

Order on the voluntary animal welfare labelling scheme¹

The following is laid down by virtue of Sections 17(1), 20(1), 21(1), 22, 23, 37(1), 50, 51, [59a](#) and 60(3) of the Food Act, cf. Consolidation Act No [9991033](#) of [25 July 2018](#)[2023](#), and by authorisation under Section 7, No 3, of Order No [16141721](#) of [18 December 2018](#)[30 November 2020](#) on the duties and powers of the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration:

Section I

Chapter 1

Scope and definitions

Section 1. The Order lays down regulations on animal welfare, the production and labelling of milk and dairy products, fresh and minced meat, and meat preparations and meat products of the animal species specified in Annexes 1-[43](#), which are marketed under the voluntary animal welfare labelling scheme (the animal welfare label) and lays down regulations on controls in the enterprises, [including herds/flocks](#), that are registered for the animal welfare label.

Section 2. The following definitions apply for the purposes of this Order:

- 1) Stocking density: The total live weight of chickens which are present in a house at the same time per m² useable area, ~~cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.~~
- 2) Herd/flock: ~~Cf. Animals in an enterprise which are of the same species, used for the same purpose and have the same operator, cf.~~ the definition of this in the Order on the registration of herds/flocks in the CHR: [sheep, goats, horses, deer or camels.](#)
- 3) CHR: ~~The Central Husbandry Register, cf. the definition of this in the Order on the registration of herds/flocks in the CHR.~~
- 4) Self-monitoring: A system used by the person responsible for the herd/flock or enterprise to continually ensure compliance with requirements concerning animal welfare and, where relevant, [with respect to](#) segregation and traceability.
- 5) Self-monitoring programme: A written description of self-monitoring of the herd/flock or enterprise and how execution of the self-monitoring is documented.
- 6) Flock: A group of chickens placed in a house and present there together, ~~cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.~~
- 7) Useable area: An area accessible to the chickens at any time, ~~cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.~~
- 8) Free-range eggs: Hen eggs produced in accordance with the requirements for free-range eggs as per the marketing standards for eggs, cf. ~~laid down in Commission Regulation (EC) No 589/2008 of 23 June 2008 laying down detailed rules for implementing Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007 as regards marketing standards for eggs.~~ [Commission Delegated Regulation \(EU\) 2023/2465 of 17 August 2023 supplementing Regulation \(EU\) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards marketing standards for eggs, and repealing Commission Regulation \(EC\) No 589/2008 and Commission Implementing](#)

¹ This Order has been notified as a draft in accordance with Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical regulations and of rules on Information Society services.

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Regulation (EU) 2023/2466 of 17 August 2023 laying down rules for the application of Regulation (EU) No 1308/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards marketing standards for eggs.

- 9) ~~House: A room~~Houses: Rooms or buildings in which broilers are kept, ~~cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.~~
- 10) Calf: A bovine animal up to 6 months old, cf. the definition of this in Council Directive 2008/119/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves.
- 11) Chickens: Animals of the species *Gallus gallus*, from hatching to sexual maturity, ~~cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.~~
- 12) Slow-growing strain: Broilers of which both parents are a slow-growing strain with an average daily gain (ADG), cf. the breeding companies' strain specifications) of at least 25 % less than the ADG of the Ross 308 strain. Where average daily gain is specified as a range, use the average for calculations.
- 13) Monitoring programme for foot pad lesions: The monitoring for foot pad lesions, pursuant to the Order on ~~chicken and egg production, as carried out in poultry slaughterhouses.~~minimum animal welfare requirements for keeping broilers and hatching egg production for the production of broilers and on training in the keeping of broilers.
- 14) Primary producer: A person responsible for a herd/flock with animals kept under the animal welfare label.
- 15) Total mortality: The number of chickens that, at the date of the chickens being removed from a house to be sold or slaughtered, have died since being inserted in the house, including those that have been killed either due to sickness or for other reasons, divided by the total number of chickens that were inserted in the house, multiplied by 100, ~~cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.~~
- 16) Broilers: Chickens kept for the purposes of meat production, ~~cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.~~
- 17) Slaughterhouse: Slaughterhouse or abattoir.
- 18) Slaughter pig: Pigs weighing more than 30 kg and fattened for slaughter, ~~cf. the definition of this in the Order on the tagging, registration and movement of cattle, swine, sheep and goats.~~
- 19) Small breeds: Bovine breeds and cross-breeds which when fully grown have an average weight less than 550 kg.
- 20) Large breeds: Bovine breeds and cross-breeds which when fully grown have an average weight equal to or greater than 550 kg.
- 21) Young animal:
- female animal of six months or more who has not yet calved (heifer), or
 - bull of six months or more during the period when the animal is fattened for the purpose of slaughter or breeding, cf. the definition of this in the Order for the Act on the keeping of dairy cattle and their offspring.
- 22) Organic: Method of production in accordance with ~~Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007~~ (EU) 2018/848 of 28 June 2018 the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing ~~Council Regulation (EEC) (EC) No 2092/91.~~ 834/2007.
- 23) Suckler-aunt: Cows used for lactating calves separated from the mother, cf. the Order on minimum animal welfare requirements for the keeping of bovine animals.

Section II

Chapter 2

Requirements on herds/flocks, including hatcheries

Registration for the animal welfare label, including upon a change of ownership

Section 3. Registration for the animal welfare label can be submitted by either a natural or legal person and shall be ~~sent~~submitted digitally to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration at www.virk.dk. Herds that are not certified as organic shall be audited, cf. Section 10.

(2) If a herd changes owner, the new owner shall ~~send~~submit a new registration, cf. paragraph 1, if the animals and products from the herd are to continue to be given the ~~Animal Welfare Label~~animal welfare label. Herds not certified as organic shall be audited, cf. Section 10, and the audit shall be carried out within 2 months of the change of owner.

(3) Herds that are registered for the animal welfare label, and which cease to be certified as organic, must within 2 months after the organic certification has ceased, have carried out an audit, cf. Section 10, if animals and products from the herd are to continue to be marked with the animal welfare label.

(4) Herds that are excluded from the animal welfare label, cf. Section 24(1), may not earlier than 6 months after the date of exclusion submit a new registration for the animal welfare label, cf. paragraph 1. Herds that are not certified as organic shall be audited, cf. Section 10.

Section 4. The application shall contain the following information:

- 1) The CHR number of the herd/flock, herd/flock number, any organic authorisation number, and the contact details of the herd/flock owner.
- 2) At which level, cf. Annexes 1-~~4~~3, the herd/flock shall be registered in the CHR and whether the whole herd/flock, cf. Section 5, shall be registered for the animal welfare label.
- 3) For pig herds, whether young piglets, piglets, or slaughter pigs, are being produced, and for bovine herds, whether meat or milk is being produced.

Section 5. The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration may upon application give permission for a herd/flock to contain animals of the same species at the same time that are and are not producing under the animal welfare label, if the animals are kept in units that are separate from each other and the segregation is described in the self-monitoring programme. The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration shall lay down the conditions for such in the authorisation.

(2) The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration may also allow for animals at different levels of the animal welfare label to be kept in the same herd/flock. The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration shall lay down the conditions for such in the authorisation.

Assignment of levels for production under the animal welfare label in the CHR

Section 6. The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration shall assign the herd/flock the relevant level of the animal welfare label in the CHR, when the Administration has established that the production is organised and carried out in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

Self-monitoring and self-monitoring programme for hatcheries

Section 7. Hatcheries supplying to primary producers under the animal welfare label ~~are obligated to~~shall ensure segregation and traceability of eggs and chickens of slow-growing strains from other strains. This segregation and traceability shall be included in the self-monitoring programme. As part of the self-monitoring, any deviations and their associated corrective actions shall be documented in writing.

(2) Documentation of the self-monitoring, including segregation and traceability, shall be retained by the hatchery for a year, and the documentation shall be available for the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration at all times.

Self-monitoring and self-monitoring programme for primary producers

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Section 8. Primary producers shall, in addition to the animal welfare requirements laid down in current legislation, fulfil the ~~basic animal welfare supplementary~~ requirements for the relevant level ~~1, and for levels 2 and 3 the additional requirements for~~

- 1) pigs in Annex 1;
- 2) broilers in Annex 2; and
- 3) ~~bovine herds producing meat~~ cattle in Annex ~~3; or~~
- 4) ~~bovine herds producing milk in Annex 4.~~

(2) If the primary producer ~~tail-docks~~ pigs' tails or keeps pigs with docked tails, the primary producer shall notify this in advance and in writing to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, and state the length of time that the primary producer intends such to continue.

Section 9. Primary producers who wish to have their herd/flock under the animal welfare label shall, in addition to meeting the requirements in Section 8, establish a self-monitoring programme and perform self-monitoring. As part of the self-monitoring, any deviations, in relation to the animal welfare label, and their associated corrective actions, shall be documented in writing. If a herd/flock includes animals not produced under the animal welfare label, cf. Section 5(1), or includes animals at different levels of the animal welfare label, cf. Section 5(2), such shall be stated in the self-monitoring. ~~For bovine herds producing meat or milk, the action plan for mortality in the herd, cf. the basic requirements in Annex 3 or 4, shall be stated in the self-monitoring programme.~~

(2) The primary producer is obligated to register under the animal welfare label all animals that have lived their entire lives under the animal welfare label, without prejudice to in Section 13(1) ~~or~~ and (2) ~~or~~ and Section 14.

Chapter 3

Certification, auditing, and controls of herds/flocks

Certification and auditing of conventional herds/flocks

Section 10. The primary producer may only commence delivery under the animal welfare label once an inspection body ~~or the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration~~ has provided certification that the herd/flock meets the relevant requirements in Section 8(1) ~~and the conditions set out in or~~ Section ~~7 or~~ 9 to produce under the animal welfare label, and said certification is registered in the CHR.

(2) Once an inspection body has certified a herd/flock, cf. (1), the inspection body shall report such to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration with indications of the herd/flock owner's name and address, the herd/flock's CHR number, and the level, ~~cf. Section 8,~~ at which the herd/flock is certified, cf. Section 6.

(3) The primary producer is to be audited annually.-

(4) Documentation of the self-monitoring, including segregation and traceability, certification and auditing, shall be retained by the primary producer for a year, and the documentation shall be available for the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration at all times.

(5) Auditing and certification fees shall be borne by primary producers.

Requirements on the inspection body

Section 11. Certification and auditing, cf. Section 10(1) and (3), shall be carried out by a certified inspection body ~~or the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.~~ The certified inspection body shall be accredited by an accreditation body that is a signatory to the EA (European co-operation for Accreditation) multilateral agreement on mutual recognition.

(2) In order to carry out certification and auditing, it is also a condition that the inspection body ~~or the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration~~ carries out at least 20 % of the animal welfare label audits unannounced.

(3) The first time an inspection body reports certification of a herd/flock, cf. Section 10(2), the inspection body shall also submit documentation that it is certified in accordance with (1) and undertake to carry out unannounced audits, cf. (2).

(4) If the inspection body observes conditions which suggest that there has been a violation of the animal welfare label requirements, the inspection body shall without undue delay inform the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration thereof, unless it concerns a minor violation that the primary producer in question rectifies immediately.

Controls of herds/flocks as certified organic

Section 12.

Certified organic herds that have been registered for the animal welfare label do not need to be audited and certified in accordance with Section 10, as controls of the requirements with regard to the Order are undertaken by the Danish Agricultural Agency in connection with the organic controls.

(2) Certified organic pig herds and broiler flocks are considered to be in compliance with the requirements to produce at level 3 under the animal welfare label. ~~Certified organic bovine herds are considered to be in compliance with level 2 under the animal welfare label, or level 3 if the requirements for level 3 are fulfilled.~~

(3) Primary producers of certified organic herds are only considered to be in compliance with the requirements to produce under the animal welfare label as long as the herd is certified as organic.

~~(2) When registering for the animal welfare label, the primary producer also agrees to comply with the requirements relating to transport time, cf. Annexes 1–4, respectively. Certified organic bovine herds must also comply with the requirement not to use tethering, cf. Annex 3 or 4.~~

~~(2) Certified organic herds that have been registered for the animal welfare label do not need to be audited and certified in accordance with Section 7, as controls of the requirements with regard to the Order are undertaken by the Danish Agricultural Agency in connection with the organic controls.~~

Chapter 4

Time of delivery under the animal welfare label for bovine herds

Conventional bovine herds

Section 13. Conventional bovine herds producing meat or milk may commence delivery to producers, slaughterhouses, or dairies, respectively, when all ~~of the following~~ criteria relevant to the herd are met:

1) It is registered in the CHR to which level in the animal welfare label the herd may deliver, cf. Section 6.

2) The herd meets the requirements and conditions referred to in Section 8(1) ~~and Annexes 1-3.~~

3) The herd

a) has been in recent years and remains subject to a monitoring system ~~whose, the content of which~~ is at least comparable to the relevant animal welfare label level to which the herd is to be registered and ~~that the monitoring system is monitored~~ which is controlled by a certified inspection body meeting the requirements in Section 11(1)(2), or

b) is audited, cf. Section 10), and the animal to be delivered has lived aits lifetime or at least 1 year under the animal welfare ~~labelling scheme~~ label, without prejudice to ~~in~~ (2).

(2) ~~For conventional~~Conventional bovine herds which are producing milk and which are not subject to a monitoring system, cf. paragraph 1(~~3a), the herd~~3)(a), may start delivery to the dairy when paragraph 1(1) and (2) are fulfilled and the herd has been audited, cf. ~~§Section 10-, and when the animals from which the milk is delivered have lived under the animal welfare label for at least 3 months before the milk is delivered.~~

Certified organic bovine herds

Section 14. Certified organic herds which fulfil the requirements and conditions specified in Sections 8(1) and 9 may, after registration of the animal welfare label level in CHR, cf. Section 6, commence delivery to the primary producer, slaughterhouse, or dairy, ~~without prejudice to in~~cf. (2).

(2) When the animal fulfils the rules for organic production, cf. the Order on organic agricultural production, etc., the animal may be sold to a primary producer, slaughterhouse, or dairy under the animal welfare label.

Chapter 5

Requirements on and controls of slaughterhouses

Section 15. Slaughterhouses that intend to slaughter animals or market meat under the animal welfare label must report this activity for registration with the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration in advance of doing so, cf. Section 16(1) of the Order on the authorisation and registration of food businesses, etc.

(2) Slaughterhouses registered to slaughter animals or to market meat under the animal welfare label shall, as part of their self-monitoring, have written procedures ensuring that all of the following criteria are met:

1) There is segregation and traceability of animals and meat, respectively, covered by the animal welfare label.

2) The transport time to slaughter for pigs ~~or bovines~~and cattle of no more than eight hours, ~~or~~and for broilers of no more than six hours, is complied with.

3) In the case of pig slaughterhouses, that they market only meat, under the animal welfare label, of pigs which are not tail docked ~~or from pigs without~~and do not have tail bites.

4) In the case of poultry slaughterhouses, that they place on the market only meat under the animal welfare label

a) from flocks that meet the mortality ~~requirement~~requirements in the flock;

b) from broilers of a slow-growing strain;

c) from broilers where the stocking density is complied with; and

d) from broilers where the score in the monitoring programme for foot pad lesions is within the limit.

(3) Documentation of the self-monitoring, including segregation and traceability, shall be retained by the slaughterhouse for a year, and the documentation shall be available for the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration at all times.

(4) If a slaughterhouse becomes aware of conditions which suggest non-compliance with the regulations for the animal welfare label, the slaughterhouse shall without undue delay inform the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration thereof.

Section 16. ~~For~~When monitoring the compliance of slaughterhouses ~~for compliance~~ with the conditions of the animal welfare label, the regulations for ~~the fee-financed~~ controlscontrol apply, cf. the Order on payment for controls of food, feed and live animals, etc.

Chapter 6

Requirements on and controls of other enterprises, including dairies

Section 17. Wholesalers not covered by Chapter 5 and retailers who intend to cut or chop fresh meat, produce meat preparations or meat ~~or~~ products, or dairies who intend to produce dairy products or package these types of products, and who wish to label the products as covered by the animal welfare label, must report this activity to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration in advance of doing so, cf. Section ~~4516~~(2) of the Order on the authorisation and registration of food businesses, etc.

(2) Enterprises shall, as part of self-monitoring, have written procedures which ensure separation from products not included under the animal welfare label, and traceability for fresh meat, chopped meat, meat preparations or meat products or for dairy products covered by the animal welfare label.

(3) Enterprises shall retain documentation of segregation and traceability for one year.

(4) If an enterprise becomes aware of conditions which suggest non-compliance with the regulations for the animal welfare label, the enterprise shall without undue delay inform the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration thereof.

Section 18. ~~For~~ When monitoring ~~of that~~ enterprises covered by Section 17(1) ~~for compliance~~ comply with the conditions of the animal welfare label, the regulations for ~~the~~ fee-financed controls apply, cf. the Order on payment for controls of food, feed and live animals, etc.

Chapter 7

Requirements on animals and products from other countries

Section 19. Before marketing under the animal welfare label any hatching eggs, live animals, fresh meat, chopped meat or meat preparations or dairy products, meat products containing meat from other countries or dairy products containing milk from other countries, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration must approve the marketing of the animals or products under the animal welfare label.

(2) The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration approves that the animals or products are marketed under the animal welfare label, when the enterprise responsible for the entry into Denmark has, where appropriate, documented that:

1) the primary producer meets ~~the~~ requirements which are at least comparable to the requirements specified in Section 7 or Sections 8 and 9,

2) certified organic primary producers meet ~~the~~ requirements which are at least comparable to the requirements specified in ~~§~~Section 12,

3) slaughterhouses meet ~~the~~ requirements which are at least comparable to the requirements specified in ~~§~~Section 15(2), or that dairies meet ~~the~~ requirements which are at least comparable to the requirements specified in ~~§~~Section 17(2) and

4) the country of origin has controls on the primary ~~production or producers~~, hatcheries, slaughterhouses, dairies and other involved undertakings which in terms of scope, credibility and independence; are comparable to the requirements of ~~§~~Sections 10, ~~§~~12, ~~§~~15 or ~~§~~17.

(3) Where the controls referred to in (2)(4) are performed by authorities in the country of origin, there is compliance with conditions laid down in the provision with regard to completed controls.

Section 20. Enterprises, including slaughterhouses and dairies, that intend to import ~~the~~ animals and products pursuant to Section 19 shall be registered with the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration

according to Section 15 or Section 17 and, as part of self-monitoring, ensure continuous compliance with the conditions, cf. Section 19(2), on an ongoing basis.

(2) If enterprises, including slaughterhouses and dairies, are made aware of conditions which suggest that the conditions for an approval under Section 19 are not met, said enterprise shall without undue delay inform the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration thereof.

Chapter 8

Labelling and marketing

Section 21. Herds/flocks, including hatcheries, registered for the animal welfare label, and enterprises, including slaughterhouses and dairies registered ~~to use as users of~~ the animal welfare label, may use the relevant logo for the individual level when labelling and marketing, cf. Annex 5. The relevant logo and associated designations and indications may only be used under the terms and conditions stipulated by the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, cf. ~~(5)-~~Section 22.

(2) Fresh meat, chopped meat, meat preparations, meat products and dairy products may be labelled with the logo relevant for the individual level when all the animal contents of the product meet the requirements for that level, thus if dairy products or meat from different levels of the animal welfare label are included, cf. Annexes 1-43, it may only be labelled with the relevant lowest level of the animal welfare label.

(3) Fresh meat, chopped meat, meat preparations, meat products and dairy products may be labelled with the logo relevant for each level when all the animal content of the product meets the requirements for that level. However, casings, gelatine and collagen of other origins may be used, as may fish and free-range eggs.

(4) Fresh meat, chopped meat, meat preparations, meat products, ready meals, etc. and dairy products may in addition to the cases referred to in (2) be labelled with the relevant logo when the weight content of the meat or dairy product bearing the animal welfare label accounts for at least 75 % of the finished product's total content that is of animal origin and the other ingredients of animal origin meet organic requirements. However, non-organic casings, gelatine and collagen of other origins as well as non-organic fish or free-range eggs may be used.

Section 22. Terms and conditions for use of the logo with the associated designations and indications will be available on the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration's website. This material can also be sent upon written request to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. The graphical design of the Animal Welfare Label that may be used is shown in Annex 5 with the associated design manual, which is found on the home page of the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.

(2) Use of the animal welfare label and associated designations and indications on products etc. is not permitted on products, etc. that do not meet the requirements set out in this Order.

(3) Logos, symbols, other labelling, designations and indications which may be mistaken for the logos and associated designations and indications mentioned in (1) may not be used in a manner that is liable to mislead consumers or other enterprises.

(4) The animal welfare label may also be used in connection with information on and education in animal welfare.

Chapter 9

~~Change of ownership of herd/flock, cessation~~ Cessation of participation in and exclusion from the animal welfare label

~~—Section 23. If a herd/flock changes owner, the new owner shall send a new registration, cf. Chapter 2, if the animals are to continue to be given the animal welfare label.~~

~~—Section 24.~~

~~Section 23.~~ Primary producers and enterprises, including slaughterhouses and dairies, that no longer wish to be registered for the animal welfare label shall provide written notification to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration to that effect.

~~(2) They (2) Producers and enterprises, including slaughterhouses and dairies,~~ shall also state the date from which they will no longer be producing or delivering under the animal welfare label and shall describe in the self-monitoring programme how during any transitional period they will ensure the segregation of animals under the animal welfare label from other animals. ~~The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration can lay down further conditions for this.~~

(3) Primary producers shall inform their recipients of the date from which ~~they~~the primary producer no longer ~~produce~~produces or ~~deliver~~delivers under the animal welfare label.

Section 2524. The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration can exclude primary producers from producing under the animal welfare label if:

- 1) they do not comply with the relevant requirements or conditions for the producer concerned, cf. Section ~~3(2), Section) and (3), Sections~~ 5, 7–10, 12, 13, or 14;
- 2) they label or market in violation of Section 21 ~~of the animal welfare label;~~
- 3) the score in the monitoring programme for foot pad lesions in a flock is 81 or more or, in three successive flocks from the same house is 41–80 per flock; or
- 4) ~~if they are registered for the animal welfare label as an organic approved herd/flock, cf. Section 12(1), and the herd/flock is no longer organic approved.~~

(2) The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration can exclude ~~enterprises~~an enterprise, including slaughterhouses and dairies, ~~which from the animal welfare label if the enterprises~~ do not comply with Sections 15, 17, or 20 or label or market ~~contrary to in violation of~~ Section 21 ~~of the animal welfare label.~~

(3) The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration may revoke an approval which was granted pursuant to Section 19 under the animal welfare label if the conditions for the approval, cf. ~~§~~Section 19(2), are not met.

Chapter 10

Additional controls ~~and penalties~~

Section 2625. If the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration performs controls in response to a report; ~~in accordance with on conditions covered by~~ Section 25(1)(3), or a report of possible violation of requirements or conditions of Sections 11(4), 15(4), 17(4), or 20(2)) and violation is confirmed, the primary producer or enterprise responsible for the violation shall pay for the controls in accordance with the rules in force at that time concerning payment for additional controls set out in the Order on payment for controls of food, feed and live animals, etc.

~~(2) The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration will assess, on the basis of reports received from the official veterinarian, cf. Section 15(4), whether there is a need to perform a control visit to the herd/flock or if attempts can be made to improve the conditions by contacting the primary producer in writing. Any such contact may contain an order to either rectify the conditions or prepare a detailed description of measures necessary to improve the conditions demonstrated. As a minimum, the report contains a description of focus areas and a proposed timetable for implementation of the measures necessary. In such cases, the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration shall assess on an ongoing basis whether the need arises to perform a control visit to the holding.~~

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~~Section 27. Unless higher penalties are stipulated under other legislation, penalties _~~

Chapter 11

Penal provisions

Section 26. Penalties by fine will be imposed on those who violate Section 22(1) or(2).

(2) Entities, etc. (legal persons) may be rendered criminally liable in accordance with the provisions in Chapter 5 of the Penal Code [Straffeloven].

Chapter ~~11~~12

~~Transitional rules and entry~~Entry into force and transitional provisions

Section 2827. This Order shall enter into force on 1 ~~January 2020~~July 2024.

(2) The provisions of Annex 3, points 5 to 8, concerning limit values for mortality in the herd shall not apply until 1 July 2026.

(3) Order No 1441 of 4 December ~~2019~~220 of ~~23 October 2018~~2019 on the voluntary animal welfare labelling scheme is repealed.

~~(3) The Order also applies to primary producers, slaughterhouses and other enterprises which as of 31 December 2019 were producing or delivering under the animal welfare label, cf. Order No 1220 of 23 October 2018 on the voluntary animal welfare labelling scheme, Order No 1369 of 1 December 2017 on the voluntary animal welfare labelling scheme, or Order No 225 of 6 March 2017 on the voluntary animal welfare labelling scheme for pigmeat.~~

Annex 1

The animal welfare label's requirements for pig herds

Basic requirements for pig herds covered by level 1

Allocation of rooting and enrichment material

1) All pigs shall be allocated straw as rooting and enrichment material. The straw shall be allocated daily and be present permanently in sufficient amounts.

Tail docking and tail biting

2) The tail docking of young piglets is not permitted.

3) In the event of a tail biting outbreak, tail docking may be performed on individual pigs if deemed necessary for veterinary reasons.

4) Irrespective of No 3 or Section 8(2), pigs who have had their tails docked or bitten may not be delivered tefor slaughter under the animal welfare label. Prior to delivery of tail-docked pigs tefor slaughter, the herd owner shall inform the slaughterhouse thereof.

Sows and gilts

5) Sows shall be untethered in groups from weaning and until at least seven days before expected farrowing. The same applies for gilts from placement in the shed or shed section as regards service.

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6) Irrespective of the provision of No 5, individual pigs that are aggressive, have been attacked by other pigs, or are sick or injured may be housed in individual pens or in relief pens. In these cases, ~~the rules laid down in Section 7~~ provisions of the ~~Act~~ Order on ~~indoor~~ minimum animal welfare requirements for the keeping of ~~gilts, dry sows, and pregnant sows~~ pigs shall apply.

7) Sows and gilts shall be untethered in the farrowing house.

8) For level 1 and irrespective of the provision in No 7, the freedom of movement of a sow or gilt may be restricted with the use of a farrowing rail in the period from farrowing until no more than four days after farrowing if the sow or gilt behaviour is deemed potentially dangerous to the young piglets.

9) Sows and gilts shall be allocated a sufficient amount of nesting material in the form of straw at least five days before expected farrowing.

Space requirements for piglets and slaughter pigs

10) Piglets and slaughter pigs shall be allocated a larger freely accessible floor space than that which is stipulated under Section 434 of the Order on the ~~protection~~ minimum animal welfare requirements for the keeping of pigs. The scale depends on the individual herd's specific production organisation, including the requirement that does not permit tail docking.

Transport to slaughter

11) The transport time to slaughter must be a maximum of eight hours.

Supplementary requirements for pig herds covered by level 2

Allocation of rooting and enrichment material

1) Rooting and enrichment material in the form of straw shall be provided on the floor. The straw shall be allocated daily and be present permanently in sufficient amounts.

Sows and gilts

2) Irrespective of the provision in No 7 above, the freedom of movement of a sow or gilt may be restricted with the use of a farrowing rail in the period from farrowing until no more than two days after farrowing if the sow or gilt's behaviour is deemed potentially dangerous to the young piglets.

Weaning

3) Young piglets may not be weaned at less than 28 days of age, unless the health or welfare of the sow or young piglets would otherwise be adversely affected.

Space requirements for piglets and slaughter pigs

4) Piglets and slaughter pigs shall be allocated a freely accessible floor space which is at least 30 % larger than in standard production, cf. Table 1.

Table 1.

Average pig weight	Freely accessible pen area in m ² per
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	animal (minimum)
From weaning to 10 kg	0.20
10-20 kg	0.26
20-30 kg	0.39
30-50 kg	0.52
50-85 kg	0.72
85-110 kg	0.85
Over 110 kg	1.30

Supplementary requirements for pig herds covered by level 3

Littered resting area

1) All pigs shall be allocated straw as litter in the resting area. The straw shall be allocated daily and be present permanently in sufficient amounts. The straw can also function as rooting and enrichment material.

Sows and gilts

2) Sows and gilts shall be untethered in groups, cf. basic requirements Nos 5 and 7 above. The untethered groups can be kept either outdoors with access to huts or in loose housing.

3) Within five days prior to expected farrowing, sows and gilts shall be placed in outdoor huts. The sows shall remain outdoors at least until the **young** piglets are weaned.

Piglets and slaughter pigs

4) Piglets and slaughter pigs may be housed outdoors with access to huts or indoors in pens with littered resting areas and free access to an outdoor area. In the case of housing indoors, the pigs shall, as a minimum, have access to a freely accessible total area, resting area and outdoor area, cf. Table 2.

Table 2.

The average Average pig weight of the pigs	Total area per pig in m ² (minimum)	Resting area per pig in m ² (minimum)	Outdoor area per pig in m ² (minimum)
From weaning to 25 kg	0.40	0.18	0.17
25-35 kg	0.52	0.24	0.22
35-45 kg	0.60	0.28	0.25
45-55 kg	0.72	0.33	0.30
55-65 kg	0.82	0.38	0.34
65-75 kg	0.90	0.41	0.38

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75-85 kg	1.00	0.46	0.42
85-95 kg	1.10	0.50	0.46
95-110 kg	1.20	0.55	0.50
Over 110 kg	1.30	0.60	0.54

- During the period from weaning to 25 kg, the littered resting area may be adapted to the size of the pigs in order to create an ideal environment for the pigs, subject to a minimum of 0.18 m² per pig at 25 kg.

- The outdoor area must be at least 10 m² for pigs up to 40 kg. For other pigs, the outdoor area must be at least 20 m².

Annex 2

The animal welfare label's requirements for broiler flocks

Basic requirements for broiler flocks covered by level 1

Breed

1) All broilers shall be of a slow-growing strain.

Stocking density

2) The average stocking density over three consecutive flocks shall not exceed 38 kg live weight per m² useable area. The stocking density in the individual holding must at no time exceed 39 kg live weight per m² useable area.

Mortality

3) The total mortality ~~has~~ shall have been less than 1 %, with an addition of 0.06 % multiplied by the flock's age at slaughter in days, in the past seven consecutively inspected flocks from the ~~house where maximum stocking density, as per No 2, is desired~~ relevant house.

Partial slaughter

4) It is not permissible to perform partial slaughter, if the purpose of the partial slaughter is to avoid exceeding the maximum permissible stocking density.

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Foot pad lesions

5) The score in a monitoring programme for foot pad lesions in a flock may at most and on no more than two occasions be 41-80, but not 81 or higher, cf. Section 25(1)(3).

Transport to slaughter

6) The transport time to slaughter shall not exceed six hours (excluding capture, loading and unloading).

Supplementary requirements for broiler flocks covered by level 2

Environmental enrichment

1) The broilers shall have roughage or other forms of environmental enrichment. The environmental enrichment shall be permanently accessible to the necessary extent.

Stocking density

2a) In the case of pure indoor production, the average stocking density over three consecutive flocks shall not exceed 32 kg live weight per m² useable area. The stocking density in the individual holding must at no time exceed 33 kg live weight per m² useable area.

2b) In the case of production systems where the broilers have access to a veranda or outdoor area, cf. No 4, the average stocking density indoors for three successive flocks must not exceed 38 kg live weight per m² at any time. The stocking density in the individual holding must at no time exceed 39 kg live weight per m² useable area.

The veranda is not included in the indoor area.

Mortality

~~3) The total mortality has been less than 1 %, with an addition of 0.06 % multiplied by the flock's age at slaughter in days, in the past seven consecutively inspected flocks from the house where maximum stocking density, in accordance with No 2(a) or 2(b) respectively, is desired.~~

Verandas and outdoor areas

4) Where there is access to a veranda or outdoor area, cf. No 2(b), these shall constitute at least 15 % of the indoor area. During the last 10–12 days of production, there shall be permanent access to the veranda or outdoor area during daylight hours. It is however permitted to allow chickens to be indoors without access to a veranda or outdoor area if the weather could be harmful for the health or welfare of the animals or in the event of an infectious livestock disease breaking out or in the event of suspicion of such, if the authorities request the birds be shut in.

Indoor climate

5) The indoor climate must comply with the requirement applicable to the production of broilers above 33 kg live weight per m² useable area, cf. [the Act on keeping broilers](#) [the Order on the minimum animal welfare requirements for keeping broilers, hatching egg production for the production of broilers and on training in the keeping broilers.](#)

Supplementary requirements for broiler flocks covered by level 3

Environmental enrichment

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1) The broilers shall have roughage and other forms of environmental enrichment. Roughage and other forms of environmental enrichment shall be permanently accessible to the necessary extent.

Stocking density

2) The average stocking density over three consecutive flocks shall not exceed 27.5 kg live weight per m² useable area. The stocking density in the individual holding must at no time exceed 28.5 kg live weight per m² useable area.

Mortality

~~3) The total mortality has been less than 1 %, with an addition of 0.06 % multiplied by the flock's age at slaughter in days, in the past seven consecutively inspected flocks from the house where maximum stocking density, as per No 2, is desired.~~

Outdoor area

4) Outdoor areas shall be a minimum of 1 m² per broiler. A minimum of 25 % of the minimum area requirement for outdoor areas shall be covered in vegetation, of which a minimum of 18 percentage points shall be planted with bushes and/or trees and a minimum of 7 percentage points with ground cover. There must be a maximum distance of 15 m from the house to the first bushes and/or trees. There must be a maximum of 15 m between bushes and/or trees in the planted section of the area. As a minimum, the vegetation requirement shall be met in the section of the outdoor area closest to the pop-holes.

Annex 3

Requirements of the animal welfare label for bovine herds

Basic requirements for bovine herds covered by level 1

Killing of calves

1) Calves shall not be killed except for disease or animal welfare problems.

Roughage

2) **BovinesCattle** older than two weeks shall have access to roughage of good quality for at least 20 hours a day. Litter is not considered to be roughage.

Pain relief

3) For relevant illnesses requiring treatment, pain relief shall be used. For dehorning, longer-lasting pain relief shall be used.

Action plan on mortality in the herd

4) The herd owner shall prepare in writing and follow an action plan to ensure low mortality in the herd. The herd owner shall update the action plan twice a year. The action plan shall form part of the self-monitoring programme.

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ii.—

For this purpose, at least the following shall be registered:

i. Length of life of the cows. ii. Reasons for culling of the cows

Limit values for mortality in the herd

(The provisions of points 5 to 8 shall apply only from 1 July 2026)

5) When registering for the animal welfare label, the average mortality in the herd must have been no more than 8.0 per cent for cows and 10.0 per cent for calves over the last 24 months up to the time of registration.

6) In order for the herd to maintain permission to produce under the animal welfare label, there must at any time on average over the past 24 months have been at most a mortality in the herd of 8.0 per cent for cows and 10.0 per cent for calves.

7) The mortality rate shall be calculated from records in the CHR as an average over the last 24 months, in accordance with the principles set out in Annex 4.

8) Dairy herds that produce calves under the animal welfare label, but which do not otherwise produce under the label, are exempt from the requirement of limit values for mortality in the herd.

Transport to slaughter

9) The transport time to slaughter must be a maximum of eight hours.

Milk feeding

10) For the first eight weeks of the calf's life, milk or milk substitute shall be provided at least twice a day in an amount corresponding to its physiological requirements. Weaning ~~of~~off milk feeding during the last week of the milk feeding period is permitted.

Housing

11) ~~Calves~~Cattle may not be tethered. However, they may be tethered for periods not exceeding 1 hour at the time when they are fed or if it is necessary for a short period to tether the animals during examinations, treatment of sickness, preventive treatment, etc. or in connection with milking.

12) It is not permitted to house cattle on fully slatted floors.

13) The lying area shall be dry, comfortable and clean.

14) Calves shall not be housed in an individual pen until the age of seven days.

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15) Calves and young animals housed in cubicle sheds must have at least one cubicle per animal.

16) Calves and young animals shall be housed in groups of two or more animals which are uniform in age and weight, unless they are kept together with their mother or a suckler-aunt. Calves and young animals which, due to disease or poor condition, no longer have age-appropriate body weight, must be housed so that their needs are met in the best possible way.

Space requirements

17) In the case of group housing in group penning with straw throughout the pen, the unobstructed floor area per animal shall be at least:

- a) 1.8 m² for animals between 60 and 100 kg live weight
- b) 2.2 m² for animals between 100 and 150 kg live weight
- c) 2.6 m² for animals between 150 and 200 kg live weight
- d) 3.2 m² for animals between 200 and 300 kg live weight
- e) 3.8 m² for animals between 300 and 400 kg live weight
- f) 4.4 m² for animals between 400 and 500 kg live weight;
- g) 5.0 m² for animals exceeding 500 kg live weight but not less than 1.0 m² per 100 kg for animals above 540 kg live weight.

18) In the case of group housing in group penning with straw-free feeding area, the unobstructed floor area per animal shall be at least:

- a) 2.7 m² for animals between 150 and 200 kg live weight
- b) 3.4 m² for animals between 200 and 300 kg live weight
- c) 4.2 m² for animals between 300 and 400 kg live weight
- d) 4.8 m² for animals between 400 and 500 kg live weight
- e) 5.4 m² for animals exceeding 500 kg live weight but not less than 1.0 m² per 100 kg for animals above 540 kg live weight.

Additional requirements for bovine herds covered by level 2

Milk feeding

1) For the first ten weeks of the calf's life, milk or milk substitute shall be provided at least twice a day in an amount corresponding to its physiological requirements. Weaning ~~of~~ milk feeding during the last ~~part~~ week of the milk feeding period is permitted.

Housing

- 2) The lying area shall be dry, comfortable, clean and have litter.
- 3) Calves less than four months old must be accommodated on well-littered resting areas.
- 4) Calves under four months of age must not be accommodated in cubicles.

Space requirements

5) In the case of group housing (three or more animals together) in group penning, the unobstructed floor area per animal shall be at least:

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- a) 2.4 m² for animals between 100 and 150 kg live weight
- b) 2.8 m² for animals between 150 and 200 kg live weight
- c) 3.4 m² for animals between 200 and 300 kg live weight
- d) 4.2 m² for animals between 300 and 400 kg live weight
- e) 4.8 m² for animals between 400 and 500 kg live weight;
- f) 5.4 m² for animals exceeding 500 kg live weight but not less than 1.0 m² per 100 kg for animals above 540 kg live weight.

6) The total area of the space in which the cows are kept in the stall between milking shall be at least 6.0 m² per dairy cow.

Access to outdoors and pasture

7) Calves over four months of age which are not reared for slaughter and which are not registered as slaughter calves in the Central Husbandry Register (CHR) shall, if the physiological constitution of the calves and weather conditions permit, have access to outdoor areas during the period from 1 May to 1 September.

8) Heifers over six months of age that have not calved and are not reared for slaughter and which are not registered as heifers for slaughter in the Central Husbandry Register (CHR) shall have access to outdoor areas during the period from 1 May to 1 November (summer period). Individual animals can however be kept in stalls for a short period in connection with insemination, servicing, drying off, delivery to slaughter or ~~to keep~~if the animal under observation is to be examined or treated for veterinary reasons.

9) Cows must have access to pasture for a minimum of 150 days from 1 April to 1 November (summer period). Individual animals can however be kept in stalls for a short period in connection with insemination, servicing, drying off, delivery to slaughter or ~~to keep~~if the animal under observation is to be examined or treated for veterinary reasons.

Additional requirements for bovine herds covered by level 3

Cow-calf time after calving

1) The cow and calf shall be together for the first 24 hours after calving.

Milk feeding

2) For the first 12 weeks of the calf's life, milk or milk substitute shall be provided at least twice a day in an amount corresponding to its physiological requirements. The milk allocation shall be made via calf self-feeder or udder. Weaning off milk feeding during the last week of the milk feeding period is permitted.

Space requirements

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3) Total area of the space where the cows are in the stall between milking shall be at least 6.6 m² per dairy cow for small breeds and 8.0 m² for large breeds. However, 2.0 m² of the area can be constituted by outside areas available for exercise.

4) In the case of group housing (three or more animals together), the unobstructed floor area per animal shall be at least:

a) 2.5 m² for animals between 100 and 150 kg live weight

b) 3.0 m² for animals between 150 and 200 kg live weight

c) 4.0 m² for animals between 200 and 300 kg live weight

d) 4.2 m² for animals between 300 and 350 kg live weight

e) 5.0 m² for animals between 350 and 500 kg live weight.

Access to outdoors and pasture

5) Subject to the following exceptions, cattle over four months of age shall have access to pasture during the period from 1 May to 1 November (summer season):

a) Individual animals can be kept in stalls for a short period in connection with servicing, drying off, delivery to slaughter or if the animal is to be examined or treated for veterinary reasons.

b) Calves over 4 months shall, if the physiological condition of the calves and the weather permit, have access to pasture in the period from 1 May to 1 September.

c) Bulls over 12 months of age, if they have access to an outdoor area (e.g. open-air run) throughout the year.

Principles for calculating mortality in bovine herds

1. Mortality for cows is calculated as the sum of the number of dead cows over the last 12 months divided by the sum of the number of animals per day in a herd during the last 12 months, i.e. according to the following formula:

$$\text{Mortality} = (\text{number of deaths per year} / \text{number of animal days per year}) * 365 * 100$$

2. Mortality for calves shall be calculated according to the following formula:

$$D\ddot{o}delighed_{1-180} = 100 * (1 - \prod_{i=1}^{180} (1 - \frac{D_i}{F_{1,2,4,9} + I_{1,2}[\lt 180] - D^{i-1} - C_{7,16,17}^{i-1} - F_9[i > 1]}))$$

	Mortality
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Where:

Di: Number of deaths on day i.

F1,2,4,9: Number of live births in a 180-day period.

I1,2[1]: The number of calves killed as infants is first subtracted from day i=2.

Di-1: The sum of deaths up to and including day i-1.

Ci-17,16,17: The sum of calves removed from the herd up to and including day i-1.

F9[i>1]: The number of calves killed as infants is first subtracted from day i=2.

I: The multiplier pi indicates the multiplication of products from 1 to 180.

Dead calves are compared to live calves in the herd. Live calves are calculated as two components: Live births in the herd as well as calves which are inserted into the herd within 180 live days, minus calves which have died, killed as infants, or taken out of the herd before 180 days of life. To ensure full knowledge of the fate of all calves up to 180 days of age, mortality is calculated only 180 days after the last day of the calculation period. The survival rate is obtained by multiplying the 180 fractions for each herd for each calculation period. The mortality rate is obtained by subtracting the survival rate from 1.

The number of live births is counted using birth status codes 1, 2, 4 and 9 = live births in the herd.

Censored calves, i.e. calves that have been removed from the herd, are counted via codes 7 = slaughtered, 16 = production and 17 = export.

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Annex 5

'Better Animal Welfare' Logos

Logos for the three levels of the animal welfare label

Level 1:



Level 2:



Level 3:

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Bedre Dyrevelfærd

Better Animal Welfare