

Guidance on Restricted Veterinary Practices

Reference 3.04 Organic Food and Farming Standards in Ireland Edition 2

App 98/01
Issue date: 23-12-2021
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
Over 6 months of age	Surgical castration	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Veterinarian <p><i>Non-surgical castration is NOT permitted over 6 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 or older	Dehorning	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Veterinarian <i>Only permitted in exceptional circumstances</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

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.*