



## **Organic production according to the EC-Regulation 2092/91**

### **Livestock Production and Inspection**

#### **1. Introduction**

Production and labelling of organic products in the European Union is regulated by the "Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2092/91 on organic production of agricultural products and indications referring thereto on agricultural products and foodstuffs", as amended. The regulation covers unprocessed agricultural crop and livestock products and processed foodstuffs but is limited to certain animal species and excludes aquaculture. The regulation defines a minimum standard for production, processing and marketing of organic products. It also describes the inspection system to which every producer, collector, processor or importer of organic products has to submit his undertaking. It prohibits the use of genetically modified organisms (GMO) and their derivatives at any level of production or processing (exception: livestock medication). This pamphlet gives a short overview on the requirements of the regulation for livestock production and inspection. Further study of the regulation is required for anyone involved in organic production.

#### **2. Rules of production for livestock products (art. 6 and 7, annex I B)**

##### 2.1 Conversion period (annex I B 2)

Conversion of the land for feed production and pastures must take place according to the requirements of annex I A for organic plant production. Duration of the conversion time is 24 for annual crops resp. 36 months for perennial crops (e.g. pastures), derogation may be granted. Livestock has to be reared according to the regulation for a specific period of time, depending on the species (12 months for bovines, dairy cattle, 6 months for pigs and small ruminants, 10 weeks for poultry for meat production and 6 weeks for layers). The conversion status of the feed has to be considered, when assessing conversion time of livestock production, as a maximum of 60% of feed (when own feed production) in the ration may be products in conversion. In the case of simultaneous conversion of feed production, pastures and husbandry the maximum conversion time will be 24 month.

##### 2.2 Origin of animals (annex I B3)

Purchased livestock must origin from organic operations, derogation may be granted when a herd is constituted or renewed and when organic animal are not available, in which case the purchased livestock may not exceed a certain age, depending on the species and size of the production unit. Males for breeding may always be purchased from non-organic origin, when keeping and feeding them after purchase according to the EC regulation.

##### 2.3 Feed (annex I B4, annex II C and D)

Feeding must be done with organic feedstuff, preferably from the own production unit, but may also be purchased from other organic enterprises. Derogation may be granted, in which case a max. of 10% (for herbivores) res. 20% (for other species) of the feed ration may be non-organic feed. Conventional feed must be listed in annex II C if to be purchased. A max. of 30% of the feed ration (when purchasing feed) may be feed in conversion. Mammals must be fed natural milk for the first three months for calves, 45 days for small ruminants and 40 days for pigs. Herbivore rations must contain at least 60% roughage, poultry rations at least 65% cereals. Pigs and poultry must be given roughage as well. All feed materials, including additives allowed are listed in Annex II C + D. Not any kind of growth stimulators may be fed. GMO are not allowed in feed.

##### 2.4 Diseases and veterinary measures (annex I B5)

Animal health should be based on keeping locally, well adapted species according to their specific needs. Prophylactic measures should be applied to maintain animal health. If, in spite of those measures an animal becomes sick, treatment must be carried out immediately to avoid unnecessary suffering of the animal. Phytotherapeutic, homeopathic products must be preferred over chemically synthesised allopathic mediations. Hormones may be applied if necessary as medication. Other non-conform treatments are allowed if required according to a country's legislation. The withdrawal period applied after medication must be double of the legal one, if not specified a 48 hours period applies. If more than two courses of allopathic treatments were given to an animal within one year (or its life, if shorter than one year) livestock must undergo conversion time before its products maybe sold as organic.

### 2.5 Animal density, husbandry practice and housing (annex I B6, 7 and 8, annex VII + VIII)

The total amount of animals kept may not exceed the equivalent amount of 170kg of Nitrogen (N) per year and hectare of agricultural land of an operation. The number of animal units equivalent to 170 kg N are listed in annex VII, as there are e.g. 2 dairy cows or male bovine > 2 years, 74 piglets, 230 laying hens. In order to meet this limit, organic operations can establish co-operations with each other. Storage facilities of the manure must be large enough to ensure safe storage without contamination of the environment.

Husbandry of animals, transportation and identification are regulated. Natural reproduction and artificial insemination are the only reproductive methods allowed. If practices such as tail docking, trimming of beaks or dehorning are to be carried out, it is allowed only under the precondition of obtaining authorisation from the inspection body. Physical castration however is allowed if necessary for maintaining a traditional product quality. Tethering of animals is forbidden. Derogation may be granted if animals are well bedded and only until 2010. Instead animal must be reared in groups. The minimum age for slaughtering of poultry is given in annex I B 6.1.9. No electrical stimulation is allowed to be used for loading and unloading of animals during transportation. At any stage of production and preparation, animal must be identified.

Housing of the animals must meet their biological needs. Stocking density must allow sufficient comfort to livestock, whereas inside maximum density are defined in annex VIII, outside density must insure, that soil does not suffer from overgrazing. All mammals must have access to pasture or open-air free range area. Only final fattening maybe without outdoor access. At least half of the floor of the housing must be solid, ample dry bedding must be provided (of material listed in annex IIA). Light for chicken is not allowed to exceed a 16 hour period per day. Products authorised for installation cleaning are listed in annex II E.

### **3. Inspection requirements for livestock and livestock products produced by animal husbandry (annex III General Provisions and Specific Provisions A and A. 2)**

Every operator who produces organic livestock products has to submit the undertaking to the inspection system (as do processors and importers/exporters of organic products). For producers the following minimum inspection requirements apply:

#### 3.1 Initial inspection / Description of the unit (annex III General Provisions 3 and 4, Specific Provisions A. 2. 1, 2 and 3)

For the first inspection the operator must draw up a full description of the production unit and his activities, including ground plans of livestock buildings and premises of storage, maps of all fields for feed production and pastures, list indicating the last application of products on the land not permitted by the regulation. Also the measures to be taken to ensure compliance with the regulation must be described. A declaration containing the above mentioned information and the acceptance to the measures in case of infringement or irregularities (annex III General Provisions 9) must be signed. If any change occurs in the description or of the practical measures, the inspection body need to be informed in due time.

#### 3.2 Separated production unit (annex III Specific Provisions A, A. 2. 4)

The organic farming and livestock operations must be clearly separated form those units of an operation which do not work according to the EC regulation. Livestock must be identified at any time.

#### 3.3 Bookkeeping (annex III General Provisions 6, Specific Provisions A. 2. 3)

Written and/or documentary accounts must be kept to trace the origin, nature and quantities of all raw materials purchased. The nature, quantities and consignees of all agricultural products sold have to be recorded also. Registers must be compiled continuously, they must contain information on livestock arriving and leaving the operation, age, weight of slaughter, identification, disease prevention measures and treatments.

#### 3.4 Packaging and labelling of organic products (annex III General Provisions 7)

Transported products have to be closed in a manner preventing substitution of the content. Clear identification of the producer, the product and the inspection body must be assured by labelling.

#### 3.5 Frequency of inspections, sample taking and access (annex III General Provisions 5 and 10)

The production unit has to be completely inspected at least once a year, additional random visits are advised. Organic as well as non-organic units have to be inspected. Livestock as well as feed production are inspected. Samples may be taken but they must be taken where the use of unauthorised products is suspected. The producer shall provide the inspection body with any information deemed necessary for the purpose of the inspection and shall give full access to facilities. He also shall inform the inspection body about all doubts on organic origin of purchased products and inform his clients about all delivered products later found to be non-conform.