
**Animal welfare management —
General requirements and guidance for
organizations in the food supply chain**

*Gestion du bien-être animal — Exigences générales et orientations
pour les organisations des filières alimentaires*



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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Main principles in developing an animal welfare plan	3
5 Developing an animal welfare plan	4
5.1 General.....	4
5.2 Step 1 — Identification of gaps.....	4
5.2.1 General.....	4
5.2.2 Identification of relevant documents.....	5
5.2.3 Methodology for the identification of gaps.....	5
5.3 Step 2 — Drafting of the animal welfare plan.....	5
5.4 Step 3 — Implementation of the animal welfare plan.....	6
5.5 Step 4 — Evaluation and review.....	7
Annex A (informative) Animal welfare thresholds for animal-based measures	8

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 on 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 the following URL: www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 34, *Food products*.

Introduction

There is a growing focus in society on animal welfare. Perception of animal welfare is complex and multifaceted, being influenced by scientific, ethical, historical, cultural, religious, economic and political dimensions. When addressing animal welfare, it has to be done in a scientifically credible manner. The Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC) published by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) sets animal welfare standards to be used to establish national regulations and other relevant animal welfare documents.

Animal welfare management, as described in this document, has been developed to be adapted to various situations, including:

- different production systems and different organizations in the supply chain for products of animal origin, regardless of size and country;
- different geographical, cultural and religious contexts; and
- developed as well as developing countries.

The purpose of this document is to ensure the welfare of animals raised for food or feed production around the world through the following objectives:

- to provide a management tool for the implementation of the animal welfare principles of the OIE TAHC (Section 7);
- to provide guidance for the implementation of public or private animal welfare standards and relevant legislation that meet at least the OIE TAHC (Section 7);
- to facilitate the integration of animal welfare principles in business-to-business relations.

The concept of the five freedoms, as mentioned in Chapter 7.1 of the OIE TAHC (freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition; freedom from fear and distress; freedom from physical and thermal discomfort; freedom from pain, injury and disease; and freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour), provides guidance on the understanding of animal welfare, on identifying the relevant aspects to be considered and on implementing relevant practices. The general principles for the welfare of animals in livestock production systems (Article 7.1.4 of the OIE TAHC) provide a basis for practical requirements to ensure that the five freedoms are met.

Animal welfare management can be addressed in different ways, such as legislation, codes of good practice, private specifications or client/supplier requirements.

This document is intended to support the implementation of relevant practices to ensure animal welfare in livestock production systems.

Animal welfare management — General requirements and guidance for organizations in the food supply chain

1 Scope

This document provides requirements and guidance for the implementation of the animal welfare principles as described in the introduction to the recommendations for animal welfare of the OIE TAHC (Chapter 7.1).

This document applies to terrestrial animals bred or kept for the production of food or feed. The following areas are excluded: animals used for research and educational activities, animals in animal shelters and zoos, companion animals, stray and wild animals, aquatic animals, killing for public or animal health purposes under the direction of the competent authority, humane killing traps for nuisance and fur species.

Application of this document is limited to aspects for which process or species-specific chapters are available in the OIE TAHC. At the time of publication of this document, they are:

- Chapter 7.2: Transport of animals by sea;
- Chapter 7.3: Transport of animals by land;
- Chapter 7.4: Transport of animals by air;
- Chapter 7.5: Slaughter of animals;
- Chapter 7.9: Animal welfare and beef cattle production systems;
- Chapter 7.10: Animal welfare and broiler chicken production systems; and
- Chapter 7.11: Animal welfare and dairy cattle production systems.

This document is designed to guide users in conducting a gap analysis and developing an animal welfare plan that is aligned with the OIE TAHC. It can also be used to facilitate the implementation of any public or private sector animal welfare standards that meet at least the OIE TAHC.

The scope of this document is intended to be revised as the animal welfare provisions of the OIE TAHC are supplemented or amended.

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.

*Terrestrial Animal Health Code, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE TAHC)*¹⁾

3 Terms and definitions

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

1) <http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online> (and specifically Section 7 dedicated to animal welfare).