EC Regulation 2005

Animal husbandry management

ANNEX I

B. LIVESTOCK AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS FROM THE FOLLOWING SPECIES: BOVINE (INCLUDING BUBALUS AND BISON SPECIES), PORCINE, OVINE, CAPRINE, EQUIDAE, POULTRY.

6. Husbandry management practices, transport and identification of livestock products

6.1. Husbandry practices

6.1.1. In principle, the reproduction of organically reared livestock should be based on natural methods. Nevertheless artificial insemination is permitted. Other forms of artificial or assisted reproduction (for example embryo transfers) are prohibited.

6.1.2. Operations such as attaching elastic bands to the tails of sheep, tail-docking, cutting of teeth, trimming of beaks and dehorning must not be carried out systematically in organic farming. Some of these operations may, however, be authorised by the inspection authority or body, for reasons of safety (for example dehorning in young animals) or if they are intended to improve the health, welfare or hygiene of the livestock. Such operations must be carried out at the most appropriate age by qualified personnel and any suffering to the animals must be reduced to a minimum.

6.1.3. Physical castration is allowed in order to maintain the quality of products and traditional production practices (meat-type pigs, bullocks, capons, etc.) but only under the conditions set out in the last sentence of the paragraph 6.1.2.

6.1.4. Keeping livestock tethered is forbidden. Nevertheless, by derogation from this principle, the inspection authority or body, can authorise this practice for individual animals upon justification by the operator, that this is necessary for safety or welfare reasons, and that such tethering is only for a limited period of time.

6.1.5. By derogation from the provisions laid down in paragraph 6.1.4, cattle can be tethered in buildings already existing before 24 August 2000, provided that regular exercise is provided and rearing takes place in line with animal welfare requirements with comfortably littered areas as well as individual management. This derogation which must be authorised by the inspection authority or body shall apply for a transitional period expiring on 31 December 2010.

6.1.6. By a further derogation, cattle in small holdings can be tethered if it is not possible to keep the cattle in groups appropriate to their behaviour requirements, provided they have at least twice a week access to pastures, open air runs or exercise areas. This derogation, which must be authorised by the inspection authority or body, shall apply to holdings which meet the requirements of natural rules
concerning organic production of livestock effective until 24 August 2000, or in the absence thereof of private standards accepted or recognised by the Member States.

6.1.7. Before 31 December 2006, the Commission will present a report on the implementation of the provisions of paragraph 6.1.5.

6.1.8. Where livestock are reared in groups, the size of the group must depend upon their stage of development and the behavioural needs of the species concerned. The keeping of livestock in conditions, or on a diet, which may encourage anaemia, is prohibited.

6.1.9. For poultry, the 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 guineafowl,
- 140 days for turkeys and roasting geese.

Where producers do not apply these minimum slaughter ages, they must use slow-growing strains.

6.2. Transport

6.2.1. Transport of livestock must be carried out so as to limit the stress suffered by the animals in accordance with the relevant national or Community legislation in force. Loading and unloading must be carried out with caution and without the use of any type of electrical stimulation to coerce the animals. The use of any allopathic tranquilliser, prior to and during transport, is prohibited.

6.2.2. During the period leading up to and at the time of slaughter, livestock must be handled in such a way that stress to the animals is reduced to a minimum.

6.3. Identification of livestock products

6.3.1. Livestock and livestock products are to be identified at all stages of their production, preparation, transport and marketing.