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**Order on the voluntary animal welfare labelling scheme[[1]](#footnote-2))**

Pursuant to § 17(1), § 20(1), § 21(1), § 22, § 23, § 37(1), § 50, § 51, and § 60(3) of the Foodstuffs Act (see Consolidation Act No 999 of 2 July 2018), the following is hereby laid down by authorisation under § 7(3) of Order No 1614 of 18 December 2018 on the duties and powers of the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration:

**Section I**

Chapter 1

*Scope and definitions*

**§ 1.** The Order lays down regulations for the welfare of animals, the production and labelling of milk and dairy products, fresh and chopped meat and processed meat and meat products from animal species listed in Annexes 1-4, which are marketed under the voluntary animal welfare labelling scheme (the Animal Welfare Label) and lays down regulations for monitoring the herds and businesses registered with the Animal Welfare Label.

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

1) Stocking density: The total live weight per m2 of open space for the chickens present together in a building, cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.

2) Herd: A collection of animals of the same species, used for a specific purpose, linked to a specific geographic location, and with one owner in the form of a legal or natural person, cf. the definition of this in the Order on the Registration of herds in CHR.

3) CHR: The Central Husbandry Register, cf. the definition of this in the order on registration of herds in the CHR [Centrale Husdyrbrugs Register].

4) Self-monitoring: A system in which the person responsible for the herd or business uses to monitor on an ongoing basis that the requirements are fulfilled with respect to animal welfare, where relevant, and segregation and traceability.

5) Self-monitoring programme: A written description of self-monitoring of the herd or business and how the self-monitoring is documented.

6) Flock: A group of chickens placed in a house and present in this house together, cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.

7) Useable area: A space to which the chickens have permanent access, cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.

8) Free-range eggs: Eggs laid by hens produced in accordance with the requirements for free-range eggs in accordance with the trading standards for eggs, cf. 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.

9) House: A room or buildings in which broilers are kept, cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.

10) Calf: A creature of up to 6 months, cf. the definition of this in Council Directive No 2008/119/EC of 18 December 2008 laying down minimum standards for the protection of calves.

11) Chickens: Animals of the species *Gallus*, from hatching to sexual maturity, cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.

12) Slower growing breed: Broilers where both parents are from a slow growing breed, where the average daily growth (Average Daily Gain), cf. the breeding societies’ specifications of the breed, is a minimum of 25 % less than the Average Daily Gain for the breed, Ross 308. Where Average Daily Gain is specified as an interval, the average is used in the calculations.

13) The monitoring programme for foot pad lesions: The monitoring of foot pad lesions pursuant to the Order on keeping broilers and production of hatching eggs that is carried out by slaughterhouses.

14) Primary producer: A person responsible for a herd who is keeping animals using 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) Broiler chickens: Chickens kept for the purposes of meat production, cf. the definition of this in the Act on keeping broilers.

17) Slaughterhouse: Slaughterhouse or slaughter establishment.

18) Pigs for slaughter: 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 breed crosses which when fully grown have an average weight less than 550 kg.

20) Large breeds: Bovine breeds and breed crosses which when fully grown have an average weight equal to or greater than 550 kg.

21) Young animal:

a) sows of six months or more who have not yet calved (heifer) or

b) bulls of six months or over in the period when the animal is fattened for slaughter or breeding, cf. the definition in the Order on the Act for keeping dairy bovines and their offspring.

22) Organic: Method of production in accordance with Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91.

**Section II**

Chapter 2

*Requirements for herd, including hatcheries*

*Registration for the Animal Welfare Label*

**§ 3.** Registration for the Animal Welfare Label can be made by either a physical or a legal person and should be sent to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.

*Paragraph 2.* If a herd changes owner, the new owner shall send a new registration, cf. paragraph 1, if the animals and products from the herd are to continue to be given the Animal Welfare Label. Herds not certified as organic shall be audited, cf. § 10, and the audit shall be carried out within 2 months of the change of owner.

**§ 4.** The registration shall contain the following information:

1) The CHR number of the herd, herd number, any organic authorisation number and the contact details of the herd owner.

2) Which level, cf. Annexes 1-4, the herd is to be registered under in the CHR and whether it is the entire herd, cf. § 5, that is to be registered for the Animal Welfare Label.

3) For pig herds, whether piglets, weaners or pigs for fattening, are being produced, and for bovine herds, whether meat or milk is being produced.

**§ 5.** The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration may on application give permission for the herd to contain animals of the same type at the same time that are being produced with and without 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 lays down the conditions for this in the permission.

*Paragraph 2.* The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration may also permit that animals at different levels of the Animal Welfare Label are kept in the same herd. The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration lays down the conditions for this in the permission.

*Assignment of levels for production of the Animal Welfare Label in the CHR*

**§ 6.** The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.assigns the herd the relevant level of the Animal Welfare Label in the CHR when the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration has established that the production is organised and carried out according to the regulations in this Order.

*Self-monitoring and self-monitoring programme for hatcheries*

**§ 7.** Hatcheries supplying to primary producers using the Animal Welfare Label are obliged to ensure segregation and traceability for eggs and chickens of slower-growing breeds from other breeds. This segregation and traceability shall be apparent in the self-monitoring programme. As part of the self-monitoring, any deviations and their associated corrective actions shall be documented in writing.

*Paragraph 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*

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

1) pigs in Annex 1,

2) broilers in Annex 2,

3) bovine herds producing meat in Annex 3 or

4) bovine herds producing milk in Annex 4.

*Paragraph 2.* If the primary producer docks the tails or pigs or keeps pigs with docked tails, the primary producer shall notify this in writing to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration.in advance, as well as the length of time that the primary producer expects this to continue.

**§ 9.** Primary producers who wish to have their herd covered by the animal welfare label shall, in addition to meeting the requirements in § 8, establish a self-monitoring programme and implement self-monitoring. As part of the self-monitoring, any deviations from the Animal Welfare Label and their associated corrective actions shall be documented in writing. If the herd includes animals now under the Animal Welfare Label, cf. § 5(1), or it includes animals at different levels of the Animal Welfare Label, cf. § 5(2), this shall be apparent from the self-monitoring. For bovine herds producing meat or milk, the action plan for mortality in the herd, cf. the basic requirement in Annex 3 or 4, shall be apparent from the self-monitoring programme.

*Paragraph 2.* The primary producer is obliged to exclusively register animals for the Animal Welfare Label which have lived their entire lives under the Animal Welfare Label, though cf. § 13(1 or 2) or § 14.

Chapter 3

*Certification, auditing and monitoring of herds*

*Certification and monitoring of conventional herds*

**§ 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 certified that the herd meets the relevant requirements in § 8(1) and the conditions set out in § 7 or 9 to produce under the Animal Welfare Label, and said certification is registered in the Central Husbandry Register.

*Paragraph 2.* Once an inspection body has certified a herd (see paragraph 1), the inspection body shall report it to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, stating the herd owner’s name and address, the herd’s CHR number and the level (see § 8) at which the herd is certified.

*Paragraph 3.* The primary producer is to be audited annually.

*Paragraph 4.* Documentation of the self-monitoring, including segregation and traceability, 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.

*Paragraph 5.* Auditing and certification fees shall be borne by primary producers.

*Requirements for the inspection body*

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

*Paragraph 2.* As an additional condition for performing certification and auditing, the inspection body or Danish Veterinary and Food Administration shall carry out at least 20 % of the auditing under the Animal Welfare Label unannounced.

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

*Paragraph 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.

*Monitoring of herd certified as organic*

**§ 12.** 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. 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.

*Paragraph 2.* When registering for the Animal Welfare Label, the primary producer is also obliged to comply with the requirements regarding transport times, cf. Annexes 1-4. Certified organic bovine herds must also comply with the requirement not to use tethering, cf. Annex 3 or 4.

*Paragraph 3.* Certified organic herds that have been registered for the Animal Welfare Label do not need to be audited and certified in accordance with § 7, as the monitoring of the requirements with regard to the Order is undertaken by the Board of Agriculture in connection with the organic monitoring.

Chapter 4

*Time for delivery under the Animal Welfare Label for bovine herds*

*Conventional bovine herds*

**§ 13.** Conventional bovine herds producing meat or milk may start delivery to the producer or slaughterhouse or dairy when all the flowing criteria are met:

1) it has been registered in the CHR what level in the Animal Welfare Label the herd shall meet, cf. § 6.

2) the herd complies with the requirements and conditions specified in § 8(1).

3) The herd:

a) has been in recent years and remains subject to a monitoring system whose content 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 by a certified inspection body meeting the requirements in § 11(1)(2) or

b) is audited, cf. § 10, and the animal to be delivered has lived for its whole life or for 1 year under the Animal Welfare Label scheme, though cf. § 2.

*Paragraph 2.* For conventional bovine herds producing milk which are not subject to a monitoring system, cf. paragraph 1(3a), the herd may start delivery to the dairy when paragraph 1(1 and 2) are fulfilled and the herd has been audited, cf. § 10.

*Certified organic bovine herds*

**§ 14.** Certified organic bovine herds which fulfil the requirements and conditions specified in § 8(1) and § 9 may after registration of the Animal Welfare Label level in CHR, cf. § 6, start delivery to the primary producer, slaughterhouse or dairy, though cf. paragraph 2.

*Paragraph 2.* When the animal fulfil the regulations for organic production, cf. the Order on organic agricultural production, etc. the animal may be sold to the primary producer, slaughterhouse or dairy under the Animal Welfare Label.

Chapter 5

*Requirements for and control of slaughterhouses*

**§ 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. § 15(1) in the Order on the authorisation and registration of food companies, etc.

*Paragraph 2.* Slaughterhouses that are registered to slaughter animals or market meat under the Animal Welfare Label shall as part of their self-monitoring have a written procedure that ensures that all 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 of no more than eight hours or for broilers of no more than six hours is complied with.

3) For pig slaughterhouses, that they only market meat under the Animal Welfare Label from pigs that have not had tails docked or from pigs with bitten tails.

4) For poultry slaughterhouses, that they only market meat under the Animal Welfare Label

a) from flocks that meet the mortality requirement,

b) from broilers of a slow-growing breed,

c) from broilers whose stocking density has been complied with and

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

*Paragraph 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.

*Paragraph 4.* If a slaughterhouse becomes aware of conditions which suggest non-compliance with the regulations of the Animal Welfare Label, the slaughterhouse shall without undue delay inform the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration thereof.

**§ 16.** For monitoring of slaughterhouses for compliance with the conditions of the Animal Welfare Label, the regulations for the fee-financed inspections apply, see the Order on payment for inspections of food, feed and live animals, etc.

Chapter 6

*Requirements for and control of other establishments, including dairies*

**§ 17.** Wholesale companies not covered by Chapter 5 and retail companies who intend to cut or chop fresh meat, prepare meat preparations or meat products or dairies who intend to produce dairy products or package these types of product, and label the products covered by the Animal Welfare Label must report this activity to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration in advance of doing so; cf. § 15(2) in the Order on the authorisation and registration of food companies, etc.

*Paragraph 2.* Businesses 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, processed meat or meat products or for dairy products covered by the Animal Welfare Label.

*Paragraph 3.* Companies shall retain documentation of segregation and traceability for one year.

*Paragraph 4.* If an undertaking becomes aware of conditions which suggest non-compliance with the regulations of the Animal Welfare Label, the undertaking shall without undue delay inform the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration thereof.

**§ 18.** For monitoring of companies covered by § 17(1) for compliance with the conditions of the Animal Welfare Label, the regulations for the fee-financed inspections apply, see the Order on payment for inspections of food, feed and live animals, etc.

Chapter 7

*Requirements for animals and products from other countries*

**§ 19.** Before marketing under the Animal Welfare Label hatchery eggs, live animals, fresh meat, chopped meat or processed meat 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.

*Paragraph 2.* The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration approves the marketing of the animals or products under the Animal Welfare Label when the undertaking responsible for the import into Denmark has, where appropriate, documented that:

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

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

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

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

*Paragraph 3.* To the extent that the controls stated in paragraph 2(4) are implemented by the authorities in the country of origin, the conditions laid down in the provision with regard to controls are considered fulfilled.

**§ 20.** Undertakings, including slaughterhouses, that intend to import the animals and products pursuant to § 19 shall be registered with the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration according to § 15 or § 17, and as part of self-monitoring, ensure continuous compliance with the conditions (see § 19(2)) on an ongoing basis.

*Paragraph 2.* If undertakings, including slaughterhouses and dairies, are made aware of conditions which suggest that the conditions for an approval under § 19 are not met, said undertaking shall without undue delay inform the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration thereof.

Chapter 8

*Labelling and marketing*

**§ 21.** Herds, including hatcheries, that have been registered for the Animal Welfare Label and businesses, including slaughterhouses and dairies registered to use the Animal Welfare Label may use the relevant logo for the individual level for 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. Annex 5.

*Paragraph 2.* Fresh meat, chopped meat, processed meat, 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, whereby dairy products or meat from different levels of the Animal Welfare Label, cf. Annexes 1-4, may only be labelled with the relevant lowest level of the Animal Welfare Label.

*Paragraph 3.* Fresh meat, chopped meat, processed meat, meat products and dairy products may be labelled with the logo relevant for each level when all the animal contents of the product meet the requirements for that level. However, casings, gelatine and collagen of other origins may be used, as may fish and free-range eggs.

*Paragraph 4.* Fresh meat, chopped meat, processed meat, meat products, ready meals, etc. and dairy products may in addition to the cases referred to in paragraph 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.

**§ 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.

*Paragraph 2.* Use of the Animal Welfare Label and associated designations and indications on products etc. is not permitted on products that do not meet the requirements set out in this Order.

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

*Paragraph 4.* The Animal Welfare Label may also be used in connection with information on and education in animal welfare.

Chapter 9

*Change of owner of a herd, withdrawal and exclusion from the Animal Welfare Label*

**§ 23.** If a herd changes owner, the new owner shall send a new registration, cf. chapter 2, if the animals from the herd are to continue to be given the Animal Welfare Label.

**§ 24.** Primary producers and businesses, including slaughterhouses and dairies, that no longer wish to be enrolled in the Animal Welfare Label shall provide written notification to the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration to that effect.

*Paragraph 2.* They 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.

*Paragraph 3.* Primary producers shall inform their recipients of the date from which they no longer produce or deliver under the Animal Welfare Label.

**§ 25.** 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 in question, cf. § 3(2), §§ 5, 7-10, 12, 13, or 14,

2) they are labelling or marketing in breach of § 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, 41-80 per flock, or

4) they are registered for the Animal Welfare Label as a certified organic herd, cf. § 12(1), and the herd is no longer certified as organic.

*Paragraph 2.* The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration can exclude businesses, including slaughterhouses and dairies, which do not comply with § 15, § 17, § 20 or label or market in breach of § 21 from the Animal Welfare Label.

*Paragraph 3.* The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration may revoke an approval pursuant to § 19 under the Animal Welfare Label if the conditions for the approval (see § 19(2)) are not met.

Chapter 10

*Additional inspections and penalties*

**§ 26.** If the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration performs an inspection in response to a report, in accordance with § 25(1)(3), of possible violation of requirements or conditions of this Order (see § 11(4), § 15(4), § 17(4) or § 20(2)) and violation is confirmed, the primary producer or undertaking responsible for the violation shall pay for the inspection in accordance with the rules in force at that time concerning payment for additional inspections set out in the Order on payment for inspections of food, feed and live animals, etc.

*Paragraph 2.* The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration will assess, on the basis of reports received from the official veterinarian, see § 15(4), whether there is a need to perform a control visit to the herd 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.

**§ 27.** Unless higher penalties are stipulated under other legislation, penalties by fine will be imposed on those who breach § 22(1 or 2).

*Paragraph 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

*Transitional measures and entry into force*

**§ 28.** This consolidation act will enter into force on 1 January 2020.

*Paragraph 2.* Order No 1220 of 23 October 2018 on the voluntary animal welfare labelling scheme is repealed.

*Paragraph 3.* The Order also applies to primary producers, slaughterhouses and other businesses which on 31 December 2019 produce or deliver under the Animal Welfare Label, cf. Order 8 No 1220 of 23 October 2018 on the voluntary animal welfare label scheme, Order No 1369 of 1 December 2017 on the voluntary animal welfare label scheme or Order No 225 of 6 March 2017 on the voluntary animal welfare label scheme for pigmeat.

*Danish Veterinary and Food Administration, 4 December 2019*

Esben Egede Rasmussen

/ Benita Thostrup

**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 piglets is not permitted.

3) If cases of tail biting are noted, tail docking may be performed on individual pigs if deemed necessary for veterinary reasons.

4) Irrespective of point 3 or § 8(2), pigs who have had their tails docked or bitten may not be delivered to slaughter under the Animal Welfare Label. Prior to delivery of tail-docked pigs to slaughter, the herd owner shall inform the slaughterhouse thereof.

*Sows and gilts*

5) Sows shall be untethered in groups from weaning until at least 7 days before expected farrowing. The same applies for gilts from placement in the shed or shed section as regards service.

6) Irrespective of point 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. Such cases are subject to the rules in § 7(a) of the Act on indoor holdings of gilts, dry sows and pregnant sows [Lov om indendørs hold af gylte, goldsøer og drægtige søer anvendelse].

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

8) For level 1 and irrespective of the provision in point 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 4 days after farrowing if the sow or gilt’s behaviour is deemed potentially dangerous to the piglets.

9) Sows and gilts shall be allocated a sufficient amount of nesting material in the form of straw at least 5 days before expected farrowing.

*Space requirements for piglets and pigs for slaughter*

10) Piglets and pigs for slaughter shall be allocated a larger freely accessible floor space than that which is stipulated under § 4 of the Order on the protection of pigs [Bekendtgørelse om beskyttelse af svin]. 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 8 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 point 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 2 days after farrowing if the sow or gilt’s behaviour is deemed potentially dangerous to the piglets.

*Weaning*

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

*Space requirements for piglets and pigs for slaughter*

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

Table 1.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Average pig weight | Freely accessible pen area in m2 per animal (minimum) | | From weaning to 10 kg  10-20 kg  20-30 kg  30-50 kg  50-85 kg  85-110 kg  Over 110 kg | 0.20  0.26  0.39  0.52  0.72  0.85  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 (see basic requirements points 5 and 7 above). The untethered groups can be kept either outdoors with access to huts or in loose housing.

3) Within 5 days prior to expected farrowing, sows and gilts shall be placed in outdoor huts. The sows shall remain outdoors at least until the piglets are weaned.

*Piglets and pigs for slaughter*

4) Piglets and pigs for slaughter 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 as per Table 2.

Table 2.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Average pig weight | Total area per pig in m2 (minimum) | Resting area per pig in m2 (minimum) | Outdoor area per pig in m2 (minimum) | | From weaning to 25 kg  25-35 kg  35-45 kg  45-55 kg  55-65 kg  65-75 kg  75-85 kg  85-95 kg  95-110 kg  Over 110 kg | 0.40  0.52  0.60  0.72  0.82  0.90  1.00  1.10  1.20  1.30 | 0.18  0.24  0.28  0.33  0.38  0.41  0.46  0.50  0.55  0.60 | 0.17  0.22  0.25  0.30  0.34  0.38  0.42  0.46  0.50  0.54 | |

- In the period from weaning to 25 kg, the littered resting area may be adapted to the pigs’ size in order to create an ideal environment for them, but such that there is at least 0.18 m2 per pig weighing 25 kg.

- The outdoor area shall be at least 10 m2 for pigs weighing up to 40 kg. For other pigs, the outside 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 slower growing breed.

*Stocking density*

2) The average stocking density for three successive flocks may not exceed 38 kg live weight per m² open space. The stocking density in the individual holding must at no time exceed 39 kg live weight per m² open space.

*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 it is desired that the maximum stocking density is in accordance with point 2.

*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.

*Food pad lesions*

5) The score in a monitoring programme for foot pad lesions in a flock must on no more than two occasions be 41-80, but not more than 81, cf. § 25(1)(3).

*Transport to slaughter*

6) The transport time to slaughter must be a maximum of 6 hours (excluding round-up, 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) For exclusively indoor production, the average stocking density for three successive flocks may not exceed 32 kg live weight per m² open space. The stocking density in the individual holding must at no time exceed 33 kg live weight per m² open space.

2b) In the case of production systems where the broilers have access to a veranda or outdoor area, cf. point 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 open space.

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 it is desired that the maximum stocking density is in accordance with point 2(a) or 2(b) respectively.

*Verandas and outdoor areas*

4) Where there is access to a veranda or outdoor area, cf. point 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 shall live up to the requirement applying for the production of broilers of more than 33 kg live weight per m² useable area, cf. The Act on keeping broilers.

**Supplementary requirements for broiler flocks covered by level 3**

*Environmental enrichment*

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 for three successive flocks may not exceed 27.5 kg live weight per m2 open space. The stocking density in the individual holding must at no time exceed 28.5 kg live weight per m2 open space.

*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 it is desired that the maximum stocking density is in accordance with point 2.

*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 bottom cover. There must be a maximum distance of 15 m from the house to the first plantation of bushes and/or trees. There must be a maximum of 15 m between bushes and/or trees in the planted element of the area.

As a minimum, the vegetation requirement shall be met in the element of the outdoor area closest to the exit holes.

**Annex 3**

**The Animal Welfare Label’s requirements for bovine herds producing meat**

**Basic requirements for bovine herds producing meat covered by level 1**

*Slaughter of calves*

1) Calves may not be slaughtered unless this is done in consideration of problems relating to sickness or animal welfare.

*Roughage*

2) Bovines 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 for 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.

*Transport to slaughter*

5) The transport time to slaughter must be a maximum of 8 hours.

*Cow-calf time after calving*

6) The cow and calf shall be together for the first 12 hours after calving.

*Housing*

7) Calves may not be tethered. However, they may be tethered for periods not exceeding one 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.

8) It is not permitted to keep bovines on fully slatted floors. Smoking in the room is not allowed.

9) The laying area shall be dry, comfortable and clean.

10) Calves born after 31 December 2020 may not be housed in individual stalls after they are seven days old.

*Space requirements*

11) During housing in groups (three or more animals together), there must be a free floor space of at least:

– 1.5 m² per animal up to 60 kg live weight.

– 1.8 m² per animal between 60 kg and 100 kg live weight.

– 2.2 m² per animal over 100 kg live weight, though at least 1, 0 m2 per 100 kg for animals over 220 kg.

\* Calves and young animals over 150 kg that are housed in bedding box stalls with at least one box per calf can be included in the Animal Welfare Label so long as the space requirement of other legislation is met.

*Milk feeding*

12) 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. A reduction of milk feeding in the last part of the milk feeding period is permitted.

**Additional requirements for bovine herds producing meat covered by level 2**

*Housing*

1) The laying area shall be dry, comfortable, clean and have straw.

*Space requirements*

2) During housing in groups (three or more animals together), there must be a free floor space of at least:

– 2.6 m² per animal between 150 kg and 200 kg live weight.

– 3.2 m² per animal between 200 kg and 300 kg live weight.

– 3.8 m² per animal over 300 kg live weight, though at least 1, 0 m² per 100 kg for animals over 380 kg.

*Milk feeding*

3) 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. A reduction of milk feeding in the last part of the milk feeding period is permitted.

**Additional requirements for bovine herds producing meat covered by level 3**

*Cow-calf time after calving and milk feeding*

1) The cow and calf shall be together for the first 12 hours after calving and the calf shall be able to suckle the cow.

*Access to pasture*

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

3) With the exceptions below, bovines over six months shall have access to pasture in the period from 1 May to 1 November (summer half-year):

a) Individual animals can however be kept in stalls for a short period in connection with insemination, servicing, castration, delivery to slaughter or to keep the animal under observation.

b) During a period of no more than three months before slaughter it is however permitted to fatten bovines in stalls (males over nine months old, females over 24 months if they have not calved and females that have calved).

c) Bulls over 12 months shall have access to outdoor exercise areas or pasture in the period from 1 May to 1 November (summer half-year).

**Annex 4**

**The Animal Welfare Label’s requirements for bovine herds producing milk**

**Basic requirements for bovine herds producing milk covered by level 1**

*Slaughter of calves*

1) Calves may not be slaughtered unless this is done in consideration of problems relating to sickness or animal welfare.

*Roughage*

2) Bovines 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 for 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.

*Transport to slaughter*

5) The transport time to slaughter must be a maximum of 8 hours.

*Cow-calf time after calving*

6) The cow and calf shall be together for the first 12 hours after calving.

*Housing*

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

8) It is not permitted to keep bovines on fully slatted floors. Smoking in the room is not allowed.

9) The laying area shall be dry, comfortable and clean.

10) Calves born after 31 December 2020 may not be housed in individual stalls after they are seven days old.

*Milk feeding*

11) 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. A reduction of milk feeding in the last part of the milk feeding period is permitted.

**Additional requirements for bovine herds producing milk covered by level 2**

*Housing*

1) The laying area shall be dry, comfortable, clean and have straw.

*Space requirements*

2) Total area of the space where the cows are in the stall between milking shall be at least 6 m² per milk cow.

*Milk feeding*

3) 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. A reduction of milk feeding in the last part of the milk feeding period is permitted.

*Access to outdoors and pasture*

4a) Calves over 4 months shall, if the physiological condition of the calf and the weather permit, have access to outdoor areas in the period from 1 May to 1 September.

4b) Female animals over 6 months that have not calved shall have access to outside areas in the period from 1 May to 1 November (summer half-year). Individual animals can however be kept in stalls for a short period in connection with insemination, servicing, castration, delivery to slaughter or to keep the animal under observation.

4c) Cows shall have access to pasture in the period from 1 May to 1 November (summer half-year). Individual animals can however be kept in stalls for a short period in connection with insemination, servicing, castration, delivery to slaughter or to keep the animal under observation.

**Additional requirements for bovine herds producing milk covered by level 3**

*Space requirements*

1) Total area of the space where the cows are in the stall between milking shall be at least 6.6 m2 per milk 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.

*Cow-calf time after calving*

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

*Milk feeding*

3) 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. A reduction of milk feeding in the last part of the milk feeding period is permitted.

*Access to pasture*

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

4b) Female animals over 6 months shall have access to pasture in the period from 1 May to 1 November (summer half-year).

Individual animals can, however, be kept in stalls for a short period in connection with insemination, servicing, castration, delivery to slaughter or to keep the animal under observation.

**Annex 5**

**‘Better Animal Welfare’ Logos**

*Logos for the three levels of the Animal Welfare Label*

Level 1:



Level 2:



Level 3:



|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Bedre dyrevelfærd | Better animal welfare |

1. )A draft of this Order has been notified 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 (codification). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)