

ORGANIC FARMING IN LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION



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In the following summary we are presenting the rules of organic livestock production on the base of EU laws:

- Council [Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007](#) of 28 June 2007 – on organic production and labelling of organic products;
- Commission [Regulation \(EC\) No 889/2008](#) of 5 September 2008 – laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control

The summary does not substitute for the above mentioned rules and laws as it does not mention all the essential points of the orders.

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**COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) NO 834/2007
OF 28 JUNE 2007
ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION AND LABELLING OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS**

- 1) Organic production is an overall system of farm management and food production that combines best environmental practices, a high level of biodiversity, the preservation of natural resources, the application of high animal welfare standards and a production method in line with the preference of certain consumers for products produced using natural substances and processes. The organic production method thus plays a dual societal role, where it on the one hand provides for a specific market responding to a consumer demand for organic products, and on the other hand delivers public goods contributing to the protection of the environment and animal welfare, as well as to rural development.



- 2) Genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and products produced from or by GMOs are incompatible with the concept of organic production and consumers' perception of organic products. They should therefore not be used in organic farming or in the processing of organic products.
- 3) Organic farming should primarily rely on renewable resources within locally organised agricultural systems. In order to minimise the use of non-renewable resources, wastes and by-products of plant and animal origin should be recycled to return nutrients to the land.
- 4) Livestock production is fundamental to the organisation of agricultural production on organic holdings in so far as it provides the necessary organic matter and nutrients for cultivated land and accordingly contributes towards soil improvement and the

development of sustainable agriculture.

- 5) In order to avoid environmental pollution, in particular of natural resources such as the soil and water, organic production of livestock should in principle provide for a close relationship between such production and the land, suitable multiannual rotation systems and the feeding of livestock with organic-farming crop products produced on the holding itself or on neighbouring organic holdings.
- 6) As organic stock farming is a land-related activity animals should have, whenever possible, access to open air or grazing areas.
- 7) Organic stock farming should respect high animal welfare standards and meet animals' species-specific behavioural needs while animal-health management should be based on disease prevention. In this respect, particular attention should be paid to housing conditions, husbandry practices and stocking densities. Moreover, the choice of breeds should take account of their capacity to adapt to local conditions. The implementing rules for livestock production and aquaculture production should at least ensure compliance with the provisions of the European Convention for the Protection of Animals kept for Farming purposes and the subsequent recommendations by its standing committee (T-AP).



- 8) The organic livestock production system should aim at completing the production cycles of the different livestock species with organically reared animals. It should therefore encourage the increase of the gene pool of organic animals, improve self reliance and thus ensure the development of the sector.
- 9) Organic processed products should be produced by the use of processing methods which

guarantee that the organic integrity and vital qualities of the product are maintained through all stages of the production chain.

OBJECTIVES FOR ORGANIC PRODUCTION

Organic production shall pursue the following general objectives:

- 1) establish a sustainable management system for agriculture that:
 - respects nature's systems and cycles and sustains and enhances the health of soil, water, plants and animals and the balance between them;
 - contributes to a high level of biological diversity;
 - makes responsible use of energy and the natural resources, such as water, soil, organic matter and air;
 - respects high animal welfare standards and in particular meets animals' species-specific behavioural needs;
- 2) aim at producing products of high quality;
- 3) aim at producing a wide variety of foods and other agricultural products that respond to consumers' demand for goods produced by the use of processes that do not harm the environment, human health, plant health or animal health and welfare.



OVERALL PRINCIPLES

Organic production shall be based on the following principles:

- 1) the appropriate design and management of biological processes based on ecological systems using natural resources which are internal to the system by methods that:
 - use living organisms and mechanical production methods;
 - practice land-related crop cultivation and livestock production or practice aquaculture which complies with the principle of sustainable exploitation of fisheries;
 - exclude the use of GMOs and products produced from or by GMOs with the exception of veterinary medicinal products;
 - are based on risk assessment, and the use of precautionary and preventive measures, when appropriate;
- 2) the restriction of the use of external inputs. Where external inputs are required or the appropriate management practices and methods referred to in paragraph 1) do not exist, these shall be limited to:
 - inputs from organic production;
 - natural or naturally-derived substances;

- low solubility mineral fertilisers;
- 3) the strict limitation of the use of chemically synthesised inputs to exceptional cases these being:
- where the appropriate management practices do not exist; and
 - the external inputs referred to in paragraph 2) are not available on the market; or
 - where the use of external inputs referred to in paragraph 2) contributes to unacceptable environmental impacts;
- 4) the adaptation, where necessary, and within the framework of this Regulation, of the rules of organic production taking account of sanitary status, regional differences in climate and local conditions, stages of development and specific husbandry practices.

LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION RULES

1) with regard to the origin of the animals:

- organic livestock shall be born and raised on organic holdings;
- for breeding purposes, non-organically raised animals may be brought onto a holding under specific conditions. Such animals and their products may be deemed organic after compliance with the conversion period;
- animals existing on the holding at the beginning of the conversion period and their products may be deemed organic after compliance with the conversion period;

2) with regard to husbandry practices and housing conditions:

- personnel keeping animals shall possess the necessary basic knowledge and skills as regards the health and the welfare needs of the animals;
- husbandry practices, including stocking densities, and housing conditions shall ensure that the developmental, physiological and ethological needs of animals are met;
- the livestock shall have permanent access to open air areas, preferably pasture, whenever weather conditions and the state of the ground allow this unless restrictions and obligations related to the protection of human and animal health are imposed on the basis of Community legislation;
- the number of livestock shall be limited with a view to minimising overgrazing, poaching of soil, erosion, or pollution caused by animals or by the spreading of their manure;
- organic livestock shall be kept separate from other livestock. However, grazing of common land by organic animals and of organic land by non-organic animals is permitted under certain restrictive conditions;
- tethering or isolation of livestock shall be prohibited, unless for individual animals for a limited period of time, and in so far as this is justified for safety, welfare or veterinary reasons;
- duration of transport of livestock shall be minimised;
- any suffering, including mutilation, shall be kept to a minimum during the entire life of the animal, including at the time of slaughter;
- apiaries shall be placed in areas which ensure nectar and pollen sources consisting essentially of organically produced crops or, as appropriate, of spontaneous vegetation or non-organically managed forests or crops that are only treated with low environmental impact methods. Apiaries shall be kept at sufficient distance from sources that may lead to the contamination of beekeeping products or to the poor health of the bees;
- hives and materials used in beekeeping shall be mainly made of natural materials;

- the destruction of bees in the combs as a method associated with the harvesting of beekeeping products is prohibited;

3) with regard to breeding:

- reproduction shall use natural methods. Artificial insemination is however allowed;
- reproduction shall not be induced by treatment with hormones or similar substances, unless as a form of veterinary therapeutic treatment in case of an individual animal;
- other forms of artificial reproduction, such as cloning and embryo transfer, shall not be used;
- appropriate breeds shall be chosen. The choice of breeds shall also contribute to the prevention of any suffering and to avoiding the need for the mutilation of animals;



4) with regard to feed:

- primarily obtaining feed for livestock from the holding where the animals are kept or from other organic holdings in the same region;
- livestock shall be fed with organic feed that meets the animal's nutritional requirements at the various stages of its development. A part of the ration may contain feed from holdings which are in conversion to organic farming;
- with the exception of bees, livestock shall have permanent access to pasture or roughage;
- non organic feed materials from plant origin, feed materials from animal and mineral origin, feed additives, certain products used in animal nutrition and processing aids shall be used only if they have been authorised for use in organic production;
- growth promoters and synthetic amino-acids shall not be used;
- suckling mammals shall be fed with natural, preferably maternal, milk;

5) with regard to disease prevention and veterinary treatment:

- disease prevention shall be based on breed and strain selection, husbandry management practices, high quality feed and exercise, appropriate stocking density and adequate and appropriate housing maintained in hygienic conditions;
- disease shall be treated immediately to avoid suffering to the animal; chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products including antibiotics may be used where necessary and under strict conditions, when the use of phytotherapeutic, homeopathic and other products is inappropriate. In particular restrictions with respect to courses of treatment and withdrawal periods shall be defined;
- the use of immunological veterinary medicines is allowed;
- treatments related to the protection of human and animal health imposed on the basis of Community legislation shall be allowed;
- with regard to cleaning and disinfection, products for cleaning and disinfection in livestock buildings and installations, shall be used only if they have been authorised for use in organic production.



CONVERSION

The following rules shall apply to a farm on which organic production is started:

- 1) the conversion period shall start at the earliest when the operator has notified his activity to the competent authorities and subjected his holding to the control system;
- 2) during the conversion period all rules established by this Regulation shall apply;
- 3) conversion periods specific to the type of crop or animal production shall be defined;
- 4) on a holding or unit partly under organic production and partly in conversion to organic production, the operator shall keep the organically produced and in-conversion products separate and the animals separate or readily separable and keep adequate records to show the separation;
- 5) in order to determine the conversion period referred to above, a period immediately preceding the date of the start of the conversion period, may be taken into account, in so far as certain conditions concur;

- 6) animals and animal products produced during the conversion period shall not be marketed with the indications used in the labelling and advertising of products.

GENERAL RULES ON THE PRODUCTION OF PROCESSED FEED

- 1) Production of processed organic feed shall be kept separate in time or space from production of processed non organic feed.
- 2) Organic feed materials, or feed materials from production in conversion, shall not enter simultaneously with the same feed materials produced by non organic means into the composition of the organic feed product.
- 3) Any feed materials used or processed in organic production shall not have been processed with the aid of chemically synthesised solvents.
- 4) Substances and techniques that reconstitute properties that are lost in the processing and storage of organic feed, that correct the results of negligence in the processing or that otherwise may be misleading as to the true nature of these products shall not be used.

**COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) NO 889/2008
OF 5 SEPTEMBER 2008
LAYING DOWN DETAILED RULES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
COUNCIL REGULATION (EC) NO 834/2007 ON ORGANIC PRODUCTION
AND LABELLING OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS WITH REGARD TO ORGANIC
PRODUCTION, LABELLING AND CONTROL**

- 1) The holistic approach of organic farming requires a livestock production related to the land, where the produced manure is used to nourish the crop production. Since livestock farming always implies the management of agricultural land, provision should be made to prohibit landless livestock production. In organic livestock production the choice of breeds should take account of their capacity to adapt to local conditions, their vitality and their resistance to disease and a wide biological diversity should be encouraged.



- 2) Under certain circumstances operators may face difficulties in obtaining organic breeding animals from a reduced gene pool, which would hamper the development of the sector. Therefore the possibility of bringing a limited number of non-organic animals onto a farm for breeding purposes should be provided for.
- 3) Organic stock farming should ensure that specific behavioural needs of animals are met. In this regard, housing for all species of livestock should satisfy the needs of the animals concerned as regards ventilation, light, space and comfort and sufficient area should accordingly be provided to permit ample freedom of movement for each animal and to develop the animal's natural social behaviour. Specific housing conditions and husbandry practices with regard to certain animals, including bees, should be laid down. These specific housing conditions should serve a high level of animal welfare, which is a priority in organic livestock farming and therefore may go

beyond Community welfare standards which apply to farming in general. Organic husbandry practices should prevent poultry from being reared too quickly. Therefore specific provisions to avoid intensive rearing methods should be laid down. In particular poultry shall either be reared until they reach a minimum age or else shall come from slow-growing poultry strains, so that in either case there is no incentive to use intensive rearing methods.

- 4) In most cases, livestock should have permanent access to open air areas for grazing, weather conditions permitting, and such open air areas should in principle be organised under an appropriate system of rotation.
- 5) In order to avoid environmental pollution of natural resources such as soil and water by nutrients, an upper limit for the use of manure per hectare and for keeping livestock per hectare should be set. This limit should be related to the nitrogen content of the manure.
- 6) Mutilations which lead to stress, harm, disease or the suffering of animals should be banned. However, specific operations essential to certain types of production and for the sake of security for animals and human beings may be permitted under restricted conditions.
- 7) Livestock should be fed on grass, fodder and feedingstuffs produced in accordance with the rules of organic farming, preferably coming from the own holding, by taking into account their physiological needs. In addition, in order to provide for the basic nutritional requirements of livestock, certain minerals, trace elements and vitamins may need to be used under well-defined conditions.



- 8) Since the existing regional differences in the possibility for organic ruminants to obtain the necessary essential vitamins A, D and E through their feed rations, as regards climate and available sources of feed, are expected to persist, the use of such vitamins for ruminants should be allowed.

- 9) Animal-health management should mainly be based on prevention of disease. In addition specific cleaning and disinfection measures should be applied.
- 10) The preventive use of chemically-synthesised allopathic medicinal products is not permitted in organic farming. However, in the event of a sickness or injury of an animal requiring an immediate treatment, the use of chemically-synthesised allopathic medicinal products should be limited to a strict minimum. Furthermore, in order to guarantee the integrity of organic production for consumers it should be possible to take restrictive measures such as doubling the withdrawal period after use of chemically-synthesised allopathic medicinal products.
- 11) Specific rules for disease prevention and veterinary treatment in beekeeping should be laid down.

* * *

This Chapter lays down detailed production rules for the following species: *bovine* including *bubalus* and *bison*, *equidae*, *porcine*, *ovine*, *caprine*, *poultry* (species as mentioned in annex) and *bees*.



ORIGIN OF ORGANIC ANIMALS

- 1) In the choice of breeds or strains, account shall be taken of the capacity of animals to adapt to local conditions, their vitality and their resistance to disease. In addition, breeds or strains of animals shall be selected to avoid specific diseases or health problems associated with some breeds or strains used in intensive production, such as porcine stress syndrome, PSE Syndrome (pale-soft-exudative), sudden death, spontaneous abortion and difficult births requiring caesarean operations. Preference is to be given to indigenous breeds and strains.
- 2) For bees, preference shall be given to the use of *Apis mellifera* and their local ecotypes.

ORIGIN OF NON-ORGANIC ANIMALS

- 1) Non-organic animals may be brought onto a holding for breeding purposes, only when organic animals are not available in sufficient number and subject to the conditions.
- 2) Non-organic young mammals, when a herd or flock is constituted for the first time, shall be reared in accordance with the organic production rules immediately after they

are weaned. Moreover, the following restrictions shall apply at the date on which the animals enter the herd:

- buffalo, calves and foals shall be less than six months old;
 - lambs and kids shall be less than 60 days old;
 - piglets shall weigh less than 35 kg.
- 3) Non-organic adult male and nulliparous female mammals, for the renewal of a herd or flock, shall be reared subsequently in accordance with the organic production rules. Moreover, the number of female mammals is subject to the following restrictions per year:
- up to a maximum of 10% of adult equine or bovine, including bubalus and bison species, livestock and 20% of the adult porcine, ovine and caprine livestock, as female animals;
 - for units with less than 10 equine or bovine animals, or with less than five porcine, ovine or caprine animals any renewal as mentioned above shall be limited to a maximum of one animal per year.
- 4) For the renovation of apiaries, 10% per year of the queen bees and swarms may be replaced by non-organic queen bees and swarms in the organic production unit provided that the queen bees and swarms are placed in hives with combs or comb foundations coming from organic production units.



RULES PERTAINING TO HOUSING CONDITIONS

- 1) Insulation, heating and ventilation of the building shall ensure that air circulation, dust level, temperature, relative air humidity and gas concentration, are kept within limits which are not harmful to the animals. The building shall permit plentiful natural ventilation and light to enter.
- 2) Housing for livestock shall not be mandatory in areas with appropriate climatic

- conditions to enable animals to live outdoors.
- 3) The stocking density in buildings shall provide for the comfort, the well being and the species-specific needs of the animals which, in particular, shall depend on the species, the breed and the age of the animals. It shall also take account of the behavioural needs of the animals, which depend in particular on the size of the group and the animals' sex. The density shall ensure the animals' welfare by providing them with sufficient space to stand naturally, lie down easily, turn round, groom themselves, assume all natural postures and make all natural movements such as stretching and wing flapping.
 - 4) The minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas, and other characteristics of housing for different species and categories of animals, are laid down in Table 1 and 2.

Bovines, equidae, ovine, caprine and porcine (Table 1)

	Indoors area (net area available to animals)		Outdoors area (exercise area, excluding pasturage)
	Live weight minimum (kg)	m²/head	m²/head
Breeding and fattening bovine and equidae	up to 100	1,5	1,1
	up to 200	2,5	1,9
	up to 350	4,0	3,0
	over 350	5 with a minimum of 1 m ² /100 kg	3,7 with a minimum of 0,75 m ² /100 kg
Dairy cows		6	4,5
Bulls for breeding		10	30
Sheep and goats		1,5 sheep/goat	2,5
		0,35 lamb/kid	0,5
Farrowing sows with piglets up to 40 days		7,5 sow	2,5
Fattening pigs	up to 50	0,8	0,6
	up to 85	1,1	0,8
	up to 110	1,3	1,0
Piglets	over 40 days and up to 30 kg	0,6	0,4
Brood pigs		2,5 female	1,9
		6 male; if pens are used for natural service: 10 m ² /boar	8,0

Poultry (Table 2)

	Indoors area (net area available to animals)			Outdoors area(m ² of area available in rotation/head)
	No animals/m ²	cm perch/animal	nest	
Laying hens	6	18	7 laying hens per nest or in case of common nest 120 cm ² /bird	4, provided that the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded
Fattening poultry (in fixed housing)	10 with a maximum of 21 kg liveweight/m ²	20 (for guinea fowl only)		4 broilers and guinea fowl 4,5 ducks 10 turkey 15 geese In all the species mentioned above the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded
Fattening poultry in mobile housing	16 ⁽¹⁾ in mobile poultry houses with a maximum of 30 kg liveweight/m ²			2,5, provided that the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded

⁽¹⁾ Only in the case of mobile houses not exceeding 150 m² floor space.

SPECIFIC HOUSING CONDITIONS AND HUSBANDRY PRACTICES FOR MAMMALS

- 1) Livestock housing shall have smooth, but not slippery floors. At least half of the indoor surface area as specified in the above table shall be solid, that is, not of slatted or of grid construction.
- 2) The housing shall be provided with a comfortable, clean and dry laying/rest area of sufficient size, consisting of a solid construction which is not slatted. Ample dry bedding strewn with litter material shall be provided in the rest area. The litter shall comprise straw or other suitable natural material. The litter may be improved and enriched with any mineral product listed in Table 3:

Authorisation	Name	Description, compositional requirements, conditions for use
A	Compound products or products containing only materials listed hereunder: Farmyard manure	Product comprising a mixture of animal excrements and vegetable matter (animal bedding). Factory farming origin forbidden
A	Dried farmyard manure and dehydrated poultry manure	Factory farming origin forbidden
A	Composted animal excrements, including poultry manure and composted farmyard manure included	Factory farming origin forbidden
A	Liquid animal excrements	Use after controlled fermentation and/or appropriate dilution Factory farming origin forbidden
A	Composted or fermented household waste	Product obtained from source separated household waste, which has been submitted to composting or to anaerobic fermentation for biogas production Only vegetable and animal household waste Only when produced in a closed and monitored collection system, accepted by the Member State Maximum concentrations in mg/kg of dry matter: cadmium: 0,7; copper: 70; nickel: 25; lead: 45; zinc: 200; mercury: 0,4; chromium (total): 70; chromium (VI): 0
A	Peat	Use limited to horticulture (market gardening, floriculture, arboriculture, nursery)
A	Mushroom culture wastes	The initial composition of the substrate shall be limited to products of this Table
A	Dejecta of worms (vermicompost) and insects	
A	Guano	
A	Composted or fermented mixture of vegetable matter	Product obtained from mixtures of vegetable matter, which have been submitted to composting or to anaerobic fermentation for biogas production

A	<p>Products or by-products of animal origin as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> blood meal hoof meal horn meal bone meal or degelatinized bone meal fish meal meat meal feather, hair and 'chiquette' meal wool fur hair dairy products 	<p>Maximum concentration in mg/kg of dry matter of chromium (VI): 0</p>
A	<p>Products and by-products of plant origin for fertilisers</p>	<p>Examples: oilseed cake meal, cocoa husks, malt culms</p>
A	<p>Seaweeds and seaweed products</p>	<p>As far as directly obtained by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical processes including dehydration, freezing and grinding • extraction with water or aqueous acid and/or alkaline solution • fermentation
A	<p>Sawdust and wood chips</p>	<p>Wood not chemically treated after felling</p>
A	<p>Composted bark</p>	<p>Wood not chemically treated after felling</p>
A	<p>Wood ash</p>	<p>From wood not chemically treated after felling</p>
A	<p>Soft ground rock phosphate</p>	<p>Product as specified in point 7 of Annex IA.2. to Regulation (EC) No 2003/2003 of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to fertilisers, 7 Cadmium content less than or equal to 90 mg/kg of P₂O₅</p>
A	<p>Aluminium-calcium phosphate</p>	<p>Product as specified in point 6 of Annex IA.2. of Regulation 2003/2003, Cadmium content less than or equal to 90 mg/kg of P₂O₅ Use limited to basic soils (pH > 7,5)</p>
A	<p>Basic slag</p>	<p>Products as specified in point 1 of Annex IA.2. of Regulation 2003/2003</p>
A	<p>Crude potassium salt or kainit</p>	<p>Products as specified in point 1 of Annex IA.3. of Regulation 2003/2003</p>

A	Potassium sulphate, possibly containing magnesium salt	Product obtained from crude potassium salt by a physical extraction process, containing possibly also magnesium salts
A	Stillage and stillage extract	Ammonium stillage excluded
A	Calcium carbonate (chalk, marl, ground limestone, Breton ameliorant, (maerl), phosphate chalk)	Only of natural origin
A	Magnesium and calcium carbonate	Only of natural origin e.g. magnesian chalk, ground magnesium, limestone
A	Magnesium sulphate (kieserite)	Only of natural origin
A	Calcium chloride solution	Foliar treatment of apple trees, after identification of deficit of calcium
A	Calcium sulphate (gypsum)	Products as specified in point 1 of Annex ID. of Regulation 2003/2003 Only of natural origin
A	Industrial lime from sugar production	By-product of sugar production from sugar beet
A	Industrial lime from vacuum salt production	By-product of the vacuum salt production from brine found in mountains
A	Elemental sulphur	Products as specified in Annex ID.3 of Regulation 2003/ 2003
A	Trace elements	Inorganic micronutrients listed in part E of Annex I to Regulation 2003/2003
A	Sodium chloride	Only mined salt
A	Stone meal and clays	

- 3) The housing of calves in individual boxes shall be forbidden after the age of one week.
- 4) Sows shall be kept in groups, except in the last stages of pregnancy and during the suckling period.
- 5) Piglets shall not be kept on flat decks or in piglet cages.
- 6) Exercise areas shall permit dunging and rooting by porcine animals. For the purposes of rooting different substrates can be used.



SPECIFIC HOUSING CONDITIONS AND HUSBANDRY PRACTICES FOR POULTRY

- 1) Poultry shall not be kept in cages.
- 2) Water fowl shall have access to a stream, pond, lake or a pool whenever the weather and hygienic conditions permit in order to respect their species-specific needs and animal welfare requirements.
- 3) Buildings for all poultry shall meet the following conditions:
 - at least one third of the floor area shall be solid, that is, not of slatted or of grid construction, and covered with a litter material such as straw, wood shavings, sand or turf;
 - in poultry houses for laying hens, a sufficiently large part of the floor area available to the hens shall be available for the collection of bird droppings;
 - they shall have perches of a size and number commensurate with the size of the group and of the birds as laid down in Table 2.
 - they shall have exit/entry pop-holes of a size adequate for the birds, and these pop-holes shall have a combined length of at least 4 m per 100 m² area of the house available to the birds;
 - each poultry house shall not contain more than:
 - 4,800 chickens,
 - 3,000 laying hens,
 - 5,200 guinea fowl,
 - 4,000 female Muscovy or Peking ducks or 3,200 male Muscovy or Peking ducks or other ducks,
 - 2,500 capons, geese or turkeys;
 - the total usable area of poultry houses for meat production on any single unit,

- shall not exceed 1,600 m²;
- poultry houses shall be constructed in a manner allowing all birds easy access to open air area.



- 4) Natural light may be supplemented by artificial means to provide a maximum of 16 hours light per day with a continuous nocturnal rest period without artificial light of at least eight hours.
- 5) To prevent the use of intensive rearing methods, poultry shall either be reared until they reach a minimum age or else shall come from slow-growing poultry strains. Where slow-growing poultry strains are not used by the operator the following minimum age at slaughter shall be:
 - 81 days for chickens,
 - 150 days for capons,
 - 49 days for Peking ducks,
 - 70 days for female Muscovy ducks,
 - 84 days for male Muscovy ducks,
 - 92 days for Mallard ducks,
 - 94 days for guinea fowl,
 - 140 days for male turkeys and roasting geese and
 - 100 days for female turkeys.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND HOUSING CONDITIONS IN BEEKEEPING

- 1) The siting of the apiaries shall be such that, within a radius of 3 km from the apiary site, nectar and pollen sources consist essentially of organically produced crops and/or spontaneous vegetation and/or crops treated with low environmental impact methods equivalent which cannot affect the qualification of beekeeping production as being organic. The above mentioned requirements do not apply where flowering is not taking place, or the hives are dormant.



- 2) The Member States may designate regions or areas where beekeeping complying with organic production rules is not practicable.
- 3) The hives shall be made basically of natural materials presenting no risk of contamination to the environment or the apiculture products.
- 4) The bees wax for new foundations shall come from organic production units.
- 5) Only natural products such as propolis, wax and plant oils can be used in the hives.
- 6) The use of chemical synthetic repellents is prohibited during honey extractions operations.
- 7) The use of brood combs is prohibited for honey extraction.

ACCESS TO OPEN AIR AREAS

- 1) Open air areas may be partially covered.
- 2) Herbivores shall have access to pasturage for grazing whenever conditions allow.
- 3) In cases where herbivores have access to pasturage during the grazing period and where the winter-housing system gives freedom of movement to the animals, the obligation to provide open air areas during the winter months may be waived.
- 4) Bulls over one year old shall have access to pasturage or an open air area.
- 5) Poultry shall have access to an open air area for at least one third of their life.
- 6) Open air areas for poultry shall be mainly covered with vegetation and be provided with protective facilities and permit fowl to have easy access to adequate numbers of drinking and feeding troughs.



- 7) Where poultry are kept indoors due to restrictions or obligations imposed on the basis of Community legislation, they shall permanently have access to sufficient quantities of roughage and suitable material in order to meet their ethological needs.

STOCKING DENSITY

- 1) The total stocking density shall be such as not to exceed the limit of 170 kg of nitrogen per year and hectare of agricultural area.
- 2) To determine the appropriate density of livestock referred to above, the competent authority shall set out the livestock units equivalent to the above limit, taking as a guideline, the figures laid down in Table 4:

Class or species	Maximum number of animals per ha equivalent to 170 kg N/ha/year
Equines over six months old	2
Calves for fattening	5
Other bovine animals less than one year old	5
Male bovine animals from one to less than two years old	3,3
Female bovine animals from one to less than two years old	3,3
Male bovine animals two years old or over	2
Breeding heifers	2,5
Heifers for fattening	2,5
Dairy cows	2

Cull dairy cows	2
Other cows	2,5
Female breeding rabbits	100
Ewes	13,3
Goats	13,3
Piglets	74
Breeding sows	6,5
Pigs for fattening	14
Other pigs	14
Table chickens	580
Table chickens	230

PROHIBITION OF LANDLESS LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION

Landless livestock production, by which the operator of the livestock does not manage agricultural land and/or has not established a written cooperation agreement with another operator is prohibited.

SIMULTANEOUS PRODUCTION OF ORGANIC AND NON-ORGANIC LIVESTOCK

- 1) Non organic livestock may be present on the holding provided they are reared on units where the buildings and parcels are separated clearly from the units producing in accordance with the organic production rules and a different species is involved.
- 2) Non-organic livestock may use organic pasturage for a limited period of time each year, provided that such animals come from an extensive farming system and that organic animals are not present at the same time on that pasture.
- 3) Organic animals may be grazed on common land, providing that:
 - the land has not been treated with products not authorised for organic production for at least three years;
 - other animal grazing there are kept in extensive way;
 - any livestock products from organic animals, whilst using this land, shall not be regarded as being from organic production, unless adequate segregation from non-organic animals can be proved.
- 4) During the period of transhumance animals may graze on non-organic land when they are being moved on foot from one grazing area to another. The uptake of non-organic feed, in the form of grass and other vegetation on which the animals graze, during this period shall not exceed 10% of the total feed ration per year. This figure shall be calculated as a percentage of the dry matter of feedingstuffs from agricultural origin.
- 5) Operators shall keep documentary evidence of the use of provisions referred to in this Chapter.

MANAGEMENT OF ANIMALS

- 1) Operations such as attaching elastic bands to the tails of sheep, tail-docking, cutting of teeth, trimming of beaks and dehorning shall not be carried out routinely in organic farming. However, some of these operations may be authorised by the competent authority for reasons of safety or if they are intended to improve the health, welfare or hygiene of the livestock on a case-by-case basis.
- 2) Any suffering to the animals shall be reduced to a minimum by applying adequate anaesthesia and/or analgesia and by carrying out the operation only at the most appropriate age by qualified personnel.
- 3) Physical castration is allowed in order to maintain the quality of products and traditional production practices but only under the conditions set out in the paragraph 1-2.
- 4) Mutilation such as clipping the wings of queen bees is prohibited.
- 5) Loading and unloading of animals shall be carried out without the use of any type of electrical stimulation to coerce the animals. The use of allopathic tranquillisers, prior to or during transport, is prohibited.

FEED FROM OWN HOLDING OR FROM OTHER ORGANIC HOLDINGS

- 1) In the case of herbivores, except during the period each year when the animals are under transhumance subject, at least 50% of the feed shall come from the farm unit itself or in case this is not feasible, be produced in cooperation with other organic farms primarily in the same region.
- 2) In the case of bees, at the end of the production season hives shall be left with sufficient reserves of honey and pollen to survive the winter.
- 3) The feeding of bee colonies shall only be permitted where the survival of the hives is endangered due to climatic conditions and only between the last honey harvest and 15 days before the start of the next nectar or honeydew flow period. Feeding shall be with organic honey, organic sugar syrup, or organic sugar.

FEED MEETING ANIMALS' NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 1) All young mammals shall be fed on maternal milk in preference to natural milk, for a minimum period of three months for bovines including bubalus and bison species and equidae, 45 days for sheep and goats and 40 days for pigs.
- 2) Rearing systems for herbivores are to be based on maximum use of grazing pasturage according to the availability of pastures in the different periods of the year. At least 60% of the dry matter in daily rations of herbivores shall consist of roughage, fresh or dried fodder, or silage. A reduction to 50% for animals in dairy production for a maximum period of three months in early lactation is allowed.
- 3) Roughage, fresh or dried fodder, or silage shall be added to the daily ration for pigs and poultry.
- 4) The keeping of livestock in conditions, or on a diet, which may encourage anaemia, is prohibited.
- 5) Fattening practices shall be reversible at any stage of the rearing process. Force-feeding is forbidden.



IN-CONVERSION FEED

- 1) Up to 30% of the feed formula of rations on average may comprise in-conversion feedingstuffs. When the in-conversion feedingstuffs come from a unit of the holding itself, this percentage may be increased to 60%.
- 2) Up to 20% of the total average amount of feedingstuffs fed to the livestock may originate from the grazing or harvesting of permanent pastures or perennial forage parcels in their first year of conversion, provided that they are part of the holding itself and have not been part of an organic production unit of that holding in the last five years. When both in-conversion feedingstuffs and feedingstuffs from parcels in their first year of conversion are being used, the total combined percentage of such feedingstuffs shall not exceed the maximum percentages fixed in paragraph 1).
- 3) The figures in paragraph 1) and 2) shall be calculated annually as a percentage of the dry matter of feedingstuffs of plant origin.

DISEASE PREVENTION

- 1) The basic means of prophylaxis are the following:
 - choosing suitable local types with great capability of resistance;
 - keeping animals in accordance with their ethological needs, ensuring their well-being;

- good-quality feedstuff, constant moving and grazing;
 - suitable thickness of stock, hygiene.
- 2) The use of chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products or antibiotics for preventive treatment is prohibited.
 - 3) The use of substances to promote growth or production (including antibiotics, coccidiostats and other artificial aids for growth promotion purposes) and the use of hormones or similar substances to control reproduction or for other purposes (e.g. induction or synchronisation of oestrus), is prohibited.
 - 4) Where livestock is obtained from non-organic units, special measures such as screening tests or quarantine periods may apply, depending on local circumstances.
 - 5) Housing, pens, equipment and utensils shall be properly cleaned and disinfected to prevent cross-infection and the build up of disease carrying organisms. Faeces, urine and uneaten or spilt feed shall be removed as often as necessary to minimise smell and to avoid attracting insects or rodents.
 - 6) Buildings shall be emptied of livestock between each batch of poultry reared. The buildings and fittings shall be cleaned and disinfected during this time. In addition, when the rearing of each batch of poultry has been completed, runs shall be left empty to allow vegetation to grow back. Member States shall establish the period for which runs must be empty. The operator shall keep documentary evidence of the application of this period. These requirements shall not apply where poultry is not reared in batches, is not kept in runs and is free to roam, throughout the day.



VETERINARY TREATMENT

- 1) Phytotherapeutic, homoeopathic products, trace elements and products shall be used in preference to chemically-synthesized allopathic veterinary treatment or antibiotics, provided that their therapeutic effect is effective for the species of animal, and the

- condition for which the treatment is intended.
- 2) If the use of measures mentioned above not effective in combating illness or injury, and if treatment is essential to avoid suffering or distress of the animal, chemically- synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products or anti- biotics may be used under the responsibility of a veterinarian.
 - 3) With the exception of vaccinations, treatments for parasites and compulsory eradication schemes where an animal or group of animals receive more than three courses of treatments with chemically-synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products or antibiotics within 12 months, or more than one course of treatment if their productive lifecycle is less than one year, the livestock concerned, or produce derived from them, may not be sold as organic products, and the livestock shall undergo the conversion periods laid down.
 - 4) The withdrawal period between the last administration of an allopathic veterinary medicinal product to an animal under normal conditions of use, and the production of organically produced foodstuffs from such animals, is to be twice the legal withdrawal period as referred to in statutory or, in a case in which this period is not specified, 48 hours.

SPECIFIC RULES ON DISEASE PREVENTION AND VETERINARY TREATMENT IN BEEKEEPING

- 1) For the purposes of protecting frames, hives and combs, in particular from pests, only rodenticides (to be used only in traps), and appropriate products listed in statutory, are permitted.



- 2) Physical treatments for disinfection of apiaries such as steam or direct flame are permitted.
- 3) The practice of destroying the male brood is permitted only to isolate the infestation of *Varroa destructor*.
- 4) If despite all preventive measures, the colonies become sick or infested, they shall be treated immediately and, if necessary, the colonies can be placed in isolation apiaries.
- 5) Veterinary medicinal products may be used in organic beekeeping in so far as the corresponding use is authorised in the Member State in accordance with the relevant Community provisions or national provisions in conformity with Community law.
- 6) Formic acid, lactic acid, acetic acid and oxalic acid as well as menthol, thymol, eucalyptol or camphor may be used in cases of infestation with *Varroa destructor*.
- 7) If a treatment is applied with chemically synthesised allopathic products, during such a period, the colonies treated shall be placed in isolation apiaries and all the wax shall be replaced with wax coming from organic beekeeping. Subsequently, the conversion period of one year laid down in statutory will apply to those colonies.
- 8) The requirements laid down in paragraph 7) shall not apply to products listed in paragraph 6).

REFERENCES

Council [Regulation \(EC\) No 834/2007](#) of 28 June 2007 – on organic production and labelling of organic products

Comission [Regulation \(EC\) No 889/2008](#) of 5 September 2008 – laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control

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Conscious Use of
Natural Resources

