
**Textiles — Animal welfare in the
supply chain — General requirements
for the production, preparation
and traceability of Angora rabbit
fibre, including ethical claims and
supporting information**

*Textiles — Bien-être animal dans la filière — Exigences générales
pour la production, la préparation et la traçabilité de la fibre de
lapin angora, y compris les déclarations éthiques et les informations
justificatives*



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Contents

Page

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Foreword | v |
| Introduction | vi |
| 1 Scope | 1 |
| 2 Normative references | 1 |
| 3 Terms and definitions | 1 |
| 4 Requirements | 2 |
| 5 Animal housing conditions and farming practices | 2 |
| 5.1 Structures | 2 |
| 5.2 Animal housing systems | 3 |
| 5.2.1 General | 3 |
| 5.2.2 Characteristics and materials | 3 |
| 5.2.3 Size and density of the animal housing structures | 4 |
| 5.2.4 Equipment promoting species-specific behaviours | 5 |
| 5.3 Adequate management of the farming conditions | 5 |
| 5.3.1 General | 5 |
| 5.3.2 Temperature and relative air humidity | 5 |
| 5.3.3 Ventilation | 5 |
| 5.3.4 Lighting | 6 |
| 5.3.5 Removal of animal waste and dead animals | 6 |
| 5.3.6 Cleaning, disinfection and maintenance premises and equipment | 6 |
| 5.3.7 Control of unwanted animals | 7 |
| 5.4 Staff training | 8 |
| 6 Diet management | 9 |
| 6.1 Dietary requirements | 9 |
| 6.2 Feeding | 10 |
| 6.2.1 Feed characteristics | 10 |
| 6.2.2 Feed consumption | 10 |
| 6.2.3 Forage | 10 |
| 6.2.4 Treats | 11 |
| 6.3 Purchase and storage of food | 11 |
| 6.4 Drinking water | 11 |
| 7 Breeding management | 11 |
| 7.1 Artificial insemination | 11 |
| 7.2 Nest quality and control | 12 |
| 7.3 Fostering | 12 |
| 7.4 Lactation control | 12 |
| 7.5 Weaning | 12 |
| 7.6 External restocking | 12 |
| 7.7 Killing of rabbits | 13 |
| 8 Health management | 13 |
| 8.1 Company veterinarian | 13 |
| 8.2 Anti-parasite treatments | 13 |
| 8.3 Vaccination programs | 14 |
| 8.4 Farm medicines management | 14 |
| 8.5 Biosafety | 14 |
| 8.5.1 General | 14 |
| 8.5.2 Checking people and vehicles | 15 |
| 9 Animal transport | 15 |
| 10 Fibre production management | 15 |
| 10.1 General | 15 |

| | | |
|-----------|--|-----------|
| 10.2 | Areas dedicated to collecting the hair..... | 15 |
| 10.3 | Hair collection, rabbit handling during shearing and shearing cycle..... | 16 |
| 10.4 | Traceability..... | 17 |
| 11 | Identification and traceability..... | 17 |
| 11.1 | Animal identification..... | 17 |
| 11.2 | Identification of enclosures..... | 17 |
| 11.3 | Records..... | 17 |
| 12 | Traceability and the supply chain..... | 18 |
| 13 | Ethical labelling programmes..... | 18 |
| | Bibliography..... | 19 |

Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see www.iso.org/patents).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 38, *Textiles*, in collaboration with the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) Technical Committee CEN/TC 248, *Textiles*, in accordance with the Agreement on technical cooperation between ISO and CEN (Vienna Agreement).

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

The World Organization for Animal Health, Terrestrial Animal Health Code (OIE TAHC) defines animal welfare as *“how an animal coping with the conditions in which it lives and dies. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing. Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment”*.

The domestic rabbit is a mammal pertaining to the Lagomorph order (with four incisors in the upper jaw). In particular, Angora rabbits come from Turkey (Ankara) and have always been prized for the production of quality animal fibre on a par with the Cashmere and Angora goat (mohair) and that of the South American camelids (Vigogna and Alpaca).

The production of animal fibre from Angora rabbits is an animal husbandry activity that is only practiced in certain parts of the world. The main producer of Angora rabbits today is China. These rabbits have the capacity to produce the very soft, warm fibre of a brilliant white colour known as: Angora. Rabbit pelts are double-coated, i.e. comprising a double layer of coarse fibres deriving from the primary hair follicles (guard hairs, which usually grow in groups of 3) and very soft underlying fibres that come from the secondary follicles (undercoat, located in proximity to the 3 primary follicles).

The Angora rabbit produces around 1 kg to 1,5 kg a year of fibre, or almost 30 % of its own live weight. The productive cycle of the rabbit lasts for around 3 to 4 years. Angora rabbit hair grows according to the classic model of follicular activity, which is divided into 3 main phases: the “anagen” or the full follicular activity phase, characterized by fibre growth; fibre the “catagen” or the phase of follicle regression and interruption of fibre growth; fibre and finally the “telogen” or follicle resting phase, characterized by fibre shedding fibre. For these reasons, Angora fibre is usually collected at regular intervals through combing or shearing. Said activities are greatly affected by the type of rabbit bred, how the business is managed, and obviously the nutritional conditions of the animals.

This document reflects national and international best practices in terms of animal welfare with specific reference to rabbit breeding and in particular to:

- production standards;
- animal housing conditions;
- transformation;
- packaging;
- transport;
- storage;
- ethical claims and supporting information;
- traceability;
- checks and inspections.

This document is aligned with the European Convention for the protection of animals kept for farming purposes and Directive 98/58/EC, concerning the protection of animals kept for farming purposes^[1] and is based on five freedoms for the protection of animal welfare (see [Table 1](#)).

Textiles — Animal welfare in the supply chain — General requirements for the production, preparation and traceability of Angora rabbit fibre, including ethical claims and supporting information

1 Scope

This document specifies requirements for the management of farmed Angora rabbits in accordance with animal welfare principles.

This document applies to the management and control of critical activities in Angora rabbit farming, including accommodation, reproduction, feed and nutrients, health, fibre collection, ethical claims and supporting information.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/TS 17033:2019, *Ethical claims and supporting information — Principles and requirements*

ISO 26000, *Guidance on social responsibility*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminological databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online browsing platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

3.1

animal welfare

well-being of animals in the ethical conditions in which they are farmed

3.2

competent authority

veterinary authority or other governmental authority of a country having the responsibility and competence for ensuring or supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and recommendations in the OIE TAHC

[SOURCE: ISO/TS 34700:2016, 3.7]

3.3

kit

baby rabbit from birth to weaning

Note 1 to entry: Rabbit aged from birth to 49 days.