

INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR

Code: 02- 23 / WELFAIR®

Communication Date: 14/03/2023

Addressee: Scheme Manager of Certification Entities and Lead Auditors
Welfare®

SUBJECT: Internationalization of the Welfare® label - applicable to new countries (excluding Spain and Portugal)

For the new **European countries** in which the **Welfare®** certification begins, a transition period of 2 years is granted (from the issuance of the first certificate in that country) for a good adaptation to the scheme:

- **Self-controls:** Verification of the requirements of the Welfare® prerequisite checklist will be accepted for 100% of the farms. After 2 years, it will be mandatory to include the same WQ measures required in Spain and Portugal, which must be evaluated by qualified internal auditors as described in circular 05-22.
- **Scoring:** the certification cycles will be those established in the general regulation v3.0 with the following exceptions:
 - A score of 45 points in all modules will be accepted as approved (except turkeys, which will be 100 points, and ewes and suckling lambs, which will be 65 points).
 - The requirement of obtaining at least 55 points in the criterion "Absence of pain induced by handling" will not apply to slaughterhouses of sheep, goats, pigs and cattle.

The end of the moratorium will be on 01/01/2030.

For the **Latin American countries** in which the **Welfare Latam** certification begins, a transition period of 2 years is granted (from the issuance of the first certificate in that country) for a good adaptation to the scheme:

- **Self-controls:** verification of the requirements of the Welfare Latam prerequisite checklist will be accepted for 100% of the farms. After 2 years, it will be mandatory to include the same WQ measures required in Spain and Portugal, which must be evaluated by qualified internal auditors as described in circular 05-22.

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- **Scoring:** the certification cycles will be those established in the general regulation v3.0 with the following exceptions:
 - It will be accepted to grant certification in the pre-initial cycle (minimum 20 points) in the modules for farm, and a minimum score of 45 points in the pig, bovine, chicken, sheep and goat slaughter modules.
 - The requirement of obtaining at least 55 points in the criterion "Absence of pain induced by handling" will not apply to slaughterhouses of sheep, goats, pigs and cattle.

The end of the moratorium will be on 01/01/2030.

It must also be remembered that authorization from IRTA is necessary to start the certification activity in a new country, otherwise it would imply a very serious infringement (H1) of the Welfair® General Regulations.

Effective as of: Next business day from the date of communication

Sincerely,

Technical Department Welfair® Certification Scheme