

Extract from the Bio Suisse Standards

Animal husbandry

Certification of farming operations with animal husbandry; certification of animal products

To obtain certification according to Bio Suisse standards for plant products, animal husbandry on the same operation must comply with Council Regulation (EC) 834/2007 in the EU and in all other countries must at least meet the Bio Suisse minimum requirements for animal husbandry on operations outside of Switzerland:

- no embryo transferring and/or genetic engineering
- the animals must be able to move in their housing in a way that is in keeping with their innate behavioural traits
- the animals must be protected against detrimental influences such as heat, cold, dust, harmful gases, or damp
- no fully slatted floors
- the animals must have sufficient access to range and/or pasture
- the animals must not be caged
- no more than 10 % of feed (for ruminants) or 15 % of feed (for non-ruminants) may be brought in from non-organic sources; in exceptional, justified cases, the percentage of non-organic feed may be higher
- no use of prohibited feed additives, including: antibiotics, hormones, sulphonamides, coccidiostats, synthetic growth promoters and stimulants, synthetic appetite inducers, synthetic colourings, urea, slaughterhouse wastes for ruminants, poultry manure or dung (any kind of excrement), pure amino acids, and genetically modified organisms or their derivatives
- no use of prohibited veterinary substances, including: substances of synthetic origin to stimulate production or to prevent natural growth, hormones to trigger or synchronize heat, and synthetic growth promoters
- no tooth-cutting or tail-docking in pigs
- no de-beaking in poultry

To obtain certification according to Bio Suisse standards for animal products, animal husbandry on the operation must comply with Bio Suisse standards (with the exception of shrimp and mussels, see 2.3.2, and beekeeping, see 2.3.3). Inspections must be carried out by an inspection body named by Bio Suisse; normally, this is a body accredited in Switzerland to carry out Bio Suisse inspections.