



## Quality Assured Farm Venison Standard





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## 1.0 IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY.

The ability to trace meat back to its source is essential in reassuring the consumer that the meat they buy originates from animals which have been correctly managed. Records must be retained which relate to an individual animal or its management group for at least 3 years after the animal leaves the unit.

Precise and up- to-date records relevant to the nature of the production unit must be maintained to demonstrate the observance of the operational procedures and practices defined in these Standards.

Standard Reference	Scheme Requirement	Guidance notes
1.1	There must be a movement book maintained in accordance with current legislation.	<p>On every occasion a deer is moved onto or off of the premises a record must be made, this includes movements to and from a market, show, or land off the holding. This information is required should stock need to be traced and is essential for animal health and disease control.</p> <p>The records required must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification number of the deer.</li> <li>• Date of the movement</li> <li>• Holding where the stock was moved from</li> <li>• Hauliers name and address.</li> </ul> <p>Movement records must be completed and kept up to date, including the completion of official triplicate movement form (ARAMS) ensuring movements are kept in line with current legislation. (must be updated within 3 days by the receiving holding)</p> <div style="text-align: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: 30px; float: right;">R</div>
1.2	All stock must be tagged prior to leaving the holding of birth or TB tested.	<p>Until farmed deer leave the farm of birth there is no legal requirement for them to be tagged. In accordance with the 1989 TB (Deer) Order and the Amendment Order 1993 deer must be identified or marked before they leave the farm of birth.</p> <p>The approved method of identifying the deer is with a DEFRA approved tag which shows both the registered number of the herd of origin (birth) and the deer's own unique identity number. Either a DEFRA or BDFA herd registration number can be used to identify the herd of origin (birth).</p> <p>If a BDFA registration number is used the Divisional Veterinary Manager of the local Animal Health Divisional Office must be notified.</p> <p>If a deer loses its tag a replacement shall be required to re-identify the deer before it is tested for TB or leaves its herd of origin.</p>
1.3	Purchased stock must comply with a minimum residency period of least 90 days prior to slaughter.	Deer purchased must reside on farm for at least 90 days prior to slaughter. Movement dates of deer on and off of the farm must be recorded in the movement book.
1.4	RECOMMENDATION: Deer entering the farm should be purchased from a Quality Assured Producer or member of the QAFV Scheme.	Deer purchased from another Quality Assured farm must be able to provide full tractability and medical records (if applicable) in order to meet the requirements of the scheme and be marketed as assured venison.

## 2.0 STAFF AND TRAINING

Staff must be demonstrably competent in carrying out on farm tasks and husbandly duties. Records must be kept to ensure training is kept up to date.

Standard Reference	Scheme Requirement	Guidance notes
2.1	There must be a designated person who has overall responsibility for the herd.	Each unit must have a named person designated with the responsibility of safeguarding the welfare and safety of both the stock and staff. That person should be available to answer questions during the surveillance inspection. If this is not possible another responsible person must be available.
2.2	The person with primary responsibility for the day to day running of each unit must be familiar with the behaviour of the deer and species kept. They must demonstrate competence in stockmanship, welfare standards appropriate to the herd and a thorough knowledge of the legislation and guidelines relevant to the farming of deer.	Persons with primary responsibility of stock must be aware of and have access to a copy of the DEFRA Code of Recommendation for the Welfare of Farmed Deer.
2.3	All persons engaged on the unit must have the knowledge and skill necessary to carry out their allotted tasks efficiently, safely and with a high regard for animal welfare.	<p>Management systems must be in place to deliver the requirements of the standards in line with relevant and current legislation and DEFRA Code of recommendations. The five freedoms as detailed below must be acknowledged and adhered to-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Freedom from thirst and hunger</li> <li>• Freedom from pain, injury and disease</li> <li>• Freedom to express normal behaviour</li> <li>• Freedom from fear and distress</li> <li>• Freedom from discomfort</li> </ul> <p>The management systems in place should demonstrate that the above five freedoms are adhered to.</p>
2.4	The person with primary responsibility for the day to day running of each unit must be informed of any items of concern to safety, animal welfare or damage to facilities.	The responsible person must ensure all stock handlers and farm staff receive adequate training to carry out required duties and must be aware of the relevant welfare codes in accordance with the Welfare of Livestock Regulations 1990.
2.5	Training records must be available and up to date.	Training must be provided for all staff, this may either be in-house by a competent member of the farm staff or from an external source such as the BDFA, ATB, agricultural college etc. A record of the training provided must be kept and should be available during the surveillance inspection

### **3.0 HERD HEALTH, VETERINARY TREATMENTS AND MEDICINES**

All animals must be maintained in good health. Medicines and treatments must be administered in an appropriate manner and all relevant records kept. All deer must undergo routine disease testing/monitoring as required by the relevant competent authority.

Standard Reference	Scheme Requirement	Guidance notes
3.1	The herd must have a named veterinary practice or surgeon.	Each unit must have a designated Veterinary Surgeon to advise on animal health and welfare matters.
3.2	A Written Herd Health Plan must be in place to manage the welfare of stock on farm.	<p>A written animal health and welfare plan must be implemented and adhered to. The plan should highlight farm specific management procedures on good husbandry practices, good nutrition and good stockmanship. The plan should be accessible to all members of staff and updated when changes occur.</p> <p>The Health Plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lameness</li><li>• Digestive disorders</li><li>• Respiratory disorders</li><li>• Calving</li><li>• Conditions arising from inadequate or unbalanced nutrition</li><li>• Parasite control</li><li>• Colostrum provision</li></ul> <p>The plan must be reviewed annually to ensure known common conditions are addressed and monitored.</p>

3.3	Animals suffering from ill health or injury must receive immediate attention.	Animals suffering from ill health or injury must receive immediate attention, including the attendance of a veterinary surgeon if necessary. Sick or injured deer must be treated without delay. It is ultimately a matter of judgement for the farmer to decide when to call the veterinary surgeon. As a general principle, farmers must be aware of the extent of their own competence, take appropriate action in cases of illness or injury and call the veterinary surgeon if in any doubt.
3.4	The unit must have a designated person responsible for on farm casualty slaughter.	The unit must have a designated staff member responsible for on farm casualty slaughter. That person must be competent in all aspects of field slaughter and humane culling techniques and must have attended and satisfactorily completed the BDFPA Field Slaughter Course. They must supervise or carry out themselves any on-farm slaughter necessary on welfare grounds using either a humane slaughter pistol or rifle with a minimum calibre of .240 and using ammunition which produces a muzzle energy of at least 1700 foot pounds. Alternatively the veterinary surgeon must be called to carry out the procedure if the deer can be approached or is inside.
3.5	Each unit must maintain up to date legal medicine purchase and administration records.	<p>Each unit must maintain up to date medicine purchase and administration records, including sedation and details of worming. Records must be kept for 3 years and include:</p> <p><b><u>Purchase Records</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date purchased</li> <li>• Name of medicine</li> <li>• Quantity purchased</li> <li>• Details of supplier</li> <li>• Batch number</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Administration Records</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date administered</li> <li>• Name of medicine and Quantity used</li> <li>• Identity of animal/group treated</li> <li>• Number treated</li> <li>• Treatment finish date</li> <li>• Withdrawal period in number format</li> <li>• Date meat withdrawal period ended</li> <li>• Name of person administering drug</li> </ul> <p>Details of how the treated animals have been identified must be recorded to ensure all personnel working on the farm are aware. Precise and up-to-date records of all treatments administered must be kept in line with the requirements of the Animals, Meat and Meat Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1991.</p>
3.6	All persons involved in the administration of animal medicine must be competent.	Staff administering medicines must be demonstrably competent in the administration of injections, drenches and similar treatments. Appropriate hygiene and administration methods must be practised to minimise the risk of infection, abscesses, drenching injuries etc.

3.7	All medicines must be stored securely.	Medicines and veterinary treatments must be stored and used in accordance with current legislation, Codes of Practice and the manufacturer's recommendations. A lockable cupboard, which is clearly marked, is required for storage of medicines
3.8	Medicines that are past their 'use by' date must be destroyed in accordance with supplier advice.	Out of date drugs must be disposed of without delay either by return to the prescribing vet or pharmacy or via a disposal route approved by the relevant local authority. Disposal of medicines down the sink or drain and of medicines in the domestic rubbish is not acceptable.
3.9	Medicines not licensed for deer must only be used under the recommendation of a veterinary surgeon.	<p>The use of medicines not licensed for deer is permitted providing investigation of their suitability and effectiveness is undertaken prior to their administration and that no licensed alternative exists.</p> <p>Such use may only be authorised by and under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon.</p>
3.10	Used needles and sharp instruments must be safely disposed of in an unbreakable sharps box.	Used needles and sharp instruments must be disposed of through a safe and approved route.
3.11	The farm must have a written policy outlining the action that would be taken in the event of, or suspicion of, a needle or part needle being left in an animal and must operate the policy.	Although a rare occurrence it is important that procedures are in place to prevent any broken needles remaining in meat purchased by the consumers. A written policy must be in place to indicate actions to be carried out should this occur.

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#### **4.0 FOOD COMPOSITIONS, STORAGE AND USE**

All animals must be fed appropriate feed to ensure good health and wellbeing. All feedstuffs must comply with relevant, current EU and regional legislation and be stored in good conditions.

Standard Reference	Scheme requirement	Guidance notes
4.1	Deer must be fed in accordance with an up to date documented feed plan.	Deer must be fed according to a written feed plan and receive a daily diet which is adequate to maintain their health and wellbeing. If the diet contains home mixed feeds the feed formulations must be recorded in the plan. 
4.2	Deer must receive a diet to maintain health and vigour.	Sufficient suitable food must be available to maintain stock in good condition and meet nutritional requirements at all times. With adequate allowance being made to seasonal requirements, age, sex and environmental pressures. Feeding regimes must ensure that deer do not lose excessive body condition prior to or during the period of seasonal in appetite.
4.3	Sudden changes in the diet must be avoided.	Changes in diet must be introduced gradually to avoid the risk of digestive problems and even death. Adequate fibre should always be available to allow rumination and to help avoid acidosis.
4.4	There must be a contingency plan to ensure adequate feed supplies in emergencies.	Arrangements must be made in advance to ensure that adequate supplies of suitable feed are available to deer in emergencies (e.g. heavy snow, periods of drought)
4.5	Diets must not contain antibiotics, hormones or other substances unless prescribed by a veterinary surgeon.	Feeds must not contain any antibiotics, hormones or other substances unless specified by the veterinary surgeon to address clinical illness. These substances must not be administered for the purpose of promoting enhanced growth.

4.6	Deer must have access to forage ad-lib.	The bulk of the diet must come from natural forage, either from grazing or conserved forage, supplemented as necessary by concentrates, straights and commercial feeds.	
4.7	Producers must ensure all compounds, blends and straights are purchased from accredited suppliers of the UKASTA Feed Assurance Scheme (crops) or an approved crop supplier.	All feed must be manufactured from good quality constituents free from contamination, which have been produced strictly to the standards laid down by all relevant UK and EU legislation. Feed delivery/purchase documents must be kept.	R
4.8	Diets must only contain products which are permitted by law to be fed to livestock and must not contain any product of mammalian or avian origin.	Diets must not contain any by-product of animal origin, including fish products, with the exception of milk.	
4.9	Where home mixing is carried out, producers must comply with EU and UK legislation for registration and maintain suitable records.	Home mixing is the mixing of ingredients, which takes place at the same location as the livestock to which it is being fed. It may or may not include home produced feeds and can be as simple as mixing together two ingredients or the production of complex complete feeds using dedicated machinery such as feeder wagons. Any home mix rations fed to the stock must be documented. Members are advised to obtain and comply with a copy of the Code of Practice for On-farm mixers, which summarises the legal obligations of farmers who mix their own feeds.	R
4.10	Home mixers must retain a sample of all raw materials used and of the mixed feed every time there is a significant change in formulation. These samples must be taken and retained for four weeks after last use.	This applies both to the individual feed materials used for home mixing and the mixed feed produced on farm. It does not apply to moist feeds.	R
4.11	Producers must keep delivery documents for all purchased feeds.	Delivery documents must be available for all purchased feeds.	R
4.12	Producers must ensure all dry feeds are handled and stored in accordance with DEFRA Codes of Practice.	All feed must be transported and stored in accordance with good practice to ensure that it does not become contaminated or spoiled. All feed must be transported and stored in accordance with the DEFRA Code of Practice for the Control of Salmonella During the Storage, handling and Transport of Raw Materials Intended for Incorporation into, or Direct Use as, Animal Feeding stuffs [PB2202]. Rodents and other pests, including birds, must be prevented from contaminating feed. The units vermin control programme must be effective.	

## 5.0 HOUSING AND HANDLING FACILITIES

Housing systems must ensure that there is a comfortable environment and sufficient space for free movements without undue risk of injury. Deer must be housed in suitable sized groups appropriate to the systems of management and size of pen available. Appropriate management must be employed to ensure no individual or group of individuals are being bullied or are unable to obtain adequate rations or water. Generally housing groups are selected on parameters such as social group, age, sex and weight.

Standard Reference	Scheme Requirement	Guidance Notes
5.1	Housing must be well constructed.	Housing which may be fully or partly covered must be well constructed and of sufficient size to ensure good management, appropriate stocking densities, and be capable of being maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.
5.2	Housing must be of sufficient size to house stock and allow appropriate stocking densities.	The following stocking densities for housing are provided as a guide only, local conditions, feed systems and farm management practices must also be taken into account. Other species must have adequate space based on equivalent weights.

RED DEER	Size	m <sup>2</sup>
Weaned calves	25-40 kg	2
Calves 5-11 months	40-90 kg	2.5
Yearlings / adults	75 kg +	3
Stags	130 kg +	5

5.3	All housing must be maintained to safeguard against injury or distress to deer.	Most conventional farm buildings can be used for deer but may require modification. Pen sides must be high enough to discourage escape, without sharp edges or fittings. They need not be solid for the full height; the ability to see beyond the pen can reduce boredom.
5.4	All stock must have access to a dry lying area.	A sheltered, clean, dry bedded area of sufficient size must allow all deer to lie together and rise. In addition there may be an area kept free of bedding to provide a hard surface to help maintain sound feet.
5.5	All housing must be regularly cleaned out to remove manure as necessary.	This area must be regularly cleaned of waste and unused feed.
5.6	All housing must be adequately drained to assist deer cleanliness.	Floors must be adequately drained. The presence of any excess fluid, which has not been cleared by the scraper, must be addressed. The accumulation of excess water, urine, dung and slurry is not acceptable. A regular cleaning regime should be implemented.

5.7	All housing must be adequately ventilated.	Adequate ventilation must be provided but particular care must be taken to avoid draughts and the ingress of rain and snow. Ventilation must be adequate to maintain airflow free of contaminants, specifically inhalable dust and ammonia.
5.8	Housing must have adequate lighting for day and night.	Housed stock must have access to a well-lit area during normal daylight hours. Ideally natural light supplemented with artificial lights when necessary. Adequate lighting, whether fixed or portable (high power hand lamp), must be available for the proper inspection of stock to be carried out at any time. There must be adequate light in the facility to allow the stockmen to work safely and efficiently, read ear tags and assess stock condition.
5.9	Gates and doors must be well constructed and fitted.	Gates and doors must be well fitted and should move freely, they must be efficiently secured in position to avoid the risk of injury and potential escape of stock.
5.10	Housing and access routes must be free from hazards.	Housing pens and access routes must be free of potentially injurious obstacles, projections, trip hazards or trap points where limbs, necks, individuals or small groups of deer could become caught.
5.11	All deer must be housed in groups except for antlered stags and deer in isolation.	With the exception of antlered stags and deer in isolation, deer must not be housed individually. Ideally they should be able to see deer in other pens and activities on the farm to relieve boredom.
5.12	Unless yearlings, stags in hard antler must be penned individually.	The housing of stags in hard antler is discouraged on safety grounds for both stock and farm staff. If essential they must be penned individually. The exception to this would be yearling stags with minimal antler growth.
5.13	An isolation facility must be available with permanent lighting and allow isolated deer sight of other deer where necessary.	A small pen, which can be easily and effectively cleaned, must be available as a 'sick bay' in which a sick, injured or bullied deer can be housed. The pen must have good permanent light and ideally should allow the isolated deer sight of other deer without allowing physical contact with healthy deer where necessary.
5.14	The farm must have good handling facilities.	The facility must provide a means of easily, safely and efficiently sorting, treating and restraining deer whenever necessary without recourse to excessive force. Handling facilities must be safe for both deer and staff.
5.15	When working with stock there must be a safe environment for both stock and staff.	The facility must provide a safe working environment for stock and staff. In areas where close contact with stock is necessary there must be adequate protection available for those working with the stock in the form of shields, doors, escape routes, overhead walkways etc. appropriate to the size and nature of the unit.  Roping deer is not advised.

5.16	Feed and water troughs must be kept clean.	Troughs must be kept clean, stale or wasted food must be removed regularly.
5.17	Feed troughs must allow all animals to eat at the same time.	When being fed supplementary feed in troughs there must be sufficient space for all deer to eat at the same time with minimal aggression due to competition for food. Age, sex, species, presence of antlers, volume of feed per head must all be taken into account. The following is provided as a guide only additional space will be required for deer with antlers. Special provision must also be made for animals with worn-out or loose teeth.

<b>Class of stock</b>	<b>Size</b>	<b>Ad lib feed</b>	<b>Rationed</b>
Weaned calves	25-40 kg	15 cm	25 cm
Calves 5-11 months	40-90 kg	20 cm	30 cm
Yearlings / Adults	75 kg	40 cm	50 cm

5.18	Electrical installations must be carried out by a competent electrician to minimise the risk and injury to deer.	Electrical sockets, outlets, supplies and appliances must be properly marked, insulated and appropriately protected against the weather, water, vermin and stock. Electrics should also be located out of reach of the deer
5.19	Facilities must be provided on the farm to allow the loading of deer with minimum stress and risk of injury.	The loading area must be free from projections likely to cause injury and be equipped with a suitable non-slip floor
5.20	Loading pens must be designed to prevent deer escaping.	The loading areas must have pens and races that are designed to prevent deer from attempting to escape (i.e. no less than 2 metres in height )
5.21	Loading pens must be designed to keep deer moving.	The loading area must be designed to encourage the free movement of deer. In particular, races should be wide enough for deer to pass through side by side. Races of straight and curved designs have both been proved suitable, provided deer are kept moving, as have baffles and backing gates.
5.22	Loading facilities must be regularly cleaned.	This area must be easily and effectively cleaned regularly.
5.23	Temporary loading facilities must be constructed in a suitable manner.	If a permanent loading facility is not available, temporary facilities may be constructed. Any temporary facility must be constructed in a manner which complies with the general principles on handling pens.
5.24	Loading ramps must be less than 30 degrees.	Loading ramps must not exceed 30 degrees (although a slope of 20 degrees is preferable). As a general principle deer prefer to move up, rather than down, slopes. Ramp construction should be such that the deer can maintain a good footing.

## 6.0 Transport

When deer are transported they must be handled with adequate care and concern for their welfare and in accordance with all relevant legislation and the DEFRA Guidelines for the Transport of Farmed Deer. All vehicles used to transport deer must comply with the requirements of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order and any subsequent amendment to it. Applicants must be able to demonstrate an understanding of their obligations in this respect.

Standard Reference	Scheme Requirement	Guidance Notes
6.1	Farm vehicles used for transporting livestock must be suitable for deer, constructed in accordance with current legislation and maintained in good condition.	Vehicles used for the transport of animals must have adequate headroom for the animals to stand in a natural position. The flooring must be non-slip and free from projections and other hazards likely to cause injury. The floor should be covered in straw or sawdust.
6.2	Only fit deer must be transported.	It is an offence to transport any animal that is unfit. Deer must not be transported if they are injured, ill, fatigued or stressed; in the last month of pregnancy; have given birth within the previous 48 hours or are new-born with unhealed navels. Only in exceptional circumstances should young calves and sick stock be transported. Before loading, in such circumstances vet approval must be provided. The responsible person must assess the fitness and suitability of deer to travel. Where the person responsible for transporting the deer is not the owner of the deer, the responsibility for deciding whether an animal is fit to travel lies with the transporter, not the owner. Where necessary veterinary advice must be sought and followed.
6.3	Deer in velvet or rutting males over 24 months must only be transported in emergencies.	Deer in velvet and rutting males over 24 months of age must not be transported, except in emergencies as provided by the DEFRA Guidelines for the Transport of Farmed Deer. I.e. if essential they should be de-antlered, however if this is not possible they may be transported, without sedation, providing that adequate safety precautions are taken during the loading and unloading of the stag. The stag must be individually penned and must be escorted on the journey by an experienced deer stockman who is competent and has made the necessary provision to take care of the stag in all eventualities. Deer in velvet must not be transported any further than 50km.
6.4	Groups of males under 27 months, which have been grazing or housed together, can be transported as a group.	Males under 27 months of age may only be transported together as a group if they have been grazing or housed as a group. During the rut they must not have been exposed to females before or during transport.

6.5	Unless penned separately, hard antlers must be removed 7 days prior to transporting for slaughter.	Hard antler must be removed no later than 7 days prior to transport when stags are being transported for slaughter. If hard antlers have not been removed stags of any age must be penned individually, and precautions taken for their safety and the safety of the haulier and any personnel involved in the loading and unloading.
6.6	Animals that become unfit to travel must be taken to the nearest suitable place for unloading	In the event that an animal becomes unfit to travel during a journey as a result of injury or any other cause, it must be delivered as soon as possible to the nearest suitable place treatment or slaughter. The only exceptions permitted to the clauses in this section are where it can be demonstrated that a journey is not likely to cause additional unnecessary suffering and is directly to the nearest available place for veterinary treatment , diagnosis or slaughter. In such circumstances, all the requirements of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 (or other relevant legislation in force) must be strictly adhered to.
6.7	Drivers must ensure that they have the necessary documents before departing and confirm their ETA during transit.	Before departure drivers must ensure that they have all necessary documentation for their journey, including any movement licences required by local or national competent authorities, clear directions to the destination, a route plan and an Animal Transport Certificate (ATC), as defined by WATO. During transport departure drivers must contact their destination to confirm estimated time of arrival and that facilities for unloading stock will be ready and available. This information must be recorded on the ATC.
6.8	Deer can only be transported with cattle providing a solid partition is in place	Deer must only be transported with other deer or cattle. If transported with cattle a solid partition must be in place to prevent the stock mixing during transport.
6.9	Deer in any one compartment must be selected according to age, sex, size and previous group familiarisation	Groups for transportation in the same compartment must be selected according age, sex, size and previous group familiarisation. Mixing of animals should be avoided to prevent disturbance during transport.
6.10	Stocking rates must be adhered to during transport and deer must be able to stand naturally.	Space allowances must not exceed the following criteria when deer are transported in groups. In any event, all deer must have adequate space to stand, lie down and turn around. Adjustable penning must be used to achieve an appropriate space allowance. Pen sizes must be adjusted according to the prevailing weather conditions.

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6.11	During statutory transport breaks stock must be cared for as in the codes of good practice.	During statutory breaks and at other times when the vehicle is parked up whilst laden, care must be taken to park vehicles in shaded areas and, as far as is practicable, in areas away from noise, other traffic and not near vehicles with other livestock. If required to stop for a statutory vehicle inspection, drivers must request (showing proper courtesy to officials) priority on the grounds of animal welfare. ( It should be noted that officials are under no obligation to grant such a request). Journey times must be kept to a minimum by good route planning and prior liaison between the haulier and respective farms and abattoirs. Stock do not need to be off loaded during statutory rest stops but should be provided with food and water and, or, a root crop with a high water content during journeys in excess of 8 hours.
6.12	Deer must be unloaded calmly and allowed time to acclimatise in a safe environment	Deer must be unloaded calmly and without haste. They must be allowed a period of acclimatisation to light prior to release. Deer must not be unloaded in areas where they may injure themselves if startled, for example areas near wire fences.
6.13	Vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected between loads.	Vehicles must be cleaned of bedding, washed and disinfected with a DEFRA approved disinfectant after each use.

<b>Red Deer</b>	<b>Body Weight</b>	<b>m<sup>2</sup></b>
Calves to yearling hinds	45-74 kg	0.3-0.5
Adult hinds & Yearling stags	75-100kg	0.5-0.6
Adult stags	100kg+	1
<b>Fallow Deer</b>		
Female		0.35
Male		0.5

## 7.0 Environment and Hygiene management

There must be systems to prevent pollution of the environment and spread of infectious disease. The unit must comply with all legal obligations with regard to health and safety, risk assessment, provision of First Aid kits, maintenance of equipment, care of employees, COSHH etc.

Standard Reference	Scheme Requirement	Guidance Notes
7.1	Members must hold a valid Public and Employers Liability insurance policy.	The unit must carry Public and Employers Liability insurance appropriate to the size and nature of the enterprise. <span style="float: right; background-color: #4F7942; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">R</span>
7.2	The unit must have a written hygiene and visitor policy.	This must include all bio security precautions taken to prevent the spread of diseases on and off the unit. The hygiene and visitor policy must be reviewed and, if necessary, updated annually and written to encompass relevant DEFRA (or other relevant competent authorities) guidance on bio security [ including PB4517] and the “Interim Rules for Animal Movements – Camelids and Deer” and the “Interim Rules for Animal Movements – Transport of Livestock” [PB 6631B and PB 6631D respectively]. <span style="float: right; background-color: #4F7942; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">R</span>
7.3	There must be a visitors book on the unit available for visitors to complete if in contact and business with the deer.	The unit must have a visitors’ logbook which records the date of all visits to the unit, the name and address of the person or details of the group visiting, the nature of the visit and areas of the unit visited and whether these included contact with livestock. <span style="float: right; background-color: #4F7942; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">R</span>
7.4	The unit must have a written vermin control plan and records kept of usage.	The vermin control plan must cover all parts of the unit, but with particular relevance to feed storage and preparation areas. The plan, which may include the use of external pest control services, must ensure that rodent populations are controlled and present no risk to human or animal health. Where rodenticides are used there must be a written record of bait points, baits used and dates of baiting. <span style="float: right; background-color: #4F7942; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">R</span>
7.5	Contingency procedures must be in place and accessible to all stockmen to deal with any emergencies which may endanger animal health, welfare or food safety.	The unit must have a written emergency plan outlining the action to be taken in the event of fire, flood, disruption of supplies, the inability, for whatever reason, of the responsible person to attend to his duties and deer escape or release. <span style="float: right; background-color: #4F7942; color: white; padding: 2px 5px;">R</span>

7.6	The unit must have access to, awareness of, and be able to observe the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice, which provide guidance on protecting the environment.	Protective measures to avoid water; soil and air pollution must be taken in all aspects of the farm's activities where there is a potential risk. The management of the unit must demonstrate a policy of environmental protection to ensure ongoing sustainability of a farming enterprise on the land being farmed. The DEFRA Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water, of Soil and of Air or the equivalent Scottish code for the Prevention of Pollution from Agricultural Activity give guidance on how this should be achieved. The recommendations included in these Codes and appropriate current legislation must be adhered to.	R
7.7	Liquids and other farm waste must be disposed of in accordance with current legislation.	Liquid waste and products which could potentially cause pollution or contamination, for instance silage effluent, oil and fuel must be correctly stored and spent product correctly disposed of. Detergents, disinfectants, fumigants and other cleaning chemicals must be safe to use, effective and suitable for the purpose. All chemicals, detergents and drugs must be used, stored, labelled and disposed of correctly. Oils, surplus herbicides, pesticides, paper, plastic and polythene waste; crop and feed residues must all be disposed of in accordance with current industry guidelines. Records of disposals must be kept.	R
7.8	Fallen stock must be disposed of safely and in accordance with current legislation. Records of deaths and disposals must be kept.	Fallen stock must be stored correctly while awaiting collection, stock must be stored away from public view and protected from vermin and other stock. Records must include the identity of the deceased animals, the dates of death and location of disposal. It is recommended that such information is recorded in movement books or herd registers. Fallen stock can no longer be buried or burnt on farm. On farm incinerators are permitted but must be approved under the Animal By Products Regulation No. 1774/2002.	R
7.9	Farm dogs and cats must be wormed regularly according to Veterinary advice and the treatment recorded.	In addition to the direct welfare of dogs, this is important as dogs can play host to a range of parasites which can affect deer. The frequency of worming will depend on the product being used. Treatment records must be maintained. Working dogs must not cause injury or distress, and must be kept under control at all times.	R

## Breeding and youngstock

Standard Reference	Scheme Requirement	Guidance notes
8.1	Females must have adequate body condition at time of calving.	Females must be managed to ensure suitable body condition at the time of calving. It is important that hinds do not become over fat prior to calving as this can lead to dystokia.
8.2	Calving must take place outdoors with minimal intervention.	Calving must take place outdoors, with minimal intervention. Adequate cover (e.g. long grass, nettles) must be available to the hind to provide a suitable birthing site, and provide the calf with appropriate shelter for the first 2-3 weeks.
8.3	Hinds must not be disturbed unnecessarily during the calving season and observed from a distance.	Females must be disturbed as little as possible during the calving season. A stockman known to the herd should check the stock from a distance the herd/hind is comfortable with. The frequency of these checks depends on the type of management system in place, inspections can be made from a distance with the aid of binoculars or from a discreetly parked car if possible.
8.4	A procedure must be in place detailing the required actions to be taken should hind require assistance whilst calving. Competent stockman and vets must only be used to assist if necessary.	A procedure must be in place detailing the required actions to be taken should a difficult calving take place. Particular attention must be paid to hygiene and limitation of stress on the hind. Given the infrequency of assisted calving in deer, unless the stockman is competent in the procedure of assisting deer, a veterinary surgeon must be called.
8.5	Routine treatments to calves must take place within 48 hours of birth.	Precautions must be taken to minimise the disturbance and stress of newborn calves during the first 48 hours. Young calves, during their first 48 hours, may be tagged, weighed; sexed etc if this is the chosen farm practice. The stockman must take as little time as possible over the task and must take precautions to minimise the disturbance and stress caused to the group generally as well as the hind and calf.
8.6	A facility must be made available to monitor hinds if assistance has been given and a hide must be provided if the calves have to be kept indoors.	Provision must be made, in advance, of a facility into which an assisted female and her calf can be temporarily held whilst monitoring the hind's care of the calf. Assisted females may abandon their young. Similarly artificial rearing facilities must be available. If for any reason a hind and young calf have to be held indoors they must be provided with plenty of room and clean bedding, plus access to a fresh turf for the calf.

8.7	Calves must be reared by their mothers for the first 8 weeks of life.	All calves must be kept with their mothers for at least the first 8 weeks unless for exceptional circumstances. The hind must be allowed to rear her calf until weaning when the calf is at least 8 weeks old. Only in exceptional circumstances should artificial rearing be contemplated, whenever practicable orphan calves should be fostered to hinds, which have lost their calves.
8.8	Calves must be at least 8 weeks old at pre rut weaning.	The pre-rut weaning of calves generally takes place in September; late born calves may not be sufficiently independent at this stage. A later weaning date for any calves less than 8 weeks old must be used.
8.9	Rubber rings are prohibited for castration and de-antlering.	Castration by any means and de-antlering by the use of rubber rings is not permitted.

### **9.0 Field Slaughter**

Standard Reference	Scheme Requirement	Guidance Notes
9.1	The marksmen must hold a valid firearms certificate and records of training.	Humane slaughter of deer in a field environment can be achieved by accurate shooting using a suitable high-powered rifle (minimum calibre .243) and ammunition. Where a rifle is used safety is of paramount importance and the marksmen should be trained and proficient in the use of firearms. Shooting at short range facilities accuracy and safety. A safe backdrop for the bullet is required and care must be taken in shooting one deer not to injure another.
9.2	Deer must be held on grass 4 weeks prior to being slaughtered.	The deer to be slaughtered must be on grass for a minimum of 4 weeks prior to slaughter.
9.3	Precautions must be taken to ensure public safety when shooting.	Sensible precautions for public safety in the area must be taken into account.

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9.4	Procedures must be in place for the shooting of deer.	Shooting must be undertaken when the deer are quiet, as will occur at a regular feeding site. It may be possible to shoot a number of deer before they become unduly disturbed. A maximum of 12 deer may be shot on any one day. Where deer are so tame and quiet that they present a stationary target at close range (10-20 m), a frontal head shot by an expert marksmen is effective. With wilder deer (up to 40 m range) a high neck shot, to break the spinal cord, is suitable. Shooting at distances further than 40 m should only be undertaken by proven marksmen.
9.5	Each deer must be dealt with immediately after shooting.	If a deer is wounded it must be dealt with before another deer is shot. Following being killed by shooting, the deer must be bled without delay. One knife to open the pelt should be used and another to sever the main arteries. Contamination of the carcass must be kept to a minimum, bearing in mind the prevailing ground conditions at the time of shooting.
9.6	Procedures must be in place to ensure carcasses are delivered to the abattoir within the appropriate timescale.	The deer must be delivered to the abattoir for processing within three hours of the first deer being shot if the vehicle is refrigerated, and one hour if not.
9.7	Farms exercising Field Slaughter must comply with current legislation.	Farms that carry out field slaughter must comply with current legislation.