

How various initiatives compare to CIWF criteria for higher animal welfare: Dairy Cows and Calves

Assurance Scheme	Logo	Country	DAIRY COWS							DAIRY CALVES							
			Do cows have enough space when housed?	Is tethering forbidden?	Is there an health and animal welfare monitoring programme in place?	Do cows have access to a comfortable bedding?	Are cows provided with enough pasture access?	Is tail docking forbidden?	Does this AW initiative meet CIWF higher AW criteria?	Are the calves group housed from birth?	Do calves have access to comfortable bedding?	Is dehorning and disbudding without pain relief forbidden?	Is castration forbidden?	Is the first colostrum provided in the first 6 hours of life?	Are calves provided with sufficient fibre on the diet?	Is the maximum transportation time allowed 8 hours?	Does this AW initiative meet CIWF higher AW criteria?
CIWF - Food business - better level of animal welfare		Global	At least 5% more stalls available than cows	YES	Active programme to regularly monitor and reduce lameness, Mastitis, poor body condition and improve longevity	YES - Rubber mattresses are not considered comfortable bedding	At least 4 hours a day for a minimum of 100 days/year	YES	YES	YES - From day 0	Permanent deep straw bedding, well-ventilated barns	YES	YES	YES	Provide ad libitum milk or milk replacer to combat hunger, feed roughage ad libitum from 2 weeks old for Sufficient iron (min. 50mg/kg)	YES	YES
OIE		Global	NO- 1 cubicle/cow	NO	YES	MAYBE - Rubber mats are considered bedding	Just as recommendation	Just as recommendation	NO	Just as recommendation	Just as recommendation	MAYBE - The use of pain relief is recommended	Not specified	NO (up to 24 hours)	MAYBE - Calves from 2 weeks must have sufficient fibre (quantity not specified)	Not specified	NO
Australian Certified Organic		Australia	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO - Allowed without anaesthesia under 6 months of age	NO - Allowed without anaesthesia under 6 months of age	Not specified	Not specified	MAYBE- Recommended but able to exceed due to country characteristics	NO
Humane choice		Australia	YES	YES	NO	MAYBE - Bedding is mandatory. Type of bedding not specified	MAYBE - Amount of days and hours not specified	YES	MAYBE	Not specified	MAYBE - Bedding is mandatory. Type of bedding not specified	NO - Allowed without anaesthesia under 3 months of age	NO (suffering should be minimized)	Not specified	UNCLEAR	YES	NO
NASAA		Australia	YES	YES	UNCLEAR	YES	YES	YES	YES	UNCLEAR	YES	NO - Allowed without anaesthesia under 6 months of age	NO (suffering should be minimized)	YES	YES	YES (with some exceptions)	NO
RSPCA Australia		Australia	ONLY DAIRY CALVES							YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	MAYBE
IKM (DQA)		Belgium	NO - 1 cubicle/cow. Overcrowding up to 10% allowed	Not specified	MAYBE - Maximum 10% of lameness in the herd	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified, but forbidden under EU leg.	NO	YES	Not specified	NO	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	NO	NO
QM		Germany	NO - 1 cubicle/cow. Overcrowding up to 10% allowed	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	MAYBE - Summer grazing should be provided to all cows	Not specified, but forbidden under EU leg.	NO	Not specified	Not specified	YES	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	NO
Tierschutz 1 Star		Germany	NO - 1 cubicle/cow	YES	YES	MAYBE -Mattress must have a layer of bedding (details not specified)	NO	Not specified, but forbidden under EU leg.	NO	Dairy cows only		YES	Dairy cows only				
Tierschutz Premium		Germany	MAYBE- 1 cubicle/cow and access to loafing area (off pasture season)	YES	YES	MAYBE -Mattress must have a layer of bedding (details not specified)	YES (April to October)	Not specified, but forbidden under EU leg.	MAYBE	Dairy cows only		YES	Dairy cows only				
RSPCA Assured		UK	YES	YES	YES	YES	MAYBE - Pasture access is mandatory. No minimum number of days required. Recommendations are provide.	YES	YES- Dependent on the numbers of days on pasture	NO - Group socialisation of calves must be completed by 8 weeks of age	YES	YES	NO - Rubber ring AND Burdizzo clamp with analgesia are allowed	YES	YES	YES	NO
Red Tractor		UK	MAYBE - A minimum of 1 cubicle/cow. Loafing area per cow at least 120% of the size of cubicle lying area	NO	YES	NO- mattresses and matting can be used without bedding	NO - Guidelines are provided	YES	NO	NO - Only as per EU legislation (from 8 weeks)	NO- mattresses and matting can be used without bedding	YES	NO	YES	MAYBE- Young stock given dry, fresh, clean feed from 8 days of age (latest) and receive a sufficient and wholesome diet post weaning	NO- partitions required for journeys over 8 hours	NO
EU organic legislation		EU	YES	NO - competent authorities may authorise cattle in small holdings to be tethered if it is not possible to keep the cattle in groups	NO	YES	MAYBE - herbivores shall have access to pasturage for grazing whenever conditions allow. However this legislation is not always properly interpreted	Not specified, but forbidden under EU leg.	NO	NO- only after first week	YES	YES	NO - Physical castration is allowed in order to maintain the quality of products and traditional production. Pain relief is mandatory	Not specified	MAYBE- diet, which may encourage anaemia, is prohibited.	NO	NO
Soil Association		UK	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	Not specified, but forbidden under EU leg.	YES	MAYBE - With special permission calves may be housed individually	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Organic Farmers and Growers		UK	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	Not specified, but forbidden under EU leg.	MAYBE	NO - move to groups as soon as possible is recommended	YES	YES	NO	Not specified	YES	NO	NO
American Humane Association		USA	MAYBE- 1 cubicle/cow. Loafing area is provided	YES	YES	MAYBE -Mattress must have a layer of bedding (details not specified)	MAYBE - Where climate allows it	YES	MAYBE	NO	YES	NO- use of cautery paste without anaesthesia is allowed	NO - Rubber ring without anaesthesia is allowed	MAYBE -Within the first 6 to 8 hours of life	NO	NO	NO
Certified Humane		USA	NO- 1 cubicle/cow	YES	YES	MAYBE -Mattress with 1 inches of bedding is considered suitable	MAYBE - Where climate allows it	YES	MAYBE	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO
Animal Welfare Approved		USA	YES	YES	YES	MAYBE - Rubber mattress with no bedding specification is allowed	YES	YES	YES - Bedding should be provided beyond rubber mattress	NO - isolation allowed up to 28 days	YES	YES	NO - Castration using rubber bands or rings allowed up to 7 days, scalpel or burdizzo allowed up to 2 months of age	YES	YES	YES	NO
FARM		USA	YES	Not specified	YES	YES	Just as recommendation	YES	MAYBE	Just as recommendation	Just as recommendation	YES	MAYBE- Only allowed with pain relief	YES	NO	NO	NO

Disclaimer: These standards were correct at the date of publishing (April 2017) and may have changed since then. Also, this table only represents a portion of the standards. We recommend users to read the full standards.