

# **Beef Welfare Standard v4 June 2019**

This document should be read, actioned and signed in conjunction with the following reference documents.

- **Audit Standard for Slaughter Houses**
- **Whitbread Animal Welfare Policy**
- **Whitbread Cattle Raw Material Specification**
- **Outcome Measure Requirements for Red Meat and Pork**

## **1. Selection of Animals**

- 1.1 Farmers must only select fit and healthy animals for travel. When selecting animals for transport the following need to be considered:
- Body Condition.
  - Clinical evidence of disease or parasitism.
  - Injuries or other physical defects.
- 1.2: Transport operators have the right to refuse to transport unfit cattle.
- 1.3: Animals must be able to stand and bear weight on all limbs and be fit enough to be able to withstand the journey without suffering pain or distress.

## **2. Procurement of Livestock**

- 2.1: The origin of stock and the farming method for all livestock reared must be recorded at intake to abattoir. For all beef products the maximum age of cattle at slaughter must be 36 Months with the exception of fillets where cattle can be up to 72 months.
- 2.2: Supplying farms must be certified to a nationally recognised Farm Assurance scheme such as Red Tractor, Bord Bia,, Global GAP or QS or where one does not exist there must be evidence of an equivalent monitoring system in place
- 2.3: Schemes must lay down clear standards for stockmanship, housing, nutrition, welfare, grazing, animal health, handling and transportation, and environmental issues.
- 2.4: Schemes must include pre-approval inspection, and farms must be audited on a regular basis, preferably at least once per year. Audit results must be recorded.

## **3. Transport to point of slaughter**

- 3.1: Only fit animals must be transported as per the guidance outlined by the British Cattle Veterinary Society. Slightly injured or ill animals may be transported under exceptional circumstances to the nearest point of slaughter and if approved by a veterinary surgeon and accompanied by a certificate to confirm fitness to travel.

- 3.2: All transportation of animals should be in accordance with relevant legislation. It is the responsibility of the consignor to employ a reputable and experienced contractor to transport livestock.
- 3.3: The following criteria should be addressed:
- 3.3.1: All loaders and drivers must be adequately trained and adopt practices to load and drive animals with their well-being as a priority.
  - 3.3.2: Adequate artificial lighting should be provided to assist loading during the hours of darkness.
  - 3.3.3: The vehicle must be fit for purpose and in particular the interior of the vehicle should contain no projections or edges capable of injuring the animals.
  - 3.3.4: Vehicles should be cleaned and disinfected between successive deliveries.
  - 3.3.5: Animals must be transported in accordance with current legislation and codes of practice.
  - 3.3.6: Timing of transportation should be planned to minimise travel and waiting times. Journey times should not exceed 8 hours from start of loading to end of unloading. Whitbread does not encourage the practice of multiple pick-ups, which would lead to excessive waiting time during transportation and could lead to spread of disease between farms.
  - 3.3.7: Animals must have adequate space allocation within the vehicle depending upon the size of the animals and distance to be transported.
  - 3.3.8: Vehicles must provide animals with adequate ventilation, whilst maintaining protection from adverse weather conditions.
  - 3.3.9: Loading ramps and tailboards must be fitted with foot battens and have no more than a 30° incline.
  - 3.3.10: Ramps should also have side gates to prevent animals falling off.
  - 3.3.11: Vehicle floors must be non-slip and capable of being easily cleaned and sanitised.

## **4. Husbandry**

- 4.1: All persons handling animals must be able to demonstrate competency based upon recorded formal training. Records of the relevant training are to be maintained.

## **5. Feed and Water**

- 5.1: All livestock must have ready access to a wholesome diet which is appropriate for their age and body condition, so that it satisfies the nutritional requirements of the animal. Animals may not be without feed for more than 12 hours before slaughter.
- 5.2: Animal Feed may not contain any animal or avian proteins or any other product not permitted by local or European law.

- 5.3: Where livestock are grazed on open pasture, this land must be kept free of any debris which could present a hazard to grazing animals.
- 5.4: Where genetically modified animal feed is used this must be declared.
- 5.5: Animals must have ready access to sufficient fresh clean water. Water trough space must be suitable for the number of animals served and shall be adequate to enable ready access for a number of animals to drink at the same time.
- 5.6: Provision must be made to ensure an emergency supply of suitable drinking water in the event of failure of the normal supply (e.g. due to freezing, drought, etc.).

## **6. Medicines and Health**

- 6.1: Provision should be made for the segregation and comfort and treatment of sick or injured animals, or for their humane dispatch without undue delay.
- 6.2: Prophylactic use of antibiotics is not permitted. Antibiotics are only to be used under veterinary supervision for the treatment of disease in symptomatic animals, provided that recommended suspension times prior to slaughter are adhered to.
- 6.3: Surgical castration shall only be carried out under anaesthetic, irrespective of age of animal.
- 6.4: The disbudding of horned animals is permitted under anaesthetic in order to avoid injury.

## **7. Identification and traceability**

- 7.1 Whitbread recommends that animals be identified by means of ear tags as a minimum and traceability must be consistent with National Law to ensure the farm or origin of the animal can be determined.

## **8. Emergency procedures**

- 8.1: A casualty handling procedure shall be in place and implemented but in any event animals which are unable to walk shall not be moved to the place of slaughter, but shall be killed where they lie by a certified slaughter man or vet adhering to Whitbread's stunning requirements as outlined in the audit standard.

## **9. Staff Training**

- 9.1: Personnel monitoring Critical Control Points shall have received appropriate training and the competency of these staff shall be verified.

## **10. Principles of Implementation**

In order for suppliers to effectively implement this policy, Whitbread requires them to:

- 10.1 Communicate this policy throughout their own supply chain
- 10.2 Provide documentary evidence confirming accreditation to a farm assurance system
- 10.3 Ensure Whitbread representatives, including third party auditors are given uninhibited access to sites used to produce Whitbread goods and that all documentation is accurate and complete
- 10.4 Accurately and transparently communicate when these standards are not being met or are unlikely to be met and when support is required to meet these standards
- 10.5 In collaboration with farmers and suppliers, ensure that legal compliance on animal welfare standards is maintained at all times

In order to ensure the policy is effectively implemented throughout the supply chain and to drive continuous improvement, Whitbread will commit to:

- 10.6 Communicate this policy to all suppliers and seek formal acceptance and commitment to its implementation
- 10.7 Require all suppliers to report their level of compliance to this policy and the corrective actions being taken towards improvement
- 10.8 Maintain an internal system to record and monitor the level of compliance to the policy
- 10.9 Review the animal welfare policy on an annual basis and whenever necessary and appropriate.
- 10.10 Cease trading with suppliers demonstrating persistent disregard for the animal welfare policy

**Signed:**

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Title:

Date:

I declare that I have received and acknowledge in full Whitbread Plc's Beef Welfare Standard and agree to work with Whitbread towards full compliance.

**On behalf of:** *(Company name)*

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