

- (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.

#### 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;
- (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 <sup>(1)</sup>, 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.

#### 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;
- (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.

##### 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;

<sup>(1)</sup> Council Directive 2008/119/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves (OJ L 10, 15.1.2009, p. 7).

- (c) any housing shall have smooth, but not slippery floors;
- (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.

1.9.3. For porcine animals

1.9.3.1. Nutrition

With regard to nutrition, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) at least 30 % 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;
- (b) roughage, fresh or dried fodder, or silage shall be added to the daily ration;
- (c) where farmers are unable to obtain protein feed exclusively from organic production, and the competent authority has confirmed that organic protein feed is not available in sufficient quantity, non-organic protein feed may be used until 31 December 2025 provided that the following conditions are fulfilled:
  - (i) it is not available in organic form;
  - (ii) it is produced or prepared without chemical solvents;
  - (iii) its use is limited to the feeding of piglets of up to 35 kg with specific protein compounds; and
  - (iv) the maximum percentage authorised per period of 12 months for those animals does not exceed 5 %. The percentage of the dry matter of feed from agricultural origin shall be calculated.

1.9.3.2. Housing and husbandry practices

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

- (a) the housing shall have smooth, but not slippery floors;
- (b) the 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;
- (c) there shall always be a bed made of straw or other suitable material large enough to ensure that all pigs in a pen can lie down at the same time in the most space-consuming way;
- (d) sows shall be kept in groups, except in the last stages of pregnancy and during the suckling period, during which time the sow must be able to move freely in her pen and her movement shall only be restricted for short periods;
- (e) without prejudice to any additional requirements for straw, a few days before expected farrowing, sows shall be provided with a quantity of straw or other suitable natural material sufficient to enable them to build nests;
- (f) exercise areas shall permit dunging and rooting by porcine animals. For the purposes of rooting, different substrates may be used.

#### 1.9.4. For poultry

##### 1.9.4.1. Origin of animals

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 adapted to outdoor rearing.

The competent authority shall define the criteria of slow-growing strains or draw up a list of those strains and provide this information to operators, other Member States and the Commission.

Where slow-growing poultry strains are not used by the farmer, the minimum age at slaughter shall be as follows:

- (a) 81 days for chickens;
- (b) 150 days for capons;
- (c) 49 days for Peking ducks;
- (d) 70 days for female Muscovy ducks;
- (e) 84 days for male Muscovy ducks;
- (f) 92 days for Mallard ducks;
- (g) 94 days for guinea fowl;
- (h) 140 days for male turkeys and roasting geese; and
- (i) 100 days for female turkeys.

##### 1.9.4.2. Nutrition

With regard to nutrition, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) at least 30 % of the feed shall come from the farm itself or, if this is not feasible or such feed is not available, be produced in cooperation with other organic or in-conversion production units and feed operators using feed and feed material from the same region;
- (b) roughage, fresh or dried fodder, or silage shall be added to the daily ration;
- (c) where farmers are unable to obtain protein feed exclusively from organic production for poultry species, and the competent authority has confirmed that organic protein feed is not available in sufficient quantity, non-organic protein feed may be used until 31 December 2025, provided that the following conditions are fulfilled:
  - (i) it is not available in organic form;
  - (ii) it is produced or prepared without chemical solvents;
  - (iii) its use is limited to the feeding of young poultry with specific protein compounds; and
  - (iv) the maximum percentage authorised per period of 12 months for those animals does not exceed 5 %.  
The percentage of the dry matter of feed of agricultural origin shall be calculated.

##### 1.9.4.3. Animal welfare

Live plucking of poultry shall be prohibited.

##### 1.9.4.4. Housing and husbandry practices

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

- (a) at least one third of the floor area shall be solid, that is, not of slatted or of grid construction, and shall be covered with a litter material such as straw, wood shavings, sand or turf;
- (b) 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;
- (c) buildings shall be emptied of livestock between each batch of poultry that has been 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 during a period to be established by the Member States in order to allow vegetation to grow back. Those requirements shall not apply where poultry are not reared in batches, are not kept in runs and are free to roam throughout the day;

- (d) poultry shall have access to an open air area for at least one third of their life. However, laying hens and finisher poultry shall have access to an open air area for at least one third of their life, except where temporary restrictions have been imposed on the basis of Union legislation;
- (e) continuous daytime open air access shall be provided from as early an age as practically possible and whenever physiological and physical conditions allow, except where temporary restrictions have been imposed on the basis of Union legislation;
- (f) by way of derogation from point 1.6.5, in the case of breeding birds and pullets aged under 18 weeks, when the conditions specified in point 1.7.3 as regards restrictions and obligations related to the protection of human and animal health imposed on the basis of Union legislation are met and prevent breeding birds and pullets aged under 18 weeks from having access to open air areas, verandas shall be considered as open air areas and, in such cases, shall have a wire mesh barrier to keep other birds out;
- (g) open air areas for poultry shall permit fowl to have easy access to adequate numbers of drinking troughs;
- (h) open air areas for poultry shall be covered mainly with vegetation;
- (i) under conditions where feed availability from the range area is limited, for example, due to long term snow cover or arid weather conditions, supplementary feeding of roughage shall be included as part of poultry diets;
- (j) where poultry are kept indoors due to restrictions or obligations imposed on the basis of Union legislation, they shall have permanent access to sufficient quantities of roughage and suitable material in order to meet their ethological needs;
- (k) 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; when weather conditions do not permit such access, they shall have access to water which enables them to dip their head therein so as to clean plumage;
- (l) 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;
- (m) the total usable surface area for fattening poultry in poultry houses of any production unit shall not exceed 1 600 m<sup>2</sup>;
- (n) not more than 3 000 laying hens shall be allowed in a single compartment of a poultry house.

#### 1.9.5. For rabbits

##### 1.9.5.1. Nutrition

With regard to nutrition, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) at least 70 % 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;
- (b) rabbits shall have access to pasturage for grazing whenever conditions allow;
- (c) 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;
- (d) fibrous feed such as straw or hay shall be provided when grass is not sufficient. Forage shall comprise at least 60 % of the diet.

##### 1.9.5.2. Housing and husbandry practices

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

- (a) 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;
- (b) rabbits shall be kept in groups.

- (c) rabbit farms shall use robust breeds adapted to outdoor conditions;
- (d) rabbits shall have access to:
  - (i) covered shelter including dark hiding places;
  - (ii) an outdoor run with vegetation, preferably pasture;
  - (iii) a raised platform on which they can sit, either inside or out;
  - (iv) nesting material for all nursing does.

1.9.6. For bees

1.9.6.1. Origin of animals

For beekeeping, preference shall be given to the use of *Apis mellifera* and their local ecotypes.

1.9.6.2. Nutrition

With regard to nutrition, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) at the end of the production season hives shall be left with sufficient reserves of honey and pollen for the bees to survive the winter;
- (b) bee colonies may only be fed where the survival of the colony is endangered due to climatic conditions. In such case, bee colonies shall be fed with organic honey, organic sugar syrups, or organic sugar.

1.9.6.3. Health care

With regard to health care, the following rules shall apply:

- (a) for the purposes of protecting frames, hives and combs, in particular from pests, only rodenticides used in traps, and appropriate products and substances authorised pursuant to Articles 9 and 24 for use in organic production shall be permitted;
- (b) physical treatments for disinfection of apiaries such as steam or direct flame shall be permitted;
- (c) the practice of destroying the male brood shall only be permitted for the purpose of isolating the infestation of *Varroa destructor*;
- (d) if, despite all preventive measures, the colonies become sick or infested, they shall be treated immediately and, if necessary, may be placed in isolation apiaries;
- (e) 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*;
- (f) if a treatment is applied with chemically synthesised allopathic products, including antibiotics, other than products and substances authorised pursuant to Articles 9 and 24 for use in organic production, for the duration of that treatment, the treated colonies shall be placed in isolation apiaries and all the wax shall be replaced with wax coming from organic beekeeping. Subsequently, the conversion period of 12 months laid down in point 1.2.2 shall apply to those colonies.

1.9.6.4. Animal welfare

With regard to beekeeping, the following additional general rules shall apply:

- (a) the destruction of bees in the combs as a method associated with the harvesting of apiculture products shall be prohibited;
- (b) mutilation such as clipping the wings of queen bees shall be prohibited.

1.9.6.5. Housing and husbandry practices

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

- (a) apiaries shall be placed in areas which ensure the availability of nectar and pollen sources consisting essentially of organically produced crops or, where appropriate, of spontaneous vegetation or non-organically managed forests or crops that are only treated with low environmental impact methods;
- (b) apiaries shall be kept at sufficient distance from sources that may lead to the contamination of apiculture products or to the poor health of the bees;

- (c) 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 or spontaneous vegetation or crops treated with low environmental impact methods equivalent to those provided for in Articles 28 and 30 of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 which cannot affect the qualification of beekeeping production as being organic. That requirement does not apply where flowering is not taking place, or the bee colonies are dormant;
- (d) the hives and materials used in beekeeping shall be made basically of natural materials presenting no risk of contamination to the environment or the apiculture products;
- (e) the beeswax for new foundations shall come from organic production units;
- (f) only natural products such as propolis, wax and plant oils may be used in the hives;
- (g) synthetic chemical repellents shall not be used during honey extraction operations;
- (h) brood combs shall not be used for honey extraction;
- (i) beekeeping shall not be considered as organic when practiced in regions or areas designated by Member States as regions or areas where organic beekeeping is not practicable.

### **Part III: Production rules for algae and aquaculture animals**

- 1. General requirements
  - 1.1. Operations shall be situated in locations that are not subject to contamination with products or substances not authorised for use in organic production, or with pollutants that would compromise the organic nature of the products.
  - 1.2. Organic and non-organic production units shall be adequately separated in accordance with the minimum separation distances set by Member States, where applicable. Such separation measures shall be based on the natural situation, separate water distribution systems, distances, the tidal flow, and the upstream and the downstream location of the organic production unit. Algae and aquaculture production shall not be considered as organic when practiced at locations or in areas designated by Member State authorities as locations or areas which are unsuitable for such activities.
  - 1.3. An environmental assessment that is appropriate to the production unit shall be required for any new operators applying for organic production and producing more than 20 tonnes of aquaculture products per year to ascertain the conditions of the production unit and its immediate environment and likely effects of its operation. The operator shall provide the environmental assessment to the control authority or control body. The content of the environmental assessment shall be based on Annex IV to Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council <sup>(1)</sup>. If the production unit has already been subject to an equivalent assessment, that assessment may be used for this purpose.
  - 1.4. Mangrove destruction shall not be permitted.
  - 1.5. The operator shall provide a sustainable management plan proportionate to the production unit for aquaculture and algae harvesting.
  - 1.6. The plan shall be updated annually and shall detail the environmental effects of the operation and the environmental monitoring to be undertaken, and shall list the measures to be taken to minimise negative impacts on the surrounding aquatic and terrestrial environments, including, where applicable, nutrient discharge into the environment per production cycle or per annum. The plan shall record the surveillance and repair of technical equipment.
  - 1.7. Defensive and preventive measures taken against predators in accordance with Directive 92/43/EEC and national rules shall be recorded in the sustainable management plan.
  - 1.8. Where applicable, coordination shall take place with the neighbouring operators in drawing up the management plan.
  - 1.9. Aquaculture and algae business operators shall draw up as part of the sustainable management plan a waste reduction schedule to be put in place at the commencement of operations. Where possible, the use of residual heat shall be limited to energy from renewable sources.

<sup>(1)</sup> Directive 2011/92/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 December 2011 on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (OJ L 26, 28.1.2012, p. 1).