
**Animal welfare management —
General requirements and guidance for
organizations in the food supply chain**

*Gestion du bien-être animal — Exigences générales et orientations
pour les organisations des filières alimentaires*

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Foreword

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The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 34, *Food products*.

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Introduction

There is a growing focus in society on animal welfare. Perception of animal welfare is complex and multifaceted, being influenced by scientific, ethical, historical, cultural, religious, economic and political dimensions. When addressing animal welfare, it has to be done in a scientifically credible manner. The Terrestrial Animal Health Code (TAHC) published by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) sets animal welfare standards to be used to establish national regulations and other relevant animal welfare documents.

Animal welfare management, as described in this document, has been developed to be adapted to various situations, including:

- different production systems and different organizations in the supply chain for products of animal origin, regardless of size and country;
- different geographical, cultural and religious contexts; and
- developed as well as developing countries.

The purpose of this document is to ensure the welfare of animals raised for food or feed production around the world through the following objectives:

- to provide a management tool for the implementation of the animal welfare principles of the OIE TAHC (Section 7);
- to provide guidance for the implementation of public or private animal welfare standards and relevant legislation that meet at least the OIE TAHC (Section 7);
- to facilitate the integration of animal welfare principles in business-to-business relations.

The concept of the five freedoms, as mentioned in Chapter 7.1 of the OIE TAHC (freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition; freedom from fear and distress; freedom from physical and thermal discomfort; freedom from pain, injury and disease; and freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour), provides guidance on the understanding of animal welfare, on identifying the relevant aspects to be considered and on implementing relevant practices. The general principles for the welfare of animals in livestock production systems (Article 7.1.4 of the OIE TAHC) provide a basis for practical requirements to ensure that the five freedoms are met.

Animal welfare management can be addressed in different ways, such as legislation, codes of good practice, private specifications or client/supplier requirements.

This document is intended to support the implementation of relevant practices to ensure animal welfare in livestock production systems.

