

Cross compliance checklist

SMR 11 - Welfare of calves

The aim of SMR 11 rules is to protect the welfare of calves by setting minimum standards for their care and husbandry. There are also additional rules for farmed animals covered by SMR 13 Welfare of farmed animals.

Answer each question below with a yes, no or n/a to help check if you have adhered to the rules. If the rules are applicable to you, and you are compliant, your answers to the questions should be yes.

Inspection, accommodation and freedom of movement

- Do you inspect all housed calves at least twice a day and those kept outside at least once a day?
- Do your individual stalls or pens satisfy the minimum width and length rules and have perforated walls to allow healthy calves to see each other and have physical contact?

Note: Minimum width is at least equal to the height of the calf at the withers, when measured in the standing position; minimum length is at least equal to the body length of the calf (measured from the tip of the nose to the rear of the pin bone (tuber ischii), multiplied by 1.1.

- When calves are kept in a group do they have sufficient unobstructed floor space?

Note: Calves with a live weight of less than 150kg must have at least 1.5m² calves with a live weight of 150kg or more but less than 200kg have at least 2m², and calves with a live weight of more than 200kg have at least 3m².

- Does the flooring in your calf housing accommodation adhere to the following:
 - Smooth but not slippery?
 - Designed so there is no injury or suffering to the calves while standing or lying?
 - Suitable for the size and weight of the calves?
 - Rigid, even and stable?

Note: You must not keep a calf in an individual stall or pen after the age of eight weeks (unless it needs to be isolated to receive treatment)

Environment

- For calves kept in artificially lit buildings, is artificial lighting provided for a period that is at least equal to the period of natural light normally available between 9am and 5pm?
- Do you regularly clean and disinfect housing and equipment used for your calves?

Note: Remove dung, urine and leftover food as often as necessary to reduce smells and avoid attracting flies or rodents.



Picture above: Cattle housed in suitable accommodation

- Do housed calves have access at all times to a lying area that is clean, comfortable, well drained and has dry appropriate bedding?

Feed, water and other substances

- Do you feed all your weaned calves at least twice a day, if not fed adlib?

- When feeding group-housed calves:

- Does each calf have access to feed at the same time as the others in the feeding group?
- Do the calves have continuous access to feed?
- Are calves fed by an automatic feeding system?
- Do all your calves have access to fresh drinking water at all times in hot weather conditions or when they are ill?
- Do you ensure that each calf receives bovine colostrum as soon as possible after it is born and within the first six hours of life?
- Do all of your calves receive enough iron, to ensure a blood haemoglobin level of at least 4.5mmol/litre?
- Do all of your calves receive the specified minimum daily ration of fibrous food?

Note: The daily fibrous food ration rises in line with the growth of the calf, starting at 100g at 2 weeks old and rising to 250g at 20 weeks.