

MINOR CHANGES TO FQAS STANDARD (APRIL 2010)

NORTHERN IRELAND BEEF & LAMB FARM QUALITY ASSURANCE SCHEME

The 2010 (April) NIBL FQAS Product Standard is continually reviewed by the FQAS Standard Setting Committee. It has been decided by the Committee to make a few minor changes to the current FQAS Standard. The changes are minimal and are in response to a number of specific matters which have arisen since the current standard was issued in 2010 and will not have major effects on the main body of the FQAS Product Standard. At this early stage, it has been decided these changes will be communicated to participants of the scheme via the below addendum. At a later stage subject to further possible changes then the Standard may be re-issued. Please note NIFCC inspectors will be requiring the below changes to be compiled with during inspections. The changes are highlighted in green and are mainly changes to wording within the standard.



Code	Clause	Change
2.4	<p>A written herd/flock health plan, which includes a farm bio-security policy, must be established, implemented and reviewed at least annually or more frequently in the event of any substantial changes to husbandry practices. ⑥</p> <p>The farm bio-security policy must identify the risks of disease being introduced onto the farm relating to animals, vehicles and personnel moving on and off the farm, and detail the procedures that are in place for minimising the risk. As a minimum farms must have cleaning and washing facilities and a DARD approved disinfectant available for vehicles or machinery coming from or going to other livestock farms or premises.</p>	<p>Standard previously stated to use an “appropriate” disinfectant. This has now been changed to state “a DARD approved” disinfectant.</p>
6.8	<p>Partitions must be available to allow segregation of unfamiliar groups of animals and/or animals of differing age, size and type. Partition dimensions and pen size must be in accordance with DARD guidance on current legislation. Partitions must be available in larger vehicles or trailers to ensure that pen sizes do not exceed 3.7m in length.</p>	<p>Addition to the phrasing “current legislation” with regards to partition dimensions and pen sizes. These should now be in accordance with “DARD Guidance on current legislation”. Partition to be available in larger vehicles so that pen size does not exceed 3.7m in length.</p>
7.6	<p>The use of human sewage sludge and waste abattoir material (with the exception of manure) is not permitted on grassland and forage crops. An exception to this general prohibition is when materials such as paunch content and category 3 blood have been passed through an anaerobic digester and a safe quality digestate has been produced in compliance with the Quality Protocol for digestate.</p>	<p>Exception included to allow land spreading of paunch content and category 3 blood which has been digested in compliance with the Quality Protocol for digestate.</p>

Pen Lengths

Members are advised that legislation no longer stipulates specific minimum and maximum pen lengths in vehicles transporting cattle and sheep. However the legislation does stipulate that the length of the pen should be limited in order to reduce the effects of a sudden change in road speed and to control the number of animals in a group. It is therefore recommended in DARD guidance on the legislation that pen size should be less than or equal to 3.7m (approx 12ft) in length. Members of FQAS should note that inspectors will be checking that vehicle pen sizes conform to these dimensions. It is important that livestock are transported in a safe manner.

Ramp Angles

The council regulation (EC) 1/2005 on the Welfare of Animals during Transport defines the maximum permitted vehicle ramp angles allowed for various species of livestock. This is a legal requirement.

Although this regulation was introduced on 5 January 2007 it was determined by the UK authorities that it would not be fully implemented until 1 January 2012, for vehicles constructed prior to 5 January 2007 to allow time for full compliance. However following a recent inspection by the EU Food and Veterinary Office, DARD have had to implement this regulation 1 year earlier from 1 January 2011 therefore all ramp angles on old and new vehicles built (and on the road) before or after 5 January 2007 must comply with the measurements laid down in (EC) 1/2005.

The legislative ramp angles required are as follows:

Calves: Ramps should not be any steeper than 20° (36.4% to the horizontal), equivalent to a vertical rise of 4 in 11.

Sheep and Adult Cattle: Ramps should not be any steeper than 26° 34' (50% to the horizontal), equivalent to a vertical rise of 4 in 8.

Where the ramp angle is steeper than 10°, ramps should be fitted with a system, such as foot battens, which ensure that the animals climb or go down without risks of difficulties.

How do I calculate the ramp angle required for my vehicle?

Measure the height of the ramp at its highest point and the length of the ramp.

To calculate the minimum length of ramp required simply multiply the height of the ramp by:

- 2.92 for calves (20°)
- 2.24 for Sheep and Adult Cattle (26° 34')

Members of the scheme are reminded that livestock vehicles must be made available during the farm inspection or have the Name/FQAS number available of the transporter used or Name/Number of approved participant in ABM livestock transport scheme.



A.1c EXAMPLE OF COMMON VETERINARY OPERATIONS

The table below provides a summary of the scheme requirements for common veterinary operations for cattle.

CATTLE

Operation	Age	Conditions	Operator	Anaesthetic
Castration	1st week of life Only	Rubber ring / blood constricting device	Competent stockperson	Without
	Up to 2 months	Other than above (e.g. burdizzo)	Competent stockperson	Without
	2 months and over	Other than rubber ring or blood constricting device	Veterinary Surgeon	With
Dehorning	Up to 5 months	Not specified	Competent stockperson	With
	Over 5 months	Not specified	Veterinary Surgeon	With
Disbudding	1st week of life only	Chemical cauterisation (use not recommended)	Competent stockperson	Without
	Unspecified (but recommended before 2 months)	Other than above (e.g. heated iron)	Competent stockperson	With
Removal of supernumerary teats	Up to 3 months	Not specified (clean sharp scissors recommended)	Competent stockperson	Without (but use is recommended)
	3 months and over	Not specified	Veterinary Surgeon	With



A.1c EXAMPLE OF COMMON VETERINARY OPERATIONS

The table below provides a summary of the scheme requirements for common veterinary operations for sheep.

SHEEP

Operation	Age	Conditions	Operator	Anaesthetic
Castration	1st week of life only	Rubber ring / blood constricting device	Competent stockperson	Without
	Up to 3 months	Other than above (e.g. burdizzo)	Competent stockperson	Without
	3 months and over	Other than rubber ring or blood constricting device	Veterinary Surgeon	With
Tail Docking	1st week of life only	Rubber ring / blood constricting device	Competent stockperson	Without
	Up to 3 months	Other than above		Without (but use is recommended)
	3 months and over		Veterinary Surgeon	With
	Any age	Shorter than above only in case of emergency or disease	Veterinary Surgeon	With
Dehorning	Any age	Not specified	Veterinary Surgeon	With
Disbudding	Any age	Trimming of the insensitive tip of an in growing horn	Competent stockperson	Without

