



Technical discussions Production rules Cervine animals

Expert Group
Deer (Cervine animals)
20 September 2018

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Livestock production rules general requirements: origin of cervine animals (1)

- 1.3 Origin of animals
- 1.3.1 **Without prejudice to the rules on conversion, organic livestock shall be born or hatched and raised on organic production units.**
- 1.3.2 With regard to the breeding of organic animals:
- (a) reproduction shall use natural methods; however, artificial insemination shall be allowed;
- (b) reproduction shall not be induced or impeded by treatment with hormones or other substances with a similar effect, except as a form of veterinary therapeutic treatment in the case of an individual animal;
- (c) **other forms of artificial reproduction, such as cloning and embryo transfer, shall not be used;**
- (d) the choice of breeds shall be appropriate to the principles of organic production, shall ensure a high standard of animal welfare and shall contribute to the prevention of any suffering and to avoiding the need for the mutilation of animals.



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Inputs

- LV national rules for deer
- SE KRAV private standard
- PL 2010 proposal for harmonised rules on organic deer production – no national rules on organic but general national rules
- BE (Flanders and Wallonia) rules
- AT national rules

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Livestock production rules general requirements: origin of cervine animals (2)

- 1.3.3 When choosing breeds or strains, operators shall consider giving preference to **breeds or strains with a high degree of genetic diversity, the capacity of animals to adapt to local conditions, their breeding value, their longevity, their vitality and their resistance to disease or health problems, all without impairment of their welfare.** 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, possibly leading to pale-soft-exudative (PSE) meat, sudden death, spontaneous abortion and difficult births requiring caesarean operations. **Preference shall be given to indigenous breeds and strains.**

To choose the breeds and strains in accordance with the first subparagraph, operators shall use the **information available in the systems referred to in Article 26(3).**



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Livestock production rules for deer: basic act Conversion

1.2.2. *Conversion periods specific to the type of animal production are set out as follows:*

(h) *12 months for cervine animals.*

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Livestock production rules General requirements: use of non-organic cervine animals

1.3.4 Use of non-organic animals

By way of derogation from point 1.3.1, where the data collected in the system referred to in point (b) of Article 26(2) shows that the qualitative or quantitative needs of the farmer regarding organic animals are not met, competent authorities may authorise the introduction of non-organic animals into an organic production unit, subject to the conditions provided for in points 1.3.4.4.1 to 1.3.4.4.4.

Prior to requesting any such derogation, the farmer shall consult the data collected in the system referred to in point (b) of Article 26(2) in order to verify whether his or her request is justified.

For operators in third countries, control authorities and control bodies recognised in accordance with Article 46(1) may authorise the introduction of non-organic animals into an organic production unit where organic animals are not available in sufficient quality or quantity in the territory of the country where the operator is located.



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Livestock production rules
General requirements: use of non-organic animals

1.3.4 Use of non-organic animals

In the cases referred to in points 1.3.4.4.1, 1.3.4.4.2 and 1.3.4.4.3, non-organic animals may only be considered as organic if the conversion period specified in point 1.2 has been complied with. The conversion period laid down in point 1.2.2 shall start, at the earliest, once the animals are introduced into the in-conversion production unit.

1.3.4.4.5 In the cases referred to in points 1.3.4.4.1 to 1.3.4.4.4, non-organic animals shall either be kept separate from other livestock or shall be kept identifiable until the end of the conversion period referred to in point 1.3.4.4.4.



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Livestock production rules for cervine animals:
basic act: Mutilations

Removal of antlers and spears

Practice used to handle deer and transport them: PL, LV, SE
Risks for workers' safety

Removal of antlers if done at the appropriate age is removing dead bones

Current practices (als restraint/use of anaesthesia) to be discussed at the COP

Removal of spears (removal of live bone)

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Livestock production rules for cervine animals:
basic act: Housing and husbandry practices

1.6.2 Housing for livestock shall not be mandatory in areas with appropriate climatic conditions enabling animals to live outdoors. In such cases, animals shall have access to shelters or shady areas to protect them from adverse weather conditions.

1.6.10. Organic livestock may not be reared in a pen on very wet or marshy soil.

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Livestock production rules for cervine animals: basic act

1.9.2. For cervine animals

1.9.2.1. 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) 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;*
- (d) 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;*

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Livestock production rules for cervine animals:
basic act: Mutilations

1.7.7 Any suffering, pain and distress shall be avoided and shall be kept to a minimum during the entire life of the animal, including at the time of slaughter.

1.7.8. Without prejudice to developments in Union legislation on animal welfare, tail-docking of sheep, beak trimming undertaken in the first three days of life, and **dehorning** may exceptionally be allowed, but only on a case-by-case basis and only when those practices improve the health, welfare or hygiene of the livestock or where workers' safety would otherwise be compromised. **Disbudding** may be allowed only on a case by case basis when it improves the health, welfare or hygiene of the livestock or where workers' safety would otherwise be compromised. The competent authority shall only authorise such operations where the operator has duly notified and justified the operations to that competent authority and where the operation is to be carried out by qualified personnel.

1.7.9. Any suffering to the animals shall be reduced to a minimum by applying adequate anaesthesia and/or analgesia and by carrying out each operation at only the most **appropriate age** by qualified personnel.

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Livestock production rules for cervine animals: basic act

1.9.2. For cervine animals

1.9.2.1. Nutrition

With regard to nutrition, the following rules shall apply:

- (e) 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 female cervine animals in milk production for a maximum period of three months in early lactation;*
- (f) natural grazing shall be ensured in a pen during the period of vegetation. Pens that cannot provide feed by grazing during the period of vegetation shall not be allowed;*
- (g) feeding shall only be allowed in the event of a shortage of grazing due to poor weather conditions;*
- (h) farmed animals in a pen shall be provided with clean and fresh water. If a natural source of water that is easily accessible to animals is not available, watering places shall be provided.*

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Livestock production rules for cervine animals: basic act

1.9.2.2. Housing and husbandry practices

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

- (a) cervine animals shall be provided with **hiding places, shelters and fences that do not harm animals**;
- (b) in red deer pens, animals must be able to roll in the mud to ensure skin grooming and body temperature regulation;
- (c) any housing shall have smooth, but not slippery floors;

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Cervine animals Minimum suckling period

All young mammals shall be fed on maternal milk for a minimum period of **90 days** after birth for deer.

LV 90 days

PL 3 months red deer, sika deer and fallow deer

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Livestock production rules for cervine animals: basic act

1.9.2.2. Housing and husbandry practices

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

- (d) any housing shall be provided with a comfortable, clean and dry laying or 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 authorised pursuant to Article 24 as a fertiliser or soil conditioner for use in organic production;
- (e) feeding places shall be installed in areas protected from the weather and accessible both to animals and to persons attending to them. **The soil where feeding places are located shall be consolidated**, and the feeding apparatus shall be equipped with a roof;
- (f) if permanent access to feed cannot be ensured, the feeding places shall be designed so that all animals can feed at the same time.

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Livestock production rules

Article 14 Livestock production rules

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

- (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).

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Implementing act cervine animals

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),

Part II of Annex II 1.4.1 (g)

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;

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Cervine animals

• Cervine animals

- Latin name for each species of deer covered in the IA
- Red deer (*Cervus elaphus*)
- Sika deer (*Cervus nippon*)
- Fallow deer (*Dama dama*)
- Father David' deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*)
- Reindeers (*Rangifer tarandus*) rules needed?

- Categories per age (<12 months, >12 months) for minimum surface

- No need for categories per sex: males and females kept together

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Systems of production for cervine animals

- Kept outdoors all year round in enclosures and paddocks providing pastures and shelters

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Enclosures with pasture (3) minimum surface and characteristics

- The **minimum paddock size** is 0,5 Ha = 5 000 m² for fallow deer and sika deer.
- **Max 15 adult animals per ha of enclosure** for fallow deer and sika deer. 2 cervine als up to 18 months count for 1 cervine adult animal
- The **minimum paddock size** is at least 1 Ha = 10 000 m² for red deer and Father David's Deer.
- **Max 7 adult animals per ha of enclosure** for red deer and Father David's Deer.
- The **minimum paddock size** is at least 1 Ha = 10 000 m² if more than one deer species is kept in one enclosure

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Enclosures with pastures (1)

- Fallow deer, Sika deer, red deer and Father David's deer must be kept on pasture all year round.

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Enclosures with pasture (4) minimum surface and characteristics

- The animals need visual and weather protection facilities. These should be provided by trees and shrubs (inclusion of groups of trees, forest parts or skirts of woods into the enclosure). If this is not possible to a sufficient extent, shelters must be provided for the animals. These shall be roofed and offer protection from weather.
- If the conditions of soil does not guarantee the scraping of hooves, this shall be ensured by suitable settings (e.g. paving the feeding areas) (see also AII PII 1.9.2.2(e)),

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Enclosures with pasture (2) minimum surface and characteristics

- 1 Ha = 10 000 m² for Fallow deer and Sika deer
- 2 Ha = 20 000 m² for Red deer and Father David's Deer
- The enclosures shall be designed in a way that the different cervine species can be separated if needed.
- Each enclosure shall be dividable into at least two paddocks so maintenance measures can be carried out on each area successively.

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Enclosures with pasture (5) minimum surface and characteristics

- Enclosure areas for red and fallow deer shall be equipped with facilities or be covered with vegetation that allows animals to rub off velvet from their antlers.
- Red deer, sika deer, fallow and father david's deer females in late stage of pregnancy and two weeks after birth shall have access to areas covered with vegetation that allows to hide their calves.
- Forced changing pastures in period from birth until two weeks after last birth is forbidden.

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Enclosures with pasture (6) minimum surface and characteristics

- *The minimum number of cervine animals in a paddock is four animals.*

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Implementing Act Article 26(7) Collection of data concerning the availability on the market of organic animals Outcome of the sub-group

- *databases existing on organic cervine animals in MS?*

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Enclosures with pasture (6) minimum surface and characteristics

- *Fences shall be at least 2 m high for fallow deer and sika deer and at least 2 m high for red deer and Father David's Deer. This does not apply to fences within the enclosure to form paddocks.*

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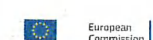


Background documents on cervine animals on circa bc

Group of interest: Expert Group on Organics.

- <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/d7461562-6768-4ccf-a8f4-4adbe9f70e2d>
- *Sub-group Production rules for deer*

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Transitional period

Transitional period possible for the rules set up in the IA on production rules for cervine animals provided the relevant provisions of the basic act are fulfilled

List of MS with national rules for cervine animals needed

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