

Guidance on Restricted Veterinary Practices

Reference 3.04 Organic Food and Farming Standards in Ireland Edition 2

App 98/02
Issue date: 02-03-2023
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"> Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee (not a contractor) – banding , burdizzo methods only Veterinary nurse – banding, burdizzo methods only Veterinarian 	Yes
9 days to 6 months	Burdizzo, surgical castration	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee (not a contractor) – burdizzo method only Veterinary nurse – burdizzo method only Veterinarian 	Yes
Under 8 months of age	Surgical castration	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterinarian <p><i>Castration is NOT permitted over 8 months</i></p>	No
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"> Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee (not a contractor) – banding , burdizzo methods only Veterinary nurse – banding, burdizzo methods only Veterinarian 	Yes
9 days to 3 months	Burdizzo, surgical castration	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee (not a contractor) – burdizzo method only Veterinary nurse – burdizzo method only Veterinarian 	Yes
Over 3 months of age	Surgical castration	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterinarian <p><i>Non-surgical castration is NOT permitted over 3 months</i></p>	No
PIGS				
0-8 days	Method that does not involve tearing tissue	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee (not a contractor) Veterinary nurse Veterinarian 	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.

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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">• Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee (not a contractor)• Veterinary nurse• Veterinarian	Yes
>15 days	Disbudding	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee (not a contractor)• Veterinary nurse• Veterinarian <i>Only permitted where horns have not emerged or calf is sick or weak</i>	Yes
28 days up to 8 months of age	Dehorning	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veterinarian <i>Not permitted over 8 months of age</i>	Yes

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">• Competent person who is also either the keeper or an employee (not a contractor)• Veterinary nurse• Veterinarian	Yes

IMPORTANT NOTE

In accordance with the Organic Food and Farming Standards in Ireland since 1st January 2023, dehorning or castration of bovines is not permitted over 8 months of age otherwise it will result in the loss of the organic status of the animal.

Derogations must be sent to IOA (for submission to DAFM) prior to carrying out the procedure. 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.