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Handbook of Good Breeding Practices



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INTRODUCTION

This manual summarizes Inalca's long experience in the cattle breeding sector and represents the expression of the most advanced requests of its customers.

In this sense, the document identifies the minimum quality standards that must be adopted by farms adhering to the Inalca (IT001ET) Optional Labeling Policy and is also configured as a quide for all breeders.

It must always be remembered, however, that "the farmer's eye is still the best medicine for our animals"; in this sense, Inalca does not neglect the personal experiences that each individual farmer in collaboration with his or her company veterinarian has gained during the course of his or her activity, and for this reason admits, in compliance with current legislation, the maintenance of the activities and registration forms already present on the farms, and approved by the health authorities, for the satisfaction of the requirements imposed by this manual. However, these activities must also be approved by Inalca technicians and will be subject to periodic evaluation by Inalca through special checklists during its checks.

This document is given to all farms that decide to voluntarily adhere to the Optional Labeling Policy of Inalca (IT001ET) and finally it is signed for acknowledgment and acceptance.

PURPOSE

Health and environmental regulations place ever greater emphasis on cattle farming conditions, the first link in the food chain. The growing attention of consumers and stakeholders to animal health and welfare, as well as sustainability and environmental protection, requires farmers to be vigilant in these matters and to have a thorough understanding of the industry's technical standards to ensure optimal animal conditions.

This document aims to inform and directly involve farmers on the main regulatory requirements and good production practices, hoping that the experience and knowledge of INALCA and its target customers can provide a concrete and effective contribution.

The information on the food chain, which must be transmitted from farmers to the slaughterhouse, represents an additional element capable of effectively ensuring the quality and safety of meat.

INALCA is strongly committed to increasing its knowledge and collaboration with its animal suppliers and has taken steps on several fronts to establish a direct communication channel with the farming community.

Each livestock supplier confirms and endorses INALCA's application of the principles contained in this document and agrees to arrange and host on-site visits conducted directly by INALCA, through its own technicians or technical bodies delegated by INALCA. INALCA is strongly committed to improving knowledge and cooperation with its livestock suppliers and has taken steps on several fronts to establish a direct channel of communication with the livestock sector.



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DOCUMENT REFERENCE

EU and national regulation:

- Reg. (UE) 625/2017 del 15/03/2017 "Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, plant health and plant protection products";
- Reg. (CE) 852/2004 del 29/4/2004 "Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the hygiene of foodstuffs";
- Reg. (EC) 1760/2000 of 17/07/2000 "Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing a system for the identification and registration of bovine animals and on the labelling of beef and beef products, and repealing Council Regulation (EC) No 820/97";
- Reg. (EU) 4/2019 of 11/12/2018, "On the manufacture, placing on the market and use
 of medicated feed, amending Regulation (EC) No 183/2005 of the European
 Parliament and of the Council and repealing Council Directive 90/167/EEC";
- Reg. (EU) 6/2019 of 11/12/2018 "on veterinary medicinal products and repealing Directive 2001/82/EC";
- Legislative Decree no. 193 of 6 April 2006 "Implementation of Directive 2004/28/EC laying down the Community code for veterinary medicinal products";
- Legislative Decree no. 158 of 16 March 2006 "Implementation of Directive 2003/74/EC concerning the prohibition of the use of certain substances with hormonal and thyrostatic action and beta-agonist substances in animal production";
- Legislative Decree no. 146 of 26 March 2001 "Implementation of Directive 98/58/EC on the protection of animals kept for farming purposes";
- Legislative Decree no. 27 of 2 February 2021 "Provisions for the adaptation of national legislation to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2017/625 pursuant to Article 12, letters a), b), c), d) and e) of Law no. 117 of 4 October 2019";
- Legislative Decree no. 126/2011 Implementation of Directive 2008/119/EC establishing minimum standards for the protection of calves;
- Law no. 189 of 20 July 2004 "Provisions concerning the prohibition of mistreatment of animals, as well as their use in clandestine fights or unauthorised competitions";
- Reg. (EC) 1/2005 of 22/12/2004 "Council Regulation on the protection of animals during transport and related operations amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97";
- Reg. (EC) 183/2005 of 12/01/2005, "Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down requirements for feed hygiene";
- Note of the Ministry of Health DGSA/VI/3782 of 08/05/2007;
- Legislative Decree No. 81 of 9 April 2008 "Implementation of Article 1 of Law No. 123 of 3 August 2007 on the protection of health and safety in the workplace";
- Legislative Decree no. 152 of 3 April 2006 "Environmental regulations";
- Application of EU and National Legislation on Cross-Compliance AGEA 06/07/2021 prot. n. 0048173, which can be consulted through this link: https://www.sin.it/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/8538205.PDF.
- Regulation (EU) 2016/429 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 9 March 2016 on transmissible animal diseases and amending and repealing certain acts in the area of animal health ('Animal Health Law)



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• https://www.classyfarm.it/images/documents/VET-AZIENDALE_AGGIORNATO_06-23/RUMINANTI-Manuale-linee-guida-Biosicurezza.pdf

- Legislative Decree of 5 August 2022, No. 134 "Provisions on the system for the identification and registration of operators, establishments and animals, for the adaptation of national legislation to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/429, pursuant to Article 14, paragraph 2, letters a), b), g), h), i) and p) of Law No. 53 of 22 April 2021."
- Ministerial Decree of 7 March 2023 "Operational manual concerning the management and functioning of the system for the identification and registration of operators, establishments and animals (I&R system)" and the amendments introduced by the Ministerial Decree of 27 January 2025.
- Law no. 82/2025, amendments to the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and other provisions for the integration and harmonization of the legislation on crimes against animals.

Voluntary standards:

- Welfare Guidelines STUDY EAWP (EUROPEAN ANIMAL WELFARE PLATFORM);
- "Practical guidelines for assessing the suitability of adult bovine animals for transport" produced by FVE, EUROGROUP FOR ANIMALS, ANIMALS' ANGELS, ELT and IRU on the model of the French guidelines produced by the Institut de l'Elevage and Interbev;

Internal Documents:

- BP-15-12-00-01-00 Animal welfare during transport;
- BP-25-00-00-00 Good practices: conscious use of the drug;
- BP-30-00-00-00 Good Breeder's Handbook;

Internal Attachments:

- BP-08-00-00-00-00-01 Form for viewing the Manual of Good Breeding Practices;
- BP-08-00-00-00-02 Good health and safety practices for visitors / auditors on farms:
- BP-08-00-00-00-03 Declaration of commitment of visitors to the farm:
- BP-08-00-00-00-05 Certificate of suitability for transport;
- BP-08-00-00-00-06 Communication of possible presence of foreign bodies;
- BP-08-00-00-00-08 Hemoglobin Analysis Protocol;
- BP-08-00-00-00-09 Food Register;
- BP-08-00-00-00-00-10 Food Load Register;
- BP-08-00-00-00-11 Food Consumption Summary Sheet;
- BP-08-00-00-00-00-12 Vitellone and Scottona Food Table:
- BP-08-00-00-00-13 Veal food table:
- BP-08-00-00-00-14 Register of cortisone treatments;
- BP-08-00-00-00-15 Treatment Sheet;
- BP-08-00-00-00-00-16 Cleaning Registration Card;
- BP-08-00-00-00-17 Cleaning Registration Card for surfaces in contact with food;
- BP-08-00-00-00-18 Formed by Planimetry;
- BP-08-00-00-00-00-19 Rodent monitoring board;



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- BP-15-12-00-01-00-02 Practical guidelines for assessing the fitness for transport of adult bovine animals;
- D-01-03-00-00-18 Specification form BREEDERS;
- IO-12-12-F-01-00-01 Facsimile of Mod.4 Control mode.

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1. ANIMAL WELFARE ON FARMS

1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the requirements for the protection of animal welfare in cattle farms.

1.2 FOREWORD

Respect for animal welfare is an essential condition for operating in a quality regime, and in this sense the animal welfare policy identifies the following prerequisites:

- the mistreatment inflicted on animals is not advantageous and is punishable by law;
- animal welfare contributes to producing value, in fact animals in suitable welfare conditions have a higher productivity and a lower cost derived from the reduced consumption of drugs;
- The application of a good animal welfare policy is a sign of modernity and resourcefulness and contributes to increasing and consolidating the image of a company.

The minimum welfare requirements of an animal can be summarized in the five "freedoms" (Farm Animal Welfare Council, 1979):

- availability of food and water in adequate quantities;
- freedom from environmental nuisance:
- absence of pain, injury, or illness;
- freedom to express one's natural patterns of behavior;
- absence of fear.

1.3 RULES FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMAL WELFARE ON FARMS

1.3.1 Personnel

Animals must be handled by a sufficient number of people, who possess appropriate skills, knowledge and professional competence. It is forbidden to use occasional inexperienced labour for responsible actions in the management of animals; Therefore, any person who employs or hires workers for the care of animals, must first ensure that they have received training regarding animal welfare on farms specific to the production category present.

All personnel must be supervised during the course of the training.

Livestock workers must be able to demonstrate their expertise in the field of animal welfare. The workers are appropriately trained in the administration of drugs in case of emergency, the correct practices are recalled through special schemes compiled by the company veterinarian and affixed near the pharmaceutical cabinet.

They must be able to:

- distinguish normal and abnormal animal behaviors;
- recognize the signs of injury and the symptoms of the most common diseases;



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- implement appropriate corrective actions;
- provide the animal with the best environmental conditions suitable for its needs.

In cases where the equipment used on the farm has a direct or indirect impact on animal welfare, workers must be able to:

- use the equipment correctly and choose the most suitable according to the different needs;
- perform routine maintenance of equipment;
- recognize signs of malfunction and know the correct procedure to follow in such a circumstance.

1.3.2 Staff training

Each keeper or breeder of animals must be in possession of appropriate knowledge of the good practices contained in this manual (animal management, welfare, medication management, feeding, traceability, etc.).

The training of the workers on the good practices set out in this document is carried out by qualified personnel, with the subsequent issue of a training certificate.

1.4 FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

1.4.1 Construction and maintenance

Enclosures and equipment for the handling and containment of animals must be constructed and maintained in such a way that they do not have sharp areas or protrusions capable of causing injury to the animals. The facilities and equipment present within the farm must be kept intact and cleaned regularly in order to preserve the welfare of the animals.

When automatic artificial equipment, such as ventilation or feeding devices, is present for the health and welfare of animals, these must be constantly monitored and maintained; If ventilation systems are used for calf rearing, a replacement ventilation system and an alarm system must be provided.

The housing premises are properly managed and cleaned regularly.

Veal farmers are encouraged not to use iron as a material for the construction of pens and to replace it with other materials such as:

- steel;
- aluminium;
- wood.

1.4.2 Flooring

Floors and aisles in housing rooms must be in good condition and not slippery.

Solid or cracked floors must be constructed and maintained in such a way as to allow animals to stand and lie down safely and easily.

Such flooring must be designed in such a way as to prevent injury to animals standing or displaced on it; It must therefore:



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- be suitable for the weight and size of the animals;
- have a rigid, flat and stable surface;
- Be smooth but not slippery.

All animals must have access to a resting area that ensures a comfortable surface suitable for the size of the animal's body.

Resting areas in free-stall systems must be dry, clean and large enough to ensure the comfort of the animals.

In case of cracked flooring, the farmer must periodically check the drainage capacity of the underlying pits to avoid accumulation of faecal material.

In the case of permanent bedding, dry and clean material must be regularly added to the surface so that the resting areas remain dry and comfortable and the animals can remain clean.

The degree of cleanliness of the animals is periodically assessed:

- during on-farm checks by Inalca technicians;
- on the occasion of the unloading of the animals in the slaughterhouse by the Official Veterinarian.

Where necessary, there must be the possibility of providing a bedding box on which calves less than 2 weeks old can be housed.

A dry resting area must be ensured for the following categories of animals:

- animals in therapy;
- pregnant animals at the time of delivery;
- Unweaned animals under three months of age.

1.4.3 Space Requirements

The freedom of movement of animals must not be restricted in any way that could cause unnecessary suffering or injury.

<u>In fixed station systems,</u> there must be at least one station per animal unless additional litter is available.

The workstations must be of a size that allows the animals to:

- lie down and get up without difficulty and without injury;
- stay with all four paws within the area of the station and defecate in the passing lane;
- Assume a physiological position during rumination.

<u>In free-housing systems</u>, resting areas must have sufficient space and size to allow all animals on the farm to:

- lie down at the same time:
- Stand up and turn around without difficulty and without causing any injury to other animals.

<u>Calves</u> up to a maximum age of 8 weeks can be kept in individual pens; each of these must have the following characteristics:

• width at least equal to the height of the calf at the withers;



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length equal to at least the length of the calf from the tip of the nose to the caudal end
of the ischial tuberosity multiplied by 1.1;

 possibility of direct, visual and tactile contact with other calves, unless the individual pen is intended to isolate sick animals.

Calves kept in groups must have at least the following for each calf:

- 1.5 m2 when they weigh less than 150Kg;
- 1.7 m2 when weighing between 150 and 220 Kg;
- 1.8 m2 when weighing more than 220 Kg.

1.4.4 Ventilation and Temperature

Air exchange, dust levels, temperature, relative humidity and gas concentrations must be kept within limits that are not dangerous to animals. Attention should be paid to any draughts that may be detrimental to the health of the animals.

In cases where the use of automatic ventilation systems is necessary to ensure the welfare of the animals, they should be equipped with an alarm to warn of any faults and a support system to ensure sufficient air renewal. The alarm will need to be checked regularly.

1.4.5 Lighting

Animals must have light for at least 8 hours a day. The level of illumination must be such that a person can read effortlessly.

In the case of animals reared indoors, it is necessary to provide rest periods in artificial light of at least 4 consecutive hours every 24 hours.

In veal farms, adequate natural or artificial lighting must be provided between 9.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m.

Adequate lighting (fixed or portable) must also be available to ensure that the animals can be fully inspected at any time.

1.4.6 Cleaning the coat

As required by EU legislation on slaughter, farmers are required to periodically check the degree of cleanliness of the animals on the farm and to send clean animals to the slaughterhouse.

In the event that 'dirty' animals are found, appropriate measures will need to be taken to ensure that these animals are 'clean' when they are sent to slaughter.

Here are some tips that can help you maintain the cleanliness of your pet's coat in practice:

- ANIMAL DENSITY: the higher the density of the animals, the more the total production of faeces per area increases and consequently the dirt of the animals;
- DIET: The dry matter content in the ration significantly changes the consistency of the stool. A diet particularly low in dry matter leads to a higher production of liquid stools, on the contrary, increasing dry matter can reduce the emission of stool and increase its consistency. Too rapid changes in the diet, as well as excessive use of mineral salts, can increase the emission of stools:
- HOUSING: for animals raised on litter, the care of the latter is clearly the most important factor to allow the animals to move and lie down in an environment that is as dry and



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clean as possible, also significantly improving their welfare conditions, as well as cleaning the coat.

Maintenance of stables is also important to keep them in a good state of cleanliness. The presence of cracks in the ceilings through which rainwater could enter, inefficient drainage and ventilation systems, malfunctioning drinking troughs, can contribute to a humid environment and dirtier animals.

1.4.7 Transportation

During transport (including within the farm), appropriate equipment must be used to load and unload animals, such as ramps, bridges or walkways. The floor of this equipment must not be slippery and must be provided with side protections when necessary.

Animals must only be transported by means that comply with the relevant regulations in force.

During handling, loading, unloading and throughout the period of permanence of the animals on the farm, the electric prod must be used only in case of necessity if the normal means of handling are ineffective (except in special cases exclusively for safety reasons and according to current regulations).

The use of the electric prod is permitted:

- only on adult bovine animals;
- only on the posterior muscles;
- only if the animal does not move spontaneously;
- only if the animals are allowed to proceed;
- for no more than 1 second and intervals.

The use of the electric prod on the eyes, genitals, head and front parts of the animal is prohibited.

The use of sharp objects is not allowed to avoid trauma and suffering to the animals.

1.5 VETERINARY

1.5.1 Medicinal products.

All farms must have a health monitoring system in place and a designated veterinarian.

Where there are no veterinary medicinal products authorized to treat a particular condition of food-producing animal species, the veterinarian responsible may, exceptionally, on his own responsibility and in order to avoid obvious suffering for the animal, treat the animal concerned on a specific farm:

- with a veterinary medicinal product authorised in Italy for use on another animal species or for another disease on the same species;
- In the absence of a veterinary medicinal product referred to in point (a):
- with a medicinal product authorised for human use;
- with a veterinary medicinal product authorised in another Member State for use on the same species or on another species intended for the production of food for the condition in question or for another condition;



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• in the absence of a medicinal product referred to in point (b), with a veterinary medicinal product prepared extemporaneously by a pharmacist for that purpose, in accordance with the particulars contained in a veterinary prescription.

1.5.2 Biosecurity

Farms must be equipped with appropriate biosecurity measures. Biosecurity refers to the set of procedures to prevent the entry of infections into a farm and control the spread of diseases inside and outside it, safeguarding animal welfare. Possible measures included in biosecurity are:

- related to pests, such as rats and flies, which must be tackled to limit the entry of diseases in order to preserve animal welfare and avoid economic damage;
- restriction of the entry of visitors, with identification of the same, use of disposable footwear and overalls;
- where possible, apply a quarantine period, i.e. house newly introduced animals separately from those already on the farm, in order to avoid the spread of new diseases (recommended quarantine time: 3 weeks); In addition, it is advisable to adopt sanitary vacuum practices, allowing at least a week to pass before reintroducing the new batch of animals;
- periodic control of the drinking water, both in terms of chemical and microbiological parameters, in the case of water coming from a company well.

If signs of infectious disease are observed, immediately notify the District Veterinary Officer.

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) – a contagious and infectious viral disease. Symptoms:

- blisters and vesicles in the mouth,
- fever,
- apathy,
- excessive salivation, opening the mouth with smacking sounds; loss of appetite.
- decreased milk production,
- stiff gait, lameness,
- low mortality among adult animals,
- young animals are very susceptible and often die without showing signs of disease.

Foot-and-mouth disease is transmitted through:

- sick animals.
- saliva, milk, milk products, feces, and urine,
- semen and embryos,
- feed, water, troughs, floors, skin, hands and clothing of personnel, means of transport,
- meat and meat products,
- kitchen waste.

Bluetongue BTV is an infectious disease of ruminants transmitted by insects of the order Diptera.

Symptoms of BTV:



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- fever,
- salivation,
- redness and swelling of the mucous membranes of the mouth,
- ulceration of the tooth pulp and sometimes the tip of the tongue,
- inflammation of the coronary band and hoof, causing lameness,
- in dairy cows peeling of the teat skin and scab formation.
- abortions,
- birth of deformed calves, with deformities most commonly affecting the head. Fetuses are most susceptible to infection during brain development.

1.5.3 Healing and Isolation

Sick or injured animals, when necessary, should be isolated in comfortable shelters and, where possible, separated from the remaining fattening stalls. The stables or care boxes/infirmary must be dry, clean and comfortable and have equipment for feeding and supplying fresh water suitable for animal use.

1.5.4 Veterinary procedures

Fertilization techniques, whether natural or artificial, that cause or may cause suffering or injury to the animals involved must not be practiced.

All operations that cause a decrease or damage to sensory structures or that alter the bone structure (including tail cutting) are prohibited, unless they are performed for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes.

Castration without tissue tearing, trimming and dehorning with the use of local anesthetics are allowed as long as these procedures are performed in such a way as to minimize pain and discomfort for the animal.

Castration and dehorning shall be carried out on young calves in accordance with the applicable law (surgical method, veterinarian, anesthetics).

1.6 POWER SUPPLY

All animals must eat a healthy diet that is appropriate for their age and species and that is provided in sufficient quantities to keep them in good health and to meet their nutritional needs.

Farmers must have a specific food plan for each production category on the farm. This plan should be revised when necessary.

Dietary changes should always be introduced gradually.

When purchasing feed, complete documentation and records of purchases (product name, manufacturer, batch number, expiry date) must be kept. Documentation should be kept for at least 2 years.



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1.6.1 Food Arrangement

Feed and water distribution equipment must be designed, constructed and operated in such a way as to minimise the risks of food and water contamination and the harmful effects of competition between animals.

No animal should be given food or liquids containing substances that could cause unnecessary suffering or injury.

If livestock are tied up, they must have free access to fodder and water.

Water and food should be fed to lactating animals continuously.

All calves should receive bovine colostrum as quickly as possible after birth and in any case within the first 6 hours of life.

After the second week of life, all livestock should have access to food containing long crude fibre in order to promote healthy rumen function.

Calves should be fed at least twice a day.

Equipment and tools used for calves should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected to prevent cross-contamination and the spread of disease.

Uneaten or residual food should be removed to avoid attracting flies and rodents and prevent it from becoming spoiled or spoiling.

1.6.2 Water

All animals must have access to a source of fresh water suitable for livestock use; This must be made available until the animals are loaded for transport.

Water must be supplied in sufficient quantities to meet the specific needs of each animal. It is mandatory to make access to water available on a continuous basis to all calves that are sick or if outside temperatures require it. Buckets/troughs or pacifiers can be used to ensure that the calves have the fresh water supply they need to meet their needs. Watering systems must be cleaned and inspected. Animals kept on pasture must have access to water at all times of the year.

Periodic analyses are carried out on the well water.

If the water used is from wells, it is mandatory to keep a copy of the AUTHORIZATION of "CONCESSION FOR THE DERIVATION OF PUBLIC GROUNDWATER" on the farm.

Agea: "In order to ensure a minimum level of water protection, compliance with the authorisation procedures (concession, drawing licence, etc.) is required when the use of water for irrigation purposes is subject to authorisation free of charge or for a fee, in accordance with current legislation"; The following will therefore be considered to be the subject of an infringement:

- the absence of the documentation required for the authorisation for the collection, drawing or otherwise availability of irrigation water or initiation of the procedure for the issuance of such authorisation;
- documentation that is incomplete or does not conform to the company's situation.



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1.7 BREEDING

1.7.1 Animal Management

All cattle must be handled with full respect for animal welfare.

When moving animals, if they are reluctant to move, it is necessary to analyze, overcome, and eliminate the underlying cause of such behavior.

Non-sharp objects made of plastic or wood are permitted to handle animals, which should only be used on the animal's hindquarters and should not be used routinely and repeatedly on the same animal if it refuses to move.

1.7.2 Shelters and Equipment

When animals are kept outdoors, they must be protected against adverse weather conditions. This protection must be provided in the event that there is no natural protection. The outdoor walkways used by the animals must be maintained in such a way as not to cause injury to their limbs. All fences must be high enough to prevent animals from jumping over them.

Where applicable, hornless cattle shall not be housed together with horned cattle.

1.7.3 Inspection and Care

Animals must be cared for by a sufficient number of people in relation to the size of the farm, the number of animals and the type of equipment used.

Owners or caregivers of animals must take all necessary measures to ensure the welfare of the animals in their care and to ensure that no unnecessary suffering, pain or injury is caused to these animals. Animals must be protected from chronic or recurrent injuries and other injuries such as those due to aggression from other animals, structures, equipment or handling.

All animals should be fully inspected at least once a day by a responsible person for signs of:

- letharqy;
- poor appetite;
- Bruises;
- Cuts:
- Abrasions:
- excessive discharge from the eyes, nose, mouth, or vulva;
- cough;
- swollen joints;
- lameness;
- diarrhoea:
- evidence of parasites.

Any animal that appears sick or injured should be taken care of immediately. When an animal does not respond to this care, the advice of a veterinarian should be sought (this may involve painless euthanization for animals that need it).

The following categories of animals should be inspected at least twice a day or more frequently if necessary:

- newborn animals;
- calves kept in cages/pens;
- sick or injured animals;



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animals in an obvious state of pregnancy.

It is advisable to draw up a written Cattle Health Monitoring Plan. The plan must be dated and signed by the farmer. The plan should be updated annually.

1.7.4 Behavioral Expressions

Whenever possible, animals should be able to express their physiological patterns of behavior and maintain relationships and social structures.

Where possible, the use of outdoor pastures is recommended when weather and soil conditions permit.

Animals must be kept in groups made up of similar and compatible individuals. Whenever possible, these groups should be maintained during transport and up to the point of slaughter.

It is desirable that all livestock be free or housed in fixed locations and not tied up.

All animals (including breeding males, periparturient females, injured animals) must be able to have visual and audible contact with other animals of their own type, unless the veterinarian prescribes other measures such as in the presence of an infectious disease.

When the animals are housed at a fixed location:

- they must be able to get up and go to bed without difficulty;
- they do not have to be tied by the tail;
- collars and halters must not cause injury;
- Tying tools should be checked regularly to ensure proper fastening and adjusted if necessary.

In particular, calves:

- they cannot be tied. Exceptions are calves in multiple pens that can be tied for a
 period of no more than one hour during the feeding of milk or milk replacers. When
 tying tools are used, they must not cause injury and should be inspected regularly and
 adjusted if necessary to ensure a comfortable fit. Each tying tool must be designed to
 avoid the risk of strangulation or injury. The accommodation must allow the calves to
 lie down, rest, get up and clean themselves without difficulty;
- they can be housed in individual boxes only up to a maximum age of 8 weeks:
- Individual pens must not have solid walls and therefore allow visual and tactile contact with other calves;
- Housing must be built in such a way that everyone can lie down, rest, get up and clean themselves without difficulty.

1.8 ASSESSMENT OF HEMOGLOBIN LEVELS IN CALVES

All white meat calf farms must have a protocol for the evaluation of haemoglobin levels in the blood, in order to prevent forms of iron deficiency anaemia.

This protocol must be agreed with the company veterinarian, approved by Inalca technicians and documented using:

- the attached form (BP-08-00-00-00-00 Hemoglobin Analysis Protocol);
 - other forms agreed with the company veterinarian and approved by Inalca technicians.



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Sample	Age	Number	Limits	Corrective Action	Reference
	< 60 days of life		Limit Value: Fe>7.25 g/dl (intended as the average of all measured values)	Treat the entire batch with Febased products	
1	< 90 days of life (in case the animals are treated with Fe in the first 60 Stable days)	100% of subjects	Limit Value: Fe>7.25 ± 1.5 g/dl (intended as a value measured on the individual subject)	Treat the individual subject with Febased products	Note min. sal. part 25/07/2006 (Procedures for the control
2	90-120 Stable days	20% of subjects	Limit Value: Fe>7.25 g/dl on 80% of the sampled subjects	Treat the entire batch with Febased products	of animal welfare in calf farms)
3	< 170 Stable days	< 20% of subjects	Limit Value: Fe>7.25 g/dl (intended as the average of all measured values)	Review food tables and husbandry procedures	

In any case, the diet must contain an iron content that allows you to reach a blood haemoglobin level of at least 4.5 mmol/litre. Each farm must have a suitable analysis program for the evaluation of blood iron levels.

All the results of the analyses are kept by the technicians, who also take care to record any corrective actions taken.



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2. <u>IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY</u>

2.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the procedures for the correct identification and traceability of animals and feed.

2.2 IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY OF ANIMALS

All animals entering and leaving and throughout their stay on the farm must be identified by the presence of ear tags affixed to both ears.

Periodically, and in any case in good time before the slaughter of the animals, the keeper must check the presence of ear tags and, when present, of the means of electronic identification (e.g. endoruminal bolus) on all animals.

In the event that one or more animals are found to be missing one or both ear tags or electronic identification means, a request for a duplicate must be made to the BDN, through the appropriate VETINFO system, or to the relevant ASL and affix them without delay.

2.2.1 Entry of new animals from another farm

Upon the arrival of a new batch of animals at the farm, pursuant to Article 9 of Legislative Decree 2022/134, the operator must register the movement in the National Database (BDN) within seven days of the event, as defined in Article 9, paragraph 5, reported below:

5. The operator must register in the BDN, within seven days of the event, the information related to the identification of the animals referred to in paragraph 1, the incoming and outgoing movements, as well as the death of animals identified either individually or in groups, according to the procedures indicated in the operational manual. [...]

In accordance with § 5, point 18 of the operational manual, the operator must ensure the verification of notifications transmitted by the BDN regarding incoming accompanying documents for their establishment, and the accuracy of the data concerning the incoming animals:

- passports (if of foreign origin);
- correct registration in BDN for animals born in Italy;
- Escort Health Certificate:
 - ✓ Model 4 (if they are animals from an Italian farm):
 - ✓ INTRA (if they are animals from a farm in a country belonging to the European Union);
- Packing slip:
 - ✓ DDT (if they are animals from an Italian farm);
 - CMR (if they are animals from a farm in a country belonging to the European Union).



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In particular, it is necessary to carry out identification checks in accordance with Article 5, paragraph 5, and Article 11 of Legislative Decree 2022/134:

- 4. Identification devices applied according to the procedures set out in the operational manual for the various species must display, in a legible and indelible manner, the animal identification code assigned by the National Database (BDN) or the unique registration number assigned to the birth establishment. If the identification device becomes illegible or is lost, the operator must request its replacement from the territorially competent Local Health Authority (ASL) via the BDN.
- 5. The operator must ensure that identification devices applied to animals are not removed, modified, or replaced without authorization from the territorially competent ASL. Such authorization may only be granted if the traceability of the animal is guaranteed.
- 6. The ASL responsible for the establishment may authorize the replacement of identification devices only if animal traceability is not compromised. The authorized replacement must be recorded in the BDN, indicating the original identification code of each animal and any changes made, to ensure complete traceability.
- 7. After the death or slaughter of animals in their care, the operator must preserve the carcasses with their identification devices for disposal in accordance with current regulations.

According to paragraph 2, it is necessary to verify the presence and consistency of ear tags in the accompanying documentation, as follows:

- a. Complete ear tagging: presence of two conventional ear tags, one of which may be an electronic tag, both bearing the same identification code (Ministerial Decree of 7 March 2023, § 3.3, point 1, letter a) 1.
- b. One conventional ear tag and one ruminal bolus, both bearing the same identification code (Ministerial Decree of 7 March 2023, § 3.3, point 1, letter a) 1.

In the case of conventional ear tags, authenticity must also be verified by checking both sides (front/back) and the corresponding punching devices (see Annex 1).

It is also necessary to verify the accuracy of registration in accordance with Articles 5 and 11 of Legislative Decree 2022/134 2:

- Verification of the sex of the animal against the accompanying documentation (BDN).
- Verification of the breed/genetic type against the accompanying documentation (BDN).
- Verification of the age of the animal against the accompanying documentation (BDN).



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Actions in Case of Non-Compliance

If anomalies are found in the identification devices or in the correct identification of animals, the procedures outlined above must be followed.

In the event of confirmed non-compliance by the operator with these obligations, the provisions of Article 15 of Legislative Decree 2022/134 ("Actions in case of non-compliance") apply, along with the relevant penalty framework:

Article 17: Administrative fines for violations of Articles 5 and 6.

Article 18: Administrative fines for violations of Articles 8 and 9.

Article 19: Administrative fines for violations of Articles 10, 11, 12, and 13 2.

If anomalies are found regarding the correct registration in the BDN (breed, sex, genetic type, age), the operator must update the information in the BDN within seven days of the movement, preferably informing the sending operator, the competent official veterinary service, and the animal's owner of the change.

2.2.2 Information flow and data storage

Upon arrival of the animals at the farm, the haulier delivers an envelope containing the CMR, passports (if any) and the health certificate to the appropriately trained stable staff. For Italian animals, the animal must be validated within 7 days of arrival.

When the animals are unloaded in the appropriate capture corridors, the staff verifies the correspondence between the ear tags on each animal, any means of electronic identification and what is reported in the health certificate.

2.2.3 Birth of animals on the farm (where applicable)

In the case of an animal born in a barn, the keeper must apply ear tags within 20 days of birth, and in any case before the cattle leave the holding. These brands can be purchased, together with the related Identification Coupons, exclusively from suppliers authorized by the Ministry of Health and must bear one of the codes that have been assigned to the company through a request in BDN.

Complete the compilation of the Identification Coupon with:

- bar on the "New Identification" box:
- mother's ear code:
- sex:
- date of birth in the form of day/month/year;
- date of application of the mark in the form of a day/month/year;
- date of entry into the stable (corresponding to the date of birth);
- bar on the "Born in the Company" box;
- race:
- name, surname, tax code of the holder;
- name, surname, tax code of the owner (if different from the holder);
- date of compilation of the coupon;
- signature;
- address of the Veterinary Service of the Local Health Unit responsible for the area.



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Within 7 days of marking, the garment must be registered in the BDN. This registration can be made by the Competent Veterinary Service, upon delivery of the coupon, or directly by the holder (in the event that he has the smart card/CNS, Vetinfo Credentials or SPID). In this case, however, it is necessary to notify the Veterinary Service which will check the regularity of the operation.

Fill in the farm register of loading and unloading (in relation to the "LOAD" part) with the data of each animal:

- earphone code;
- race;
- sex;
- mother's ear code;
- initials "N" (born in the company);
- Date of birth;
- date of entry (coincides with date of birth);
- Origin (enter your company's company code). This register is checked periodically by the Official Veterinarian who puts his signature and stamp on each page.

According to Regulation (EC) No 1/2005, the transport of an animal, whether destined for breeding or slaughter, cannot be carried out before the complete healing of the navel and in any case not before ten days of life, unless the animals are transported for distances less than 100 km.

In the case of transporting calves less than 6 months old, they must have adequate bedding that ensures animal welfare depending on the duration of the journey and weather conditions, and the use of muzzles is prohibited.

For long journeys (over 8 hours), calves under 14 days old must be accompanied by their mother, and for calves under 6 months old, they must benefit from a rest of at least one hour after 9 hours of travel to be watered and, if necessary, fed.

In the event that such transport is necessary, the following minimum requirements are required:

- ear tags applied to both ears;
- Identification coupon (if necessary) on the back of which must be indicated:
 - 1. date of transfer;
 - destination company;
- Indication of the movement on the company register of loading and unloading.

2.2.4 Movement of animals to the slaughterhouse

Before sending the animals to the slaughterhouse, the keeper must check the treatment register to see that the minimum withdrawal periods for all treatments carried out on animals have elapsed.

If present, take and attach to Form 4 all the passports of the animals that you intend to send to the slaughterhouse.

When loading the means of transport, check that the code on each passport corresponds to the one on the animal's ear tag.



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Fill in the declaration of origin of the animals (Form 4) in all its parts, entering the information requested by the BDN or by its computer program authorized to manage such data in BDN. The resulting model will be as shown in Annex IO-12-12-F-01-00-01 - Facsimile of Mod.4 - Control Mode.

Fill in the farm register of loading and unloading in the part relating to "UNLOADING" indicating for each animal:

- sigla "V" (venduto);
- date of sale (date of commencement at the slaughterhouse);
- destination (company name of the slaughterhouse or slaughterhouse identification number);
- Model 4 Details.

Update the BDN regarding garment handling. This update can be made by the Competent Veterinary Service, within 7 days of receipt of the copy of Form 4, or directly by the holder or owner (in the event that he has the smart card/CNS, Vetinfo Credentials or SPID).

In the specific case of animals born and bred in Italy that do not have a passport, the animals sent to the slaughterhouse must be accompanied by the Computerized Model 4 on which the identifiers of the animals transported are declared. Animal accompanying coupons are not required.

2.2.5 Suitability of animals for transport

According to Regulation EC 1/2005 Annex I Chapter I FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT: "No animal shall be transported unless it is fit for the intended journey, and the transport conditions shall not cause injury or unnecessary suffering to the animal."

In particular, point 2 of the aforementioned Regulation states that: "Animals that are injured or present physiological problems or pathological conditions shall not be considered fit for transport, especially if:

- a) they are unable to move independently without pain or to walk unassisted;
- b) they have a severe open wound or prolapse;
- c) they are pregnant females that have completed more than 90% of the expected gestation period or females that have given birth in the previous week;
- d) they are newborn mammals whose navel has not completely healed."

In cases where it is difficult to assess the condition of the animal, several factors must be taken into account:

- the general condition of the animal;
- the duration and particular conditions of the transport (climatic conditions, load density):
- the possibility of worsening of the animal's condition during transport.

In such cases, since the transport of the animal is not allowed, it is necessary to contact the Official Veterinary Service requesting to carry out the Special Emergency Slaughter at the farm and to proceed with the transport of the carcass to an authorized slaughterhouse following the stunning and bleeding operations.

However, in the case of minor injuries or illnesses, such that the transport would not cause further suffering to the animal, transport is permitted provided that:



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- the farmer requests appropriate certification from the company veterinarian attesting to the animal's suitability for the type of journey envisaged (see Annex 1: model of "Certificate of suitability for transport to the slaughterhouse of animals suffering from minor diseases or injuries" of the Circular of the Ministry of Health no. 1121 of 08/05/2007 - Note DGSA/VI/3782 - with Subject: EC Reg. 1/2005 Annex I, Chapter I (fitness for transport: management of animals suffering from injuries, physiological problems or pathologies). This certificate must be countersigned by the farmer and the transporter and must be drawn up in duplicate (one remains on the farm and the other accompanies the animal to the slaughterhouse).
- Notice is given to the Official Veterinarian in charge of the slaughterhouse of destination.

2.2.6 Death of an animal on the farm

In the event of the death of an animal on the farm, the keeper must fill in the relevant passport (if any) with:

- date of death;
- farm code and tax code of the farm;
- erasure on the inscription "Butchered".
- disposal contract

Send the carcass for collection by a specialist company for transport to a facility authorised for the disposal of Category 1 by-products.

The disposal company fills out the Commercial Document for animal by-products or processed products derived from them of CATEGORY 1. The plant will send the farm the documentation certifying the disposal. This must be attached to the company's loading and unloading register.

Fill in the company register of loading and unloading in the part relating to "UNLOADING" indicating for the deceased animal:

- initials "M" (Died in the company);
- date of death:
- destination (company name of the facility authorised to dispose of it or its identification number);
- number of the commercial transport document relating to the collection of the carcass.

Update the BDN regarding the handling of garments. This update is carried out directly by the keeper, who has a smart card/CNS, Vetinfo or SPID credentials, within 7 days from the date of death of the animal.

2.2.7 Conditionality Commitments and AGEA – MANDATORY MANAGEMENT CRITERIA

The Agea circular "Application of EU and National Legislation on Cross-Compliance" describes the commitments that each farmer must comply with in order to access the contributions provided by the Agency for Agricultural Disbursements.

The commitments in the field of animal identification are as follows:

REGISTRATION OF THE COMPANY WITH THE ASL AND IN BDN



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- Registration of the company in BDN following a request to the competent Veterinary Service for the company code within 20 days from the start of the activity;
- Notifications to the veterinary service competent for the territory of any changes in the company's personal data (within 7 days of the event).

IDENTIFICATION AND REGISTRATION OF ANIMALS

- Request for bovine species identification codes (number 2 ear tags) to the BDN, directly by the breeder or through a delegate. Ear tags are individual;
- Presence of marking pursuant to Presidential Decree 437/2000 for all animals born after 31 December 1997. Obligation to mark cattle within 20 days of birth and, in any case, before the animal leaves the holding of origin. In the case of importation of a garment from third countries, marking must be carried out within 7 days of border inspection controls. Animals subject to intra-community trade must be identified, starting from 1 January 1998, in accordance with Regulation 1760/2000;
- Presence of the passport in the cases provided for by current legislation (garments intended for EU trade);
- If the animals are purchased from third countries, for the purpose of their registration in the registry office (BDN), the required documentation, duly completed, must be delivered to the competent Veterinary Service for the territory, or to the delegated subject, within 7 days of the affixing of the ear tags and in any case before the animal leaves the company.

MAINTAINING THE BUSINESS REGISTER AND UPDATING THE BDN

- Obligation to keep the business register;
- Correct updating of the Stable Register within 3 days of the events (ear tags to calves, deaths and incoming and outgoing movements);
- Updating the business register within 3 days of applying the ear tags;
- Communication/update in BDN, within 7 days of the events (affixing of ear tags, deaths and incoming and outgoing movements). Farmers who do not update the BDN directly must notify the Veterinary Service, or other delegated party, of the above information regarding the animals under their responsibility.

HANDLING OF GARMENTS LEAVING THE COMPANY: SALES, THEFT / LOSS

- Handling of garments through Model 4, to be attached to the company register in cases where the electronic Model 4 has not been produced. The farmer, directly or through a delegate, records in BDN and in the farm register all the information relating to movements leaving the farm and entering from another farm;
- In the event of death of animals on the farm, the farmer shall notify the Veterinary Service within 48 hours and, in the case of animals belonging to the bovine and buffalo species born before 1 May 2015 in Italy, and deliver, in the cases provided, the passport of the deceased animal to the competent veterinary service for the area, within 7 days of the same event;
- Theft and loss: it is mandatory to notify the competent veterinary service, within 2 days of the event, of any theft/loss of animals or ear tags not yet used. The Keeper must record the loss or theft of animals in the stable register within the same period of 2 days.



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<u>Please note: this Mandatory Management Criterion - CGO - is violated (in relation to the above) when one or more of the commitments listed above are not met (further information at the following link: https://www.sin.it/portal/pls/portal/docs/1/8538205.PDF).</u>

In the event of documentary and health anomalies related to animals arriving at their farm, the recipient reports the non-compliance to the competent authority of the territory (SVU).

2.3 FOOD IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY

A feeding plan must be available on the farm (see attachments BP-08-00-00-00-00-12 - Diet Table for Beef and Scottona and BP-08-00-00-00-00-13 - Diet Table for Calf) specific to each category of animal production on the farm. This plan should be revised when necessary.

All purchased feed must be labelled with:

- product name;
- name of the manufacturers;
- intended use;
- · consignment number;
- individual ingredients;
- nutritional value;
- expiration date;
- Precautions;
- instructions for use.

All the information described above must be kept (including that referring to food supplied in large delivery units e.g. bulk).

Each farm must be able to manage information regarding food traceability, understood as the ability to prove a posteriori which food (trade name and batch) has been consumed by a given animal in a given period of time.

To achieve this, you can use:

- chronological archiving of the individual delivery notes (delivery notes) of each feed delivered to the farm. In this case, it is advisable to report the date of use on the delivery note itself. Upon arrival of the products, it must be verified that what is written on the product tag corresponds to what is documented on the bill, communicating any non-correspondence;
- use of the appropriate forms BP-08-00-00-00-09 Food Register and BP-08-00-00-00-00-00-10 Food Load Register that contain at least the following information:
 - ✓ type of food;
 - ✓ trade name;
 - ✓ supplier;
 - ✓ lot;
 - √ number DDT (bolla);
 - ✓ date of use:
- other registration system approved by Inalca.



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Periodically, checks are carried out by the stable technicians in order to assess the food consumption within the different farms.

Where necessary, barn technicians can use the form BP-08-00-00-00-11 - Food Consumption Summary Sheet.

3. <u>FEEDING</u>

3.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to describe how to properly feed farm animals.

3.2 FORBIDDEN FEEDING

It is forbidden for all farmers to feed their animals with:

- 2. meat meal;
- 3. bone meal:
- 4. blood meal and derivatives;
- 5. fishmeal;
- 6. offal flours;
- 7. penne flours;
- 8. fats of animal origin (excluding the fat phase of reconstituted calf milk);
- 9. animal proteins (feed for adult cattle);
- 10. canteen waste;
- 11. rectified vegetable oil;
- 12. bioproteins;
- 13. rice by-products;
- 14. by-products of onion processing:
- 15. flour from cakes from the extraction of cottonseed, rapeseed and grape seed;
- 16. waste from food industries in general.

3.3 FOOD STORAGE RECEIPT

Farmers must not accept food or food material from vehicles or means of transport that may have contaminated the food.

The feed must be stored in such a way as to minimize the risk of contamination by atmospheric agents and wild animals (hermetically sealed doors or anti-sparrow nets or silos are preferred).

The feed must be stored in such a way that:

- 17. there is sufficient light to permit an inspection;
- 18. the various components are separated and clearly labelled;
- 19. Mixed feeds for different species are separated and clearly labelled.

All feedingstuffs containing medicinal products must be segregated and identified. Where medicated feed containers and standard feed containers are used, they must be accurately identified so that their separation can be effectively demonstrated.



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All food must be stored in such a way as to ensure effective protection, they are stored either in silos or in sheds suitably protected by nets that prevent the entry of weeds and atmospheric agents and subject to periodic cleaning.

In the case of the use of medicated feed, it is recommended to use dedicated silos, correctly identified and subject to constant cleaning of the same.

3.4 FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The composition of the ration must be established for the different categories of animals present on the farm with the advice of the food technicians.

This ration must be documented and transcribed on special food tables using as templates:

- BP-08-00-00-00-12 Vitellone and Scottona Food Table;
- BP-08-00-00-00-13 Veal food table;
- other formats approved by food technicians.

Feed and water distribution equipment must be designed, constructed and operated in such a way as to minimise the risks of food and water contamination and the harmful effects of competition between animals.

Before preparation, it is necessary to perform a visual and olfactory check on the food to assess:

- suitability of the state of conservation;
- absence of unpleasant odours;
- absence of abnormal colors;
- No mold.

3.4.1 Preparation of calf milk

Calves should be fed at least twice a day.

For the preparation of milk, the guidelines indicated by the producer must be followed and in their absence, the following instructions must be followed:

- Fill the mixer with 40-50% of the water you need. At this stage, the water temperature should be 73-75°C. (63°C 65°C in the case of Spray milk);
- add the powdered product (first the products with a higher fat content and then those with a lower content):
- mix everything for 5-7 minutes (4-5 minutes in the case of Spray milk), in any case until the powder is completely and homogeneous. At this stage, the water temperature must be 62-64°C (in any case not higher than 65°C);
- While continuing to mix, add the water needed to obtain the desired volume. At this stage, the water should be at a temperature of 42-45°C. If it is necessary to add vitamin or medicated supplements, these must be added at this stage, when the temperature of the liquid is < 50°C, to avoid the possible inactivation of the active ingredients contained.

Distribute the milk using the milk systems. During distribution, allow the mixer to run at a minimum. At this stage, the temperature of the milk should be 39-40°C in summer and 42-43°C in winter.



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At the end of the milk distribution, rinse the pipes thoroughly by passing hot water.

3.4.2 Unifeed preparation for adult bovine animals

For the preparation of the unifeed, always follow the instructions received from specialized technicians or alternatively use the following general rules:

- Set up the wagon programming system with:
 - ✓ composition of the ration (faithfully report the sequence indicated on the table);
 - ✓ per capita quantity of each individual component;
- At the time of preparation, recall the ration of interest and enter the number of animals to be fed where required. The system will automatically indicate the quantity of each component to be inserted;
- insert all the components respecting the doses and the sequence indicated (at this stage keep the mixing system active);
- Once the ingredients have been added, leave the mixing system active for another 5-10 minutes;
- distribute the food in the feeders, making sure that all the boxes receive an adequate amount;
- At the end of the distribution, remove any food residues remaining in the wagon to avoid fermentation.

3.4.3 Wagon management and feed administration

On farms where medicated feed is used, it is preferable to have two separate mixer wagons: one for administering the unifeed with medicated and one for administering the unifeed without medicated.

If the farm does not have two mixer wagons, the transition from the administration of medicated to non-medicated feed must be preceded by adequate cleaning of the unifeed wagon.

In particular, in the latter case, the administration of the ration must be carried out, as follows:

- First, Unifeed should be distributed without medicated feed to animals close to slaughter to ensure that there is no contamination in the meat.
- subsequently, if it is necessary to distribute food with medicated feed, the distribution
 is carried out by carrying out a thorough cleaning of the wagon with compressed air at
 the end and collecting the remains well to avoid contamination;
- Subsequently, it is possible to proceed with the new administration of feed without medicated feed on the younger groups of animals, as a further guarantee that no animals close to slaughter that have taken medicated feed can be sent.

In addition to the daily cleaning of the unifeed wagon, it is also recommended to wash it with water using a pressure washer at least every fortnight to remove coarser residues and avoid the onset of mold.

3.5 TYPE OF FOOD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE OPTIONAL LABELLING SPECIFICATION IT001ET.

In the event that the farmer has signed the optional labelling specification IT001ET with regard to information concerning a particular type of animal feed, <u>he must only use</u> feed suppliers on the list of feed mills authorised by Inalca.



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4. THERAPEUTIC PROTOCOL AND VACCINATION PROPHYLAXIS

4.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the correct management and registration of veterinary drugs.

4.2 HEALTH PROTOCOL

The therapeutic protocol and vaccination prophylaxis adopted must be designed in agreement with the company veterinarian in such a way as to limit the use of antimicrobials as much as possible throughout the breeding period. In addition, a written copy of the health protocol must be present in the stable.

The breeder is encouraged to carry out periodic laboratory analyses (antibiograms, swabs, serological tests) or anatomo-pathological (necropsies), in order to carry out targeted therapies based on the pathogen found.

In addition, it is advisable to apply a specific vaccination prophylaxis for each type of restalled animals and their origin.

4.3 MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

Only medicinal products authorised by Community legislation may be administered to animals, and in emergency situations, it is recommended to report non-compliance to the Office for Registration of Medicinal Products, Medical Devices and Biocidal Products.

The administration of medicines (whether or not they are subject to veterinary prescription) may only be carried out by personnel trained in this regard.

In the event that medicines are stored on the farm, this must be done in a dry and safe place and must be accessible only to authorized personnel.

In this case, it is mandatory to have the authorization document for the holding of stocks in the company.

4.3.1 Recordings

During the daily activity, it may be useful to use the attached form BP-08-00-00-00-00-15 - Treatments Sheet, to report the treatments performed under the supervision of the company veterinarian. These treatments must then be entered, as per current legislation, in the computerized treatment register of the Veterinary Information System (Vetinfo) in which the following must be reported:

- the start and end date of treatment within 48 hours of the start and end of treatment;
- therapeutic protocol used;
- reason for processing;
- identification data of the animal(s) treated, including the category;
- suspension time;

The treatment must be validated by the veterinarian.

Some categories of drugs (CIAs) can be used only after the therapeutic indication made by the farm veterinarian and it is suggested to limit, as far as possible, the drugs of category B.



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In addition, it is suggested, with a view to farm monitoring, to periodically check the dashboards relating to the use of drugs on farms on the ClassyFarm portal.

When loading animals for slaughter, it is necessary to check whether there are any animals that have undergone pharmacological treatment in the previous 90 days. In this case, you need to:

- Check that the minimum withdrawal time for that medication has elapsed. This
 calculation must be made from the date of the end of the treatment itself. In the
 absence of a declared withdrawal period, this must be at least 28 days for meat;
- declare the treatment (if carried out in the last 90 days) on Form 4;
- Attach the declaration of the person showing all the details of the animals treated, the medicinal product used.

Farmers are encouraged to limit the use of corticosteroids from farming.

In the event that these are used, an effective system of identification/registration of treated animals must be active (see form BP-08-00-00-00-14 - Register of Cortisone Treatments). This treatment must be communicated to the slaughterhouse when the animals are sent so that the animal can be excluded from certain supply chains.

All records must be kept and made available in case of checks.

4.4 HEALING AND ISOLATION

Sick or injured animals and females close to calving should be isolated in comfortable shelters when necessary. Care stables must be dry, clean and comfortable as well as equipment for feeding and supplying fresh drinking water.

4.5 VETERINARY PROCEDURES

All operations that cause a decrease or damage to sensory structures or that alter the bone structure (including tail cutting) are prohibited, unless they are performed for diagnostic, therapeutic or identification purposes.

Castration without tearing of tissues, trimming and decoration with the use of local anesthetics are allowed as long as these are performed in such a way as to minimize pain and discomfort for the animal and only if it is certified that the operation has been carried out by the veterinarian.

4.6 POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN BODIES

It should be taken into account that any foreign bodies, present for various reasons in meat, can pose a danger to the food safety of the consumer.

All manual work performed on animals must be recorded and practiced with the utmost care, trying to prevent in every way the risk of penetration and persistence of foreign bodies in the animals themselves.

Farms must have a system that allows animals to be clearly identified, in which, following surgical or zootechnical interventions, the persistence of fragments deriving from the equipment used (e.g. sutures or other non-degradable devices made of nylon or metal, needle tips, probes, prostheses, etc.) can be suspected.



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During the animal's life, fortuitous events can also occur that cause the penetration of different foreign bodies, but which also represent a danger to the consumer (e.g. glass fragments, wood splinters, fragments of wires or metal bodies, hunting bullets, etc.). In particular, with regard to the type of needles in use, the use of needles that are more easily detectable by foreign body detection systems is required, such as needles with iron content (so-called magnetic needles) such as to confer magneticity.

Animals containing or likely to contain the foreign bodies listed above must be clearly identified and this event must be reported to the slaughterhouse using the form BP-08-00-00-00-00-06 - Notification of the possible presence of foreign bodies before or at the same time as sending the animals to the slaughterhouse, indicating the ear tag and the anatomical part of the animal in which such residues should be located, in order to make it possible to search for and eliminate the foreign body from the meat.



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5. <u>CLEANING & MAINTENANCE</u>

5.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to describe the correct methods for cleaning and maintaining environments and structures.

5.2 ROOM CLEANING

It should always be carried out at the end of the emptying operations before introducing new animals for the next cycle. Record the disinfection on the appropriate card.

It is recommended to keep the technical data sheets of all the products used (e.g. sodium hypochlorite, detergents, disinfectants) in the company.

Phase	Activity	Mandatory Requirement	Desirable Requirement	
1	Removal of faecal material	Remove all faecal or other material on the floor of the individual boxes.	In the case of a grated floor, lift it and proceed to carefully empty the underlying pits.	
2	Washing	Wash all surfaces thoroughly with low-pressure water: flooring and walls, any buckets and troughs, drinking troughs.	Thoroughly wash all surfaces with hot water delivered by means of a high-pressure lance: flooring and walls, any buckets and troughs, drinking troughs.	
3	Disinfection	Sprinkle all surfaces with a solution of Sodium Hypochlorite with 2% active Chlorine. Scrupulously follow the instructions on the enclosed data sheet. Alternatively, the use of other disinfectants is permitted, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. For spreading disinfectant on calf farms, the use of the milk distribution system is recommended.		
4	Sanitary vacuum	Perform 1-2 days of vacuuming before reintroduction of new animals	//	



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5.3 CLEANING OF FOOD PREPARATION AND DISTRIBUTION EQUIPMENT

5.3.1 Milk distribution system

- Daily: at the end of each milk distribution, rinse the pipes thoroughly through the passage of hot water;
- Monthly: disinfect the system by passing 2% active chlorine sodium hypochlorite or other disinfectant into the pipes of the same. This operation can be carried out at the same time as spreading the disinfectant in the rooms during disinfection activities at the end of the cycle.

5.3.2 Carro unifeed

- Daily: at the end of the distribution, thoroughly clean the wagon and remove any
 residues that may still be present in the mixing and distribution system;
- **Every fortnight**: carry out a thorough washing of the entire mixing and distribution plant with water and disinfectant.

5.4 MAINTENANCE

5.4.1 Water heating boiler

It must be proportionate to the needs of the farm and subject to periodic checks by authorized personnel to ensure proper functioning. In particular, it is necessary to eliminate limescale deposits, check for any iron leaks, and control temperatures.

5.4.2 Food Preparation and Distribution Plants

- They must be proportionate to the needs of the farm;
- They must be checked periodically to verify their functioning and state of conservation.

5.4.3 Metering and Dosing Systems

They must be checked periodically to maintain a good state of conservation and functioning.



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6. BIOSECURITY

The proliferation of infectious diseases requires the use of drugs, particularly antibiotics, which, if overused, contribute to the emergence of antibiotic resistance. Therefore, preventing the introduction of diseases through the implementation of biosecurity plans is a fundamental tool for achieving multiple goals:

- protecting animals from disease, safeguarding their health and
- well-being;
- limiting the widespread use of antimicrobials, also benefiting human public health;
- ensuring production efficiency and farm profitability, reducing production losses and direct intervention costs.

Biosecurity is one of the main prevention tools available to operators and others working with animals to prevent the introduction, development, and spread of animal diseases transmissible from and within an animal population (Regulation (EU) 2016/429, Recital 43). As defined in the Regulation, it is necessary to encourage the implementation of good

biosecurity practices and prevent the spread of transmissible diseases in livestock farming of productive ruminants.

It is essential to reiterate that the term biosecurity refers to both the measures to be implemented to prevent the introduction of new diseases and infections into a disease-free population, as well as the measures necessary to limit their spread, when present. Regardless of their etiology (viral, bacterial, or parasitic), diseases often spread within a population through the same transmission routes. Therefore, implementing a good biosecurity system has a cross-cutting preventive value. Such systems must establish a precise series of interventions targeting risk factors and treatment activities, including clearly distinct prevention, prophylaxis, control, and eradication actions and measures.

Every farm must implement a biosecurity plan that takes into account several aspects, including:

- general rules for cleaning and hygiene of the premises
- extraordinary measures to be taken in the event of disease outbreaks
- management of personnel and visitor access
- establishing a control and monitoring plan for other animal species that may compromise the farm's biosecurity.

6.2 QUARANTINE

The introduction of animals represents the greatest risk to the health of the farm.

Therefore, it is necessary to follow some simple but fundamental rules to reduce the risk of infectious and spreading diseases.

Once introduced onto the farm, animals should be housed in separate areas (quarantine) for a period of at least 21-30 days.

Furthermore, hygiene is an important factor in reducing the spread of disease.

The areas housing the animals must be kept clean and disinfected periodically. The area used for lying down must always be clean (with little or no feces) and dry.

A period of rest is always recommended.



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6.3 STAFF

Staff also represents a risk factor for the possible transmission of pathogens. Staff must be appropriately trained in their

respective roles. Each activity should be linked to specific written operating procedures, provided during training and updated based on established objectives.

It is essential to prevent access by outsiders, especially those with contact with other farms, by displaying clear prohibition signs and installing

physical barriers, such as gates or barriers.

If access is agreed upon, a log should be kept to document all farm visits.

All visitors must wear disposable clothing provided by the farm itself. Persons with constant access to the farm (e.g., veterinarians, nutritionists, APA or supply chain technicians, etc.) should be provided with a dedicated area where they can change and put on personal clothing and boots, which remain on-site.

6.4 VEHICLES

It is important to create barriers outside the farm facilities and provide disinfection areas in vehicle access areas.

Professionals (e.g., veterinarians and consultants) should also park their vehicles outside the farm perimeter and have access

to the office without passing through operational areas. If necessary, their vehicles should be parked in an area that is not in direct contact (20 meters) with the animals being raised, and that is easily washable and disinfectable.

6.5 MONITORING WATER SOURCES

To ensure good water quality, especially if it comes from the farm's own well, periodic microbiological analysis (at least annually) should be performed. Chemical analyses (pH, hardness, presence of nitrites and nitrates, ammonia) are also recommended.

The quality of the water provided to the animals is essential both to ensure the homeostasis of physiological and metabolic functions and to prevent and avoid damage, even serious, to equipment and systems.



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7. RODENT CONTROL AND PEST CONTROL

7.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to illustrate the correct behaviour for the control of rodents on farms.

7.2 PROCEDURE

Every farm must have a rodent control activity in place. This activity can be carried out:

- directly from the breeder;
- through specialized companies.

The control of rodents must be carried out through the placement of rat baits in special traps and in different locations within the company according to the following criteria:

- place the traps in such a way that they cannot be damaged by farmed animals, and/or food and/or other pets;
- in calf farms, it is advisable to place at least one trap in the "kitchen" area, milk preparation, as it is a place of possible attraction and/or transit of mice;
- all baits must be protected, placed in tamper-proof containers and possibly the traps must be fixed to the wall so that they cannot be reached by other domestic animals that may be present on the farm;
- each workstation must be numbered;
- A floor plan of the company must be available, indicating the different workstations with their numbers. For the preparation, the use of the form BP-08-00-00-00-18 -Format for Floor Plan is allowed;
- the technical and safety data sheet of all the products used must be available in the company;
- In the event that these products are kept on the farm, they must be stored in a location:
 - ✓ sure:
 - ✓ dry;
 - ✓ sheltered from pets;
 - ✓ separate from food storage rooms;
 - ✓ separate from the sanitary locker;
 - ✓ closed and identified:
- Periodically, bait consumption must be monitored at the level of each station to assess the degree of infestation.

During this monitoring, the following shall be carried out:

- ✓ control and replacement of worn baits;
- ✓ monitoring recording;
- check and replacement of any damaged and no longer safe protective structures; ALL structures must be firmly anchored to the placement point (e.g. floor);
- ✓ Updating floor plans.

The monitoring activity must be recorded, and must also have the purpose of assessing which areas of the company are most subject to the risks related to the presence of rodents



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and what measures may be taken (e.g. increase in the number of stations, alternation of active rat ingredients, any structural interventions, etc.).

If rodent control is carried out by the farmer, the form BP-08-00-00-00-19 - Rodent Monitoring Form, which also contains instructions for filling it in, must be used to record the monitoring.

If, during two subsequent checks, high consumption is detected in more than half of the stations, the farmer contacts the technicians as soon as possible to plan appropriate corrective actions.

Rodent carcasses must be disposed of in accordance with current regulations.

8.SAFETY AT WORK

8.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this chapter is to inform all companies belonging to the undersigned of the obligation to comply with the provisions of Legislative Decree 81/2008 as amended. and to all the legislation not explicitly contained therein on health and safety at work.

Please note that the following documents and safeguards must always be present at companies:

- Risk Assessment Document (DVR);
- emergency plan (including a plan with the identification of escape routes);
- fire-fighting devices provided for in the emergency plan properly overhauled and maintained:
- First aid kit complete and properly maintained.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS

9.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this paragraph is to inform all companies of the obligation to comply with the provisions of Legislative Decree 152/2006 as amended. and to all the legislation not explicitly contained therein on environmental management and respect for the territory.

Please note that the following documents must always be present at companies:

- environmental permits relating to diffuse and non-diffuse emissions and/or water discharges into surface water bodies or sewers;
- authorizations for the treatment and/or spreading of sewage;
- slurry spreading plan, if provided.



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10. SANCTIONING PLAN

In the event of non-compliance with the provisions of this manual, penalties commensurate with the seriousness of the violation are envisaged.

Deficiencies may be detected as a result of checks carried out as part of self-control, by any Independent Control Body and/or by official controls.

Penalties can be:

- written warning;
- temporary suspension of the supply of animals to the parent company INALCA;
- exclusion from suppliers of the parent company INALCA;
- financial penalty.
 - All non-compliance provided for by law is considered Serious Non-Conformities for which a written warning, temporary suspension and financial penalty are provided. Corticella/Inalca reserves the right to readmit the farm among its soccidaries/suppliers only after the resolution of the non-compliance and at its sole discretion, otherwise the exclusion will be maintained.
 - The amount of the financial penalties will be established by Corticella/Inalca based on the seriousness of the violation, with a maximum of € 50,000.00 (fifty thousand/00).
 - Considering that the following violations by a holding company may affect the entire Corticella "group", the owner of the garments bears any responsibility within the scope provided for by law and by the Mandatory Management Criteria (CGO). Therefore, all the financial penalties provided for by law and the violation of the Mandatory Management Criteria (CGO) that inevitably affect the CAP contributions granted to Corticella, are entirely to be charged to the soccidario itself.
 - In each farm it is also mandatory to affix signs at the entrance of each farm (see example below), the absence of such a sign represents a Serious Non-Conformity. It is therefore absolutely forbidden for unauthorized personnel to enter, and it is also forbidden to make and use images and videos without prior authorization from Corticella and/or the parent company INALCA. For this transgression there is a maximum fine of € 30,000.00 (thirty thousand/00).



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11. ADAPTING REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE PRACTICES

The issue of environmental sustainability is an increasingly important and central topic in the livestock sector.

For the INALCA Group, sustainable development is represented by all the business activities and processes put into practice with the aim of constantly improving management and the economic, environmental and social impacts that develop throughout the supply chain. INALCA's commitment is based on the identification of operational interventions aimed at reducing these impacts and their progressive alignment with stakeholder expectations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations.

The control of consumption and impacts, the use of clean and renewable energy, and the commitment to the fight against climate change represent challenges that involve citizens, businesses and institutions.

The purpose of the following paragraph is to list a series of practices and activities in order to make breeding more resilient, regenerative, circular and sustainable, as well as the management of the entire business activity. The adoption of one or more of the strategies listed below is crucial in order to increase the level and attention of farmers towards activities to mitigate their environmental impacts.

The **main high-level activities** that are recommended for the purposes of the above are:

- Efficiency in water consumption, through the application of one or more elements as defined below in the "Water Consumption" section
- Use of organic fertilizers obtained from circular economy processes;
- Use of feed or raw materials obtained from circular economy processes;
- Cultivation of self-produced livestock feed using agronomic systems or techniques aimed at reducing environmental impact;
- Use of raw materials and feed from countries/geographical areas that are not at risk of deforestation;

In order to define a development plan over time aimed at ensuring the sustainability objectives referred to in this paragraph, further sustainable development practices and activities are listed below, grouped by thematic area.

Sustainable production techniques:

- application of techniques to improve the microclimate of the barn;
- fertilization with additives aimed at reducing residues (e.g. nitrogen stabilizers);



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- advanced manure management practices, such as burial at the same time as spreading, liquid-solid separation of livestock waste, automatic wastewater collection systems;
- substitution of conventional ploughing techniques with direct seeding, or alternative practices involving minimal tillage of the land (e.g. shallow ploughing).

Environment and Biodiversity:

- mapping and conservation of protected areas and/or buffer zones;
- restoration of natural habitats;
- planting of buffer and perimeter areas of companies;
- restoration and permanent lawns;
- adherence to at least one of the ACA interventions provided for in the CAP 2023-2027
 National Strategic Plan

Water consumption:

- use of high-efficiency irrigation systems, such as drip system, pivot, underground pipes;
- rainwater recovery systems, such as reservoirs and basins;
- use of drinking troughs with anti-waste devices;
- installation of underground subsurface irrigation systems;

Carbon Sequestration:

- cover or second harvest crops;
- the use of technological and phytogenic supplements to reduce the production of greenhouse gases;

From a perspective of continuous improvement and sustainability of livestock farming practices, it is advisable to include, as a complementary monitoring activity, the periodic assessment of the environmental impact associated with farm performances. This evaluation makes it possible to quantify the effects of the measures implemented in terms of emissions, resources consumption, and manure management, providing useful indicators to guide corrective actions and operational choices based on objective data.

Indicators that allow emissions to be determined are:

- production volume
- information on fertilization
- information on feed
- bedding methods and manure and slurry management
- energy consumption



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- method of transport on the farm (fuel consumption)
- water consumption
- cultivation methods