



**1 – Low**

None up to low fat cover  
No fat within the thoracic cavity



**2 – Slight**

Slight fat cover, flesh visible almost everywhere  
Within the thoracic cavity the muscle is clearly visible between the ribs.



**3 – Average**

Flesh, with the exception of the round and shoulder, almost everywhere covered with fat, slight deposits of fat in the thoracic cavity  
Within the thoracic cavity the muscle is still visible between the ribs.



**4 – High**

Flesh covered with fat, but on the round and shoulder still partly visible, some distinctive fat deposits in the thoracic cavity  
The seams of fat on the round are prominent. Within the thoracic cavity the muscle between the ribs may be infiltrated with fat.



**5 – Very high**

Entire carcass covered with fat; heavy fat deposits in the thoracic cavity  
The round is almost completely covered with fat, so that the seams of fat are no longer clearly visible.  
Within the thoracic cavity the muscle between the ribs is infiltrated with fat.

## Community scale for the classification of carcasses of adult bovine animals

Carcasses of adult bovine animals shall be classified by assessment respectively of:

- (i) conformation  
(six classes: S, E, U, R, O, P);
- (ii) fat cover  
(five classes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

In order to be given an S classification, the carcass must have superior conformation and must be without defect in respect of its essential parts.

In order to be given an E classification, the carcass must have excellent conformation and must be without defect in respect of its essential parts.

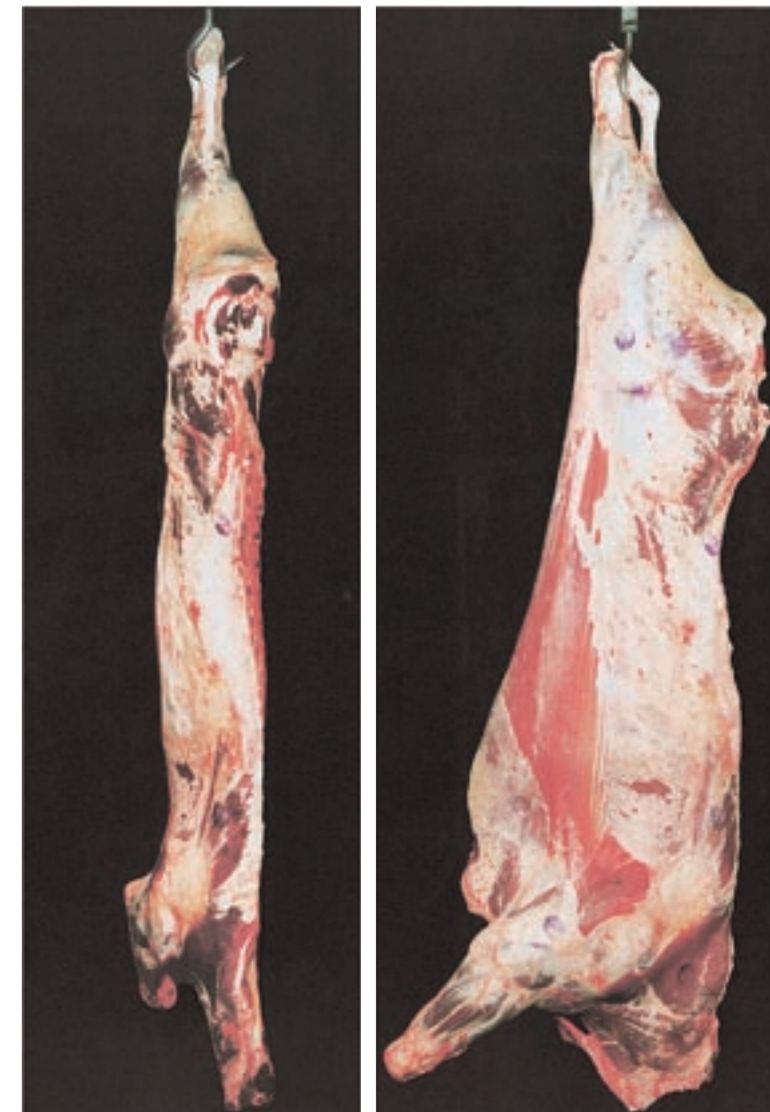
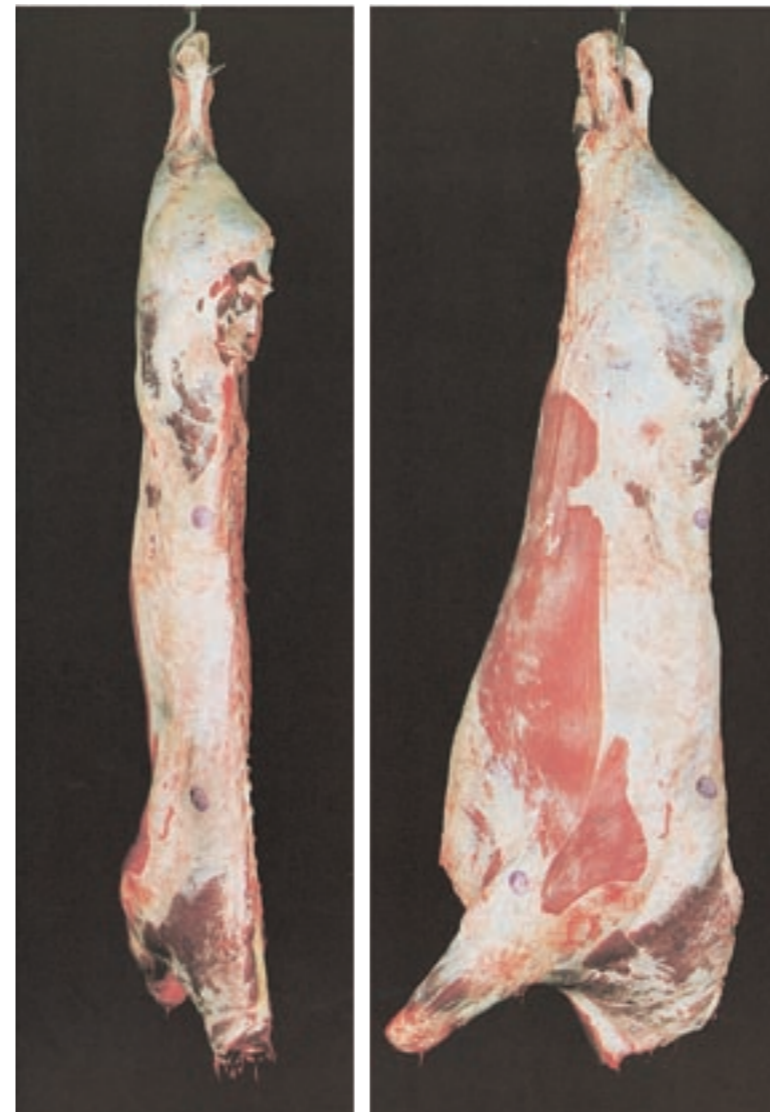
In cases of U, R, O and P conformation, carcasses whose three essential parts are not of a homogeneous nature shall be placed in the class applicable to two of the three parts.

*NB:* The photographs for the different conformation and fat classes relate to carcasses in the middle of the class.

Council Regulation (EC) N° 1234/2007  
Commission Regulation (EC) N° 1249/2008



European Commission  
Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development



**S — Superior**

All profiles extremely convex; exceptional muscle development (double-muscled carcass type)  
Round: very highly rounded double-muscled visibly separated seams  
Back: very wide and very thick, up to the shoulder  
Shoulder: very highly rounded  
Topside spreads very markedly over the symphysis (symphysis pelvis)  
Rump very rounded

**E — Excellent**

All profiles convex to superconvex; exceptional muscle development  
Round: very rounded  
Back: wide and very thick, up to the shoulder  
Shoulder: very rounded  
Topside spreads markedly over the symphysis (symphysis pelvis)  
Rump very rounded

**U — Very good**

Profiles on the whole convex; very good muscle development  
Round: rounded  
Back: wide and thick, up to the shoulder  
Shoulder: rounded  
Topside spreads over the symphysis (symphysis pelvis)  
Rump rounded

**R — Good**

Profiles on the whole straight; good muscle development  
Round: well-developed  
Back: still thick but less wide at the shoulder  
Shoulder: fairly well-developed  
Topside and rump are slightly rounded

**O — Fair**

Profiles straight to concave; average muscle development  
Round: average development to lacking development  
Back: average thickness to lacking thickness  
Shoulder: average development to almost flat  
Rump: straight profile

**P — Poor**

All profiles concave to very concave; poor muscle development  
Round: poorly developed  
Back: narrow with bones visible  
Shoulder: flat with bones visible