

# Guidance on Restricted Veterinary Practices

Reference 3.04 Organic Food and Farming Standards in Ireland Edition 2

App 98/03  
Issue date: 04-01-2024  
Issued By: M. Cairney

## CASTRATION

CATTLE				
Age of animal	Permitted Method of Castration	Anaesthesia and/or Analgesia Required	Personnel allowed to carry out the procedure	Derogation required in advance?
0-8 days	Banding, burdizzo, surgical castration	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee – banding, burdizzo methods only</li> <li>Veterinary nurse – banding, burdizzo methods only</li> <li>Veterinarian</li> </ul>	Yes
9 days to 6 months	Burdizzo, surgical castration	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee – burdizzo method only</li> <li>Veterinary nurse – burdizzo method only</li> <li>Veterinarian</li> </ul>	Yes
<i>Castration of livestock over 6 months of age, regardless of the reason or person carrying out the procedure, will result in the loss of organic status of the animal.</i>				
SHEEP & GOATS				
0-8 days	Banding, burdizzo, surgical castration	YES - unless Veterinarian gives justification in writing for non-use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee – banding, burdizzo methods only</li> <li>Veterinary nurse – banding, burdizzo methods only</li> <li>Veterinarian</li> </ul>	Yes
9 days to 3 months	Burdizzo, surgical castration	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee – burdizzo method only</li> <li>Veterinary nurse – burdizzo method only</li> <li>Veterinarian</li> </ul>	Yes
Over 3 months of age	Surgical castration	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Veterinarian</li> </ul> <i>Non-surgical castration is NOT permitted over 3 months</i>	No
PIGS				
0-8 days	Method that does not involve tearing tissue	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee</li> <li>Veterinary nurse</li> <li>Veterinarian</li> </ul>	Yes

**NOTE:** An **Analgesic** is a substance which acts to relieve pain. An **Anaesthetic** is a substance which induces insensitivity to pain. Access to and competence in the use of anaesthesia & analgesia can be achieved through a conversation with a Veterinarian.

**NOTE:** A **Competent Person** is someone who is familiar with and has the necessary training, skill, experience and equipment to successfully carry out the procedure.

# Guidance on Restricted Veterinary Practices

Reference 3.04 Organic Food and Farming Standards in Ireland Edition 2

App 98/03  
Issue date: 04-01-2024  
Issued By: M. Cairney

## **DISBUDDING**

The use of disbudding/dehorning paste (caustic) is not permitted on organic holdings, the only method of disbudding/dehorning permitted by the DAFM is hot iron cautery and Anaesthesia and/or Analgesia must be used in all cases.

Age	Procedure	Anaesthesia and/or Analgesia Required	Personnel allowed to carry out the procedure	Derogation required in advance?
0-15 days	Disbudding	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee</li><li>• Veterinary nurse</li><li>• Veterinarian</li></ul>	Yes
>15 days to 6 months	Disbudding / Dehorning	YES	<i>Only permitted where horns have not emerged or calf is sick or weak</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee</li><li>• Veterinary nurse</li><li>• Veterinarian</li></ul>	Yes
<i>Dehorning of livestock over 6 months of age, regardless of the reason or person carrying out the procedure, will result in the loss of organic status of the animal.</i>				

## **TAIL DOCKING – SHEEP & GOATS**

Age	Procedure	Anaesthesia and/or Analgesia Required	Personnel allowed to carry out the procedure	Derogation required in advance?
0-8 days	Rubber ring	YES – unless Veterinarian gives justification in writing for non-use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee</li><li>• Veterinary nurse</li><li>• Veterinarian</li></ul>	Yes

## **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Derogation requests must be submitted to DAFM, prior to carrying out the procedure, via the following website: <https://ie.organicxlivestock.com/> .

Invoices/receipts from the Veterinarian for supply and/or use of the Anaesthesia and/or Analgesia must be available for inspection. Not using Anaesthesia and/or Analgesia will result in non-compliances being issued and possible financial penalties being applied by DAFM.

**NOTE:** An ***Analgesic*** is a substance which acts to relieve pain. An ***Anaesthetic*** is a substance which induces insensitivity to pain. Access to and competence in the use of anaesthesia & analgesia can be achieved through a conversation with a Veterinarian.

**NOTE:** A ***Competent Person*** is someone who is familiar with and has the necessary training, skill, experience and equipment to successfully carry out the procedure.