

INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR

Code: 05- 23 / WELFAIR®

Communication Date: 30/06/2023

Addressee: Scheme Manager of Certification Entities

SUBJECT: Sampling reduction in modules 11, 12 and 15

In section 6.2.3 of the Welfair General Regulation v3.0 of April 2022 it is specified that:

For the dimensioning of the days for the evaluation of the Welfare Quality and AWIN® protocols, the Certification Body shall provide IRTA with the necessary data for the calculation of the days or the supervision of the same. (...)

The maximum duration of a day is set at a total of 10 hours to ensure the correct performance of all audits. For information purposes, the average duration of the audits is as follows (...).

In particular cases, IRTA will study the possibility of reducing the number of working days.

Sometimes, small capacity slaughterhouses have difficulties in reaching the minimum sample numbers required by the Welfair® Scheme evaluation protocols without increasing the number of days.

This circular describes some specifications to be able to carry out a sampling reduction in very specific and justified situations, in order to avoid that the fact of having a low volume is an impediment to enter the certification scheme, but maintaining the representativeness of the values obtained during the evaluations.

To be able to apply any of these exceptions, it is essential to send the necessary data sufficiently in advance so that the technical managers of the Welfair® scheme can decide on the matter, assessing the representativeness of the sampling with respect to the slaughterhouse slaughter capacity. These data should be, at least: the number of animals slaughtered per day or per week and the slaughter line speed.

If any case is detected an evaluation that has been carried out with a sample lower than what is established by the protocols, without prior consultation and/or without the confirmation of the technical responsible of the Welfair® scheme, the audit will not be considered valid.

INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR

MODULE 11. PIGS FOR MEAT IN SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

It specifies the need to assess a minimum of 6 unloadings with a total of 900 animals to be able to carry out a complete audit. This is a requirement described in the based on Welfare Quality protocol and must be fulfilled whenever possible.

Based on the information provided by the Certification Bodies, the technical responsables of the Welfair® scheme may allow the sampling of animals evaluated during unloading to be reduced to a minimum of:

- **500 animals, regardless of the number of unloadings evaluated**, without any penalty at the score level.
- **300 animals, regardless of the number of unloadings evaluated**, considering that in the measure Animals unable to move on their own (Absence of diseases) 0 points are obtained, since the sensitivity defined by the scores of this measure cannot be reached.

MODULE 12. BEEF CATTLE IN SLAUGHTERHOUSES

It specifies the need to assess a minimum of 6 unloadings with a total of 150 animals to be able to carry out a complete audit. This is a requirement described in the based on Welfare Quality protocol and must be fulfilled whenever possible.

Based on the information provided by the Certification Bodies, the technical responsables of the Welfair® scheme may allow the sampling to be reduced to a minimum of:

- **100 animals, regardless of the number of unloadings evaluated**, without any penalty at the score level.
- **50 animals, regardless of the number of unloadings evaluated**, without any penalty at the score level.

MODULE 15. SHEEP AND GOATS FOR MEAT IN SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

It specifies the need to assess a minimum of 6 unloadings with a total of 150 animals to be able to carry out a complete audit. This is a requirement described in the Welfare Quality inspired protocol and must be fulfilled whenever possible.

Based on the information provided by the Certification Bodies, the technical responsables of the Welfair® scheme may allow the sampling to be reduced to a minimum of:

- **100 animals, regardless of the number of unloadings evaluated**, without any penalty at the score level.
- **50 animals, regardless of the number of unloadings evaluated**, without any penalty at the score level.

INFORMATIVE CIRCULAR

In all three modules, the reduction of sampling implies making a combination of animal-based measures evaluated during unloading to reach the minimum sample required by the protocol, even if this means having to evaluate all of them on the same animals at the same time.

On the other hand, if the minimum of 6 unloadings is not reached, some measures are susceptible to be evaluated on the records and documentation provided by the slaughterhouse from unloadings of previous days before the audit until the total of 6 unloadings is completed.

The measures affected and the documentation to be provided for each unloading assessed on documents are the following:

- Accumulated fasting at the time of unloading (start time of fasting at farm or supplier commitment; start time of loading at farm; start time of unloading at slaughterhouse).
- Accumulated fasting in the lairage (start time of fasting on farm or supplier commitment; start time of loading on farm; start time of unloading at slaughterhouse; feed record in lairage (if applicable); slaughter time).
- Density and bedding material in the truck (official document with the dimensions of the truck/trailer; number of animals transported and distribution by floor and/or crate; kg live weight of the animals transported in each truck (by means of scale sheet or carcass weight and deduction of live weight based on approximate yield; photo of bedding material if available).

For the rest of the measures, no sampling reduction is applied, so the possible logistical combination should be made to achieve the minimum samples required by the protocols. If this is not achieved, 0 points are obtained for the affected measures.

For any specific situation and/or different from the ones described in this document, please contact the Welfair® Scheme responsables, who can decide to apply any other option on a case-by-case basis.

It is the responsibility of the Certifying Bodies to communicate this new protocol to their clients and to warn them of the loss of points in case the mentioned documentation is not available on the day of the audit.

This circular supersedes the following documents:

- Communication on audits of module 12. Beef cattle for meat in slaughterhouse (10/05/21).
- Sheep and goat for meat in slaughterhouse (27/01/2021)

Effective as of: 01/07/2023

Sincerely,

Technical Department Welfair® Certification Scheme