

Production rules

Bovine, equine, ovine,

caprine animals

Technical discussions

COP

28-29 November 2018

General approach for bovine, equine, ovine and caprine animals

- Conservative approach status quo with the previous rules
- Minimum suckling period as in Art 20(1) of Regulation 889/2008
- Stocking densities previously Annex IV of Regulation 889/2008 to be regulated at national level
- Minimum surface areas indoors and outdoors as in Annex III of Regulation 889/2008
- Characteristics of and technical requirements for the minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas same as in Article 11 Reg 889/2008
- Transitional period needed only if structural changes
- Need to take into account changes introduced into the organic reform for the collection of data
- Comments and requests for clarifications from MS and stakeholders

Regulation (EU) 2018/848

Additional general rules

1.9.1. For bovine animals, ovine animals, caprine animals and equine animals

1.9.1.1. Nutrition

With regard to nutrition, the following rules shall apply:

(a) at least 60 % of the feed shall come from the farm itself or, if this is not feasible or such feed is not available, shall be produced in cooperation with other organic or in-conversion production units and feed operators using feed and feed material from the same region.

This percentage shall be raised to 70 % as from 1 January 2023;

(b) animals shall have access to pasturage for grazing whenever conditions allow;

(c) notwithstanding point (b), male bovine animals over one year old shall have access to pasturage or an open air area;

Regulation (EU) 2018/848

Additional general rules

1.9.1. For bovine animals, ovine animals, caprine animals and equine animals

1.9.1.1. Nutrition

(d) where animals have access to pasturage during the grazing period and where the winter housing system allows the animals to move freely, the obligation to provide open air areas during the winter months may be waived;

(e) rearing systems shall be based on maximum use of grazing pasturage, by reference to the availability of pastures in the different periods of the year;

(f) at least 60 % of the dry matter in daily rations shall consist of roughage, fresh or dried fodder, or silage. This percentage may be reduced to 50 % for animals in dairy production for a maximum period of three months in early lactation.

Regulation (EU) 2018/848

1.9.1.2. Housing and husbandry practices

With regard to housing and husbandry practices, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) housing shall have smooth, but not slippery floors;*
- (b) housing shall be provided with a comfortable, clean and dry laying or rest area of sufficient size, which shall consist 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 that is authorised pursuant to Article 24 as a fertiliser or soil conditioner for use in organic production;*

Regulation (EU) 2018/848

1.9.1.2. Housing and husbandry practices

(c) notwithstanding point (a) of the first subparagraph of Article 3(1) and the second subparagraph of Article 3(1) of Council Directive 2008/119/EC, the housing of calves in individual boxes shall be forbidden after the age of one week, unless for individual animals for a limited period, and insofar as this is justified for veterinary reasons;

(d) when a calf is treated individually for veterinary reasons, it shall be kept in spaces that have a solid floor and shall be provided with straw bedding. The calf must be able to turn around easily and to lie down comfortably at full length.

Implementing act

Livestock production rules Art 14

Article 14 Livestock production rules

3. The Commission shall, where appropriate, adopt implementing acts regarding Part II of Annex II providing rules on:

- (a) The **minimum period** to be complied **with for feeding of suckling animals with maternal milk**, referred to in point 1.4.1(g);
- (b) the **stocking density and the minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas** that are to be complied with for specific livestock species to ensure that the developmental, physiological and ethological needs of animals are met in accordance with points 1.6.3, 1.6.4 and 1.7.2.
- (c) the **characteristics of and technical requirements for the minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas**;
- (d) the **characteristics of and technical requirements for buildings and pens for all livestock species** other than bees, to ensure that the developmental, physiological and ethological needs of animals are met in accordance with point 1.7.2;
- (e) **requirements for vegetation and the characteristics of protected facilities and open air areas**.

Those implementing acts shall be adopted in accordance with the examination procedure referred to in Article 55(2).

Regulation (EU) 2018/848

minimum suckling period

point 1.4.1 (g) of Part II of Annex II

Suckling animals shall preferably be fed on maternal milk for a minimum period laid down by the Commission in accordance with point (a) of Article 14(3); milk replacers containing chemically synthesised components or components of plant origin shall not be used during that period;

**Minimum period
for feeding of bovine, equine, ovine and caprine
animals with maternal milk
Basis for technical discussions**

The minimum suckling period referred to in point 1.4.1 (g) of Part II of Annex II is three months for bovine and equine animals, 45 days for ovine and caprine animals.

Comments minimum suckling period

- *« preferably » to clarify*
- *IFOAM there should be exceptional cases in which the use of milk replacers is allowed. Precise and strict criteria should be established for this purpose.*

Minimum surface areas indoors and outdoors for BOVINE animals

Basis for technical discussions: same as in Annex III Reg 889/2008

The minimum surface areas indoors and outdoors and other characteristics for housing bovine animals shall be as follows:

	Indoors area (net area available to animals)		Outdoors area (exercise area, excluding pasturage)
	Live weight minimum (kg)	m ² / head	m ² / head
Breeding and fattening bovine animals	Up to 100	1,5	1,1
	Up to 200	2,5	1,9
	Up to 350	4,0	3
	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

Minimum surface areas indoors and outdoors for EQUINE animals

Basis for technical discussions: same as in Annex III Reg 889/2008

The minimum surface areas indoors and outdoors and other characteristics for housing equine animals shall be as follows:

	Indoors area (net area available to animals)		Outdoors area (exercise area, excluding pasturage)
	Live weight minimum (kg)	m ² / head	m ² / head
Breeding and fattening equine animals	Up to 100	1,5	1,1
	Up to 200	2,5	1,9
	Up to 350	4,0	3
	Over 350	5 with a minimum of 1 m ² /100 kg	3,7 with a minimum of 0,75 m ² /100 kg

Minimum surface areas indoors and outdoors for OVINE and CAPRINE animals

Basis for technical discussions: same as in Annex III Reg 889/2008

The minimum surface areas indoors and outdoors and other characteristics for housing ovine and caprine animals shall be as follows:

	Indoors area (net area available to animals)	Outdoors area (exercise area, excluding pasturage)
	m ² / head	m ² / head
Sheep	1,5	2,5
Lamb	0,35	0,5
Goat	1,5	2,5
kid	0,35	0,5

Comments minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas

- *IFOAM flexibility in the requirements for minimum areas*
- *Compliance with the minimum total indoor and outdoor areas but possibility to have a smaller indoor area if the outdoor area becomes accordingly larger. In this case, the outdoor area should include all the needed functional areas for eating, drinking, lying and the whole area (indoor + outdoor) must be accessible all the time (24h/365 days, except for cleaning purposes)*

Characteristics of and technical requirements of the minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas for bovine, equine, ovine and caprine animals

BOVINE ANIMALS

At least half of the indoor surface area as specified in the table on minimum surface areas shall be solid, that is, not of slatted or of grid construction.

Comments IFOAM: limitation on slatted surface only applies to the minimum indoor area and not to the entire surface. Thus animal housing with higher minimum indoor area per animal, than the one provided in the table, might have more than 50% of their entire surface covered with slatted construction. This would not be consistent with animal welfare principles. In that case, a transitional period would be necessary.

*Same as in Article 11(1) for **mammals***

Anything for outdoor area and slatted floors as for pigs?

EQUINE ANIMALS

IFOAM proposed ***no slatted floors at all***

OVINE/CAPRINE ANIMALS

IFOAM proposed ***no slatted floors at all***

Vegetation and the characteristics of protected facilities and open air areas.

Comments IFOAM

No additional provisions necessary

Comments Bovine production rules

- *Article 46 of Regulation 889/2008*

Exceptional production rules related to specific management problems in organic livestock

The final fattening phase of adult bovines for meat production may take place indoors, provided that this indoors period does not exceed one fifth of their lifetime and in any case for a maximum period of three months.

Basis was article 22 on exceptional production rules which does not exist anymore in Reg 2018/848

Transitional period

No transitional period for bovine, equine, ovine and caprine animals if no structural changes compared to current rules

To see if transitional needed if no slatted floors for indoor area equine, ovine and caprine