

Procedures for the Circulation of Animal Products and Products Derived Therefrom, which are not Regulated by Directly Applicable Legal Acts of the European Union Regarding Organic Farming

*Issued pursuant to
Section 11, Paragraph three, Clause 2 of the
Law On Agriculture and Rural Development*

I. General Provisions

1. These Regulations prescribe the procedures for the circulation of animals of the deer family, rabbits, wild boars, ostriches, pheasants, meat pigeons, quail and food products derived therefrom and animal feed (hereinafter – products), which are not regulated by directly applicable legal acts of the European Union regarding organic farming.

2. A natural person or legal person, which produces, prepares or imports organic farming animals or products acquired therefrom from a state, which is not a European Union Member State, in order to sell them, or which sells such products (hereinafter – operator), shall observe the requirements specified in Section IV of Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control (hereinafter – Regulation No 889/2008) and regulatory enactments regarding the supervision and control of organic farming.

3. In accordance with the requirements specified by Section IV of Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 and the regulatory enactments regarding the supervision and control of organic farming, the control and supervision of these Regulations shall be ensured by:

3.1. the certification institution “Environmental Quality” of the association “Environmental Quality”; and

3.2. the State limited liability company “Certification and Testing Centre”.

**II. Procedures for the Circulation of Animals
and the Products thereof**

4. Animals in organic farming shall be reared, transported and slaughtered in accordance with regulatory enactments regarding the requirements of farm animal welfare and in accordance with the conditions of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation (EEC) No 2092/91 (hereinafter – Regulation No 834/2007) and Regulation No 889/2008.

5. A farm shall be converted into an organic farm in accordance with Article 36(1) of Regulation No 889/2008, observing the transitional periods specified, in order to ensure the conformity of the plants and plant products used to ensure the feeding of animals, with the requirements of organic production.

6. If the entire farm is converted into an organic farm concurrently, a total transitional period of 24 months shall be determined. The transitional period shall be applicable both to the existing animals on the farm and the descendants thereof and to the land provided that the food used for feeding of the animals is acquired in accordance with the requirements specified by Regulation No 889/2008.

7. Other animal species, which are not reared in accordance with the requirements specified by Regulation No 889/2008 and Regulation No 834/2007, may also be kept on the farm, if they are kept separate from the buildings and land parcels where animals are reared in accordance with these Regulations.

8. The amount of organic fertiliser used on a farm per year, in accordance with the requirements specified in Article 15 of Regulation No 889/2008, shall not exceed 170 kilograms of nitrogen oxide or 1.7 animal units per hectare in accordance with the following maximum number of animals per hectare:

- 8.1. five animals of the deer family;
- 8.2. seven wild boars;
- 8.3. 16 ostriches;
- 8.4. 230 pheasants;
- 8.5. 580 quails; and
- 8.6. 580 meat pigeons.

9. Animals shall be fed in accordance with the requirements specified in Article 14(1)(d) of Regulation No 834/2007 and Articles 19, 20, 21 and 22 of Regulation No 889/2008.

10. The operator shall ensure the recording and identification of animals in accordance with the requirements specified in Article 75 and Article 76(a), 76(b) and 76(c) of Regulation No 889/2008.

11. Sick animals shall be ensured with veterinary medical care. In the use of veterinary medicine, the requirements specified in Article 14(1)(e) of Regulation No 834/2007 and in Title II, Chapter 2, Section 4 of Regulation No 889/2008 shall be observed.

12. Products derived from animals shall be:

12.1. packaged, transported and stored, observing the requirements specified in Articles 30, 31, 32 and 35 of Regulation No 889/2008; and

12.2. labelled in accordance with regulatory enactments regarding labelling of products and the requirements specified in Article 23(4) of Regulation No 834/2007. The labelling shall contain the following references:

12.2.1. “Organic farming” if the requirements of these Regulations have been fulfilled;

12.2.2. the code number of the control authority, which controls the operator that has performed the final preparation of the product; and

12.2.3. the place of origin in accordance with the requirements specified in Article 24(1)(c) of Regulation No 834/2007.

13. The products referred to in Annex VII to Regulation No 889/2008 shall be used for the cleaning and disinfection of animal holdings and facilities, observing Article 14(1)(f) of Regulation No 834/2007.

III. Procedures for the Circulation of Animals of the Deer Family, Wild Boars and Rabbits, and the Products Derived Therefrom

14. Animals of the deer family, wild boars, rabbits (hereinafter – animals) and the products derived therefrom shall be sold with the reference “Organic farming”, if the animals have been born on an organic farm or, observing the transitional period, have been reared in accordance with the requirements of these Regulations:

- 14.1. animals of the deer family – not less than for 12 months and at least three quarters of the lifespan thereof;
- 14.2. wild boars – six months; and
- 14.3. rabbits – six months.

15. If a herd is created for the first time or it is renewed and animals, which have been reared in accordance with these Regulations, are not available, the control authorities referred to in Paragraph 3 of these Regulations (hereinafter – control authority), upon co-ordination with the Food and Veterinary Service, may allow the bringing in of conventionally reared animals into an organic farm.

16. In order to improve or renew a herd, the control authority may allow the following conventionally reared animals to be brought into an organic farm within one year:

- 16.1. adult rabbits – not more than 20 per cent of the primary herd;
 - 16.2. adult animals of the deer family – not more than 10 per cent of the primary herd;
- and
- 16.3. adult wild boars – not more than 20 per cent of the primary herd.

17. Young animals shall be fed with natural milk for not less than:

- 17.1. 90 days – animals of the deer family;
- 17.2. 45 days – broiler rabbits and the hybrids thereof;
- 17.3. 60 days – other varieties of rabbits;
- 17.4. 40 days – wild boars.

18. It is prohibited to use the methods of artificial reproduction – embryonic transplantation.

19. The minimum slaughtering age of animals shall be:

- 19.1. 15 months – for animals of the deer family;
- 19.2. nine months – for wild boars; and
- 19.3. four months – for rabbits.

20. Regulatory enactments regarding the derivation of products of animal origin or the procedures for the keeping of wild animals used for selection of species in fenced areas in an extensive rearing area, except the specified number of animals per hectare, shall be observed for keeping animals of the deer family and wild boars. The number of animals per hectare shall be determined in accordance with the requirements referred to in Paragraph 8 of these Regulations.

21. Wild boars shall be separated from other animal species reared on a farm.

22. The following requirements shall be observed in the rearing of rabbits:

- 22.1. rabbits shall be kept in paddocks, pens and cages, except rabbits from the age of two to six months (hereinafter – young rabbits);
- 22.2. young rabbits shall not be kept in cages;

22.3. it is prohibited to keep rabbits on grid floors only. At least one third of the floor area of a cage shall have a hard covering and it shall be covered with bedding;

22.4. if rabbits are reared in groups, the size of the group shall depend on the level of development of the animals and the specific variety, as well as behavioural characteristics, however, not more than 25 animals may be kept in a single cage;

22.5. the following minimum floor area shall be ensured per animal in rabbit dwellings:

22.5.1. 0.5 square metres – for breeding animals;

22.5.2. 0.6 square metres for mothers with baby rabbits;

22.5.3. 0.3 square metres – for rabbits for fattening and young rabbits, if they are kept in groups;

22.6. the following optimum height of a cage shall be ensured according to the variety of rabbit:

22.6.1. not less than 0.5 metres – for small varieties; and

22.6.2. not less than 0.7 metres – for medium and large varieties;

22.7. every four months rabbit paddocks, cages and sheds shall be completely cleaned, disinfected and freed of the animals for one month; and

22.8. a practicing veterinarian shall vaccinate rabbits against myxomatosis and haemorrhagic septicaemia.

IV. Procedures for the Circulation of Ostriches, Pheasants, Meat Pigeons and Quail, and Products Derived Therefrom

23. Ostriches, pheasants, meat pigeons, quails (hereinafter – poultry) and products derived therefrom shall be sold with the reference “Organic farming”, if:

23.1. the poultry have been incubated in an organic farm;

23.2. the poultry have been brought into an organic farm and conform with the following requirements:

23.2.1. ostriches are not older than 60 days and have been reared in accordance with the requirements of these Regulations for at least 10 months;

23.2.2. quails, pheasants, meat pigeons have been brought in up to the age of three days and reared in accordance with the requirements of these Regulations for at least:

23.2.2.1. 10 weeks – for the acquisition of meat; or

23.2.2.2. six weeks – for the acquisition of eggs.

24. If a herd is created for the first time or it is renewed and the poultry, which has been reared in accordance with these Regulations, are not available, the control authority, upon co-ordination with the Food and Veterinary Service, may allow the bringing in of conventionally reared breeding poultry into an organic farm. It is prohibited to sell this poultry with the reference “Organic farming”.

25. The minimum slaughtering age of poultry shall be:

25.1. 12 months – for ostriches;

25.2. 30 days – for meat pigeons;

25.3. five months – for pheasants; and

25.4. 42 days – for quails.

26. It is prohibited to keep poultry, except quail, in cages.

27. The total area of a poultry holding shall not exceed 1600 square metres.

28. An ostrich shall be ensured with the following in a holding:
- 28.1. ceilings with a height of 3.0-3.2 metres;
 - 28.2. the following minimum floor area:
 - 28.2.1. 0.25 – 1.2 square metres for an ostrich from four to 90 days of age; and
 - 28.2.2. 10 square metres – for an ostrich, which is older than 90 days.
29. Ostriches shall be provided with the opportunity of staying in an external paddock where:
- 29.1. the longest edge is at least 60 metres long; and
 - 29.2. the maximum size of the gaps in a mesh fence does not exceed 55 x 55 millimetres.
30. If ostriches are reared in groups, one group shall contain not more than 40 ostriches.
31. The following minimum floor area shall be ensured in quail holdings:
- 31.1. 0.10 square metres – for a quail, which is younger than three weeks;
 - 31.2. 0.15 square metres – for a quail from three to eight weeks of age; and
 - 31.3. 0.22 square metres – for a quail which is older than eight weeks.
32. Pheasants and meat pigeons shall be reared in holdings with a pen, ensuring:
- 32.1. the minimum floor area of one square metre for a pheasant; and
 - 32.2. the minimum floor area of 0.25 square metres for a meat pigeon.
33. Perchery and nest foundations shall be installed in the holdings of meat pigeons and pheasants.

V. Closing Provision

34. Cabinet Regulation No. 276 of 15 April 2008, *Procedures for the Circulation of Animals, Wild Plants and Products Derived Therefrom, which are not Regulated by Directly Applicable Legal Acts of the European Union Regarding Organic Farming (Latvijas Vēstnesis, 2008, No. 61)*, is repealed.

Prime Minister

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