



Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark 0.1

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The *Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark* is effective as of January 5, 2021.

English is the official language of the *Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark*. In any case of inconsistency between versions, reference shall be made to the English version.

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Please note that all LIA documents and processes will be piloted during 2021, which will help better understand how they will work in practice. The learnings of the pilot year may lead to adjustments in these documents or processes.

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The *Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark* will be updated at the end of the 2021 pilot year and will undergo a revision process at least every five years.

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Introduction

About the Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark

The goal of this document is to set forth global benchmark criteria upon which to evaluate current industry standards for cattle production that address animal welfare in order to drive continuous improvement at scale throughout the cattle industry. To this end, we recognize that there are different systems of cattle farming and that the levels of animal welfare vary greatly around the globe. With this benchmark, we have set an initial threshold that represents a basic level of care, and have three additional options that apply to different farm systems, and provide higher levels of animal welfare.

The *Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark* is based on the Textile Exchange Animal Welfare Framework. The framework can be applied across species and utilizes the model of the Five Domains of animal welfare to categorize the expectations where each module is a key topic for animal welfare, for example, nutrition or living environment. Each module has a desired outcome, and further sub-categories are then defined to cover all aspects of animal welfare to deliver that outcome.

About the Leather Impact Accelerator (LIA)

LIA is a framework that sets existing industry tools into a coherent package and enables leather supply chain members – from farmers to retailers – to contribute to a more responsible leather supply chain. To this end, LIA uses benchmarks and protocols to set a minimum threshold for practices at the farm and leather production levels and gives recognition to those who meet or exceed them. Brands can use Impact Incentives to provide direct financial support to farmers that meet LIA benchmarks, and the *LIA Claims Guide* provides support for all LIA participants to make credible claims.

About Textile Exchange



LIA is owned and managed by **Textile Exchange**. Textile Exchange is a global non-profit that works closely with our members to drive industry transformation in preferred fibers, integrity and standards, and responsible supply networks. We identify and share best practices regarding farming, materials, processing, traceability, and product end-of-life in order to reduce the textile industry's impact on the world's water, soil and air, and the human population.

Benchmark Approach

The industry already has many standards in these areas, so a benchmark approach has been adopted to leverage and add value to the standards and programs that are already in use. In addition to benchmarking, LIA includes requirements for traceability systems and verification protocols.

Benchmarks set a minimum threshold for practices and give recognition to those who meet or exceed them. LIA uses benchmarks to assess animal welfare standards at the farm level and environmental and social standards during leather production.

Impact Incentives

Impact Incentives (also known as credit trading or Book & Claim) are the certificates that are traded in support of a sustainability claim. In the case of LIA, the incentives are issued to a farmer when a set of criteria have been confirmed to have been met. Physical goods and the Incentives are traded separately from one another; the Incentives certificates represent a specified quantity of verified material that has been produced but has not been physically traded as verified goods.

The way that LIA Impact Incentives work is quite simple: farms that are certified to a standard or program that meets the Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark or are verified as DCF will be able to sell Incentives for their volume of output; brands can then purchase these Impact Incentives to balance out their use of these output materials, or to meet their CSR goals.

Verification

LIA requires an authorized third-party verifier to confirm the expectations behind the Impact Incentives are being met and that the information submitted to the Incentives Trading Platform is accurate and complete. The third-party verifier will register Impact Incentives for LIA on the Incentives Trading Platform.

How to Use this Document

This document sets forth the overall criteria for assessment against the LIA benchmark at the farm level. Guidance and support documents are available at LeatherImpactAccelerator.org.

Throughout this document, the following terms are used to indicate requirements, recommendations, permissions, and possibilities or capabilities:

- “shall” indicates a requirement
- “should” indicates a recommendation
- “may” indicates a permission
- “can” indicates a possibility or a capability
- “may not” indicates a prohibited action

The abbreviation “e.g.” is used to indicate an example, while the abbreviation “i.e.” is used to provide clarification of meaning.

Section A - Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark

Options and Criteria Structure

It is important to note that the benchmark will be used to assess existing independent certification standards that are already in use by the cattle industry. Each benchmark option represents the minimum set of criteria that these standards must address, and we expect that many will go further. Each option builds on the requirements of the previous option. If there is no new requirement for a topic at a particular option, then the requirements of the previous option(s) must still be met.

A1. Benchmark Options

Baseline (A)

The baseline option of the Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark represents certifications that deliver the minimum level of animal care that we expect from farmers. Ideally, all farmers would be certified as meeting these basic requirements, but for those who don't, it is critically important to improve their practices to meet this threshold, as their animals will be at the highest welfare risk.

Option 1 (B) and Option 2 (C)

These benchmark options build in improved animal welfare measures across all Five Domains of animal welfare while still being applicable to the vast majority of certifications covering cattle farm systems. These options can be used for certifications that may include allowances for cattle to be confined in feedlots or housing for a period of the animal's life.

Option 3 (D)

Option 3 of the Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark recognizes those certifications that are considered to deliver the highest level of animal welfare; option 3 applies only to fully grass-based systems for the whole of life.

A2. Criteria Structure

Requirements: These are the factors that must be met by each certification. **These are shown with dark blue table headers.** The certification to be benchmarked must meet all the applicable requirements in a particular option to be assessed as meeting that option. For example, some requirements are specific to veal calf systems, and a certification for beef cattle would not be expected to include these.

Recommendations: These are good practice factors that may not be covered by many certification programs at present but which could improve animal welfare. We will be looking at adding them to the benchmark following future reviews. Additionally, there are some requirements currently shown in one option that in the future could be required in a different option – e.g. a requirement that is currently at option 2 could be recommended for option 1 or

the baseline. Certification bodies should view these recommendations as potential future additions when they review and revise their standards. [These are shown with light blue table headers](#). The certification to be benchmarked does not have to meet the recommendations associated with a particular option in order to be assessed as meeting that option.

Guidelines: Some requirements have associated additional information to aid in interpretation. Where these exist, the requirement they relate to has a superscript number, and the associated guidance is shown at the end of this document.

Section B - Nutrition Criteria



Desired outcome: Animals have access to sufficient feed and water suited to their age and needs to maintain health and to prevent prolonged hunger, thirst, malnutrition, or dehydration.

B1. Nutrition – Requirements

Number	Baseline (A)	Additional requirements for Option 1 (B)	Additional requirements for Option 2 (C)	Additional requirements for Option 3 (D)
PROVISION OF FEED				
B1.1	The standard shall require that a quantity and quality of feed is provided that is appropriate for the animals' age and needs.	The standard shall require that forage content in the daily diet is suitable and sufficient to avoid negative outcomes such as acidosis.	The standard shall require that no animal by-products or fishmeal are included in cattle rations.	The standard shall require that at least 60%-of daily intake on a dry matter basis is from forage
BODY CONDITION SCORING				
B1.2	The standard shall require that body condition is monitored and kept within set limits.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
WATER				
B1.3	The standard shall require that an adequate supply of clean, safe drinking water is provided each day.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

CHANGES IN DIET				
B1.4	The standard shall require that changes in the diet are introduced gradually.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
EMERGENCY FEED AND WATER PROVISION				
B1.5	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that plans are in place to ensure that there is access to sufficient food and water in the case of an emergency.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

B2. Nutrition – Recommendations

	Baseline (A)	Additional requirements for Option 1 (B)	Additional requirements for Option 2 (C)	Additional requirements for Option 3 (D)
BODY CONDITION SCORING				
B2.1	No Baseline (A)	No Option 1 (B)	Routine herd assessment of BCS shall be carried out at key times in the production cycle.	No Option 3 (D)
PROVISION OF FEED				
B2.2	No Baseline (A)	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	The standard shall require that a minimum percentage of daily dry matter intake

				comes from grazing when cattle are on pasture
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Section C - Living Environment Criteria



Desired outcome: Animals are kept in an environment that provides the conditions and facilities needed for health, safety, comfort, and normal behavior.

C1. Living Environment – Requirements

	Baseline (A)	Additional requirements for Option 1 (B)	Additional requirements for Option 2 (C)	Additional requirements for Option 3 (D)
INDOOR ENVIRONMENT				
INDOOR: FACILITIES				
C1.1	The standard shall require that indoor facilities are designed, constructed, and maintained so as to minimize stress and the likelihood of injury to the cattle.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
INDOOR: THERMAL ENVIRONMENT, VENTILATION, SHELTER				
C1.2	The standard shall require that indoor facilities provide protection from heat or cold stress and extreme weather.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

C1.3	The standard shall require that indoor facilities have good air quality.	The standard shall set limits for air quality factors ¹	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
INDOOR: LYING AREAS/FLOORING				
C1.4	The standard shall require that lying areas and floors are safe, clean, and comfortable for the animals.	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require that lying areas must be bedded using dry, deformable soft materials to a depth that provides comfort for the animals.	No Option 3 (D)
C1.5	The standard shall prohibit fully slatted flooring. [Beef cattle]			
C1.6	The standard shall prohibit bare concrete slatted flooring. [Veal calves]	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall prohibit fully slatted flooring. [Veal calves]	No Option 3 (D)
INDOOR: SPACE ALLOWANCES				
C1.7	The standards shall require that there is sufficient space for each animal to prevent crowding and allow for normal behavior. Animals must be able to stand up, lie down and turn around freely	The standard shall set specific space allowances for different types/weights of the animal.	The standard shall set a minimum <i>indoor</i> space per animal of 1m ² or more per 100 kg live weight.	No Option 3 (D)

INDOOR: LIGHTING				
C1.8	The standard shall require that cattle have periods of light and dark within each 24 hour period and that lighting shall follow natural periodicity	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require that cattle have access to natural light in housing.	No Option 3 (D)
OUTDOOR ENVIRONMENT				
OUTDOOR: FACILITIES				
C1.9	The standard shall require that fencing and handling systems are designed, constructed, and maintained so as to minimize stress and the likelihood of injury to the cattle.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
OUTDOOR: AIR QUALITY				
C1.10	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that cattle are not be exposed to levels of dust that lead to respiratory or other problems	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
OUTDOOR: ACCESS TO PASTURE				
C1.11	No Baseline (A)	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require that	The standard shall require that all cattle

			breeding cattle and their calves have access to pasture at all times when their welfare would not otherwise be at risk.	have access to pasture at all times when their welfare would not otherwise be at risk.
C1.12	No Baseline (A)	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require that cattle other than breeding animals and their calves have access to an outdoor exercise area at all times of their lives when their welfare would not otherwise be at risk.	No Option 3 (D)

OUTDOOR: SHADE, SHELTER & THERMAL COMFORT

C1.13	The standard shall require that shade and/or shelter are provided to protect cattle from extremes of temperature and weather.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	
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OUTDOOR: PASTURE MANAGEMENT

C1.14	No Baseline (A)	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	The standard shall require that there are written protocols for managing cattle when grazing on pasture.
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INDOOR & OUTDOOR LIVING ENVIRONMENT

TETHERING

C1.15	If tethering is used, the standard shall require that the tether is fitted so as not to cause injury	The standard shall prohibit tethering.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
C1.16	If tethering is used, the standard shall require that cattle are released from the tether for free exercise each day	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
NOISE				
C1.17	The standard shall require that cattle are not exposed to levels of noise that cause stress.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
ENRICHMENTS				
C1.18	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that cattle have access to scratching posts.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
CLEANLINESS/MUD SCORES				
C1.19	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that cattle are not forced to lie in mud/dirt/manure or to stand/walk in deep mud/dirt/manure.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

PROTECTION FROM HAZARDS				
C1.20	The standard shall require that cattle have their health and safety protected and are not exposed to potential toxins	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
PROTECTION FROM PREDATORS				
C1.21	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that animals are protected from predators.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
C1.22	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall prohibit the use of poisons against predators.	No Option 2 (C)	The standard shall require that wildlife-friendly practices are used.
C1.23	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall prohibit the use of snares, and leg hold traps shall control predators.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
C1.24	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require non-lethal deterrence is used as the first resort against predators.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
C1.25	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that is lethal control is needed; it is specific to the problem predator.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
C1.26	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that a non-	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

		lethal predator management plan is in place.		
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C2. Living Environment – Recommendations

	Baseline (A)	Additional requirements for Option 1 (B)	Additional requirements for Option 2 (C)	Additional requirements for Option 3 (D)
FEEDLOTS				
C2.1	The standard shall require that weaned calves are acclimatized to grain/concentrate feeds and vaccinated before being moved to a feedlot.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
CLEANLINESS/MUD SCORES				
C2.2	The standard shall require that a mud/dirt scoring system is used.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
C2.3	The standard shall require that cattle are not forced to lie in mud/dirt/manure or to stand/walk in deep mud/dirt/manure	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

Section D - Cattle Husbandry Criteria



Desired outcome: Animals are bred, raised, handled, managed, and cared for in a manner that ensures their health and safety. Animals are free from pain, injury, and disease and managed with a proactive approach to ensure that the health of the animal is maintained through all stages of life.

D1. Cattle Husbandry – Requirements

	Baseline (A)	Additional requirements for Option 1 (B)	Additional requirements for Option 2 (C)	Additional requirements for Option 3 (D)
SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT/ISOLATION				
D1.1	The standard shall prohibit veal confinement crate systems where calves are unable to move freely and have no contact with others	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
D1.2	The standard shall require that individual pens offer freedom of movement and tactile and visual contact for calves	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
D1.3	The standard shall require that calves are raised in groups from the age of 8 weeks or less.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
D1.4	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

		cattle, as herd animals, are only isolated when needed for short-term medical or safety interventions		
D1.5	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that provision is made for the segregation and care of sick or injured animals that are unable to eat/drink and/or keep up with the herd	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
HANDLING				
D1.6	The standard shall require that cattle are handled humanely; and that the mistreatment of animals is unacceptable.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
D1.7	The standard shall have prescriptions for the use of electric prods to include the following Prods shall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • never be applied to the face, genitals, udder, or anal area • only be used when the animal is mobile, and there 	The standard shall prohibit the use of electric prods under any circumstance.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

	<p>are no obstacles, e.g. other animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> not be used repeatedly on a single animal not be used on animals that are clearly sick not be used on calves under six months of age 			
D1.8	The standard shall require that electro-immobilization is prohibited.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
INSPECTION				
D1.9	The standard shall require that inspection of animals in extensive systems where feed and water are freely available is at a frequency that minimizes the risk of not seeing animals that are sick, injured, need assistance for calving, etc.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
D1.10	The standard shall require that cattle in barns or lots where human intervention is required for the provision of feed and/or water are inspected at least once daily.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
HEALTH & TREATMENT				

D1.11	The standard shall require that any animal identified as being sick, injured, or lame is given appropriate treatment as soon as possible.	The standard shall require that cattle are pro-actively managed for the prevention of disease	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
D1.12	The standard shall require the responsible use of antimicrobials on the operation.	No Option 1 (B)	The standards shall require a written health and welfare plan relevant to the health challenges on the farm/ranch	No Option 3 (D)
LAMENESS				
D1.13	The standard shall require that cattle are monitored for lameness, and action shall be taken to prevent lameness.	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require a maximum acceptable level of lameness. ²	No Option 3 (D)
GROWTH PROMOTERS				
D1.14	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall prohibit the use of beta-agonists.	The standard shall prohibit the use of growth hormones and other growth promoters.	No Option 3 (D)
MORTALITY				
D1.15	The standard shall require that mortality rates are recorded.	The standard shall require that farmers take action when mortality exceeds normal farm levels.	The standard shall require a maximum acceptable level of mortality. ³	No Option 3 (D)

PAINFUL PROCEDURES – CASTRATION				
D1.16	The standard shall require that castration is carried out at as young an age as possible	The standard shall set a maximum age of castration.	The standard shall require that the maximum age of castration of a calf is nine weeks.	The standard shall require that the maximum age of castration of a calf is six weeks.
D1.17	The standard shall address methods of castration.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
D1.18	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that for all methods and ages at which castration is carried out, pain relief is used when available.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
PAINFUL PROCEDURES – SPAYING				
D1.19	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that spaying and webbing are prohibited.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
PAINFUL PROCEDURES - HORN MODIFICATION				
D1.20	The standard shall require that if calves are disbudded/dehorned, the procedure is performed at as early an age as possible.	The standard shall require that the maximum permitted age for disbudding is nine weeks.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
D1.21	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that for all methods	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

		and ages at which disbudding is carried out, pain relief is used when available.		
D1.22	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall prohibit dehorning.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
PAINFUL PROCEDURES – TAIL MODIFICATION				
D1.23	The standard shall prohibit tail docking	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
IDENTIFICATION				
D1.24	The standard shall prohibit face branding unless required by regulations	The standard shall address methods and location of branding.	The standard shall prohibit branding anywhere on the animal unless required by regulations.	No Option 3 (D)
BREEDING, PREGNANCY & BIRTHING				
D1.25	The standard shall require that breeding choices and techniques for cows and heifers shall not risk their health or the health of their calves.	The standard shall require that the breed selected is suitable for the farm/ranch system.	No Option 2 (C)	The standard shall set requirements for the minimum age at first breeding/calving.
D1.26	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that breeding choices proactively select for welfare traits and not just production traits.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

WEANING				
D1.27	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require that suckled calves are not weaned before a minimum age of 6 months.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
D1.28	No Baseline (A)	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require that calves are not transported off the farm within ten days of being weaned.	No Option 3 (D)
D1.29	No Baseline (A)	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require that weaning is carried out using a low-stress method.	No Option 3 (D)
EUTHANASIA/ON-FARM SLAUGHTER				
D1.30	The standard shall require that animals that are suffering pain or distress and not responding to treatment are euthanized using methods that cause immediate unconsciousness that lasts until death.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

D2. Cattle Husbandry – Recommendations

	Baseline (A)	Additional requirements for Option 1 (B)	Additional requirements for Option 2 (C)	Additional requirements for Option 3 (D)
HANDLING				
D2.1	The standard shall require that staff are trained in low stress handling methods.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
LAMENESS				
D2.2	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require a maximum acceptable level of lameness. ²	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
GROWTH PROMOTERS				
D2.3	The standard shall prohibit the use of beta-agonists.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
PAINFUL PROCEDURES				
D2.4	The standard shall require that a veterinarian supervises any painful procedures.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
D2.5	The standard shall require that spaying and webbing are prohibited	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

D2.6	The standard shall require that castration is not carried out at the same time as weaning	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
D2.7	The standard shall require that for all methods and ages at which castration is carried out, pain relief shall be used. <i>It is noted that this will require efforts to get suitable products licensed and available.</i>	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
D2.8	The standard shall require that disbudding/dehorning is not carried out at the same time as weaning	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	The standard shall require that if disbudding is carried out, the farm shall move towards polled genetics with the intent of ceasing disbudding within a set number of years from first certification. ³
D2.9	The standard shall require that for all methods and ages at which disbudding/dehorning is carried out, pain relief shall be used. <i>It is noted that this will require efforts to get suitable products licensed and available.</i>	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

IDENTIFICATION

D2.10	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall prohibit branding unless required by regulations.	No Option 2 (C)	The standard shall require that RFID/EID are used.
EQUIPMENT				
D2.11	The standard shall require that equipment used for operations such as disbudding and castration shall be safe, clean, and in working order	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

Section E - Transport Criteria



Desired outcome: Animals are transported in a low-stress manner by competent handlers on well-planned journeys. Transport vehicles are designed and maintained to be suitable for the livestock transported.

E1. Transport – Requirements

	Baseline (A)	Additional requirements for Option 1 (B)	Additional requirements for Option 2 (C)	Additional requirements for Option 3 (D)
FITNESS FOR TRANSPORT				
E1.1	The standard shall require that animals are only transported when they are fit and well enough to cope with all aspects of this.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
TRANSPORT SPACE ALLOWANCES				
E1.2	The standard shall require that space in transport and the maximum number of animals that can be carried on a vehicle are planned prior to loading.	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require space allowances in transport set per animal by type/weight	No Option 3 (D)
TRANSPORT VEHICLE				

E1.3	The standard shall require that transport vehicles are designed and suitable for livestock/cattle transport.	The standard shall require that ramps and other surfaces used for loading shall provide good footing.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
E1.4	No Baseline (A)	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require that ramps allow animals easy access to the transport vehicle	No Option 3 (D)
E1.5	The standard shall require that vehicles offer enough headroom for cattle to stand naturally.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
TRANSPORT CONDITIONS				
E1.6	The standard shall require that thermal comfort is maintained for transported animals.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
E1.7	The standard shall require that adequate ventilation is maintained during transport.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
TRANSPORT DURATION				
E1.8	The standard shall address the time spent in transport.	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require that the maximum transport duration	No Option 3 (D)

			for a single journey shall be 8 hours.	
TRANSPORT STAFF				
E1.9	The standard shall require that only personnel who are trained and competent are involved in transport.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

E2. Transport – Recommendations

	Baseline Option (A)	Additional requirements for Option 1 (B)	Additional requirements for Option 2 (C)	Additional requirements for Option 3 (D)
TRANSPORT DURATION				
E2.1	No Baseline (A)	The standard shall require breaks where animals are unloaded, fed, and watered when the transport duration exceeds a set number of hours.	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

Section F - Slaughter Criteria



Desired outcome: Animal are slaughtered efficiently and humanely without pain and distress. Animals are stunned pre-slaughter.

F1. Slaughter – Requirements

* These requirements apply to any standards that address slaughter.

	Baseline (A)	Additional requirements for Option 1 (B)	Additional requirements for Option 2 (C)	Additional requirements for Option 3 (D)
MANAGEMENT & TRAINING				
F1.1	The standard shall require that personnel at the abattoir/slaughter plant shall be trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require that there is a named person who is responsible for animal welfare and who has the authority to stop slaughter operations if there is a risk to cattle welfare.	No Option 3 (D)
CASUALTY ANIMALS				
F1.2	The standard shall require that animals that are unable to rise and walk are euthanized promptly using an	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

	acceptable method.			
PRE-SLAUGHTER HANDLING				
F1.3	The standard shall require that animals are handled calmly, and there shall be no abuse of animals.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
F1.4	<p>The standard shall set requirements around the use of electric prods to include the following:</p> <p>Prods shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • never be applied to the face, genitals, udder, or anal area. • only be used when the animal is mobile, and there are no obstacles, e.g. other animals. • not be used repeatedly on a single animal. • not be used on animals that are clearly sick. • not be used on calves under three months of age. 	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require that electric prods are prohibited.	No Option 3 (D)
STUNNING & SLAUGHTER				

F1.5	The standard shall require that methods of slaughter that cause immediate unconsciousness followed by death are used.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
STUNNING & SLAUGHTER				
F1.6	The standard shall require that suitable equipment for the slaughter of cattle is available and maintained as per the manufacturers' instructions.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
F1.7	The standard shall require that the correct ammunition for the size/age/type of cattle is used when captive bolt guns/firearms are in use for stunning or slaughter	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
F1.8	The standard shall require that the correct current and application time are used for any electrical methods of stunning or slaughter.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)
F1.9	The standard shall require that following stunning; animals are bled as soon as possible	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

	and within 60 seconds of stun.			
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F2. Slaughter – Recommendations

* These recommendations apply to any standards that address slaughter.

	Baseline (A)	Additional requirements for Option 1 (B)	Additional requirements for Option 2 (C)	Additional requirements for Option 3 (D)
MANAGEMENT & TRAINING				
F2.1	No Baseline (A)	No Option 1 (B)	The standard shall require that there is a qualified Animal Welfare Officer (as defined by EU legislation) or a person who has successfully completed equivalent training.	No Option 3 (D)
STUNNING & SLAUGHTER				
F2.2	When the standard does not cover slaughter within its requirements, it shall require that certified cattle are only sent to slaughterhouses that have been audited by another	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

	certification body as meeting a minimum level of animal welfare.			
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Section G - Management Criteria



Desired outcome: The welfare of animals is protected by clear protocols and defined management strategies.

G1. Management – Recommendations

	Baseline (A)	Additional requirements for Option 1 (B)	Additional requirements for Option 2 (C)	Additional requirements for Option 3 (D)
TRAINING				
G1.1	The standard shall require that all those working with cattle are trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.	No Option 1 (B)	No Option 2 (C)	No Option 3 (D)

Section H - Live Animal Traceability Criteria

One of the roles of LIA is to build up the overall supply of traceable leather so that brands can eventually physically source hides from farms that meet their expectations.

- H1.1** To participate in LIA, farms must be working with a traceability system to track where their cattle are coming from and where they are sold to. Any system that reliably ensures the identity of the individual cattle and keeps a record of their purchase and sale will be accepted, including:

Identification

- Ear tags
- RFID ear tags
- Branding (not encouraged due to animal welfare and hide quality)
- Other*:

Tracking

- Paper documentation of purchases and sales, with individual cow identities
- Technological tracking systems
- Other*:

*Please submit any identification or tracking systems that are not on the list of options to LIA@TextileExchange.org for consideration.

Appendix A – Guidance Notes

1. Air quality issues should include ammonia and dust. Ammonia should not exceed 20ppm.
2. It is suggested that at Option 1, the total for moderately and severely lame animals should not exceed 5% of the herd. Of that figure, severely lame animals should not exceed 4% of the herd and should be in sick pens.

For Option 2, it is suggested that the total for moderately and severely lame animals should not exceed 4% of the herd.

For Option 3, it is suggested that the total for moderately lame animals should not exceed 2% of the herd, and there should be 0% severely lame animals.

3. It is suggested that at Option 2, the maximum acceptable level of mortality across the entire herd should be 4%.

It is suggested that at Option 3, the maximum acceptable level of mortality across the entire herd should be 2%

Appendix B – References

The following references were used in the development of the Animal Welfare Standards Benchmark:

- [ISEAL Code of Good Practices](#)
- [ISEAL Sustainability Benchmarking Good Practice Guide](#)
- OIE Guidelines
- Five Domains of Animal Welfare
- Textile Exchange Animal Welfare Framework

Appendix C – Animal Welfare Scope Committee Members

Animal Welfare Committee:

Anna Heaton (Chair)

Anne Gillespie (Co-Chair)

Sara Shields

Corinna Reinisch

Max Makuvise

Kaley Segboer