

Non-organic animals may be introduced into an in-conversion production unit after the start of the conversion period in accordance with point 1.3.4.

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

- (a) 12 months in the case of bovine animals and equine animals for meat production, and in any case no less than three quarters of their lifetime;
- (b) six months in the case of ovine animals, caprine animals and porcine animals and animals for milk production;
- (c) 10 weeks for poultry for meat production, except for Peking ducks, brought in before they are three days old;
- (d) seven weeks for Peking ducks brought in before they are three days old;
- (e) six weeks in the case of poultry for egg production brought in before they are three days old;
- (f) 12 months for bees.

During the conversion period, the wax shall be replaced with wax coming from organic beekeeping.

However, non-organic beeswax may be used:

- (i) where beeswax from organic beekeeping is not available on the market;
- (ii) where it is proven free of contamination with products or substances not authorised for use in organic production; and
- (iii) provided that it comes from the cap;
- (g) three months for rabbits;
- (h) 12 months for cervine animals.

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.

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 paragraph, operators shall use the information available in the systems referred to in Article 26(3).

1.3.4. Use of non-organic animals

1.3.4.1. By way of derogation from point 1.3.1, for breeding purposes, non-organically raised animals may be brought to an organic production unit when breeds are in danger of being lost to farming as referred to in point (b) of Article 28(10) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and acts adopted on the basis thereof. In such case, the animals of those breeds need not necessarily be nulliparous.

- 1.3.4.2. By way of derogation from point 1.3.1, for the renovation of apiaries, 20 % 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. In any case, one swarm or queen bee may be replaced per year by a non-organic swarm or a queen bee.
- 1.3.4.3. By way of derogation from point 1.3.1, where a flock is constituted for the first time, or is renewed or reconstituted, and where the qualitative and quantitative needs of farmers cannot be met, the competent authority may decide that non-organically reared poultry may be brought into an organic poultry production unit, provided that the pullets for the production of eggs and poultry for meat production are less than three days old. Products derived from them may only be considered as organic if the conversion period specified in point 1.2 has been complied with.
- 1.3.4.4. 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.

- 1.3.4.4.1. For breeding purposes, non-organic young animals may be introduced when a herd or flock is constituted for the first time. They shall be reared in accordance with the organic production rules immediately after they are weaned. In addition, the following restrictions shall apply on the date on which those animals enter the herd or flock:
- (a) bovine animals, equine animals and cervine animals shall be less than six months old;
 - (b) ovine animals and caprine animals shall be less than 60 days old;
 - (c) porcine animals shall weigh less than 35 kg;
 - (d) rabbits shall be less than three months old.
- 1.3.4.4.2. For breeding purposes, non-organic adult male and non-organic nulliparous female animals may be introduced for the renewal of a herd or flock. They shall be reared subsequently in accordance with the organic production rules. In addition, the number of female animals shall be subject to the following restrictions per year:
- (a) up to a maximum of 10 % of adult equine animals or bovine animals and 20 % of the adult porcine animals, ovine animals, caprine animals, rabbits or cervine animals may be introduced;
 - (b) for units with fewer than 10 equine animals, cervine animals or bovine animals or rabbits, or with fewer than five porcine animals, ovine animals or caprine animals, any such renewal shall be limited to a maximum of one animal per year.
- 1.3.4.4.3. The percentages set in point 1.3.4.4.2 may be increased up to 40 %, provided that the competent authority has confirmed that any of following conditions is fulfilled:
- (a) a major extension to the farm has been undertaken;
 - (b) one breed has been replaced with another;
 - (c) a new livestock specialisation has been initiated.
- 1.3.4.4.4. 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.

1.4. Nutrition

1.4.1. General nutrition requirements

With regard to nutrition, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) feed for livestock shall be obtained primarily from the agricultural holding where the animals are kept or shall be obtained from organic or in-conversion production units belonging to other holdings in the same region;
- (b) livestock shall be fed with organic or in-conversion feed that meets the animal's nutritional requirements at the various stages of its development; restricted feeding shall not be permitted in livestock production unless justified for veterinary reasons;
- (c) livestock shall not be kept in conditions or on a diet which may encourage anaemia;
- (d) fattening practices shall always respect the normal nutritional patterns for each species and the animals' welfare at each stage of the rearing process; force-feeding is forbidden;
- (e) with the exception of porcine animals, poultry and bees, livestock shall have permanent access to pasture whenever conditions allow or shall have permanent access to roughage;
- (f) growth promoters and synthetic amino-acids shall not be used;
- (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;
- (h) feed materials of plant, algal, animal or yeast origin shall be organic;
- (i) non-organic feed materials of plant, algal, animal or yeast origin, feed materials of microbial or of mineral origin, feed additives and processing aids may be used only if they have been authorised pursuant to Article 24 for use in organic production.

1.4.2. Grazing

1.4.2.1. Grazing on organic land

Without prejudice to point 1.4.2.2, organic animals shall graze on organic land. However, non-organic animals may use organic pasturage for a limited period each year, provided that they have been raised in an environmental friendly way on land supported under Articles 23, 25, 28, 30, 31 and 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 and that they are not present on the organic land at the same time as organic animals.

1.4.2.2. Grazing on common land and transhumance

1.4.2.2.1. Organic animals may graze on common land, provided that:

- (a) the common land has not been treated with products or substances not authorised for use in organic production for at least three years;
- (b) any non-organic animals which use the common land have been raised in an environmental friendly way on land supported under Articles 23, 25, 28, 30, 31 and 34 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013;
- (c) any livestock products from organic animals that were produced during the period when those animals grazed on common land are not considered as organic products unless adequate segregation from non-organic animals can be proved.

1.4.2.2.2. During the period of transhumance, organic animals may graze on non-organic land when they are being moved on foot from one grazing area to another. During that period, organic animals shall be kept separate from other animals. The uptake of non-organic feed, in the form of grass and other vegetation on which the animals graze, shall be allowed:

- (a) for a maximum of 35 days covering both the outward and return journeys; or
- (b) for a maximum of 10 % of the total feed ration per year, calculated as a percentage of the dry matter of feedstuffs of agricultural origin.

1.4.3. In-conversion feed

1.4.3.1. For agricultural holdings that produce organic livestock:

- (a) up to 25 % on average of the feed formula of rations may comprise in-conversion feed from the second year of conversion. This percentage may be increased to 100 % if this in-conversion feed comes from the holding where the livestock is kept; and
- (b) up to 20 % of the total average amount of feed fed to livestock may originate from the grazing or harvesting of permanent pastures, perennial forage parcels or protein crops sown under organic management on lands in their first year of conversion, provided that those lands are part of the holding itself.

When both types of in-conversion feed referred to in points (a) and (b) are being used for feeding, the total combined percentage of such feed shall not exceed the percentage fixed in point (a).

1.4.3.2. The figures in point 1.4.3.1 shall be calculated annually as a percentage of the dry matter of feed of plant origin.

1.5. Health care

1.5.1. Disease prevention

1.5.1.1. Disease prevention shall be based on breed and strain selection, husbandry management practices, high-quality feed, exercise, appropriate stocking density and adequate and appropriate housing maintained in hygienic conditions.

1.5.1.2. Immunological veterinary medicinal products may be used.

1.5.1.3. Chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products, including antibiotics and boluses of synthesised allopathic chemical molecules, shall not be used for preventive treatment.

1.5.1.4. Substances to promote growth or production (including antibiotics, coccidiostats and other artificial aids for growth promotion purposes) and hormones and similar substances for the purpose of controlling reproduction or for other purposes (e.g. induction or synchronisation of oestrus) shall not be used.

1.5.1.5. Where livestock is obtained from non-organic production units, special measures such as screening tests or quarantine periods shall apply, depending on local circumstances.

1.5.1.6. Only the products for cleaning and disinfection in livestock buildings and installations authorised pursuant to Article 24 for use in organic production shall be used for that purpose.

1.5.1.7. 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. Rodenticides, to be used only in traps, and products and substances authorised pursuant to Articles 9 and 24 for use in organic production may be used for the elimination of insects and other pests in buildings and other installations where livestock are kept.

1.5.2. Veterinary treatment

1.5.2.1. Where animals become sick or injured despite preventive measures to ensure animal health, they shall be treated immediately.

1.5.2.2. Disease shall be treated immediately to avoid suffering of the animal. Chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products, including antibiotics, may be used where necessary, under strict conditions and under the responsibility of a veterinarian, 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.

1.5.2.3. Feed materials of mineral origin authorised pursuant to Article 24 for use in organic production, nutritional additives authorised pursuant to Article 24 for use in organic production, and phytotherapeutic and homeopathic products shall be used in preference to treatment with chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products, including antibiotics, provided that their therapeutic effect is effective for the species of animal and for the condition for which the treatment is intended.

- 1.5.2.4. With the exception of vaccinations, treatments for parasites and compulsory eradication schemes, where an animal or a group of animals receives more than three courses of treatments with chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products, including antibiotics, within 12 months, or more than one course of treatment if their productive lifecycle is less than one year, neither the livestock concerned nor produce derived from such livestock shall be sold as organic products, and the livestock shall be subject to the conversion periods referred to in point 1.2.
- 1.5.2.5. The withdrawal period between the last administration to an animal of a chemically synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal product, including of an antibiotic, under normal conditions of use, and the production of organically produced foodstuffs from that animal shall be twice the withdrawal period referred to in Article 11 of Directive 2001/82/EC, and shall be at least 48 hours.
- 1.5.2.6. Treatments related to the protection of human and animal health imposed on the basis of Union legislation shall be allowed.
- 1.6. Housing and husbandry practices
- 1.6.1. 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 ensure the well-being of the animals. The building shall permit plentiful natural ventilation and light to enter.
- 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.
- 1.6.3. The stocking density in buildings shall provide for the comfort, well-being and species-specific needs of the animals, and shall depend in particular 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, to move, to lie down easily, to turn round, to groom themselves, to assume all natural postures and to make all natural movements, such as stretching and wing flapping.
- 1.6.4. The minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas, and the technical details relating to housing, laid down in the implementing acts referred to in Article 14(3), shall be complied with.
- 1.6.5. Open air areas may be partially covered. Verandas shall not be considered as open air areas.
- 1.6.6. The total stocking density shall not exceed the limit of 170 kg of organic nitrogen per year and hectare of agricultural area.
- 1.6.7. To determine the appropriate density of livestock referred to in point 1.6.6, the competent authority shall set out the livestock units equivalent to the limit referred to in point 1.6.6, following the figures laid down in each of the specific requirements per type of animal production.
- 1.6.8. Cages, boxes and flat decks to raise livestock shall not be used for any livestock species.
- 1.6.9. When livestock is treated individually for veterinary reasons, it shall be kept in spaces that have a solid floor and shall be provided with straw or appropriate bedding. The animal must be able to turn around easily and to lie down comfortably at full length.
- 1.6.10. Organic livestock may not be reared in a pen on very wet or marshy soil.
- 1.7. Animal welfare
- 1.7.1. All persons involved in keeping animals and in handling animals during transport and slaughter shall possess the necessary basic knowledge and skills as regards the health and the welfare needs of the animals and shall have followed adequate training, as required in particular in Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 ⁽¹⁾ and Council Regulation No (EC) 1099/2009 ⁽²⁾, to ensure proper application of the rules set out in this Regulation.
- 1.7.2. Husbandry practices, including stocking densities and housing conditions, shall ensure that the developmental, physiological and ethological needs of the animals are met.

⁽¹⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005 of 22 December 2004 on the protection of animals during transport and related operations and amending Directives 64/432/EEC and 93/119/EC and Regulation (EC) No 1255/97 (OJ L 3, 5.1.2005, p. 1).

⁽²⁾ Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009 of 24 September 2009 on the protection of animals at the time of killing (OJ L 303, 18.11.2009, p. 1).

- 1.7.3. Livestock shall have permanent access to open air areas that allow the animals to exercise, preferably pasture, whenever weather and seasonal conditions and the state of the ground allow, except where restrictions and obligations related to the protection of human and animal health have been imposed on the basis of Union legislation.
- 1.7.4. The number of livestock shall be limited with a view to minimising overgrazing, poaching of soil, erosion, and pollution caused by animals or by the spreading of their manure.
- 1.7.5. Tethering or isolation of livestock shall be prohibited, except in relation to individual animals for a limited period and insofar as this is justified for veterinary reasons. The isolation of livestock may only be authorised, and only for a limited period, where workers' safety is compromised or for animal welfare reasons. Competent authorities may authorise the tethering of cattle in farms with a maximum of 50 animals (excluding young stock) where it is not possible to keep the cattle in groups appropriate to their behaviour requirements, provided they have access to pastures during the grazing period, and have access to open air areas at least twice a week when grazing is not possible.
- 1.7.6. Duration of transport of livestock shall be minimised.
- 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.
- 1.7.10. Physical castration shall be allowed in order to maintain the quality of products and traditional production practices, but only under the conditions set out in point 1.7.9.
- 1.7.11. The loading and unloading of animals shall be carried out without the use of any type of electrical or other painful stimulation to coerce the animals. The use of allopathic tranquillisers, prior to or during transport, shall be prohibited.
- 1.8. Preparation of unprocessed products
- If preparation operations other than processing are carried out on livestock, the general requirements laid down in points 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5 and 2.2.3 of Part IV shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to such operations.
- 1.9. 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;
 - (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;