd, or a flock of sheep, is in transition to organic production, pasture and feed produced during the final 12 months of the land transition period may be considered organic when consumed by livestock on the same production unit. This feed and forage shall not be considered organic outside the production unit.

#### **6.4 Livestock feed**

**6.4.1** The operator shall provide an organic feed ration that is balanced to meet the nutritional requirements of the livestock.

**6.4.2** Livestock feed shall consist of substances that are necessary and essential for animal health, well-being and vitality, and that meet the physiological and behavioural needs of the species in question.

**6.4.3** Specific livestock rations shall take the following into account:

- a) for young mammals, the need for natural milk, including colostrum, within the first day of life;
- b) in dairy operations, calves, lambs and kids may be taken from their mothers at the age of 24 h, provided that they receive colostrum. If contagious diseases are present in the herd, removal can occur sooner provided that calves, lambs and kids receive colostrum;
- c) calves shall be given fresh, whole, organic milk or reconstituted organic milk, until the age of three months;
- d) lambs and kids shall be given fresh, whole, organic milk or reconstituted organic milk, until the age of two months or a weight of 18 kg (39.7 lb);
- e) if they are not nursing, young animals shall be fed to meet their nutritional requirements and to achieve optimal growth and health, using artificial teats to satisfy their motivation to suck;
- f) dairy calves shall have access to solid food at all times;

b) only organic feed during the final three months of the 12-month transition period.

**6.3.2** Transition of land intended for feed crops or pasture shall comply with 5.1.

**6.3.3** When an animal production unit, such as an entire herd or flock, is in transition to organic production, the pasture and feed produced during the final 12 months of the land transition period may be considered organic when consumed by livestock on the same production unit. This feed and forage shall not be considered organic outside the production unit.

#### **6.4 Livestock feed**

**6.4.1** The operator shall provide an organic feed ration that is balanced to meet the nutritional requirements of the livestock.

**6.4.2** Livestock feed shall consist of substances that are necessary and essential for animal health, well-being and vitality, and that meet the physiological and behavioural needs of the species in question.

**6.4.3** Specific livestock rations shall take the following into account:

- a) for young mammals, the need for natural milk, including colostrum, within the first day of life;
- b) in dairy operations, calves, lambs and kids may be taken from their mothers at the age of 24 hours, provided that they receive colostrum. If contagious diseases are present in the herd, removal can occur sooner provided that calves, lambs and kids receive colostrum;
- c) when removal of beef calves, lambs and kids from their mother is necessary to prevent the spread of a contagious disease, the use of non-organic milk or non-organic milk replacer is permitted as part of a veterinary-approved plan of disease eradication if organic alternatives are commercially unavailable. The veterinary-approved plan of eradication shall include a timeline and preventative measures such as testing milk, blood or manure, or pasteurizing milk. In order of preference, the following can be used (provided it is free of medication): organic milk (including pasteurized), organic milk replacer, non-organic milk, or non-organic milk replacer;
- d) calves shall be given fresh, whole, organic milk or reconstituted organic milk provided that it is free of medication until the age of three months;
- e) calves can be fed milk from an organic cow that received treatment with antibiotics if a withholding period of twice the label requirement or 14 days, whichever is longer, is applied;
- f) lambs and kids shall be given fresh, whole, organic milk or reconstituted organic milk until the age of two months or a weight of 18 kg (39.7 lb);
- g) if they are not nursing, young animals shall be fed to meet their nutritional requirements and to achieve optimal growth and health by using artificial teats to satisfy their motivation to suck;
- h) dairy calves shall have access to solid food at all times.

NOTE Refer to the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle* for recommendations on colostrum feeding and the quantity of milk to be fed to dairy calves.<sup>1</sup>

- g) for ruminants, at least 60% of dry matter in daily rations shall consist of: hay; fodder that is fresh or dried; or ensiled forage, for example, fermented grass, legumes, and corn plants. An increased grain ration is permitted to ensure that nutritional requirements are met during uncommonly cold periods or when forage quality is compromised due to extraordinary weather events;
- h) if ensiled forage is fed to ruminants, at least 15% of the total dry matter in daily rations shall consist of long-fibre forage, that is, greater than 10 cm (4 in.) stem length. When ensiled corn is fed, unless there is analysis to the contrary, it shall be considered 40% grain/60% forage. The proportion of grain in ensiled corn shall be included in the percentage of grains in the ration (see 6.4.3 g);
- i) in the finishing phase, poultry shall be given grain;
- j) poultry and pigs shall be given vegetable matter other than grain;
- k) poultry shall be fed daily. A "skip-a-day" feeding regime for breeding birds is prohibited;
- l) rabbits shall be given forage, such as grass and hay, and have access to material that keeps teeth healthy, such as gnawing blocks, root vegetables and tree branches. Substances in gnawing blocks shall be listed in Table 5.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311.

**6.4.4** The following feed, feed additives and supplements are prohibited:

- a) feed and feed additives, including amino acids and feed supplements, that contain substances not listed in Table 5.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311;
- b) feed medications or veterinary drugs, including hormones and prophylactic antibiotics, to promote growth;
- c) approved feed supplements or additives, used in amounts above those required for adequate nutrition and health maintenance for the species at its specific stage of life;
- d) feeds that are chemically extracted or defatted with prohibited substances;
- e) feed that contains mammalian or avian slaughter by-products;
- f) feed that contains synthetic preservatives;
- g) silage preservation products, unless they are listed in Table 5.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311;
- h) synthetic appetite- or flavour-enhancers;
- i) feed formulas that contain manure or other animal waste; and
- j) feed that contains synthetic colouring-agents.

NOTE Refer to the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle* for recommendations on colostrum feeding and the quantity of milk to be fed to dairy calves.<sup>2</sup>

- i) for ruminants, at least 60% of dry matter in daily rations shall consist of: hay; fodder that is fresh or dried; or ensiled forage, for example, fermented grass, legumes, and corn plants. An increased grain ration is permitted to ensure that nutritional requirements are met during uncommonly cold periods or when forage quality is compromised due to extraordinary weather events;
- j) if ensiled forage is fed to ruminants, at least 15% of the total dry matter in daily rations shall consist of long-fibre forage, that is greater than 10 cm (4 in.) stem length. When ensiled corn is fed, unless there is analysis to the contrary, it shall be considered 40% grain/60% forage. The proportion of grain in ensiled corn shall be included in the percentage of grains in the ration [see 6.4.3 i)];
- k) in the finishing phase, poultry shall be given grain;
- l) poultry and pigs shall be given vegetable matter other than grain;
- m) poultry shall be fed daily. A "skip-a-day" feeding regime for breeding birds is prohibited;
- n) rabbits shall be given forage, such as grass and hay, and have access to material that keeps teeth healthy, such as gnawing blocks, root vegetables and tree branches. Substances in gnawing blocks shall be listed in Table 5.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311.

**6.4.4** The following feed, feed additives and supplements are prohibited:

- a) feed and feed additives, including amino acids and feed supplements, that contain substances not listed in Table 5.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311;
- b) feed medications or veterinary drugs, including hormones and prophylactic antibiotics, to promote growth;
- c) approved feed supplements or additives used in amounts greater than those required for adequate nutrition and health maintenance for the species at its specific stage of life;
- d) feeds that are chemically extracted or defatted with prohibited substances;
- e) feed that contains mammalian or avian slaughter by-products;
- f) feed that contains preservatives unless they are listed in Table 5.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311;
- g) silage preservation products unless they are listed in Table 5.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311;
- h) appetite enhancers or flavour enhancers unless they are listed in Table 5.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311;
- i) feed formulas that contain manure or other animal waste; and
- j) feed that contains colouring agents unless they are listed in Table 5.2 of CAN/CGSB-32.311.

<sup>1</sup> In this standard, Codes of Practice or Code of Practice refers to Canada's best practices for the care and handling of livestock (<https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice>).

<sup>2</sup> In this standard, Codes of Practice or Code of Practice refers to Canada's best practices for the care and handling of livestock (<https://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice>). See 2.4.

**6.4.5** Livestock of all ages shall be given clean, fresh water on demand. The main water source shall be tested initially for potential livestock toxins, for example, heavy metals, ions and bacteria, according to livestock drinking water quality guidelines. Thereafter, the water source shall be tested annually for bacterial contamination. If colony forming unit (CFU) levels are higher than 100/100 mL, remedial action shall be taken.

**6.4.6** Force feeding of ducks and geese is prohibited.

**6.4.7** By derogation, non-organic feed is permitted under the following circumstances:

- a) if organic feed is unobtainable as the result of a catastrophic event with direct impact on the production unit (for example, fire, flood, or extraordinary weather conditions), non-organic feed may be used for a maximum of ten consecutive days, to ensure a balanced livestock ration. Non-organic feed, from land in transition to organic production and free of prohibited substances, shall be used in preference to non-organic feed;
- b) in the event of regional shortages, breeding herds may be given non-organic forage, provided that the animals are segregated, visually distinguishable (for example, have ear tags and age verification records) and record keeping is maintained. Forage from land in transition to organic production and free of prohibited substances shall be used in preference to non-organic forage. Genetically engineered forage crops are prohibited at all times. In all other respects, breeding herds whose offspring is intended for organic products shall be under organic management at all times. The breeding herd shall be re-transitioned when an organic forage supply becomes available. Subclause 6.2.3 applies to any offspring. The organic status of other livestock on the operation is not affected.

**6.4.5** Livestock of all ages shall have access to clean, fresh water on demand. Livestock water sources shall be tested according to livestock drinking water quality guidelines and procedures outlined in the relevant Code of Practice (see 2.4) and quality assurance programs mandated by industry associations.

**6.4.6** Force feeding of ducks and geese is prohibited.

**6.4.7** By exception, non-organic feed is permitted under the following circumstances:

- a) If organic feed is unobtainable as the result of a catastrophic event with a direct impact on the production unit (for example, fire, flood, or extraordinary weather conditions), non-organic feed may be used for a maximum of ten consecutive days (or up to 30% non-organic feed for up to 30 consecutive days), to ensure a balanced livestock ration. Non-organic feed from land in transition to organic production and free of prohibited substances shall be used in preference to non-organic feed;
- b) Breeding herds may be given non-organic forage in the event of a regional forage shortage documented by the operator and confirmed by a regional authority, when possible, provided that the animals are segregated, are visually distinguishable (for example, have ear tags and age verification records) and record keeping is maintained. For breeding herds, forage from land in transition to organic production and free of prohibited substances shall be used in preference to non-organic forage. Use of genetically engineered forage crops is prohibited at all times. In all other respects, breeding herds whose offspring is intended for organic products shall be under organic management at all times. The breeding herd shall be re-transitioned when an organic forage supply becomes available. Subclause 6.2.3 applies to any offspring. The organic status of other livestock on the operation is not affected;
- c) In the event of a forage shortage documented by the operator and confirmed by a regional authority, when possible, and if the quantities of feeds allowed in 6.4.7 b) are insufficient, non-organic forage may comprise up to 25% of the forage ration for the entire ruminant herd with the following in order of priority preference:
  - 1) non-organic forage from land in transition;
  - 2) non-organic forage grown without the use of prohibited substances;
  - 3) non-organic forage grown without the use of prohibited substances for at least 60 days prior to harvest;
  - 4) non-organic forage provided it is not a genetically engineered crop.
- d) The operator shall design a contingency plan to address future forage shortages which may include strategies such as growing more climate-adapted varieties; improving grazing practices; stockpiling a supply of forage; identifying alternative supply chains; varying herd size; and improving the resilience on-farm forage production.

**NOTE** For the exception in 6.4.7 a), the certification body should be notified as soon as possible after

## 6.5 Transport and handling

**6.5.1** Livestock shall be managed responsibly, with care and consideration. Stress, injury and suffering shall be minimized in all livestock handling practices, including transport and slaughter.

**6.5.2** Stocking density within transport vehicles shall conform to recommendations in the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation*. The use of electrical stimulation or allopathic tranquilizers is prohibited.

**6.5.3** While in transit and before slaughter, animals shall have shelter against inclement weather, such as, wind, rain and excessive heat or cold.

**6.5.4** If possible, animals shall be transported directly from the operation to their final destination.

**6.5.5** The duration of transportation shall be as short as possible. If animals are in transit for more than 5 h, recommendations regarding maximum transit times and minimum feed and water requirements, and rest times, as provided in the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation*, shall apply. If these recommendations are not followed, justification shall be provided.

**6.5.6** Fitness for transport shall be assessed before loading. Sick or unfit animals shall not be transported, for example, those that are injured, lame, emaciated, in late gestation or heavily lactating.

**6.5.7** If livestock is unfit for transport and euthanasia is necessary, it shall be performed by competent personnel with appropriate equipment. The method used shall be quick and cause the least possible pain and distress.

NOTE In Canada, see also the *Health of Animals Regulations* under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canadian Food Inspection Agency). For guidance, refer to the transportation requirements in the *Code of Practice* for each animal type.

## 6.6 Livestock health care

**6.6.1** The operator shall establish and maintain preventative livestock health care practices, including:

- a) the choice of appropriate breeds or strains of livestock, as specified in 6.2.1;
- b) a feed ration sufficient to meet the nutritional requirements of the livestock, including vitamins, minerals, protein, fatty acids, energy sources, and fibre;
- c) housing, pasture conditions, space allowance and sanitation practices, that minimize crowding and the occurrence and spread of disease and parasites;
- d) conditions appropriate to the species that allow for exercise, freedom of movement, and minimal

non-organic feed or forage is used. For the exceptions in 6.4.7 b) and c), the certification body should be notified before non-organic feed or forage is used.

[ [To learn more, see “Feed for livestock: Pandemic and drought on the agenda of the review of the Canadian Organic Standards.”](#) ]

## 6.5 Transport and handling

**6.5.1** Livestock shall be managed responsibly, with care and consideration. Stress, injury and suffering shall be minimized in all livestock handling practices, including transport and slaughter.

**6.5.2** Stocking density within transport vehicles shall conform to recommendations in the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation* (see 2.4). The use of electrical stimulation or allopathic tranquilizers is prohibited.

**6.5.3** While in transit and before slaughter, animals shall have shelter against inclement weather, such as wind, rain and excessive heat or cold.

**6.5.4** If possible, animals shall be transported directly from the operation to their final destination.

**6.5.5** The duration of transportation shall be as short as possible. If animals are in transit for more than 5 hours, recommendations regarding maximum transit times, minimum feed and water requirements, and rest times, as provided in the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation*, shall apply

**6.5.6** Fitness for transport shall be assessed before loading. Sick or unfit animals shall not be transported, for example, or those that are injured, lame, emaciated, in late gestation or heavily lactating.

**6.5.7** If livestock is unfit for transport and euthanasia is necessary, it shall be performed by competent personnel with appropriate equipment. The method used shall be quick and cause the least possible pain and distress.

NOTE In Canada, see also the *Health of Animals Regulations* under the *Health of Animals Act* (Canadian Food Inspection Agency). For guidance, refer to the transportation requirements in the *Code of Practice* for each animal type (see 2.4).

## 6.6 Livestock health care

**6.6.1.** The operator shall establish and maintain preventative livestock health care practices, including:

- a) the choice of appropriate breeds or strains of livestock, as specified in 6.2.1;
- b) a feed ration sufficient to meet the nutritional requirements of the livestock, including vitamins, minerals, protein, fatty acids, energy sources, and fibre;
- c) housing, pasture conditions, space allowance and sanitation practices that minimize crowding and the occurrence and spread of disease and parasites;
- d) conditions appropriate to the species that allow for exercise, freedom of movement, and minimal

stress;

- e) prompt treatment for animals with detectable disease, lesions, lameness, injury and other physical ailments;
- f) vaccines, in accordance with this standard and Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311, if it has been documented that the targeted diseases are communicable to livestock on the production unit and/or operation and cannot be combated by other means.

**6.6.2** The operator shall not administer:

- a) veterinary drugs, in the absence of illness, other than vaccines. Anaesthetics and analgesics are permitted, subject to the requirements for physical alterations in 6.6.4; synthetic substances to stimulate or retard growth or production, including hormones for growth promotion;
- b) synthetic parasiticides, except by way of derogations provided in 6.6.11;
- c) antibiotics to meat animals or to birds for meat or egg production;
- d) chemical allopathic veterinary drugs for preventative treatments, for example, pharmaceuticals, antibiotics, hormones and steroids.

**6.6.3** Hormonal treatment shall only be used for therapeutic reasons and under veterinary supervision. The meat from treated animals shall not be organic unless the treatment is listed in Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311.

**6.6.4** Physical alterations are prohibited, unless they are essential for animal health, welfare or hygiene, for identification or for safety reasons.

- a) The following physical alterations are permitted; restrictions in 6.6.4 c) apply:
  - 1) castration of piglets, lambs, kids and calves;
  - 2) tail docking of lambs;
  - 3) branding and ear tagging; and
  - 4) dehorning and debudding.
- b) If they are the only remaining option, the following physical alterations are permitted; restrictions in 6.6.4 c) apply:
  - 1) minimal beak trimming or treatment to remove sharp hook;
  - 2) trimming of needle teeth in piglets; and
  - 3) tail docking of pigs and cattle.
- c) Restrictions on physical alterations:
  - 1) physical alterations shall be carried out in a manner that minimizes pain, stress and suffering;

stress;

- e) prompt treatment for animals with detectable disease, lesions, lameness, injury or other physical ailments;
- f) vaccines, in accordance with this standard and Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311, if it has been documented that the targeted diseases are communicable to livestock on the production unit or operation and cannot be combated by other means.

**6.6.2** The operator shall not administer:

- a) veterinary drugs, in the absence of illness, other than vaccines. Anaesthetics and analgesics are permitted, subject to the requirements for physical alterations in 6.6.4;
- b) synthetic substances to stimulate or retard growth or production, including hormones for growth promotion;
- c) synthetic parasiticides, except by way of an exception provided in 6.6.11;
- d) antibiotics to meat animals or to birds for meat or egg production;
- e) chemical allopathic veterinary drugs, for example, pharmaceuticals, antibiotics, hormones and steroids, for preventative treatments.

**6.6.3** Hormonal treatment shall only be used for therapeutic reasons and under veterinary supervision. The meat from treated animals shall not be organic unless the treatment is listed in Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311.

**6.6.4** Physical alterations are prohibited, unless they are essential for animal health, welfare or hygiene, for identification or for safety reasons.

- a) The following physical alterations are permitted; restrictions in 6.6.4 c) apply:
  - 1) castration of piglets, lambs, kids and calves;
  - 2) tail docking of lambs;
  - 3) branding and ear tagging; and
  - 4) debudding/disbudding.
- b) If they are the only remaining option, the following physical alterations are permitted; restrictions in 6.6.4 c) apply:
  - 1) minimal beak trimming or treatment to remove sharp hooks;
  - 2) trimming of needle teeth in piglets;
  - 3) tail docking of pigs and cattle; and
  - 4) dehorning.
- c) Restrictions on physical alterations:
  - 1) Physical alterations shall be carried out in a manner that minimizes pain, stress and suffering;

- 2) regardless of age or method, consideration shall be given to the use of anaesthetics, sedatives and non-steroid anti-inflammatory analgesics, such as lidocaine, xylazine, and ketoprofen;
- 3) for castration, tail docking, dehorning and branding, operators shall consult the applicable Code of Practice and follow the requirements for age restrictions and methods and the use of pain control medications;
- 4) beak trimming of birds, tail docking of pigs and trimming of needle teeth in piglets are permitted when they are necessary to control problem behaviour that has a negative impact on the welfare of other livestock. Operators shall document the other measures taken to control or eliminate problem behaviour;
- 5) tail docking of cattle is permitted only when necessary for veterinary treatment of injured animals;
- 6) castration of piglets shall take place in the first two weeks of life. Castration of cull boars is prohibited; and
- 7) spaying of female beef cattle is prohibited.

**6.6.5** Biological, cultural, and physical treatments and practices outlined in Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 are permitted, if preventative practices and vaccines are inadequate to prevent sickness or injury and treatment is required.

**6.6.6** Medical treatment shall not be withheld from sick or injured livestock to preserve their organic status. If methods acceptable to organic production fail, all appropriate medications shall be used to restore livestock to health.

**6.6.7** If the presence of injured or diseased livestock presents a health risk to individual animals or birds, they shall be separated from the herd or flock, and/or euthanized, if necessary (see 6.6.13).

**6.6.8** Shipping diseased livestock to slaughter is prohibited, if the end product is intended for human consumption.

**6.6.9** Products from sick animals or those undergoing treatment with restricted substances shall not be organic or fed to organic livestock.

**6.6.10** The use of veterinary medicinal substances shall comply with the following:

- a) if no alternative treatments or management practices exist, veterinary biologics, including vaccines, parasiticides or the therapeutic use of synthetic medications may be administered, provided that such medications are permitted by this standard and Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 or are required by law.
- b) phytotherapeutic medicines, that is, botanical compounds such as atropine, butorphanol and other medicines from herbaceous plants, excluding antibiotics; and homeopathic or similar products, shall be used in preference to chemical, allopathic veterinary drugs or antibiotics, provided that they are effective for the species and the condition for which the treatment is intended.

- 2) Regardless of age or method, consideration shall be given to the use of anaesthetics, sedatives and non-steroid anti-inflammatory analgesics, such as lidocaine, xylazine and ketoprofen;
- 3) For castration, tail docking, dehorning, **debudding/disbudding** or branding, operators shall consult the applicable Code of Practice (see 2.4) and follow the requirements for age restrictions and methods and the use of pain control medications;
- 4) Beak trimming of birds, tail docking of pigs and trimming of needle teeth in piglets are permitted when they are necessary to control problem behaviour that has a negative impact on the welfare of other livestock. Operators shall document the other measures taken to control or eliminate problem behaviour;
- 5) Tail docking of cattle is permitted only when necessary for veterinary treatment of injured animals;
- 6) Castration of piglets shall take place in the first two weeks of life. Castration of cull boars is prohibited; and
- 7) Spaying of female beef cattle is prohibited.

**6.6.5** Biological, cultural, and physical treatments and practices outlined in Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 are permitted, if preventative practices and vaccines are inadequate to prevent sickness or injury and treatment is required.

**6.6.6** Medical treatment shall not be withheld from sick or injured livestock to preserve their organic status. If methods acceptable to organic production fail, all appropriate medications shall be used to restore livestock to health.

**6.6.7** If the presence of injured or diseased livestock presents a health risk to individual animals or birds, they shall be separated from the herd or flock, and/or euthanized, if necessary (see 6.6.13).

**6.6.8** Shipping diseased livestock to slaughter is prohibited if the end product is intended for human consumption.

**6.6.9** Products from sick animals or those undergoing treatment with restricted substances shall not be organic or fed to organic livestock.

**6.6.10** The use of veterinary medicinal substances shall comply with the following:

- a) If no alternative treatments or management practices exist, veterinary biologics, including vaccines, parasiticides or the therapeutic use of medications may be administered, provided that such medications are permitted by this standard and Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 or are required by law.
- b) Phytotherapeutic medicines, that is, botanical compounds such as atropine, butorphanol and other medicines from herbaceous plants, excluding antibiotics; and homeopathic or similar products, shall be used in preference to chemical, allopathic veterinary drugs or antibiotics, provided that they are effective for the species and the condition for which the treatment is intended.

- c) if the products permitted by 6.6.10 a) and b) are ineffective in combating illness or injury, prescribed veterinary drugs, not enumerated in this standard and/or in Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311, may be administered with written authorization by a veterinarian. If meat animals are treated, some restrictions apply (see 6.6.2, 6.6.11 d) and 6.6.12).
- d) if a veterinary drug is administered and it does not have specific withdrawal requirements, a withholding period twice the label requirement or 14 days, whichever is longer, shall be observed before livestock products from treated animals may be considered organic.

- e) in emergencies, antibiotic treatment of dairy animals is permitted under the following conditions:
  - 1) the operator shall have written instructions from a veterinarian indicating the product and the treatment method to be used;
  - 2) treatment shall result in a milk withdrawal period of at least 30 days, after the last day of a course of treatment, or a withholding period that is twice the label requirement, whichever is longer;
  - 3) antibiotic use shall be documented in herd health records;
  - 4) if dairy animals receive more than two treatments of veterinary drugs annually, whether of antibiotics, parasiticides, or one of each, they shall lose their organic status and go through a 12-month transition period;
  - 5) dairy animals with chronic conditions that require repeated use of antibiotics shall be removed from the herd.

**6.6.11** Organic livestock operations shall have a comprehensive plan to minimize parasite problems. The plan shall include preventative measures, such as pasture management, fecal monitoring and emergency measures in the event of a parasite outbreak. By way of derogation, if preventative measures fail, due to climatic conditions for example, or other uncontrollable factors, the operator may use parasiticides that are not listed in Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311, provided that:

- a) observation of the animal or fecal test results, as appropriate for the species, indicate that livestock is infected with parasites;
- b) the operator has written instructions from a veterinarian indicating the product and method to be

intended.

- c) If the products permitted by 6.6.10 a) and b) are ineffective in combating illness or injury, prescribed veterinary drugs not listed in this standard or in Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 may be administered to breeding stock, layers or dairy animals with written authorization by a veterinarian. Some restrictions apply (see 6.6.2, 6.6.11 d) and 6.6.12). With the exception of parasiticides administered according to 6.6.11, meat from animals treated with veterinary pharmaceutical drugs not listed in Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 shall not be organic.

- d) If a veterinary drug is administered and it does not have specific withdrawal requirements, a withholding period of twice the label requirement or 14 days, whichever is longer, shall be observed before livestock products from treated animals may be considered organic.

- e) Animals that require the use of antibiotics or other substances restricted in 1.5 e) for the same disease for three consecutive years shall be removed from the herd within nine months following the last course of treatment.

- f) In emergencies, antibiotic treatment of dairy animals is permitted under the following conditions:
  - 1) The operator shall have written instructions from a veterinarian indicating the product and the treatment method to be used;
  - 2) Treatment shall result in a milk withdrawal period of at least 30 days after the last day of a course of treatment, or a withholding period that is twice the label requirement, whichever is longer;
  - 3) Antibiotic use shall be documented in herd health records;
  - 4) If dairy animals receive more than two treatments of veterinary drugs annually, whether of antibiotics, parasiticides or one of each, they shall lose their organic status and go through a 12-month transition period.

**6.6.11** Organic livestock operations shall have a comprehensive plan to minimize parasite problems. The plan shall include preventative measures, such as genetic selection, pasture management, fecal monitoring and assessments of tissue at slaughter, and emergency measures in the event of a parasite outbreak. Hygienic cleaning and disinfection methods for barns, such as power washing, steam washing, floor burning and lime washing, shall be included in the plan as well as down time (i.e., when the barn is vacant). By way of an exception, if preventative measures fail due to, for example, climatic conditions or other uncontrollable factors, the operator may use parasiticides that are not listed in Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311, provided that:

- a) observations of the animal, fecal test results, or assessments of tissue as appropriate for the species indicate that livestock is infected with parasites;
- b) the operator provides a written action plan, with a timeline, describing how they will amend their

used;

- c) withdrawal times are twice the label requirement or 14 days, whichever is longer;
- d) meat animals less than 12 months old receive only one treatment. Older meat animals shall receive a maximum of two treatments. Meat animals that require additional treatment shall lose their organic status;
- e) dairy animals that receive more than two treatments in a 12-month period, whether of parasiticides, antibiotics or one of each, shall lose their organic status and go through a 12-month transition period. Meat animals that receive more than two treatments of parasiticides shall never be organic;
- f) a dam may be treated during gestation;
- g) laying hens that receive more than one treatment in a 12-month period shall lose their organic status. Treatment of the flock, rather than individual hens, is permitted;
- h) the operator provides a written action plan, with a timeline, describing how they will amend their parasite control plan, to avoid similar emergencies.

**6.6.12** Poultry or breeding livestock treated with a parasiticide or veterinary drug not listed in Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 shall be considered non-organic meat animals. Exceptions pertaining to parasiticide use may apply (see 6.6.11).

**6.6.13** Injured, diseased or sick animals shall be given individual treatment designed to minimize pain and suffering, which may include euthanasia.

**6.6.14** Forced moulting of poultry is prohibited.

parasite control plan to avoid similar emergencies;

- c) the operator has written instructions from a veterinarian indicating the product and method to be used, including provisions to avoid developing parasite resistance, such as rotation of parasiticides;
  - d) withdrawal times are twice the label requirement or 14 days, whichever is longer;
- If these conditions are met, the following restrictions apply:
- e) the exception cannot be granted for a group of animals or an entire production unit for more than two years in a row for the same problem;
  - f) a dam from any species may receive only one treatment of parasiticides during gestation;
  - g) meat animals from any species less than 12 months old shall receive at most one parasiticide treatment. Meat animals 12 months of age or older that receive more than two parasiticide treatments in their lifespan shall lose their organic status;
  - h) dairy animals that receive more than two treatments in a 12-month period, whether of parasiticides, antibiotics or one of each, shall lose their organic status and go through a 12-month transition period.
  - i) dairy cull animals that receive more than two treatments with parasiticides over their lifespan shall never be considered organic for meat;
  - j) dairy cull animals that receive antibiotics shall never be considered organic for meat;
  - k) swine breeding stock animals that present with a high parasite load may receive up to three parasiticide treatments in a year as part of a parasite reduction plan. This exception cannot be applied systematically [refer to 6.6.11 b) and e)];
  - l) laying hens that receive more than two parasiticide treatments in a 12-month period shall lose their organic status. Treatment of the flock, rather than individual hens, is permitted.

**6.6.12** Poultry or breeding livestock treated with a parasiticide or veterinary drug not listed in Table 5.3 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 shall be considered non-organic meat animals. Exceptions pertaining to parasiticide use may apply (see 6.6.11).

**6.6.13** Injured, diseased or sick animals shall be given individual treatment designed to minimize pain and suffering, which may include euthanasia.

**6.6.14** Forced moulting of poultry is prohibited.

## 6.7 Livestock living conditions

6.7.1 The operator shall establish and maintain animal living conditions that accommodate the health and natural behaviour of animals, including:

- a) access to the outdoors, shade, shelter, rotational pasture, exercise areas, fresh air and daylight, suitable for the species and stage of production taking into consideration the climate and the environment;
- b) access to fresh water (see 6.4.5) and high-quality feed that meets the needs of the animal;
- c) sufficient space and freedom to lie down in full lateral recumbence, stand up, stretch limbs and turn freely, and to express normal patterns of behaviour;
- d) space allowances in proportion to local conditions, feed production capacity of the operation, livestock health, nutrient balance of livestock and soils, and environmental impact;
- e) production techniques that foster the long-term health of livestock, especially when high levels of production or growth rates are required of animals;
- f) good air quality. Humidity, dust particles and ammonia levels shall not impair the well-being of animals. Ammonia levels shall not exceed 25 ppm. If levels exceed 25 ppm, remedial action shall be taken;
- g) appropriate resting and bedded areas that meet the needs of the animal. Indoor areas shall be large enough, solidly built, comfortable, clean and dry. Resting areas shall be covered with a thick layer of dry bedding that absorbs excrement. If organic bedding is commercially unavailable, non-genetically engineered bedding material that is free of prohibited substances for at least 60 days prior to harvest may be used;
- h) housing with non-slip floors. Solid flooring is preferable. Where non-slip slatted floors exist, the floor shall not be entirely of slatted or grid construction. The floor design shall ensure that the feet of the smallest animal cannot get caught in a void. Areas between voids shall be at least as wide as the feet of the animals;
- i) animals that give birth indoors shall be provided with sufficient space and a clean, dry, well-bedded space with stable footing. Birthing facilities must allow for separation from other animals and all the mother's needs shall be accommodated, including milking and nursing, until the mother is recovered from the birthing process. Animals shall not be tied or tethered when giving birth;
- j) management of outdoor runs and pasture so that soil degradation, long-term damage to vegetation and the contamination of water are avoided.

## 6.7 Livestock living conditions

6.7.1 The operator shall establish and maintain animal living conditions that accommodate the health and natural behaviour of animals, including:

- a) access to the outdoors, shade, shelter, rotational pasture, exercise areas, fresh air and daylight, suitable for the species and stage of production taking into consideration the climate and the environment;
- b) access to fresh water (see 6.4.5) and high-quality feed that meets the needs of the animal;
- c) sufficient space and freedom to stretch out while lying down, stand up, stretch limbs and turn freely, and to express normal patterns of behaviour;
- d) space allowances in proportion to local conditions, feed production capacity of the operation, livestock health, nutrient balance of livestock and soils, and environmental impact;
- e) production techniques that foster the long-term health of livestock, especially when high levels of production or growth rates are required of animals;
- f) good air quality. Humidity, dust particles and ammonia levels shall not impair the well-being of animals. Ammonia levels shall not exceed 25 ppm. If levels exceed 25 ppm, remedial action shall be taken;
- g) appropriate resting and bedded areas that meet the needs of the animal. Indoor areas shall be large enough, solidly built, comfortable, clean and dry. Resting areas shall be covered with a thick layer of dry bedding that absorbs excrement. If organic bedding is commercially unavailable, bedding material from non-genetically engineered sources that is free of prohibited substances for at least 60 days prior to harvest may be used. Non-agricultural absorbent bedding sources (for example, minerals, cellulose, sawdust, and wood shavings) can be used for livestock bedding as long as they meet the requirements in 1.4 and 1.5, and do not contain, or have not been treated with, prohibited substances;
- h) housing with non-slip floors. Solid flooring is preferable. Where non-slip slatted floors exist, the floor shall not be entirely of slatted or grid construction. The floor design shall ensure that the feet of the smallest animal cannot get caught in a void. Areas between voids shall be at least as wide as the feet of the animals;
- i) animals that give birth indoors shall be provided with sufficient space and a clean, dry, well-bedded space with stable footing. Birthing facilities shall allow for separation from other animals and all the mother's needs shall be accommodated, including milking and nursing, until the mother is recovered from the birthing process. Animals shall not be tied or tethered when giving birth;
- j) construction and management of outdoor exercise areas and pasture to encourage appropriate use by livestock to prevent animal discomfort, and to avoid soil degradation, long-term damage to vegetation and the contamination of water.

**6.7.2** Access to the outdoors and freedom of movement may be restricted for the following reasons, provided that confinement is temporary:

- a) inclement weather;
- b) conditions in which livestock health or safety is jeopardized, given the stage of production; and
- c) soil, water or plant quality would be compromised.

The operator shall document the reasons for and duration of confinement.

**6.7.3** The continuous tethering of livestock is prohibited, with an exemption for dairy cattle under conditions specified in 6.12.1.

**6.7.4** Housing, pens, runs, equipment and utensils shall be cleaned and disinfected to prevent cross infection and build-up of disease-carrying organisms. Appropriate cleaners and disinfectants shall be used, giving preference to substances listed in Tables 5.3, 7.3 and 7.4 of CAN/CGSB-32.311. In the event of a reportable disease, any effective disinfectant may be used to clean housing, pens and runs. Such uses shall be documented. For equipment that comes into contact with food products, the requirements in 8.2 apply, and substances listed in Tables 7.3 and 7.4 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 are permitted.

**6.7.5** All livestock in a production unit shall be managed organically. If they are clearly identified and managed organically, individual, non-organic animals may be present in the production unit. Non-organic livestock production units may be present on an operation, if they are clearly identified and kept separate from organic livestock production units.

**6.7.6** Organic animals may graze with non-organic animals on common land, that is, crown range or community pasture, provided that:

- a) documentation confirms that the land has not been treated with prohibited substances for at least 36 months;
- b) documentation confirms that healthcare and feed products available to organic livestock while on common land are in accordance with this standard;
- c) identification permits clear distinction between organically and non-organically raised animals.

**6.7.2** Access to the outdoors and freedom of movement may be restricted for the following reasons, provided that confinement is temporary:

- a) inclement weather;
- b) conditions in which livestock health or safety is jeopardized, given the stage of production; and
- c) conditions in which soil, water or plant quality would be compromised.

The operator shall document the reasons for, and duration of, confinement. Measures taken to reduce the need to restrict outdoor access in the future shall also be documented when circumstances are within the operator's control.

**6.7.3** The continuous tethering of livestock is prohibited, with an exemption for dairy cattle under conditions specified in 6.12.1.

**6.7.4** Housing, pens, runs, equipment and utensils shall be cleaned and disinfected to prevent cross infection and build-up of disease-carrying organisms. Appropriate cleaners and disinfectants listed in Tables 5.3, 7.3 and 7.4 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 shall be used. If these substances are not effective, other cleaners and disinfectants are permitted on the recommendation of a veterinarian and with confirmation of a disease issue. In the event of a reportable disease, any effective disinfectant may be used to clean housing, pens and runs. Such uses shall be documented. For equipment that comes into contact with food products, the requirements in 8.2 apply, and substances listed in Tables 7.3 and 7.4 of CAN/CGSB-32.311 are permitted.

**6.7.5** All livestock in a production unit shall be managed organically. Individual, non-organic animals may be present in the production unit if they are clearly identified and managed organically. Non-organic livestock production units may be present on an operation if they are clearly identified and kept separate from organic livestock production units.

**6.7.6** Organic animals may graze with non-organic animals on common land, that is, crown range or community pasture, provided that:

- a) documentation confirms that the land has not been treated with prohibited substances for at least 36 months;
- b) documentation confirms that health care and feed products available to organic livestock while on common land are in accordance with this standard;
- c) identification permits a clear distinction between organically and non-organically raised animals.

**6.7.7** For new installations or replacement purposes, wood for livestock barns and shelters treated with prohibited substances is allowed if livestock or feed does not come in contact with the wood. For existing barns and shelters, operators shall take measures to prevent contact, such as applying a barrier or establishing a buffer zone. If major renovation of barns on existing operations is required in order to comply, operators are granted an extension until December 2023. For fence posts, see 5.2.3.

**6.8 Manure management**

**6.8.1** Manure management practices used to maintain areas in which livestock is housed, penned or pastured shall be implemented in a manner that minimizes soil and water degradation.

**6.8.2** Manure storage and handling facilities, including composting facilities, shall be designed, constructed and operated to prevent contamination of ground and surface water. See also 5.5.2.

**6.9 Livestock product preparation**

Wherever organic livestock product preparation takes place (for example, facilities used for milking), 8.1 and 8.2 apply.

**6.10 Pest management**

Subclause 8.3 applies to pest management practices in and around livestock facilities.

**6.11 Additional requirements for cattle, sheep and goats**

**6.11.1** Herbivores shall have access to pasture during the grazing season. At other times, they shall have access to the open air or an outdoor exercise area, weather permitting. Exceptions to the pasture requirement can be made for:

- a) breeding males;
- b) cattle that are confined to outdoor lots during the final finishing phase. Lots shall provide at least 23 m<sup>2</sup>/animal (246 ft<sup>2</sup>) for 363 kg (800 lb) finishers and increase to 46.5 m<sup>2</sup> (500 ft<sup>2</sup>)/animal for 545 kg (1200 lb) finishers;
- c) young animals, when it can be documented that their health and welfare are jeopardized.

**6.11.2** Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for cattle are shown in Table 1 below.

**6.8 Manure management**

**6.8.1** Manure management practices used to maintain areas in which livestock is housed, penned or pastured shall be implemented in a manner that minimizes soil and water degradation.

**6.8.2** Manure storage and handling facilities, including composting facilities, shall be designed, constructed and operated to prevent contamination of ground and surface water. See also 5.5.2.

**6.9 Livestock product preparation**

Wherever organic livestock product preparation takes place (for example, facilities used for milking), 8.1 and 8.2 apply.

**6.10 Pest management in livestock facilities**

Clause 8.3 applies to pest management practices in and around livestock facilities.

**6.11 Additional requirements for cattle, sheep and goats**

**6.11.1** Herbivores shall have access to pasture during the grazing season. At other times, including the finishing phase, they shall have access to the open air or an outdoor exercise area, weather permitting. Exceptions to the pasture requirement can be made for:

- a) breeding males; or
- b) young animals, when it can be documented that their health and welfare are jeopardized.

**6.11.2** Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for cattle are shown in Table 1: Dairy and Table 2: Beef below.

**Table 1 – Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for dairy cattle**

Cattle	Indoor space	Outdoor runs and pens
Free stall	Ratio of cows to stalls shall not exceed 1:1	No minimum area required

**Table 1 – Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for cattle**

Cattle	Indoor space	Outdoor runs and pens
<b>Adult beef cows</b>	6 m <sup>2</sup> (65 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head	9 m <sup>2</sup> (97 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head
<b>Dairy cows – tie stalls</b>	Stall size appropriate for size of cow	6.5 m <sup>2</sup> (70 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head in spring and fall when not on pasture
<b>Dairy cows – bedded pack barn</b>	11 m <sup>2</sup> (118 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head	No minimum area required
<b>Dairy cows – individual maternity pens<sup>a</sup></b> NOTE 1 maternity pen per 35 cows is recommended.	15 m <sup>2</sup> (161 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head	–
<b>Dairy cow – group maternity pens<sup>a</sup></b>	11 m <sup>2</sup> (118 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head	–
<b>Calves and young cattle</b>	2.5 m <sup>2</sup> (27 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head for young calves; increasing to 5 m <sup>2</sup> (54 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head for growing steers and heifers (12 months old)	5 m <sup>2</sup> (54 ft <sup>2</sup> ) /head to 9 m <sup>2</sup> (97 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head, depending on the size of animals

NOTE With justification, space requirements may be reduced for small breeds of cattle.

<sup>a</sup> With justification, when new constructions or major renovations are underway, the addition of maternity pens can be integrated into the building plan (see 6.12.1 b).

<b>Bedded pack barn</b>	11 m <sup>2</sup> (118 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head (of bedded area)	No minimum area required
<b>Individual maternity pens</b> NOTE 1 maternity pen per 35 cows is recommended.	15 m <sup>2</sup> (161 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head (of bedded area)	Not applicable
<b>Group maternity pens</b>	11 m <sup>2</sup> (118 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head (of bedded area)	Not applicable
<b>Calves and young cattle</b>	2.5 m <sup>2</sup> (27 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head for young calves; increasing to 5 m <sup>2</sup> (54 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head for growing steers and heifers (12 months old)	5 m <sup>2</sup> (54 ft <sup>2</sup> ) /head to 9 m <sup>2</sup> (97 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head, depending on the size of animals
<b>Tie stalls (see 6.12.1)</b>	Stall size appropriate for size of cow	6.5 m <sup>2</sup> (70 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head in spring and fall when not on pasture
NOTE Table 1 reflects the space requirements for Holstein cattle; with justification, space requirements may be reduced for small breeds of cattle.		

**Table 2 – Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for beef cattle**

Cattle	Indoor space (when provided)	Outdoor runs and pens
<b>Adult beef cows</b>	5.6 m <sup>2</sup> (60 ft <sup>2</sup> ) /head for 500 kg (1,102 lb) cows increasing to 7.25 m <sup>2</sup> (78 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head for 900 kg (1,984 lb) cows (of bedded area)	9 m <sup>2</sup> (97 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head
<b>Cattle finishing phase</b>	Indoor confinement is prohibited in grazing season  Space requirements as per Calves and young cattle below	23 m <sup>2</sup> (247.5 ft <sup>2</sup> )/animal for 363 kg (800 lb) finishers and increase to 46.5 m <sup>2</sup> (500 ft <sup>2</sup> )/animal for 545 kg (1,200 lb) finishers
<b>Calves and young cattle</b>	2.5 m <sup>2</sup> (27 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head for young calves; increasing to 5 m <sup>2</sup> (54 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head for growing steers and heifers (12 months old) (of bedded area)	5 m <sup>2</sup> (54 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head to 9 m <sup>2</sup> (97 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head, depending on the size of animals
Maternity pens  NOTE 1 maternity pen per 20 cows is recommended.	13.4 m <sup>2</sup> (144 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head (of bedded area)	

**6.11.3 Sheep and goat housing**

Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for sheep and goats are shown in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for sheep and goats**

Indoor space	Outdoor runs and pens
1.5 m <sup>2</sup> (16 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head plus 0.35 m <sup>2</sup> (3.8 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head for each additional lamb/kid	2.5 m <sup>2</sup> (27 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head plus 0.5 m <sup>2</sup> (5.4 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head for each additional lamb/kid

**6.11.3 Sheep and goat housing**

Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for sheep and goats are shown in Table 3.

**Table 3 – Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for sheep and goats**

	Indoor space	Outdoor runs and pens
<b>Ewes/does and nursing lamb/kid</b>	2 m <sup>2</sup> (21.5 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head plus 0.35 m <sup>2</sup> (3.8 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head for each lamb/kid	3 m <sup>2</sup> (32.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head plus 0.5 m <sup>2</sup> (5.4 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head for each lamb/kid
<b>Bottle-fed, weaned, and feeder lambs/kids</b>	0.5 m <sup>2</sup> (5.4 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head increasing to 1.5 m <sup>2</sup> (16 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head by one year of age	0.75 m <sup>2</sup> (8.1 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head increasing to 2.25 m <sup>2</sup> (24 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head by one year of age
<b>Rams/bucks over one year of age</b>	3 m <sup>2</sup> (32.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head	4.5 m <sup>2</sup> (48.5 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head

## 6.12 Additional requirements for dairy cattle housing

**6.12.1** Tie stalls, in existing dairy barns, may be used for lactating dairy cows, and for a period of one month for the training of heifers raised in loose housing. Tie stalls are prohibited in new construction and major renovations.

- a) If tie stalls are used during the winter season, dairy cows shall have an exercise period every day whenever possible, or at least twice a week.
- b) If construction of new infrastructure is required in order to comply with 6.12.1, operators are granted an exemption that permits the use of existing infrastructure until the end of November 2020, provided that a plan for the new construction or renovation is in place by November 2016, and:
  - 1) tethered cows shall have an exercise period every day, whenever possible, but at least twice a week, OR
  - 2) there shall be no tethering of heifers or dry cows.

**6.12.2** In a free-stall system, the ratio of cows to stalls shall not exceed 1:1.

**6.12.3** Electric trainers are allowed on existing tie-stall operations and prohibited in new constructions or major barn renovations. All use of electric trainers shall be discontinued after November 2020.

- a) When electric trainers are used, the applicable requirements and recommendations of the Code of Practice for the care and handling of dairy cattle shall be followed. In addition, the following restrictions apply:
  - 1) Electric cow trainers shall only be continually activated for the first week that cows are spending nights in the barn, and thereafter shall only be switched on for a maximum of two days per week to reinforce the initial training;
  - 2) Electric trainers shall be located above a contact safety bar to alert the cow that she is getting close to the trainer.
- b) The tails of cows in stalls may be tied to prevent the tail from lying in the gutter, provided that the tying allows for natural behaviour, free movement of the tail and quick release when necessary.

**6.12.4** If milking parlours are in use:

- a) operators shall minimize animal waiting time between the time they are moved to the holding area and the time they return to the barn or pasture;
- b) portable milking units shall be available for sick or weak animals that are unable to make it to the milking parlour;

If construction of new infrastructure is required in order to comply with 6.11.3, operators are granted an exemption that permits the use of existing infrastructure until December 2025, provided that a plan for the new construction or renovation is in place by December 2023.

## 6.12 Additional requirements for dairy cattle housing

**6.12.1** Tie stalls in existing dairy barns may be used for lactating dairy cows, and for a period of one month for the training of heifers raised in loose housing. Tie stalls are prohibited in new construction and major renovations. All use of tie stalls will be phased out of organic dairy production by December 2030. By December 2020, if tie stalls are used, dairy cows shall have an exercise period at least twice a week, preferably every day.

**6.12.2** In a free-stall system, the ratio of cows to stalls shall not exceed 1:1.

**6.12.3** Electric trainers are prohibited. The tails of cows in stalls may be tied to prevent the tail from lying in the gutter, provided that the tying allows for natural behaviour, free movement of the tail and quick release when necessary.

**6.12.4** If milking parlours are in use:

- a) operators shall minimize animal waiting time between the time they are moved to the holding area and the time they return to the barn or pasture;
- b) portable milking units shall be available for sick or weak animals that are unable to make it to the

- c) electric crowd gates are prohibited;
- d) non-slip flooring shall be used in the holding area, parlour and alleys.

**6.12.5** Calves may be housed in individual pens and hutches, up to three months of age, provided that the following conditions are met:

- a) they are not tethered and have enough room to turn around, lie down, stretch out when lying down, get up, rest and groom themselves;
- b) individual pens are designed and located so that each calf can see, smell and hear other calves;
- c) Individual housing has an area of at least 2.5 m<sup>2</sup> (27 ft<sup>2</sup>) and a minimum width of 1.5 m (4.9 ft);
- d) outdoor hutches shall have access to an enclosed yard or run.

**6.12.6** Calves shall be group-housed after weaning.

**6.12.7** Dairy replacement calves over nine months of age shall have access to pasture, as appropriate for the season.

### **6.13 Additional requirements for poultry**

**6.13.1** The operator shall establish and maintain poultry living conditions that accommodate the health and natural behaviour of poultry as follows:

- a) The keeping of poultry in row, battery, enriched or colony cages, is prohibited;
- b) Layer flocks shall be limited to 10 000 birds. More than one flock may be in the same building if flocks are separated and have separate runs;
- c) Poultry shall be reared in open-range conditions and have free access to pasture, open-air runs, and other exercise areas, subject to weather and ground conditions. Outdoor areas shall:
  - 1) be free of prohibited substances for 36 months prior to their use;
  - 2) be covered with vegetation, seeded if necessary, and periodically left empty to allow vegetation to re-grow and to prevent disease build-up. To facilitate rodent control, a vegetation-free perimeter around poultry houses is permitted;
  - 3) provide protection from predators and be managed in a way that encourages use by the birds;

milking parlour;

- c) electric crowd gates are prohibited; and
- d) non-slip flooring shall be used in the holding area, parlour and alleys.

**6.12.5** Calves may be housed in individual pens and hutches, up to three months of age, provided that the following conditions are met:

- a) they are not tethered and have enough room to turn around, lie down, stretch out when lying down, get up, rest and groom themselves;
- b) individual pens are designed and located so that each calf can see, smell and hear other calves;
- c) individual housing has an area of at least 2.5 m<sup>2</sup> (27 ft<sup>2</sup>) and a minimum width of 1.5 m (4.9 ft); and
- d) outdoor hutches shall have access to an enclosed yard or run.

**6.12.6** Calves shall be group-housed after weaning.

**6.12.7** Dairy replacement calves over nine months of age shall have access to pasture, as appropriate for the season.

### **6.13 Additional requirements for poultry**

**6.13.1** The operator shall establish and maintain poultry living conditions that accommodate the health and natural behaviour of poultry as follows:

- a) The keeping of poultry in row, battery, enriched or colony cages, is prohibited;
- b) Poultry shall be reared in open-range conditions and have free access to pasture, open-air runs, and other exercise areas, subject to weather and ground conditions. Outdoor areas shall:
  - 1) be free of prohibited substances for 36 months prior to their use;
  - 2) be covered with vegetation, seeded if necessary, and periodically left empty to allow vegetation to regrow and to prevent disease build-up. To facilitate rodent control, a vegetation-free perimeter around poultry houses is permitted;
  - 3) have effective overhead cover (for shade and protection from avian predators) distributed throughout the range area of barn-raised birds to encourage continual use by the birds. The cover may be natural (such as trees, shrubs and crops) or artificial (such as shade cloth,

- 4) show signs of use as appropriate for the season.
- d) In an emergency situation, when outdoor access results in an imminent threat to the health and welfare of poultry, access may be restricted. Outdoor access shall resume when the imminent threat ends. Producers shall document periods of confinement.
- e) Operators shall have an organic plan that describes outdoor access and how they will protect birds from disease and predators.
- f) Layers may be confined during onset of lay, that is, until peak production is reached. The laying flock shall have outdoor access for a minimum one-third of its laying life.
- g) Rearing facilities closely matched with the conditions that exist in the layer barn are recommended. Pullets, however, may be kept indoors until they are fully immunized.
- h) Barn-raised meat chickens shall have outdoor access on a daily basis by 25 days of age. Meat chickens raised outdoors in shelters without indoor access shall have access to pasture on a daily basis by four weeks of age, unless weather conditions endanger the health or safety of the birds. Turkeys shall have outdoors access by eight weeks of age.

**6.13.2** Ducks and geese shall have access to a water area created for their use, whenever weather conditions permit. Facility design shall address the need to prevent commingling of wild waterfowl and domestic poultry.

camouflage netting, screens or trailers). Roof overhangs over pasture may account for up to 50% of the required overhead cover if they are functional (i.e., they provide shade and protection from avian predators). By December 2023, operators shall submit a plan to ensure that this overhead cover shall represent at least 10% of the minimum required range area (as outlined in Table 5 of 6.13.13) by December 2025; [To learn more, see [“Poultry welfare: Overhead cover for shade and protection.”](#)] and

- 4) show signs of use as appropriate for the season;
- c) In an emergency, when outdoor access results in an imminent threat to the health and welfare of poultry, access may be restricted. Outdoor access shall resume when the imminent threat ends. Producers shall document periods of confinement; and
- d) Operators shall have an organic plan that describes outdoor access and how they will protect birds from disease and predators.

**6.13.2 General requirements for layers**

- a) Layers may be confined during onset of lay, that is, until peak production is reached. The laying flock shall have outdoor access for at least one-third of its laying life.
- b) Rearing facilities that closely match the conditions that exist in the layer barn are recommended. Pullets, however, may be kept indoors until they are fully immunized.
- c) Layer flocks shall be limited to 10,000 birds. More than one flock may be in the same building if the flocks are separated and have separate runs.

**6.13.3 Enriched verandahs for barn-raised layers** [To learn more, see [“Poultry welfare: Overhead cover for shade and protection.”](#)]

- a) Enriched verandahs shall be used when barn-raised layers do not have access to outdoor runs because of weather or disease constraints.
- b) An enriched verandah is a covered, uninsulated, unheated extension to a poultry barn. Birds shall have access to the enriched verandah year-round during daylight hours, at least from spring through fall. The enriched verandah shall:
  - 1) have an outdoor climate but offer protection from inclement weather (e.g., wind, rain),

**6.13.3** Layers shall have access to an adequate number of nests, as recommended by best management practices.

**6.13.4** Perch area of at least 18 cm (7 in.)/hen shall be provided for layers. Perch area may include raised perches, nest rails and raised floors.

- rodents, predators and disease threats;
- 2) represent at least 1/3 of the footprint of the indoor barn area;
- 3) have natural lighting which may be supplemented with artificial lighting;
- 4) have a sand floor, a dirt floor or a solid floor covered with bedding, such as straw or wood shavings, for comfort and warmth and to encourage foraging, scratching and dust-bathing behaviours;
- 5) offer enrichments (examples include perches, trays of greens, hay bales, pecking objects) to encourage natural behaviours; and
- 6) not count towards indoor or outdoor space allowance.

c) Enriched verandahs shall be provided in new construction for barn-raised layers. They shall be added to existing infrastructure when the operator cannot demonstrate that at least 25% of layers utilize the outdoor range when there are no weather or disease constraints.

d) All existing enriched verandahs shall be accepted as they are as of December 2020; they are exempt from 6.13.3 b 2) and 6.13.3 b 6).

e) If the operator can demonstrate that the addition of an enriched verandah of the size specified in 6.13.3 b) is not possible for an existing barn due to lack of space or because of design limitations of the existing barn:

- 1) a smaller enriched verandah shall be allowed provided it is as close in size as possible to the requirement of 1/3 of the footprint of the indoor barn area; or
- 2) the enriched verandah shall be constructed in the uncovered outdoor area and, as an exception, may count as part of the outdoor space allowance; or
- 3) operators are granted an exemption that permits the use of existing infrastructure until December 2030, provided that a plan for the new construction or renovation is in place by December 2025.

**6.13.4** Layers shall have access to an adequate number of nests, as recommended by best management practices.

**6.13.5** Perches shall meet the following criteria:

- a) In the first weeks of life, layer chicks shall have continuous access to perch space.
- b) During the pullet rearing phase, adequate perch space shall be appropriate for the final production system and accessible at all times and at varying heights.
- c) Laying hens shall have a minimum of 15 cm (5.9 in.) perch space per hen, accessible at all times and at varying heights.
- d) Perches for laying hens shall be purpose-designed, such as alighting (landing) rails in aviaries, which allow birds to wrap their toes around the rail. Feed and water trough edges, slatted floors and ladder rungs are not considered purpose-designed perching objects, but may be used to provide additional perch space beyond what is required in 6.13.5 a), b) and c).

**6.13.5** Poultry barns shall have sufficient exits (popholes) to ensure that all birds have ready access to the outdoors.

**6.13.5.1** Exits shall:

- a) allow passage for more than one bird at a time, and be evenly distributed along the line of access to the outdoor range;
- b) shall correspond to the requirements shown in Table 3 for the number and size of exits:

**Table 3 – Poultry barns minimum exit numbers and size**

Poultry	Combined width of popholes	Minimum width of each pophole	Minimum height	Minimum number
Layers	2 m (6.6 ft)/1000 hens	50 cm (20 in.)	35 cm (14 in.)	2

- e) Perches shall be a minimum diameter or width of 1.9 cm (0.75 in.).
- f) Other poultry are exempt from 6.13.5 a), b), c), d) and e).

**NOTE** Producers are advised to review the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens* (see 2.4) to ensure they meet additional perch requirements for both pullets and adult layers contained therein.

**6.13.6 General requirements for meat chickens and turkeys**

- a) Meat chickens that will be raised outdoors in shelters without indoor access shall have access to pasture on a daily basis by four weeks of age, unless weather conditions endanger the health or safety of the birds. Turkeys shall have outdoor access by eight weeks of age.
- b) Barn-raised meat chickens shall have outdoor access on a daily basis by at least 25 days of age when there are no weather constraints. Operators shall take measures to increase use of the pastures and outside exercise areas and have a goal of a minimum of 15% of birds on range when there are no weather constraints. Operators shall document the use of the range and continue to strive to increase the number of birds on the range in future years. This will be reviewed by December 2025. [[To learn more, see “Fresh air for organic poultry?”](#)]

**NOTE** Potential measures for increasing the usage of pasture, outdoor range and outside exercise areas:

- use slower-growing foraging (hardy) breeds (characterized by a growth rate of no more than 45 g/day);
- use a ration that has been nutritionally adjusted for slower growth (i.e., lower in protein);
- implement an older slaughter age (e.g., 60 days) provided the health of the birds can be maintained;
- allow outdoor access before the minimum age specified;
- provide mobile units for summer production;
- provide effective overhead cover on pasture;
- provide pasture enrichment (e.g., feed, water, perches, etc.);
- improve pasture access (e.g., pophole changes, etc.); and
- provide enriched verandahs [see descriptions in 6.13.3 b)].

**6.13.7** Poultry barns shall have sufficient exits (popholes) to ensure that all birds have ready access to the outdoors.

**6.13.8** Exits shall:

- a) allow passage of more than one bird at a time, and be evenly distributed along the line of access to the outdoor range;
- b) shall correspond to the requirements shown in Table 4 for the number and size of exits.

**Table 4 – Poultry barns minimum exit numbers and size**

Poultry	Combined width of popholes	Minimum width of each pophole	Minimum height	Minimum number
Layers	2 m (6.6 ft)/1000 hens	50 cm (20 in.)	35 cm (14 in.)	2

<b>Broilers</b>	1 m (3.3 ft)/1000 birds OR all birds within 15 m (49 ft) of an exit	50 cm (20 in.)	35 cm (14 in.)	2
<b>Turkeys</b>	2 m (6.6 ft)/1000 birds	150 cm (59 in.)	75 cm (30 in.)	2

**6.13.5.2** When existing organic poultry barns do not meet the requirements of 6.13.5.1 b), either the distance from an exit from anywhere in the barn shall be no more than 15 m (49 ft), or the operator shall provide evidence that birds utilize outdoor range. Evidence shall demonstrate that 25-50 % of birds are on range when there are no age or weather constraints.

**6.13.6** Litter shall be provided and kept dry. Houses with slatted floors shall have a minimum of 30% solid floor area with sufficient litter for dust bathing, scratching and foraging.

**6.13.7** Poultry shall have access to at least the number of waterers and feeders required by the relevant Code of Practice.

**6.13.8** Poultry housed indoors shall be provided with natural light either with evenly distributed windows or light permeable fabric. The total window area shall be no less than 1% of the total ground-floor area, unless it can be demonstrated that natural light levels are sufficient to read a document such as a newspaper anywhere in the barn. If day length is artificially prolonged, the total duration of light shall not exceed 16 h, and shall be terminated by gradual reduction of light intensity followed by 8 h of continuous darkness. The following exceptions are permitted and shall be documented:

- a) periods of increased lighting are permitted due to stage of production, for example, arrival of chicks and turkey poults;
- b) decreased lighting intensity is permitted due to animal welfare concerns, for example, outbreaks of cannibalism.

**6.13.9** The maximum indoor and outdoor densities are shown in Table 4.

**Table 4 – Maximum indoor and outdoor densities for poultry**

Poultry	Indoors	Outdoor runs
<b>Layers</b>	6 birds/m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )	4 birds/m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Pullets 0-8 weeks<sup>a</sup></b>	24 birds/m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )	16 birds/m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Pullets 9-18 weeks<sup>a</sup></b>	15 birds/m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )	10 birds/m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Broilers</b>	21 kg/m <sup>2</sup> (4.3 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> )	21 kg/m <sup>2</sup> (4.3 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Turkeys/large birds</b>	26 kg/m <sup>2</sup> (5.3 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> )	17 kg/m <sup>2</sup> (3.5 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> )

a Outdoor runs are not required when flocks are undergoing an immunization program.

<b>Broilers</b>	1 m (3.3 ft)/1000 birds OR all birds within 15 m (49 ft) of an exit	50 cm (20 in.)	35 cm (14 in.)	2
<b>Turkeys</b>	2 m (6.6 ft)/1000 birds	150 cm (59 in.)	75 cm (30 in.)	2

**6.13.9** When existing organic poultry barns do not meet the requirements of 6.13.8 b) (Table 4), either the distance from an exit from anywhere in the barn shall be no more than 15 m (49 ft), or the operator shall provide evidence that birds utilize outdoor range. Evidence shall demonstrate that 25-50% of birds are on range when there are no age or weather constraints.

**6.13.10** Bedding material shall be provided as litter material and kept dry. Houses with slatted floors shall have a minimum of 30% solid, bedded floor area to encourage dust bathing, scratching and foraging behaviours.

**6.13.11** Poultry shall have access to at least the number of waterers and feeders required by the relevant Code of Practice (see 2.4).

**6.13.12** Poultry housed indoors shall be provided with natural light either with evenly distributed windows or light-permeable fabric. The total window area shall be no less than 1% of the total ground-floor area, unless it can be demonstrated that natural light levels are sufficient to read a document, such as a newspaper, anywhere in the barn. If daylength is artificially prolonged, the total duration of light shall not exceed 16 hours, and shall be terminated by gradual reduction of light intensity followed by 8 hours of continuous darkness. The following exceptions are permitted and shall be documented:

- a) periods of increased lighting are permitted due to the stage of production, for example, the arrival of chicks and turkey poults;
- b) decreased lighting intensity is permitted due to animal welfare concerns, for example, outbreaks of cannibalism.

**6.13.13** The maximum indoor and outdoor densities are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5 – Maximum indoor and outdoor densities for poultry<sup>a</sup>**

Poultry	Indoors	Outdoor runs
<b>Layers</b>	6 birds/m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )	4 birds/m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Pullets 0-8 weeks<sup>b</sup></b>	24 birds/m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )	16 birds/m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Pullets 9-18 weeks<sup>b</sup></b>	15 birds/m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )	10 birds/m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Broilers</b>	21 kg/m <sup>2</sup> (4.3 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> )	21 kg/m <sup>2</sup> (4.3 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> )
<b>Turkeys/large birds</b>	26 kg/m <sup>2</sup> (5.3 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> )	17 kg/m <sup>2</sup> (3.5 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> )

**6.13.10** Multi-level aviary systems for layers shall have no more than three levels or tiers above ground level. Total floor space, for calculation of solid-floor area and bird density requirements, shall include all usable floor levels (see 6.13.6 and 6.13.9). If winter gardens are used to provide required scratching areas, they shall be accessible year-round.

**6.13.11** For pasture-based operations with mobile units, stocking density shall be no more than 2000 layers/ha (800 layers/ac.), 2500 broilers/ha (1000 broilers/ac.) or 1300 large birds (turkeys/geese)/ha (540 large birds/ac.), based on the total amount of land used for rotational poultry pasture. When birds are in moveable field shelters, the shelters shall be moved daily, whenever possible, and at least once every four days, taking into consideration the impact on the birds and on the land. Density within the moveable shelters shall correspond to the indoor densities described in 6.13.9.

**6.13.12** Buildings shall be emptied, cleaned and disinfected, between flocks, and runs shall be left empty to allow the vegetation to grow back.

**6.13.13** If major renovation of barns on existing operations is required in order to comply with 6.13.1 b), 6.13.5 and 6.13.8, operators are granted an extended period until the end of November 2018 to come into compliance, provided that a plan for the new construction or renovation is in place by November 2016.

<sup>a</sup> Under exceptional circumstances, the maximum stocking density may be exceeded for individual flocks. These circumstances shall be documented and if they recur, actions shall be taken to prevent future flocks from surpassing maximum stocking density.

<sup>b</sup> Outdoor runs are not required when flocks are undergoing an immunization program.

**6.13.14** Multi-level aviary systems for layers shall have no more than three levels or tiers above ground level. Total floor space, for calculation of solid-floor area and bird density requirements, shall include all usable floor levels (see 6.13.10 and 6.13.13). If enriched verandahs are used to provide required scratching areas, they shall be accessible year-round.

**6.13.15** For pasture-based operations with mobile units, stocking density shall be no more than 2000 layers/ha (800 layers/ac.), 2500 broilers/ha (1000 broilers/ac.) or 1300 large birds (turkeys/geese)/ha (540 large birds/ac.), based on the total amount of land used for rotational poultry pasture. When birds are in moveable field shelters, the shelters shall be moved daily, whenever possible, and at least once every four days, taking into consideration the impact on the birds and on the land. Density within the moveable shelters shall correspond to the indoor density described in 6.13.13.

**6.13.16** Buildings shall be emptied, cleaned and disinfected, between flocks, and runs shall be left empty to allow the vegetation to grow back.

**6.13.17** Ducks and geese shall have access to a water area created for their use, whenever weather conditions permit. Facility design shall address the need to prevent commingling of wild waterfowl and domestic poultry.

**6.14 Additional requirements for rabbits**

**6.14.1** If required for comfort and security, rabbits may be temporarily confined, for example, overnight, in cages or hutches. Continuous confinement is prohibited.

**6.14.2** The use of mobile pasture pens is permitted, provided that pens do not restrict natural behaviour and they are moved at least once every three days.

**6.14.3** Rabbits shall have space to run, hop and dig, and to sit upright on their back legs with ears erect. The minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements are shown in Table 5.

**Table 5 – Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for rabbits**

Rabbits	Indoor space	Outdoor – runs and concrete exercise areas	Outdoor – pasture	Mobile pens
<b>From weaning to slaughter</b>	0.3 m <sup>2</sup> (3.23 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	2 m <sup>2</sup> (22 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	5 m <sup>2</sup> (54 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	0.4 m <sup>2</sup> (4.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head
<b>Pregnant does</b>	0.5 m <sup>2</sup> (5.4 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	2 m <sup>2</sup> (22 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	5 m <sup>2</sup> (54 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	0.5 m <sup>2</sup> (5.4 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head
<b>Does and litters</b>	0.7 m <sup>2</sup> (7.5 ft <sup>2</sup> )	2 m <sup>2</sup> (22 ft <sup>2</sup> )	–	0.4 m <sup>2</sup> (4.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head in shelter 2.4 m <sup>2</sup> (26 ft <sup>2</sup> ) for grazing area
<b>Bucks</b>	0.3 m <sup>2</sup> (3.23 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	2 m <sup>2</sup> (22 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	5 m <sup>2</sup> (54 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	0.4 m <sup>2</sup> (4.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head

**6.14.4** Rabbits shall not be subjected to continuous lighting or kept in permanent darkness. During the day, rabbits shall be able to clearly see each other and their surroundings.

**6.14.5** Does about to give birth shall be given secluded individual burrows or nest boxes for kindling (birthing).

**6.14.6** The doe and litter shall have free access to outdoor range and foraging areas once the kits reach 21 days of age.

**6.14.7** Weaning before the kits are 30 days of age is prohibited. However, if the welfare of the doe or kits is compromised, earlier weaning is permitted.

**6.14 Additional requirements for rabbits**

**6.14.1** If required for comfort and security, rabbits may be temporarily confined, for example, overnight, in cages or hutches. Continuous confinement is prohibited.

**6.14.2** The use of mobile pasture pens is permitted, provided that pens do not restrict natural behaviour and they are moved at least once every three days.

**6.14.3** Rabbits shall have space to run, hop and dig, and to sit upright on their back legs with ears erect. The minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements are shown in Table 6.

**Table 6 – Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for rabbits**

Rabbits	Indoor space	Outdoor – runs and concrete exercise areas	Outdoor – pasture	Mobile pens
<b>From weaning to slaughter</b>	0.3 m <sup>2</sup> (3.23 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	2 m <sup>2</sup> (22 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	5 m <sup>2</sup> (54 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	0.4 m <sup>2</sup> (4.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head
<b>Pregnant does</b>	0.5 m <sup>2</sup> (5.4 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	2 m <sup>2</sup> (22 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	5 m <sup>2</sup> (54 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	0.5 m <sup>2</sup> (5.4 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head
<b>Does and litters</b>	0.7 m <sup>2</sup> (7.5 ft <sup>2</sup> )	2 m <sup>2</sup> (22 ft <sup>2</sup> )	Not applicable	0.4 m <sup>2</sup> (4.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head in shelter 2.4 m <sup>2</sup> (26 ft <sup>2</sup> ) for grazing area
<b>Bucks</b>	0.3 m <sup>2</sup> (3.23 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	2 m <sup>2</sup> (22 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	5 m <sup>2</sup> (54 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	0.4 m <sup>2</sup> (4.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head

**6.14.3** Rabbits shall have space to run, hop and dig, and to sit upright on their back legs with ears erect. The minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements are shown in Table 6.

**6.14.4** Rabbits shall not be subjected to continuous lighting or kept in permanent darkness. During the day, rabbits shall be able to clearly see each other and their surroundings.

**6.14.5** Does about to give birth shall be given secluded individual burrows or nest boxes for kindling (birthing).

**6.14.6** The doe and litter shall have free access to outdoor range and foraging areas once the kits reach 21 days of age.

**6.14.7** Weaning before the kits are 30 days of age is prohibited. However, if the welfare of the doe or kits is compromised, earlier weaning is permitted.

## 6.15 Additional requirements for pigs and farm-raised wild boar

**6.15.1** The number of animals on a production unit shall reflect the size of the available land-base, which comprises land owned, leased and available for spreading their manure, and based on a balance between animal units, feed production and manure management. Farrow to finish operators shall not exceed 2.5 sows/ha (1 sow/ac.).

**6.15.2** Pigs shall have access to outdoor exercise areas. Outdoor areas may include woodlands or other natural environments. Access to pasture is recommended but not mandatory. Pasture management guidelines apply to all outdoor areas (see 6.7.1 j).

**6.15.3** Sows and gilts shall be kept in groups, with the following exceptions:

- a) individual pens are permitted for the protection of females during estrus, or for other health reasons, for a period of up to five days;
- b) sows may be individually housed in a pen [7.5 m<sup>2</sup> (81 ft<sup>2</sup>)/sow with litter] for up to five days prior to farrowing and during the suckling period;
- c) if needed for piglet protection during the suckling period, sow restraint is permitted for a maximum of three days. Sows may be restrained for a shorter period to protect the operator during piglet processing or pen cleaning;
- d) the use of farrowing crates as a means of restraint is prohibited.

## 6.15 Additional requirements for pigs and farm-raised wild boar

**6.15.1** The number of animals on a production unit shall reflect the size of the available land-base, which comprises land owned, leased and available for spreading their manure, and based on a balance between animal units, feed production and manure management. Farrow to finish operators shall not exceed 2.5 sows/ha (1 sow/ac.).

**6.15.2** Pigs shall have access to outdoor exercise areas with the exception of sows with nursing piglets. Outdoor access can be temporarily restricted as stated in 6.7.2.

- a) Outdoor areas may include woodlands, other natural environments, soil or concrete exercise areas. Access to pasture is recommended but not mandatory. If pasture areas are degraded and cannot be used by the pigs, other outdoor exercise areas shall be provided in order to meet the requirements for outdoor access and rooting.
- b) An outdoor exercise area may be covered as long as at least three sides of the structure are open.
- c) When outdoors in open areas (e.g., pasture), pigs shall have access to shaded/sheltered areas suitable for the whole herd so they may take cover during inclement weather.
- d) Pigs shall not be confined exclusively to concrete yards without access to an indoor or outdoor bedded area.
- e) Guidelines around management of outdoor areas (6.7.1), preventing occurrence and spread of parasites (6.6.1 c), 6.6.11) and permitting rooting for pigs (6.15.7) shall apply.

### NOTE

Pasture management practices implemented to avoid degradation and prevent parasite build-up may include:

- rotation of pastures with annual crops;
- having a paddock rotation plan depending on the season;
- leaving a paddock empty for 5 years before repopulating with growing pigs;
- keeping sows in a paddock for a maximum of 2 years before providing the paddock with a rest period.

**6.15.3** Sows and gilts shall be kept in groups, with the following exceptions:

- a) individual pens are permitted for the protection of females during estrus, or for other health reasons, for a period of up to five days;
- b) sows may be individually housed in a pen [7.5 m<sup>2</sup> (81 ft<sup>2</sup>) per sow with litter] for up to five days prior to farrowing and during the suckling period;
- c) if needed for piglet protection during the suckling period, sow restraint is permitted for a maximum of three days. Sows may be restrained for a shorter period to protect the operator during piglet processing or pen cleaning;
- d) the use of farrowing crates as a means of restraint is prohibited.

**6.15.4** Piglets shall not be weaned before four weeks of age. However, if the welfare of the sow and piglets is compromised, earlier weaning is permitted.

**6.15.5** Piglets shall not be kept on flat decks or in cages.

**6.15.6** If there is visual and tactile contact with other pigs, boars may be housed in individual enclosures.

**6.15.7** Indoor and outdoor exercise areas shall permit rooting.

**6.15.8** The use of nose rings is prohibited.

**6.15.9** The minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements are shown in Table 6.

**Table 6 – Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for pigs and boars**

Pigs and boars	Indoor space	Outdoor runs and pens
<b>Sow and piglets (up to 40 days old).</b>	7.5 m <sup>2</sup> (81 ft <sup>2</sup> ) for each sow and litter	Not required
<b>Growing pigs</b> a) up to 30 kg (66 lb) b) 30–50 kg (66–110 lb) c) 50–85 kg (110–187 lb) d) >85 kg (187 lb)	0.6 m <sup>2</sup> (6.5 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head 0.8 m <sup>2</sup> (8.6 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head 1.1 m <sup>2</sup> (12 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head 1.3 m <sup>2</sup> (14 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	0.4 m <sup>2</sup> (4.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head 0.6 m <sup>2</sup> (6.5 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head 0.8 m <sup>2</sup> (8.6 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head 1.0 m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head
<b>Sows in group pens</b>	3 m <sup>2</sup> (32.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	3 m <sup>2</sup> (32.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head
<b>Boars in individual pens</b>	9 m <sup>2</sup> (97 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head	9 m <sup>2</sup> (97 ft <sup>2</sup> )/ head

**6.15.4** Piglets shall not be weaned before four weeks of age. However, if the welfare of the sow and piglets is compromised, earlier weaning is permitted.

**6.15.5** Piglets shall not be kept on flat decks or in cages.

**6.15.6** Boars may be housed in individual enclosures provided there is visual and tactile contact with other pigs.

**6.15.7** Indoor and outdoor exercise areas shall permit rooting.

**6.15.8** The use of nose rings is prohibited.

**6.15.9** The minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements are shown in Table 7.

**Table 7– Minimum indoor and outdoor space requirements for pigs and boars<sup>a</sup>**

Pigs and boars	Indoor space	Outdoor runs and pens
<b>Sow and piglets (up to 40 days old)</b>	7.5 m <sup>2</sup> (81 ft <sup>2</sup> ) for each sow and litter	Not required
<b>Growing pigs</b> a) up to 30 kg (66 lb) b) 30–50 kg (66–110 lb) c) 50–85 kg (110–187 lb) d) >85 kg (187 lb)	0.6 m <sup>2</sup> (6.5 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head 0.8 m <sup>2</sup> (8.6 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head 1.1 m <sup>2</sup> (12 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head 1.3 m <sup>2</sup> (14 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head	0.4 m <sup>2</sup> (4.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head 0.6 m <sup>2</sup> (6.5 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head 0.8 m <sup>2</sup> (8.6 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head 1.0 m <sup>2</sup> (10.76 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head
<b>Sows in group pens</b>	3 m <sup>2</sup> (32.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head	3 m <sup>2</sup> (32.3 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head
<b>Boars in individual pens</b>	9 m <sup>2</sup> (97 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head	9 m <sup>2</sup> (97 ft <sup>2</sup> )/head

<sup>a</sup> Under exceptional circumstances, the maximum stocking density may be exceeded for individual groups. These circumstances shall be documented and if they recur, actions shall be taken to prevent future groups from surpassing maximum stocking density.