



Textile  
Exchange



# LIA Benchmark for Animal Welfare Standards DRAFT 1.0

LIA-121-DRAFT-V1.0-2023.XX.XX

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The *LIA Benchmark for Animal Welfare Standards 1.0* replaces the *LIA Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark 0.1* and is effective as of **MMMM DD, YYYY**.

English is the official language of the *LIA Benchmark for Animal Welfare Standards 1.0*. In any case of inconsistency between versions, reference shall be made to the English version.

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### Document Revision

The *LIA Benchmark for Animal Welfare Standards 1.0* will undergo a revision process at least every five years. The next revision is tentatively scheduled to begin in 2027, for completion in 2028. Please note that Textile Exchange may decide to revise earlier at our discretion. You may submit feedback to Textile Exchange at any time; send to [LIA@TextileExchange.org](mailto:LIA@TextileExchange.org). Points of clarification may be incorporated into supplementary and guidance documents prior to 2025. More substantive feedback or suggested changes will be collected and reviewed as part of the next revision of the document.

### Revision History

*LIA Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark 0.1*, released 2021.01.05

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# Introduction

## About the Benchmark for Animal Welfare Standards

This document describes a global animal welfare benchmark to evaluate standards for cattle production. The goal is to drive improvement in animal welfare at scale throughout the cattle industry. To this end, we recognize that there are different systems of cattle farming and current levels of animal welfare vary greatly around the globe. With this benchmark, we have set an initial threshold that represents a basic level of care, and have two additional levels that apply to different farm systems, and provide higher levels of animal welfare.

The intent of this standard benchmark is to help brands and retailers navigate the landscape of animal welfare standards used in cattle production, by identifying and recognizing standards that meet the levels in the benchmark. Hence a brand/retailer will know what animal welfare topics will be covered by LIA-approved standards and therefore the minimum that can be expected from a farm certified to one of these standards.

The LIA Benchmark for Animal Welfare Standards is based on the Textile Exchange Animal Welfare Framework. The framework can be applied across species and utilizes the model of the Five Domains of animal welfare to categorize the requirements. Each module in the benchmark is a key topic for animal welfare, for example, nutrition or living environment. Each module has a desired outcome, and further sub-categories are then defined to cover all aspects of animal welfare to deliver that outcome.

The scope of this standard benchmark is:

- beef cattle production. It does not include veal or dairy production
- applicable to all cattle farming levels (from cow-calf to finishing farms) and slaughter

## About the Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA)

LIA is a framework that sets existing industry tools into a coherent package and enables leather supply chain members – from farmers to retailers – to contribute to a more responsible leather supply chain. LIA uses benchmarks and protocols to set a minimum threshold for practices at the farm and leather production levels and gives recognition to those who meet or exceed them. Brands can use Impact Incentives to provide direct financial support to producers that meet LIA requirements or are working towards meeting them through an Impact Partnership.

## About Textile Exchange

Textile Exchange is a global non-profit driving positive impact on climate change across the fashion and textile industry. It guides a growing community of brands, manufacturers, and farmers towards more purposeful production from the very start of the supply chain.

Textile Exchange's goal is to help the industry to achieve a 45% reduction in the emissions that come from producing fibers and raw materials by 2030. To achieve this, it is keeping its focus holistic and interconnected, accelerating the adoption of practices that improve the state of water, soil health, and biodiversity.

For real change to happen, everyone needs a clear path to positive impact. That's why Textile Exchange believes that approachable, step-by-step instruction paired with collective action can change the system to make preferred

materials and fibers an accessible default, mobilizing leaders through attainable strategies, proven solutions and a driven community.

**At Textile Exchange, materials matter.** To learn more, visit [TextileExchange.org](https://TextileExchange.org).

## About Climate +

At Textile Exchange, our goal is to help the fashion and textile industry achieve a 45% reduction in the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that come from producing fibers and raw materials by 2030. This is known as Tier 4 of the supply chain, and it accounts for 24% of the industry's GHG impacts related to it.

This goal underpins our Climate+ strategy. We call it Climate+, because it goes beyond accounting for GHG emissions. Instead, it is an interconnected approach that swaps siloed solutions for interdependent impact areas like soil health, water, and biodiversity. We also recognize that Climate+ solutions must be underpinned by social responsibility and, where applicable, animal welfare.

The + is also an acknowledgment that Textile Exchange cannot achieve this goal alone.

The Leather Impact Accelerator contributes directly to the Climate + goal by addressing:

- Deforestation and conversion at the farming tiers of the bovine leather supply chain, which contribute to GHG emissions, impact soil health, water, biodiversity and people.
- Animal welfare at the farming and slaughter tiers of the bovine leather supply chain.

## The Standard Benchmark Approach

A standard benchmark approach has been adopted to leverage and add value to the standards and programs that are already in use by the industry.

Benchmarks set a minimum threshold for practices and give recognition to those who meet or exceed them.

The intent of this process is to help brands and retailers navigate the landscape of standards used in the bovine leather supply chain, by identifying and recognizing standards that meet the threshold set in the LIA standard benchmarks. Hence a brand/retailer will know what challenges and practices at a minimum, will be covered by LIA-approved standards and thereby what can be expected from a facility certified to one of these standards.

The standard benchmark approach is also expected to generate the following outcomes:

- an efficient way for brands/retailers to clearly and consistently communicate their expectations to their supply networks, which may reduce the need for brand-specific requirements and audits;
- the alignment of expectations among standards;
- improved transparency relative to the operation and performance of standards;
- greater visibility and uptake of the recognized standards.

The Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA) uses a standard benchmark approach to assess:

- animal welfare standards used throughout cattle production and slaughter;
- social standards used from slaughter and throughout the leather production supply chain;

- environmental standards used throughout the leather production supply chain .

A standard owner can apply for a benchmark assessment through the LIA Standard Benchmark Approval Process. Under this process, the standard will be assessed against the relevant scope specific requirements. In practice this means that the standard owner will need to provide evidence that the practices addressed in the LIA standard benchmark are covered in its standard.

Additionally, all standards will be required to comply with the Standards Management Criteria, which ensures the standard is developed, audited, and maintained in a robust and credible fashion.

Any standard that meets one of the LIA standard benchmarks and the Standards Management Criteria shall be listed on the LIA website as a LIA-approved standard.

## Impact Incentives and Impact Partnerships

Impact Incentives are certificates that are traded in support of a sustainability claim. The Impact Incentives are issued to a producer when a set of criteria have been verified to have been met. Physical goods and the Impact Incentives are traded separately from one another; the Impact Incentives represent a verified quantity of material that has been produced but has not been physically traded.

The way that LIA Impact Incentives work is quite simple: farms that are certified to a standard or program that meets the LIA Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark and/or are verified as Deforestation and Conversion-Free (DCF), will be able to sell Impact Incentives for their volume of output; brands can then purchase these Impact Incentives to address their use of leather, or to meet their CSR goals.

An Impact Partnership is a collaboration between brands, on-the-ground organizations (Program Partner), and producers. Through LIA Impact Partnerships, brands provide financial support to Program Partners to help producers to achieve Animal Welfare certification. If an Impact Partnership includes the DCF scope, all farms need to meet the DCF requirements in order to participate.

LIA Impact Incentives and Impact Partnerships can be applied to all sizes and stages of farms, from cow-calf operations to direct and/or full-cycle farms.

## Verification

LIA requires an authorized third-party verifier to confirm that all requirements are met before the Impact Incentives or Impact Partnership Incentives can be registered. Verification requirements are addressed in the LIA Verification Procedures and Checklist.

## Acknowledgements

The *LIA Benchmark for Animal Welfare Standards* would not be possible without the help of the Leather Impact Accelerator Revision International Working Group that worked to research, review, discuss, and approve the revision of the *LIA Benchmark for Animal Welfare Standards 1.0*.

## How to Use this Document

This document sets forth the overall criteria for assessment against the LIA standard benchmark.

The following terms are used to indicate requirements, recommendations, permissions, and possibilities or capabilities:

- “shall” indicates a requirement
- “should” indicates a recommendation (non-binding),
- “may” indicates a permission (non-binding), and
- “can” indicates a possibility or a capability.

The abbreviation “e.g.” is used to indicate an example, while the abbreviation “i.e.” is used to provide clarification of meaning.

# Section A – Standard Benchmark Levels and Criteria Structure

## A1. Standard Benchmark Levels

The standard benchmark criteria will be used to assess animal welfare standards for cattle production applicable to farming and/or slaughter. The standard benchmark offers a tiered approach, which recognizes standards to three different levels. Each benchmark level represents the minimum set of criteria that standards must address, and we expect that many will go further.

The tiered approach will allow brands/retailers to identify standards that meet different levels of animal welfare practice and hence provide insight into what can be expected from a farm certified to one of the LIA-approved standards.

- **Foundational level**

The Foundational level of the *LIA Benchmark for Animal Welfare Standards* represents standards that deliver the minimum level of animal care that we expect from farmers. Ideally, all farmers would be certified as meeting these basic requirements, but for those who don't, it is critically important to improve their practices to meet this threshold, as their animals will be at the highest welfare risk.

- **Improved level**

This level of the benchmark builds in improved animal welfare measures across all Five Domains of animal welfare while still being applicable to the vast majority of standards covering cattle farm systems. This level can be used for standards that may include allowances for cattle to be confined in feedlots or housing for a period of the animal's life.

- **Improved pasture-based level**

The Improved pasture-based level of the *LIA Benchmark for Animal Welfare Standards* recognizes the additional welfare potential for cattle raised in well-managed pasture-based, grass-based, agroforestry-based and/or rangeland-based systems. Improved pasture-based level applies only to standards that require fully pasture-based systems for the whole of the animal's life.

## A2. Criteria Structure

### **Benchmark Requirements**

These are the factors that must be met by the standard to meet the standard benchmark. The requirements are shown with dark blue table headers. The standard must meet all the applicable requirements in a particular level to be assessed as meeting that level. Please note that each level builds on the requirements of the previous one(s).



- If there is no additional requirement for a topic at a particular level, then the requirements of the previous level(s) must still be met.
- A blank cell for a given requirement number and level, means there is no additional requirement for that level and thereby the requirement(s) of the level(s) below applies.
- In the case it is the Foundational level that is blank, this means there is no requirement that applies for the Foundational level.

### Guidance notes

These provide additional details on how the benchmarked standard is expected to determine conformity with the corresponding criterion. Where these exist, the criterion they relate to has a superscript number, and the associated guidance is shown at the end of this document (Appendix B). The guidance may only be relevant to a given level requirement.

### Recommendations

These are good practice factors that may not be covered by many standards at present but which could improve animal welfare. We will be looking at adding them to the benchmark following future reviews. Additionally, there are some requirements currently shown in one level that in the future could be required in a different level – e.g. a requirement that is currently at the Improved level could be recommended for the Foundational one. Standard owners should view these recommendations as potential future additions when they review and revise their standards. These are shown with green table headers in section C.

It is not mandatory for standards to meet any recommendation to meet the standard benchmark.

### Desired Outcomes

“Desired Outcomes” have been included to detail the intent of criteria, but they are not criteria themselves. They are designated by an icon before each module, see the following example:



**Desired outcome:** Animals are kept in an environment that provides the conditions and facilities needed for health, safety, comfort, and normal behavior.

## Section B – Standard Benchmark Requirements

### B1. Nutrition Requirements



**Desired outcome:** Animals have access to sufficient feed and water suited to their age and needs to maintain health and to prevent prolonged hunger, thirst, malnutrition, or dehydration.

REQUIREMENTS: NUTRITION			
Number	Foundational level	Additional requirements for Improved level	Additional requirements for Improved pasture-based level
PROVISION OF FEED			
B1.1	The standard shall require that a quantity and quality of feed is provided that is appropriate for the animals’ age and needs.	The standard shall require that forage content in the daily diet is suitable and sufficient to avoid negative outcomes such as acidosis.	
B1.2		The standard shall require that no ruminant by-products are included in cattle rations.	
BODY CONDITION SCORING			
B1.3	The standard shall require that body condition is monitored and shall specify the minimum acceptable level for this.		
WATER			
B1.4	The standard shall require that an adequate supply of clean, safe drinking water is provided each day.		

CHANGES IN DIET			
B1.5	The standard shall require that changes in the diet are introduced gradually.		
EMERGENCY FEED AND WATER PROVISION			
B1.6		The standard shall require that plans are in place to ensure that there is access to sufficient food and water in the case of an emergency.	

## B2. Living Environment Requirements



**Desired outcome:** Animals are kept in an environment that provides the conditions and facilities needed for health, safety, comfort, and normal behavior.

REQUIREMENTS: LIVING ENVIRONMENT			
Number	Foundational level	Additional requirements for Improved level	Additional requirements for Improved pasture-based level
<b>INDOOR ENVIRONMENT</b>			
<b>INDOOR: Facilities</b>			
B2.1	The standard shall require that indoor facilities are designed, constructed, and maintained so as to minimize stress and the likelihood of injury to the cattle.		
<b>INDOOR: Thermal environment, ventilation, shelter</b>			
B2.2	The standard shall require that strategies are in place to protect		

	animals in indoor facilities when they are at risk of heat or cold stress and extreme weather.		
B2.3	The standard shall require that indoor facilities have good air quality.	The standard shall set limits for air quality factors <sup>1</sup>	
<b>INDOOR: Lying areas/flooring</b>			
B2.4	The standard shall require that lying areas and floors are safe, clean, and comfortable for the animals.	The standard shall require that lying areas must be bedded using dry, deformable soft materials to a depth that provides comfort for the animals.	
B2.5	The standard shall prohibit fully slatted flooring.		
<b>INDOOR: Lighting</b>			
B2.6	The standard shall require that cattle have periods of light and dark within each 24 hour period and that lighting shall follow natural periodicity.	The standard shall require that cattle have access to natural light in housing.	

<b>OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT</b>			
<b>OUTDOOR: Facilities</b>			
B2.7		The standard shall require that fencing and handling systems, including yards and chutes, are designed, constructed, and maintained so as to minimize stress and the likelihood of injury to the cattle.	
<b>OUTDOOR: Air quality</b>			
B2.8		The standard shall require that cattle are not be exposed to levels of dust that lead to respiratory or other problems.	
<b>OUTDOOR: Access to pasture</b>			
B2.9		The standard shall require that breeding cattle and their unweaned calves have access to pasture at all times when their welfare would not otherwise be at risk.	The standard shall require that all cattle have access to pasture at all times when their welfare would not otherwise be at risk.
B2.10		The standard shall require that cattle other than breeding animals and their calves have access to an outdoor exercise area at all times of their lives when their welfare would not otherwise be at risk.	

OUTDOOR: Shade, shelter & thermal comfort			
B2.11	The standard shall require that strategies such as shade and/or shelter are in place to protect cattle when they are at risk from extremes of temperature and weather.		
INDOOR & OUTDOOR LIVING ENVIRONMENT			
SPACE ALLOWANCES			
B2.12	The standards shall require that there is sufficient space for each animal to prevent crowding and allow for normal behavior. Animals must be able to stand up, lie down and turn around freely.	The standard shall set specific space allowances for different types/weights of the animal <sup>2</sup> .	
TETHERING			
B2.13	The standard shall prohibit tethering.		
ENRICHMENTS			
B2.14		The standard shall require that cattle have access to items or places where they can scratch.	
CLEANLINESS/MUD SCORES			
B2.15	The standard shall require that cattle are not forced to lie in mud/manure or to stand/walk in deep mud/manure.		
B2.16	The standard shall require that a mud scoring system, that defines acceptable depth and body coverage of mud/manure, is used.		
PROTECTION FROM HAZARDS			

B2.17	The standard shall require that cattle have their health and safety protected and are not exposed to potential toxins		
<b>PROTECTION FROM PREDATORS</b>			
B2.18		The standard shall require that strategies are employed to protect animals from predators.	
B2.19		The standard shall prohibit the use of poisons against predators.	The standard shall require that wildlife-friendly practices are used.
B2.20		The standard shall prohibit the use of snares, and leg hold traps shall control predators.	
B2.21		The standard shall require that if lethal control is needed, it is specific to the problem predator.	
B2.22		The standard shall require that a predator management plan that prioritizes non-lethal deterrence is in place.	

## B3. Cattle Husbandry Requirements



**Desired outcome:** Animals are bred, raised, handled, managed, and cared for in a manner that ensures their health and safety. Animals are free from pain, injury, and disease and managed with a proactive approach to ensure that the health of the animal is maintained through all stages of life.

REQUIREMENTS: CATTLE HUSBANDRY			
Number	Foundational level	Additional requirements for Improved level	Additional requirements for Improved pasture-based level
SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT/ISOLATION			
B3.1		The standard shall require that cattle, as herd animals, are only isolated when needed for short-term medical or safety interventions	
B3.2		The standard shall require that provision is made for the segregation and care of sick or injured animals that are unable to eat/drink and/or keep up with the herd.	
HANDLING			
B3.3	The standard shall require that animals are handled calmly, quietly and humanely. There shall be no abuse of animals.		
B3.4	The standard shall have prescriptions for the use of electric prods.	The standard shall prohibit the use of electric prods under any circumstance.	



	<p>Electric prods shall only be used under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• never be applied to the face, genitals, udder, or anal area;</li> <li>• only be used when the animal is mobile, and there are no obstacles, e.g. other animals;</li> <li>• only be used once on a single animal;</li> <li>• never be used on animals that are clearly sick;</li> <li>• never be used on calves under six months of age.</li> </ul>		
B3.5	The standard shall prohibit electro-immobilization.		
<b>INSPECTION</b>			
B3.6	The standard shall require that inspection of animals in extensive systems where feed and water are freely available is at a frequency that minimizes the risk of not seeing animals that are sick, injured, need assistance for calving, etc.		
B3.7	The standard shall require that cattle in barns or lots where human intervention is required for the provision of feed and/or water are inspected at least once daily.		
<b>HEALTH &amp; TREATMENT</b>			
B3.8	The standard shall require that any animal identified as being sick, injured, or lame is given appropriate treatment as soon as possible.	The standard shall require that cattle are pro-actively managed for the prevention of disease	

B3.9	The standard shall require the responsible use of antimicrobials on the operation. i.e. <i>Subtherapeutic treatments shall be prohibited.</i>	The standards shall require a written health and welfare plan relevant to the health challenges on the farm/ranch .	
<b>LAMENESS</b>			
B3.10	The standard shall require that cattle are monitored for lameness and action shall be taken to prevent lameness.	The standard shall require a maximum acceptable level of lameness <sup>3</sup> .	
<b>GROWTH PROMOTERS</b>			
B3.11		The standard shall prohibit the use of beta-agonists.	
B3.12			The standard shall prohibit the use of growth hormones and other growth promoters.
<b>MORTALITY</b>			
B3.13	The standard shall require that mortality rates are recorded.	The standard shall require that strategies are employed to identify and mitigate causes of mortality when levels exceed acceptable herd norms.	
B3.14		The standard shall require a maximum acceptable level of mortality. <sup>4</sup>	
<b>PAINFUL PROCEDURES: GENERAL</b>			
B3.15	The standard shall require that equipment used for operations such as disbudding and		

	castration shall be safe, clean and in working order.		
<b>PAINFUL PROCEDURES: CASTRATION</b>			
B3.16	The standard shall require that castration is carried out at as young an age as possible	The standard shall set a maximum age of castration.	
B3.17	The standard shall address methods of castration.		
B3.18		The standard shall require that when castration takes place on calves over the age of nine weeks, pain relief is used when available <sup>5</sup> .	
<b>PAINFUL PROCEDURES: SPAYING</b>			
B3.19		The standard shall require that spaying and webbing are prohibited.	
<b>PAINFUL PROCEDURES: HORN MODIFICATION</b>			
B3.20	The standard shall require that if calves are disbudded/dehorned, the procedure is performed at as early an age as possible.	The standard shall require that the maximum permitted age for disbudding is nine weeks.	
B3.21		The standard shall require that for all methods and ages at which disbudding is carried out, pain relief is used when available <sup>6</sup> .	
B3.22		The standard shall prohibit dehorning.	
<b>PAINFUL PROCEDURES: TAIL MODIFICATION</b>			

B3.23	The standard shall prohibit tail docking		
<b>IDENTIFICATION</b>			
B3.24	The standard shall prohibit face branding unless required by national and/or regional regulations.	The standard shall prohibit branding anywhere on the animal unless required by national and/or regional regulations, breed societies or financial institutions.	
<b>BREEDING, PREGNANCY &amp; BIRTHING</b>			
B3.25	The standard shall require that breeding choices and techniques for cows and heifers shall not risk their health or the health of their calves.	The standard shall require that the breed selected is suitable for the farm/ranch system.	The standard shall set requirements for the minimum percentage of adult weight that must be reached before first breeding.
B3.26		The standard shall require that breeding choices proactively select for welfare traits such as easy calving, longevity, disease resilience, etc. and not just production traits.	
<b>WEANING</b>			
B3.27		The standard shall require that suckled calves are not weaned before a minimum age of six months.	
B3.28		The standard shall require that weaning is carried out using a low-stress method.	
<b>EUTHANASIA/ON-FARM SLAUGHTER</b>			
B3.29	The standard shall require that animals that are suffering pain		

	or distress and not responding to treatment are euthanized using methods that cause immediate unconsciousness that lasts until death.		
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## B4. Transport Requirements



**Desired outcome:** Animals are transported in a low-stress manner by competent handlers on well-planned journeys. Transport vehicles are designed and maintained to be suitable for the livestock transported.

REQUIREMENTS: TRANSPORT			
Number	Foundational level	Additional requirements for Improved level	Additional requirements for Improved pasture-based level
FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT			
B4.1	The standard shall require that animals are only transported when they are fit and well enough to cope with all aspects of this.		
TRANSPORT SPACE ALLOWANCES			
B4.2	The standard shall require that space in transport and the maximum number of animals that can be carried on a vehicle are planned prior to loading.	The standard shall require space allowances in transport set per animal by type/weight	
TRANSPORT VEHICLE			
B4.3	The standard shall require that transport vehicles are designed and suitable for livestock/cattle transport.	The standard shall require that ramps and other surfaces used for loading shall provide good footing.	
B4.4		The standard shall require that ramps and steps allow animals easy access to the transport vehicle.	

B4.5	The standard shall require that vehicles offer enough headroom for cattle to stand naturally.		
<b>TRANSPORT CONDITIONS</b>			
B4.6	The standard shall require that strategies are employed to promote thermal comfort in extreme weather. <i>This could include providing bedding and ensuring ventilation slats are open or closed.</i>		
B4.7	The standard shall require that adequate ventilation is maintained during transport.		
<b>TRANSPORT DURATION</b>			
B4.8	The standard shall address the time spent in transport.	The standard shall require that the maximum transport duration for a single journey for weaned animals shall be 36 hours.	The standard shall require that the maximum transport duration for a single journey for weaned animals shall be 16 hours.
<b>TRANSPORT STAFF</b>			
B4.9	The standard shall require that only personnel who are trained and competent are involved in transport.		

## B5. Slaughter Requirements



**Desired outcome:** Animals are slaughtered efficiently and humanely without pain and distress. Animals are stunned pre-slaughter.

These requirements apply to any standards that address slaughter.


REQUIREMENTS: SLAUGHTER			
Number	Foundational level	Additional requirements for Improved level	Additional requirements for Improved pasture-based level
MANAGEMENT & TRAINING			
B5.1	The standard shall require that personnel at the abattoir/slaughter plant shall be trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.	The standard shall require that there is a named person who is responsible for animal welfare and who has the authority to stop slaughter operations if there is a risk to cattle welfare.	
CASUALTY ANIMALS			
B5.2	The standard shall require that animals that are unable to rise and walk are euthanized promptly using an acceptable method.		
PRE-SLAUGHTER HANDLING			
B5.3	The standard shall require that animals are handled calmly, quietly and humanely. There shall be no abuse of animals.	The standard shall require that staff handling live animals are trained in low stress handling methods.	



B5.4	<p>The standard shall set requirements around the use of electric prods to include the following:</p> <p>Prods shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• never be applied to the face, genitals, udder, or anal area;</li> <li>• only be used when the animal is mobile, and there are no obstacles, e.g. other animals;</li> <li>• only to be used only once on a single animal;</li> <li>• never be used on animals that are clearly sick;</li> <li>• never be used on calves under six months of age.</li> </ul>	The standard shall prohibit the use of electric prods under any circumstance.	
<b>STUNNING &amp; SLAUGHTER</b>			
B5.5	The standard shall require that methods of slaughter are used that cause immediate unconsciousness that is maintained until death.		
B5.6	The standard shall require that suitable equipment for the slaughter of cattle is available and maintained as per the manufacturers' instructions.		
B5.7	The standard shall require that the correct ammunition for the size/age/type of cattle is used when captive bolt guns/firearms are in use for stunning or slaughter.		
B5.8	The standard shall require that the correct current and application time are used for		

	any electrical methods of stunning or slaughter.		
B5.9	The standard shall require that following stunning; animals are bled as soon as possible.		

## B6. Management Requirements



**Desired outcome:** The welfare of animals is protected by clear protocols and defined management strategies.

REQUIREMENTS: MANAGEMENT			
Number	Foundational level	Additional requirements for Improved level	Additional requirements for Improved pasture-based level
TRAINING			
B6.1	The standard shall require that all those working with cattle are trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.		

## Section C – Recommendations

C1. Cattle Husbandary			
Number	Foundational level	Additional recommendations for Improved level	Additional recommendations for Improved pasture-based level
C1.1	The standard should require that staff are trained in low stress handling methods.		
C1.2	The standard should require that spaying and webbing are prohibited.		
C1.3	The standard should require that castration is not carried out at the same time as weaning.		
C1.4	The standard should require that for all methods and ages at which castration is carried out pain relief should be used.		
C1.5	The standard should require that disbudding/dehorning is not carried out at the same time as weaning.		The standard should require that if disbudding is carried out the farm should move towards polled genetics with the intent of ceasing disbudding within a set number of years from first certification. <sup>7</sup>
C1.6	The standard should require that for all methods and ages at which disbudding/dehorning is carried out pain relief should be used.		

## C2. Transport

C2.1		The standard should require breaks where animals are unloaded, fed and watered when transport duration exceeds a set number of hours.	
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## C3. Slaughter

C3.1	All standards should include requirements for animal welfare at slaughter.		
C3.2	The standard should require that following stunning, animals are bled within 60 seconds*.		

\* This recommendation applies to any standard that currently addresses slaughter.

## Appendix A – Definitions and References

**Available** (specific to pain relief): A product that is licensed for use by the farmer, in the relevant country, for the relevant species, for pain relief. [Source: Textile Exchange Responsible Wool Standard User Manual [RAF-201a-V2.2-RWS-User-Manual.pdf \(textileexchange.org\)](#) Pain Relief Guidance page 55]

**Electro-immobilisation:** Passing a pulsed, low-voltage electrical current through the body of an animal. The electrical current induces contraction of the muscles supplied by the nerves of that segment of the spine, preventing voluntary movement of the animal. [Source Australian Veterinary Association [Electroimmobilisation \(ava.com.au\)](#)]

**Lame:** Inability of an animal to walk without difficulty [Source Oxford English Dictionary]

**Severely Lame:** An animal that is unable to bear weight on the affected foot, score 5 in a 1 to 5 mobility scoring system [Source MSD Veterinary Manual [Locomotion Scoring in Cattle - Musculoskeletal System - MSD Veterinary Manual \(msdvetmanual.com\)](#)] Also an animal that is unable to walk as fast as a brisk human pace and which cannot keep up with the healthy herd, score 3 in a 0 to 3 mobility scoring system. [Source AssureWel [Mobility in beef cattle: AssureWel](#)]

**Outdoor exercise area:** Unroofed outdoor area. This could include yards, dry lots and other similar enclosures. [Source Textile Exchange]

**Pasture:** Land covered with vegetation suitable for grazing or foraging by animals. [Source Textile Exchange Responsible Wool Standard [RAF-101a-V2.2-Responsible-Wool-Standard.pdf \(textileexchange.org\)](#)]

**Rangeland [and grassland]:** Definition as for Pasture

The following references were used in the development of the Benchmark for Animal Welfare Standards:

- [ISEAL's Codes of Good Practice](#)
- [ISEAL Sustainability Benchmarking Good Practice Guide](#)
- [OIE Guidelines](#)
- [Five Domains of Animal Welfare](#)
- [Textile Exchange Animal Welfare Framework](#)

## Appendix B – Guidance Notes

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<sup>1</sup> **B2.3 -Improved level:** Air quality issues should include ammonia and dust. Ammonia should not exceed 20ppm.

<sup>2</sup> **B2.12 – Improved level:** It is suggested that the standard should set a minimum indoor space per animal of 1m<sup>2</sup> or more per 100 kg live weight.

<sup>3</sup> **B3.10 – Improved level:** It is suggested that at Improved level the total for moderately and severely lame animals should not exceed 5% of the herd. Of that figure, severely lame animals should not exceed 4% of the herd and should be in sick pens.

**B3.10 - Improved pasture-based level:** It is suggested that at Improved pasture-based level the total for moderately lame animals should not exceed 2% of the herd, and there should be 0% severely lame animals.

<sup>4</sup> **B3.14 – Improved level:** It is suggested that at Improved level the maximum acceptable level of mortality across the entire herd should be 4%.

**B3.14 – Improved pasture-based level:** It is suggested that at Improved pasture-based level the maximum acceptable level of mortality across the entire herd should be 2%.

<sup>5</sup> **B3.18 – Improved level:** It is suggested that pain relief should include both local anaesthetic and analgesic and be administered to mitigate pain both during and after the operation.

<sup>6</sup> **B3.21 – Improved level:** It is suggested that pain relief should include both local anaesthetic and analgesic and be administered to mitigate pain both during and after the operation.

<sup>7</sup> **C1.5 – Recommendation for Improved pasture-based level:** It is suggested that the introduction of polled genetics and the phase-out of disbudding should take no more than five years.