**Feedback Table**

[**Link**](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2018.150.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:L:2018:150:TOC) **to the New Organic Regulation**

[**Link**](https://www.ifoam-eu.org/en/organic-regulations/list-eu-organic-regulations) **to all current Organic Regulations**

**Ver. 15 Aug. 2018**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** | **Feedback collected/proposals** |
| **Poultry** |
| Access to open air areas must be guaranteed during the day and openings can be closed at night | ***Feedback from the TF:*** *More than 10 experts agreed, no one disagreed****Proposed solution:*** *we add it on our poultry input to the COM* |
| Multilayers banned for broilers | ***Feedback from the TF:*** *More than 10 experts agreed, 1 disagreed****Proposed solution****: we add the proposition to ban it on our poultry input to the COM* |
| How many layers in multilayer systems are acceptable  | ***Feedback from the TF:*** *4 layers (3 experts), 3 layers (3 experts), 2 layers (1 expert), as minimum as possible (3 experts)****Proposed solution:*** *to hear the opinion of the* ***farmers group****. Questions to be posed:** *How many layers are acceptable (3 layers would mean ground floor + 2 levels)?*
* *Should more layers be allowed for pullets? If so, how many?*
 |
| Maximum number of birds per building | ***Feedback from the TF:*** *7 experts agree, 3 disagree****Proposed solution:*** *not to be proposed but good to hear from the* ***farmers group*** |
| Maximum number for pullets per flock from 10.000 to 12.500 | ***Feedback from the TF:*** *2 experts agree, for 3 experts is not big difference, 3 experts disagree****Proposed solution:*** *not to be proposed but good to hear from the* ***farmers group*** |
| Decrease of open air area for broilers from 4m2/bird to 2 m2/bird | ***Feedback from the TF:*** *2 experts agree, 4 experts disagree, 2 experts strongly disagree, for 1 expert it depends.**According to one expert as broilers do not get to live much beyond 10 weeks and they do not get outside until they are feathered, the surface could even be reduced to 1 m2.****Proposed solution:*** *not to be proposed but good to hear from the* ***farmers group*** |
| Stocking density for species other that Gallus gallus as suggested by ERPA | ***Feedback from the TF:*** *1 expert agrees, 4 experts disagree, 4 experts strongly disagree.****Proposed solution:*** *to keep the current 21 kg live weight/m2* |

Other EGTOP proposed requirements: the longest possible distance to the exit of the hall e.g. 15 m same for 150 m outside – CZ disagree

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Problems related to the wording in the basic text related to the production requirements for pigs, cows, goats, sheep and horses** | The definition and the use of the term '***pen***'- including its translation in other languages - must be clarified for cervine and porcine animals. It is not consistent at the moment.Please see: Art. 3(75) and the following points in Annex II part II: * General: 1.6.10,
* For cervine 1.9.2.1 (f) and (h), 1.9.2.2(b),
* For porcine 1.9.3.2 (c) and (d)

For example, point 1.6.10 says that "*organic livestock may not be reared in a pen on very wet or marshy soil*" while point 1.9.2.2(b) says that "*in red deer pens, animals must be able to roll in the mud…*"  |
| As in the current regulation, Annex II Point 1.6.5 says that “*Open air areas may be partially covered*”. This wording is generally fine, but it does not allow a system for porcine animals which is called "all-straw system". This system would be fully in line with the organic principles, but as all the inside and outside floor is covered with straw, a protection from the rain is needed in the outside area.  |
| It should be clarified whether tethering sows for a short period during farrowing is allowed. This husbandry practice, allowed by the Competent Authority in some Member States, is highly controversial and gives a bad image of organic farming. |
|  | **Pigs** | **Cows** | **Goat/Sheep** | **Horses** |
| The minimum period referred to in point 1.4.1(g) to be respected for feeding of suckling animals with maternal milk | The minimum period should stay as it is in the current regulation (EC) No 889/2008 Art. 20 (1). For pigs 40 days.It should be also clarified that maternal milk should come from the actual mother. | The minimum period should stay as it is in the current regulation (EC) No 889/2008 Art. 20 (1). For cows 3 months.There should be exceptional cases in which the use of milk replacers is allowed. Criteria should be established for this purpose. | The minimum period should stay as it is in the current regulation (EC) No 889/2008 Art. 20 (1). For goat and sheep 45 days.There should be exceptional cases in which the use of milk replacers is allowed. Criteria should be established for this purpose. | The minimum period should stay as it is in the current regulation (EC) No 889/2008 Art. 20 (1). For horses 3 months. |
| Stocking density and minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas | Stoking densities and minimum surfaces for indoor and outdoor areas should be kept as in the Annexes III and IV of the current regulation (EC) No 889/2008Please note that in the PPT presented in the last COP, the category > 110 Kg is missing. | Stoking densities and minimum surfaces for indoor and outdoor areas should be kept as in the Annexes III and IV of the current regulation (EC) No 889/2008 | Stoking densities and minimum surfaces for indoor and outdoor areas should be kept as in the Annexes III and IV of the current regulation (EC) No 889/2008 | Stoking densities and minimum surfaces for indoor and outdoor areas should be kept as in the Annexes III and IV of the current regulation (EC) No 889/2008 |
| To be consistent with the rules pertaining the use of non organic protein feed, the current category for piglets “over 40 days and up **to 30 kg**” might become “over 40 days and up **to 35 kg**” |
| It would be good to have a size limitation of production units to link it to the soil of feed (it was in the amendment 341 of the EU Parliament report o commission legislative proposal):***“The size of pig production units shall be limited in all cases to 1500 slaughter pigs per year or 200 sows or their equivalent in the case of farrowing-fattening units. These maximum figures for each production unit may be exceeded where 100 % of the feed is produced on the holding.”*** | For goats, the combination of the minimum outdoor surface with the requirement that animals need to be able to graze still does allow for goats to be held in plots that are too small, resulting in parasite pressure and animal welfare problems. Minimum outdoor surface should be increased. |
| The category for "farrowing sows with piglets up to 40 days" might be split in 2 categories as the piglets double their weight many times in the first weeks of life. When piglets are new born a smaller area can have animal welfare benefits. A new category of 6 sqm can be established for sows and piglets up to 20 days. |
| Characteristics and technical requirements of the minimum surface for indoor and outdoor areas | To keep the current requirements of Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. | To keep the current requirements of Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. | To keep the current requirements of Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. | To keep the current requirements of Art. 11 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. |
| Clarification on indoor slatted surface is needed, by adding:**“When slatted constructions are allowed, it shall be limited to the entire indoor surface, not of the minimum surface area per animal required for the specie.”**This is necessary becausethe limitation on slatted surface only applies to the minimum legal surface and not to the entire housing surface. Thus animal housing with higher minimum indoor area per animal, than the one provided in the regulation, might have more than 50% of their entire surface covered with slatted construction. This would not be consistent with animal welfare principles. | Clarification on indoor slatted surface is needed, by adding:**“When slatted constructions are allowed, it shall be limited to the entire indoor surface, not of the minimum surface area per animal required for the specie.”**This is necessary becausethe limitation on slatted surface only applies to the minimum legal surface and not to the entire housing surface. Thus animal housing with higher minimum indoor area per animal, than the one provided in the regulation, might have more than 50% of their entire surface covered with slatted construction. This would not be consistent with animal welfare principles. | Slatted floor should not be allowed at all | Slatted floor should not be allowed at all |
| Characteristics and technical requirements of buildings and pens for all livestock species, except for bees, to ensure, in accordance with point 1.7.2, that the developmental, physiological and ethological needs of animals are met | To keep the current requirements of Arts. 10 and 11 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. No additional provisions necessary.For a more harmonised implementation it would be good to give some more details regarding on point 1.9.3.2(f) of Annex II Part II: “Exercise areas shall permit dunging and rooting by porcine animals. For the purposes of rooting different substrates can be used.”According to IFOAM EU it should be clarified that it is meant on natural ground. | To keep the current requirements of Arts. 10 and 11 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. No additional provisions necessary.More details of shelter/shade to be offered outside might be needed. | To keep the current requirements of Arts. 10 and 11 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. No additional provisions necessary.For goats: elements that can be used to jump up and lay/stand on would be positive for animal welfare both in- and outside. Maybe a minimum % of minimum area to be proposed. For sheep: No additional provisions necessary | To keep the current requirements of Arts. 10 and 11 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008. No additional provisions necessary. |
| Vegetation requirements and characterises of protected facilities and open air areas | No additional provisions necessary. | No additional provisions necessary.  | No additional provisions necessary. | No additional provisions necessary. |

|  |
| --- |
| **Productions Rules for other Areas** |
| Production rules for mushroom | Requirements should stay as in Article 6 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008Nevertheless, some clarifications are needed:* a clarification that mushrooms are “plants” regarding allowed disinfection and other allowed input would be good.
* More clarity on what moment the production process starts. Substrates are not in the scope of the regulation. However, in the moment when the substrate is inoculated with the mycelium the process should be under the control of a control body/authority.

Another issue that needs clarification is related to the use of manure. Manure from factory farming is not allowed and the definition of factory farming is at Member State level at the moment. Therefore, there are difficulties with traded compound substrates from other Member States which comply with the national rules of the supplier country, but not with the rules of the buyer’s country. |
| Production rules for sprouted seed | Sprouted seeds are already certified in many Member States. Mainly it is required to use clean water to moisten the seed and organic seed as basis (or – as derogation – in conversion or untreated seed).It should be clarified whether the production of sprouted seed is a farming or a processing activity. This is important for example to understand whether allowed food additives or processing aids can be used.Question for consultation: taking in consideration that the final product is kind of mono-ingredient, should non-organic seed be allowed in production of organic sprouts? Or only organic seed should be allowed? |
| Production rules for ornamentals | Most of the ornamentals are produced and sold in pots, but there can also be production in soil.In the second case, the general rules for plant production should apply.In the first case some additional requirements are needed:* Definition of **natural substrate**: A mixture of soil and/or soil improvers that are mentioned in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

Reason: a description of what can be put in the pots is needed. Soil is not included in Annex I of the current Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 but is in practice used for some of the mixtures that go in the pots. This definition does justice to practice. * Substrates used in a conventional system cannot be converted to organic.

The production of cut flowers is somehow different and a list of allowed substances - water additives - to keep the cut flowers fresh should be established. In some Member States, private standards exist, and those allow: * glucose and potassium choride as post-treatment to prevent bacterial growth and to improve the efflorescence
* sugar, garlic extract, citric acid, glycerol, borax to keep the flower fresh

Finally, it should be established a system for keeping track of the availability of propagating material for shrubs and plants like roses, ornamental trees etc. |
| Production rules for herbs | As for ornamentals, some additional requirements on the top of the general plant rules are needed:* Definition of **natural substrate**: A mixture of soil and/or soil improvers that are mentioned in Annex I of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.

Reason: a description of what can be put in the pots is needed. Soil is not included in Annex I of the current Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 but is in practice used for some of the mixtures that go in the pots. This definition does justice to practice. * Substrates used in a conventional system cannot be converted to organic.

Moreover, it is probably necessary to be more precise on the term 'herbs' and its translations into other languages. |
| Production rules for deer | There are National and private standards in a number of Member States:* Austria has established National rules
* KRAV in Sweden established private rules until 2015
* Biokontroll in Hungary has also private standards.

Those standards can be available on request. |
| Production rules for quails | There are National and private standards in a number of Member States:* Spain established National rules
* FNAB in France is developing a private standard
* Biokontroll in Hungary has also private standards

Spanish standard provides the following rules for quails (meat production) for:* Minimum surface for indoor: 68 animals/m2 with a maximum of 21 Kg live weight/m2
* Minimum surface for outdoor areas: 0,48 m2 (available surface in rotation per head) considering the limit of 170 kg N/ha /any.
* Maximum number of birds per building: 32400 quails for meat production

The other standards can be available on request.It is important to say that organic standards for quails can be established only for meat production, not for eggs.The reason is that laying quails shall be kept inside without access to outdoor area, otherwise they will lay their eggs anywhere on this outside area. This is not compatible with sanitary rules. The only solution, which is currently used in conventional production, is to keep the birds inside, but this is not in line with the principles of organic farming. |
| Production rules for rabbits | There are National and private standards in a number of Member States:* Spain and Austria established National rules
* FNAB in France is developing a private standard
* Biokontroll in Hungary has also private standards
* CZ national standard to be send if needed

Those standards can be available on request. |
| Production rules for insects | It seems that only Austria has national standards for organic insect used for feed. This standard can be available on request.IFOAM Organics International is starting a world-wide process to develop organic standards for insects. This process will requires 2 years of work. |
| **Documents to be supplied for the retroactive recognition of the conversion period** |
| It is necessary to have a more harmonised approach in the EU on this point.Article 10 (3) of the new organic regulation reads: *"3.   No previous period may be retroactively recognised as being part of the conversion period, except where:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *(a)* | *the operator’s land parcels were subject to measures which were defined in a programme implemented pursuant to Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 for the purpose of ensuring that no products or substances other than those authorised for use in organic production have been used on those land parcels; or* |
| *(b)* | *the operator can provide proof that the land parcels were natural or agricultural areas that, for a period of at least three years, have not been treated with products or substances that are not authorised for use in organic production."* |

If point (a) is quite clear with no room for interpretation, point (b) leaves instead room for interpretation and unfair practices within the Eu and even within the same Member State.For this reason a detailed procedure with clear criteria is needed to implement point (b).Please find here below a list of documents required by Competent Authorities and Control Bodies/Authorities in different Member States and in Third Countries:* A report on the concerned plots and information on the production of the last 3 years (in some Member States it has to be done by an independent agronomist)
* Farm-book listing agronomic practices, treatments, fertilisation etc.
* Analytical test of soil related to the last 3 years
* Specific inspection visit for an inspector of the Control Body/Authority
* (for uncultivated fields) A report with an analysis of wild vegetation and photos
 |
| **Documentary requirements for transports** |
| No additional provisions are needed for transport documents.However, some issues arise from the general rules for transport and storing. Most of those issues are already existing with the implementation of the current Chapter 4 of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008.* In annex III point 2.1 it reads: "*Operators shall ensure that organic and in-conversion products are transported to other operators or units, including wholesalers and retailers […]*". This wording excludes final consumers and mass-caterers
* It also reads: "*[…] only in appropriate packaging, containers or vehicles closed in such a manner that substitution of the content cannot be achieved without manipulation or damage of the seal*". In practice, For transport of e.g. fresh fruit/vegetables open boxes are used. The train compartments or trucks transporting these boxes/big bags are usually not sealed. The same problem applies to imported product in bulk (e.g. grains in ships).
* It is also not clear whether points 3 and 4 of Annex III are self-standing requirements for feed and live fish, or if they have to be applied on the top of points 1 and 2
 |
| **Catastrophic Circumstances** |
| A.22.(a) the criteria to qualify catastrophic circumstances deriving from an 'adverse climatic event', 'animal diseases', 'environmental incident', natural disaster' or a 'catastrophic event' as defined in points (h), (i), (j), (k) and (l), respectively, of Article 2(1) of Regulation (EU) No 1305/2013 as well as any comparable situation; (b) specific rules, including possible derogation from this Regulation, on how Member States shall deal with such catastrophic circumstances if they decide to apply this Article; and (c) specific rules on monitoring and reporting in such cases. | The current rules in Article 47 of Reg. (EC) No 889/2008 can be kept. On the top of them, some additional rules can be added:* Land / animals should not lose organic status
* In case a region is affected: a public decree from the Competent Authority should describe the region affected, the derogations from the rules and the time limit for the non-conform situation, including rules for use of the derogation by individual operators
* In case a single farm is affected: an individual decree from the Competent Authority should describe the derogations from the rules and the time limit for the non-conform situation.
* Both cases need to be communicated to the Control Bodies/Authorities. Control Bodies/Authorities also clearly need to know if there are any reporting obligations.
* Bureaucratic burden for all parties involved shall be as little as possible
 |
| **Databases** |
|  | **Seed and PRM** | **Animals** | **Aquaculture** |
| to provide technical details for establishing and maintaining the databases | The part on seed/PRM is being developed by the IFOAM EU Expert Group on Seed. You will receive a proposal very soon | Databases should not be obligatory for animals already assessed as available in the relevant Member States. For all species (except poultry):Databases should only show breeding animals. Relevant information to be in: * For crossbreed: breed mother and breed father
* Date of birth (instead of age! would be a more practical information.)
* Gender
* For females: number of births
* Supplier's name, address, contacts
 | Relevant information to be in:* Supplier's name, address, contacts
* Species/genus
* Stage of development (egg, larve, length of young fish...; for e.g. carp: age/number of summers
* Delivery time
* Production capacity, but in practice this will not work as the database is not able to show the current orders.

Access from operators from other countries and entries from suppliers of other countries should be possible. |
| provide specifications as regards the collection of data | No comment |
| provide specifications as regards the arrangements for participation in the databases | There should also be the possibility to enter data without internet access, e.g. vie a service telephone line, and also for getting info from the databases. Not each farm in every country has access to the web or uses internet regularly to be able to see the content. |
| provide details as regards the information to be provided by Member States | No comment |