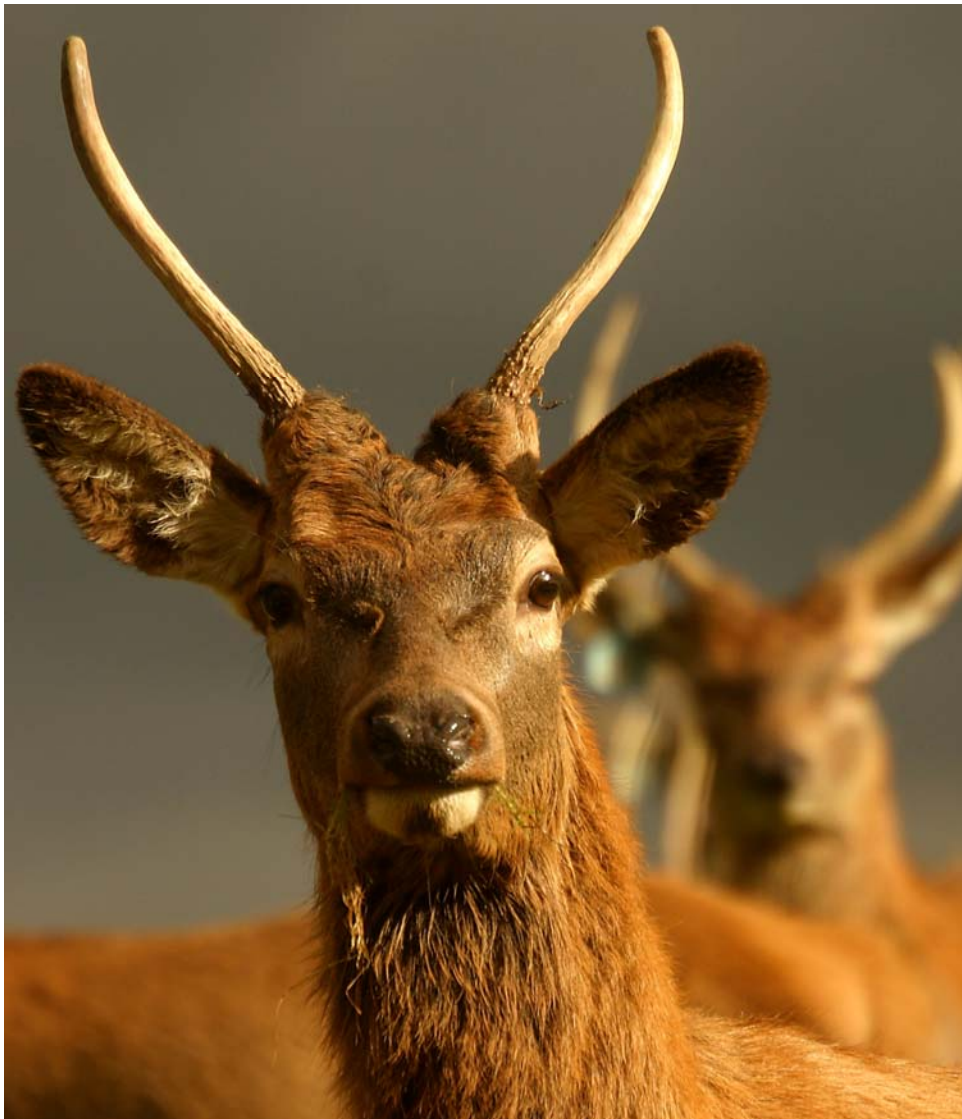




# **SAI GLOBAL/EFSIS QUALITY ASSURED FARM VENISON SCHEME STANDARD**



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## 1.0 IDENTIFICATION AND TRACABILITY.

### Key Objectives.

The ability to trace meat back to its source is essential in reassuring the consumer that the meat they buy originates from animals, which have been correctly managed. All stock leaving the farm of birth must be tagged in accordance with legislation and a record made in the Movement Book. Breeding stock should be obtained from farms holding a valid Certificate of Conformity. The unit must ensure that any deer brought in for rearing purposes for meat production must come from suppliers holding a valid Certificate of Conformity under this Mark.

Records must be retained which relate to an individual animal or its management group for at least 3 years after that animal leaves the unit.

Precise and up-to-date records, appropriate to the volume and nature of the production of the unit must be maintained to demonstrate the observance of the operational procedures and practices defined in these Standards.

### 1.1 There must be a movement book maintained in accordance with current legislation?

Q *Are the required movement records available and up to date and deer identified?*

IG On every occasion a deer is moved onto or off the premises a record must be made, this includes movements to and from a market, show, or land off the holding. This information is required should stock need to be traced and is essential for animal health and disease control.

The information required must include:

- Identification number of the deer.
- Date of the movement
- Holding where the stock was moved from
- Hauliers name and address.

Movement records must be completed on the official triplicate movement form. A copy must be sent by the receiving premises to their local authority within 3 days of the movement.

When a deer is moved off the holding the manager of that unit must provide the manager of the abattoir or holding to which the deer is moving with information about the deer to facilitate its future management and to ensure full traceability. Both units must retain a copy of the information. If stock is being sent for breeding or finishing - a history of movements the deer has made since birth, including details of properties on which the deer has been.

## **1.2 All stock must be tagged prior to leaving holding of birth.**

*Q Are all animals identified and tagged with an approved tag before they leave the farm of birth?*

**IG** Until farmed deer leave the farm of birth there is no legal requirement for them to be tagged. In accordance with the 1989 TB (Deer) Order and the Amendment Order 1993 deer must be identified or marked before they leave the farm of birth. The approved method of identifying the deer is with a DEFRA approved tag which shows both the registered number of the herd of origin (birth) and the deer's own unique identity number. Either a DEFRA or BDFA herd registration number can be used to identify the herd of origin (birth). If a BDFA registration number is used the Divisional Veterinary Manager of the local Animal Health Divisional Office must be notified.

## **1.3 Venison must be slaughtered less than 27 months to qualify for the quality mark.**

*Q Are all stock for the Quality Assured Farm Venison Scheme slaughtered less than 27 months of age?*

**IG** To meet the standards of the Quality Mark deer must be no more than 27 months of age at the time of slaughter.

## **1.4 Animal health treatment records must be available for purchased stock**

*Q Are the recent animal health treatment records kept for purchased animals?*

**IG** Records must be obtained as to the source of each animal purchased, together with any recent animal health treatments. Records of previous medication are necessary in order to ensure that withdrawal periods are observed and that future treatments are compatible.

## **1.5 Deer entering the farm must be from a Quality Assured member unless for breeding purpose only, when these animals must never be sold as Quality Assured.**

*Q Are only Quality Assured stock purchased unless for breeding purpose?*

**IG** Deer purchased on to the farm for rearing must be from another Quality Assured farm. If stocks are purchased for breeding purpose only (e.g. stags) then these can be purchased from Non Quality Assured farms. These animals will not be eligible for the Quality Assurance mark.

**1.6 All purchased animals must reside on farm for at least 90 days prior to slaughter, except in circumstances where deer have been transported to the abattoir and held on grass lairage.**

*Q Are stocks on farm for 90 days prior to slaughter?*

**IG** Purchased stock must reside on farm for at least 90 days prior to going be slaughtered. Movement date of deer on to the farm must be recorded in the movement book.

## 2.0 FARM ANIMAL MANAGEMENT.

### Key Objectives.

The person with primary responsibility for the day to day running of each unit must be familiar with the behaviour of the deer species kept. They must demonstrate competence in stockmanship and welfare standards appropriate to the herd, and a thorough knowledge of the legislation and guidelines relevant to the farming of deer.

#### **2.1 There must be a copy of the DEFRA Code of Recommendation for the Welfare of Farmed Deer?**

*Q Does the producer have a copy of the DEFRA Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Farmed Deer?*

**IG** All persons engaged on the unit must have the knowledge and skill necessary to carry out their allotted tasks efficiently, safely and with a high regard for animal welfare.

Management systems must be in place to deliver the requirements of the standards detailed in this Manual, all relevant legislation and be fully aware of the requirements in the DEFRA Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Farmed Deer, including the five freedoms as shown below:

- freedom from thirst and hunger
- freedom from hunger
- freedom from pain, injury and disease
- freedom to express normal behaviour
- freedom from fear.

#### **2.2 Responsible people must be informed of any items of concern to safety, animal welfare or damage to facilities.**

*Q Do farm personnel engaged on the unit notify the person(s) responsible for the unit of any items of concern pertaining to safety, animal welfare, defective equipment, damage to facilities.*

**IG** The responsible person must ensure all stock handlers and farm staff receive adequate training for their job and are fully aware of the relevant welfare codes in accordance with the Welfare of Livestock Regulations 1990. A record must be kept and does the responsible person ensure that appropriate action is taken immediately.

### **2.3 Training records must be available and up to date.**

*Q Are training records available and up to date?*

IG Training must be provided for all staff, this may either be in-house by a competent member of the farm staff or from an external source such as the BDFA, ATB, agricultural college etc. A record of the training provided must be kept and should be available during the surveillance inspection.

### **2.4 There must be a designated person who has overall responsibility for the herd.**

*Q Is there a designated person with overall responsibility of the herd who has knowledge of the Standards?*

IG Each unit must have a named person designated with the responsibility of safeguarding the welfare and safety of both the stock and staff. That person should be available to answer questions during the surveillance inspection. If this is not possible another responsible person must be available.

### **2.5 All fences must be secure and maintained.**

*Q Are all fences secure and maintained?*

IG The deer must be kept on land, which is effectively fenced to prevent escape. Fences must be constructed and maintained to safely contain the species of deer being farmed.

### **2.6 All deer must have access to pasture in the grazing season.**

*Q Do all Deer have access to pasture in the summer grazing season?*

IG Deer being farmed to the standards of this Quality Mark may be managed by traditional farming methods or by methods appropriate to more extensive management. In all cases the deer must have access to pasture for grazing during the summer grazing season from June. Intensively reared stocks are allowed as long as they have access at all times to grass, fresh or conserved or other roughages to fulfil their grazing requirement.

### **2.7 Deer must have access to natural or artificial shelter and shade.**

*Q Do deer have access to natural or artificial shelter and shade?*

IG Throughout the year the deer must have access to natural or artificial shelter and shade. In the winter and during periods of bad weather this shelter may be in the form of housing if this is considered to be in the best interests of the stock's welfare and the protection of the environment. Alternatively, where stocking is not heavy, woodland or a sheltered landform may provide the required shelter.

**2.8 Stocking levels must be maintained at a level, which avoids overgrazing, poaching and general environment damage.**

Q *Are stocking levels maintained in the field to ensure Good Agricultural Practice?*

IG Damage at feed stations must be repaired annually. Topping should be carried out when necessary after calving however care must be taken, particularly when farming Fallow. The sharp stalks left standing can be responsible for injuries to the mouth, which act as entry points for the organism *Fusobacterium necrophorum*.

Stocking rates must be appropriate to the species and age of stock, the type and quality of the land, the season and vegetation available and the behavioural needs of the deer. The following stocking levels are given as a guide only, local conditions must also be taken in to account.

Number of head per Ha	Red Deer. Breeding hinds with calves	Yearlings	Fallow Deer
Unimproved Hill	1-1.5/ha		
Improved Hill	7/ha	15-20/ha	10-15/ha
Lowland	10-15/ha	15-25/ha	15-25/ha

**2.9 Stock must be inspected at least once a day.**

Q *Are stock inspected at least once a day?*

IG The deer must be inspected for signs of illness, injury, listlessness or distress. Housed deer must be inspected twice daily. Deer being managed under an extensive regime may be inspected less frequently providing it can be shown that the welfare of the stock is not being jeopardised.

**2.10 Deer must be kept in stable social groups with as little mixing as possible.**

Q *Are deer kept in stable social groups?*

IG When new deer are introduced to a group they must be monitored carefully and action taken should bullying occur in excess of that normal to establish the natural order.



**2.11 Provisions must be made for the segregation of sick, injured or bullied deer.**

*Q Are there provisions for the segregation of animals?*

IG Provision must be made for the segregation and care of sick, injured or bullied deer. Deer should only be segregated from the herd in extreme cases.

**2.12 Provisions must be in place to ensure antlers are only removed as soon as they are out of velvet.**

*Q Are antlers only removed above the pedical as soon as they are out of velvet?*

IG For safety and welfare purposes, antlers must be removed above the pedicle as soon as they are out of velvet. The harvesting of velvet and the removal of antlers in velvet is strictly prohibited by law unless essential for the welfare of the stag or buck when the operation is regulated by law.

**2.13 Non Breeding Yearling Stags must be separated from hinds by the 15<sup>th</sup> September.**

*Q Are Non Breeding Yearling stags separated from the hinds by the 15<sup>th</sup> September?*

IG Non breeding Yearling Stags must be removed by the 15<sup>th</sup> September to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

**2.14 Rubber rings must be prohibited for castration and deantlering.**

*Q Is the use of rubber rings prohibited for the use of castration and deantlering?*

IG Castration by any means and de-antlering by the use of rubber rings is not permitted.

**2.15 Areas accessible to deer must be free of items that could be hazardous to stock.**

*Q Are all deer access areas free from hazards?*

IG All areas to which the deer have access, including fields, raceways, yards and housing must be free of any items or plants which may be potentially hazardous or injurious to the stock.

**2.16 A high health status must be maintained to minimise the risk of disease on the farm.**

*Q Is a high health and safety status maintained (Biosecurity)?*

IG To minimise the spread of disease and to maintain a high health and safety status a whole farm approach to high standards of cleanliness, hygiene, safe storage and appropriate waste disposal must be demonstrated. The applicant must be aware of, and comply with the DEFRA guidance on biosecurity [PB4517] or equivalent advice from other relevant competent authorities.

**2.17 Calving must take place outdoors, with minimal intervention.**

*Q Is calving taken place outdoors with minimal intervention?*

IG Calving must take place outdoors, with minimal intervention. Adequate cover (e.g. long grass, nettles) must be available to the calf for the first 2-3 weeks.

**2.18 Females must have adequate body condition at time of calving.**

*Q Are hind's body score conditioning monitored for calving?*

IG Females must be managed so as to be in suitable bodily condition at the time of calving. It is important that hinds do not become over fat prior to calving as this can lead to dystokia.

**2.19 Hinds must not be disturbed unnecessarily during the calving season and observed from a distance.**

*Q Are hinds observed appropriately during the calving season?*

IG Females must be disturbed as little as possible during the calving season, a stockman known to the herd, following a regular daily routine, should check the stock. The frequency of these checks depends on the type of management system; inspections can be made from a distance with the aid of binoculars if this is appropriate.

**2.20 Competent stockman and vets must only be used to assist with calving.**

*Q Are only competent stockman and vets used to assist calving?*

IG Assistance is only rarely necessary but in cases when the stockman believes particular attention must be paid to hygiene. Given the infrequency of assisted calving in deer, unless the

stockman is competent in the procedure due to experience assisting deer, sheep or cattle a veterinary surgeon must be called.

### **2.21 Routine treatments to calves must take place within 48 hours of birth.**

*Q Are precautions taken to minimise the disturbance and stress of newborn calves during the first 48 hours?*

*IG* Young calves, during their first 48 hours, may be tagged, weighed; sexed etc if this is the chosen farm practice. The stockman must take as little time as possible over the task and must take precautions to minimise the disturbance and stress caused to the group generally as well as the hind and calf as well as making provision for his own personal safety.

### **2.22 A facility must be made available to monitor hinds if assistance has been given and a hide must be provided if the calves have to be kept indoors.**

*Q Are facilities available to monitor hinds care of the calf where the hind has been assisted and is a hide provided for the calf?*

*IG* Provision must be made, in advance, of a facility into which an assisted female and her calf can be temporarily held whilst monitoring the hind's care of the calf. Assisted females may abandon their young. Similarly artificial rearing facilities must be available. If for any reason a hind and young calf have to be held indoors a 'hide' must be provided for the calf and they should be provided with plenty of room and clean bedding, plus access to a fresh turf for the calf.

### **2.23 Calves must be reared by their mothers for the first 8 weeks of life.**

*Q Are all calves kept with there mothers for at least the first 8 weeks unless for exceptional circumstances?*

*IG* The hind must be allowed to rear her calf until weaning when the calf is at least 8 weeks old. Only in exceptional circumstances should artificial rearing be contemplated, whenever practicable orphan calves should be fostered to hinds, which have lost their calves. The shepherd's practice of taking the skin from a hind's dead calf and placing it on the orphan calf is an acceptable and effective method of fostering.

**2.24 In the instance of an orphaned calf, the guide for feeding orphaned calf must be followed.**

Q *Are the guidelines for feeding an orphaned calf followed?*

IG If artificial rearing is necessary the guidelines to feeding an orphan calf must be followed. A colostrum substitute must be provided if the calf loses its mother within the first few days.

**2.25 Calves must be at least 8 weeks old at pre rut weaning.**

Q *At the pre rut weaning are all calves over 8 weeks of age?*

IG The pre-rut weaning of calves generally takes place in September; late born calves may not be sufficiently independent at this stage. A later weaning date for any calves less than 8 weeks old must be used.

**2.26 Deer must be treated, handled, loaded or unloaded calmly in such a way as to avoid injury and minimise pain and stress.**

Q *When moving or handling, are all deer treated in such a way has to avoid injury and minimise stress?*

IG Whenever moving and handling deer in the field, raceway, handling yards or housing this must be carried out in a calm, systematic and organised manner by or under the direct supervision of a stockman experienced in handling and moving the species of deer on the unit.

**2.27 Sticks or electric goads must be prohibited for use on the unit.**

Q *Is the use of sticks or goads prohibited?*

IG The use of sticks and/or goads or excessive force is not permitted.

**2.28 Deer must have continuous access to a supply of fresh water and bowls should be checked twice daily.**

Q *Do deer's have continuous access to a supply of fresh clean water and are bowls checked twice daily?*

IG Deer must have continuous access to a plentiful supply of fresh, clean water. As a minimum, one drinking space (defined as room for one deer to drink) per 10 deer. Water troughs must be regularly cleaned and checked, water in troughs must not be allowed to become stagnant. Individual water bowls must be

regularly checked (twice daily at least) to ensure they are functioning correctly, a reservoir of water must be immediately available to the stock should the water bowl supply fail.

**2.29 There must be a contingency plan available for water in case of normal supplies failing.**

*Q Is there a contingency plan for drinking water supplies in case normal supplies fail?*

IG Provision must be made for water to be supplied if the normal supply fails, particular care must be taken in the winter when supplies and water in outside troughs are likely to freeze.

**2.30 Pernicious weeds must be controlled.**

*Q Are pernicious weeds controlled?*

IG Pernicious weeds must not be allowed to establish (The guidance provided in PB 7189 The Weeds Act 1959 Preventing the Spread of Harmful Weeds and PB7190 The Weeds Act 1959 guidance note on the Methods that can be used to control Harmful Weeds should be adhered to) Nettles etc are useful as a means of providing cover for young calves but should be controlled after the calving period.

**2.31 Tracks and Areas subject to poaching must be repaired if excessive erosion occurs.**

*Q Are poaching areas and tracks repaired if there is excessive erosion?*

IG Poaching in feed areas and tracks along fence lines are often unavoidable; to prevent long-term damage to the soil and excessive erosion this damage must be repaired regularly.

**2.32 A record of any written complaint received by the farm relating to the deer enterprise must be kept together with details of actions taken to resolve the problem and prevent reoccurrence.**

*Q Is a written complaints file kept?*

IG Relevant complaints are those that express dissatisfaction in writing on a subject that is written within the scope of these deer standards. A complaint may be from an abattoir. Records need to be maintained in a manner that makes them easy to retrieve and also demonstrate what actions have been taken to resolve the issue.

## SECTION 3- ENVIRONMENT AND HYGIENE MANAGEMENT

### Key Objectives

**There must be systems to prevent pollution of the environment and spread of infectious disease. The unit must comply with all legal obligations with regard to health and safety, risk assessment, provision of First Aid kits, maintenance of equipment, care of employees, COSHH etc.**

#### **3.1 There must be a valid Public and Employers Liability insurance policy.**

*Q Is there public and employee liability insurance?*

**IG** The unit must carry Public and Employers Liability insurance appropriate to the size and nature of the enterprise.

#### **3.2 The unit must have a written hygiene and visitor policy.**

*Q Is there a written Hygiene and visitor policy?*

**IG** This must include all bio security precautions to be taken to prevent the spread of diseases onto and off the unit. The hygiene and visitor policy must be reviewed and, if necessary, updated annually and written to encompass relevant DEFRA (or other relevant competent authorities) guidance on bio security [including PB4517] and the “Interim Rules for Animal Movements – Camelids and Deer” and the “Interim Rules for Animal Movements – Transport of Livestock” [PB 6631B and PB 6631D respectively].

#### **3.3 There must be a visitors book on the unit and available for visitors to complete if in contact and business with the deer.**

*Q Is there a visitor’s book and is it kept up to date?*

**IG** The unit must have a visitors’ logbook which records the date of all visits to the unit, the name and address of the person or details of the group visiting, the nature of the visit and areas of the unit visited and whether these included contact with livestock.

#### **3.4 The unit must have a written vermin control plan and records kept of usage.**

*Q Is there a vermin control plan and is it recorded?*

IG The vermin control plan must cover all parts of the unit, but with particular relevance to feed storage and preparation areas. The plan, which may include the use of external pest control services, must ensure that rodent populations in particular are controlled and present no risk to human or animal health. Where rodenticides are used there must be a written record of bait points, baits used and dates of baiting.

**3.5 Contingency procedures must be in place and known to all stockmen to deal with any emergencies, which may endanger animal health, welfare or food safety.**

Q *Is there a written emergency plan?*

IG The unit must have a written emergency plan outlining the action to be taken in the event of fire, flood, disruption of supplies, the inability, for whatever reason, of the responsible person to attend to his duties and deer escape or release.

**3.6 Signs must be displayed on the unit warning visitors of potential danger.**

Q *Are warning signs displayed and are visitors to the farm warned of the potential dangers?*

IG Signs, warning of potential dangers to the public, such as stags during the rut and hinds during calving, must be provided in accordance with HSE recommendations. Signs must be provided at all access points to fields to which the public have a right of access or where the public have access to land which abuts fields containing stock which could potentially cause injury warning of the dangers, even if access is not permitted and anyone entering the field would be trespassing. The signs should be removed once the period of potential risk ends. The public should not be permitted access to fields of stags in hard antler, rutting groups nor fields of calving hinds unless stocking levels are extensive and it is possible for the deer to retreat to a distance where they do not feel threatened. In the interests of both public safety and that of the deer, rights of way should be fenced out whenever practical. Visitors to the unit must be advised immediately upon arrival of any safe practices to be followed whilst visiting the farm and of areas they should not enter unescorted.



**3.7 The unit must have access to, awareness of, and be able to observe the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice, which provide guidance on protecting the environment.**

*Q Does the unit have a copy of the Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for Air, Soil and Water available and are they adhered to?*

**IG** Protective measures to avoid water; soil and air pollution must be taken in all aspects of the farm's activities where there is a potential risk. The management of the unit must demonstrate a policy of environmental protection to ensure ongoing sustainability of a farming enterprise on the land being farmed. The DEFRA Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water, of Soil and of Air or the equivalent Scottish code for the Prevention of Pollution from Agricultural Activity give guidance on how this should be achieved. The recommendations included in these Codes and appropriate current legislation must be adhered to.

**3.8 Manures and fertilizers must be spread in accordance with current legislation and codes of good practice.**

*Q Are manures and fertilisers spread in accordance with legislation and codes of good practice?*

**IG** Manure stacks must be sited where there is no risk of causing water pollution due to seepage and run-off. If stacked in the field it should not be over field drains, within 10 metres of a watercourse or 50 metres of a spring, well or borehole used to supply water. Ideally it should be placed in a store with a solid base which does not allow liquid to pass through it, the base should drain into the dirty water system and from there into a storage tank. Stock must not have access to the manure stack. Care must be taken to avoid damage and contamination of ground water when spreading organic and inorganic substances onto the land

**3.9 Liquids and other farm waste must be disposed of in accordance with current legislation.**

*Q Are all liquids / other farm waste that could potentially cause pollution stored and disposed of correctly?*

**IG** Liquid waste and products which potentially could cause pollution or contamination, for instance silage effluent, oil and fuel must be correctly stored and spent product correctly disposed of. Detergents, disinfectants, fumigants and other cleaning chemicals must be safe to use, effective and suitable for the purpose. All chemicals, detergents and drugs must be used, stored, labelled and disposed of correctly. Oils, surplus



herbicides, pesticides, paper, plastic and polythene waste; crop and feed residues must all be disposed of in accordance with current industry guidelines.

**3.10 Fallen stock must be disposed of safely and in accordance with current legislation. Records of deaths and disposals must be kept.**

*Q How are fallen stock disposed of and are records of deaths recorded?*

**IG** Records must include the identity of the deceased animals, the dates of death and location of disposal. It is recommended that such information can be kept in movement books or herd registers.

Fallen stock can no longer be buried or burnt on farm. On farm incinerators are permitted but must be approved under the Animal By Products Regulation No. 1774/2002.

**3.11 Farm dogs and cats must be wormed regularly according to veterinary advice and the treatment recorded.**

*Q Are farm dogs and cats wormed and recorded?*

**IG** In addition to the direct welfare of dogs, this is important because they can be a host to tapeworm that could affect deer. The frequency of worming will depend on the product being used and treatment records must be maintained. Working dogs must not cause injury or distress, and must be kept under control at all times.

## SECTION 4 FOOD COMPOSITIONS, STORAGE AND USE.

### Key Objectives.

**All animals must be fed to ensure good health and well being. All feedstuffs must comply with relevant, current EU and regional legislation and be stored in good conditions.**

#### **4.1 Deer must be fed in accordance with a documented feed plan that is available for inspection and updated accordingly.**

*Q Are all deer fed in accordance with a documented feed plan?*

**IG** Deer must be fed according to a written feed plan and receive a daily diet which is adequate to maintain their health and well being. If the diet contains home mixed feeds the feed formulations must be recorded in the plan.

#### **4.2 Deer must receive a diet to maintain health and vigour, including in appetite.**

*Q Do the stock receive a daily diet, which is adequate to maintain health and vigour?*

**IG** Sufficient suitable food must be available to maintain the stock in good condition and to meet their nutritional requirements at all times. With adequate allowance being made to seasonal requirements, age, sex and environmental pressures. Feeding regimes must ensure that deer do not lose excessive body condition prior to or during the period of seasonal in appetite.

#### **4.3 Deer must be able to have forage ad-lib.**

*Q Do deer have access to have ad-lib forage?*

**IG** The bulk of the diet must come from natural forage, either from grazing or conserved forage supplemented as necessary by concentrates, straights and commercial feeds.

#### **4.4 Sudden changes in the diet must be avoided.**

*Q Are sudden changes in the diet avoided to prevent the risk of digestive problems?*

**IG** Changes in diet must be introduced gradually to avoid the risk of digestive problems and even death. Adequate fibre should always be available to allow rumination and to help avoid acidosis.

**4.5 There must be a contingency plan to ensure adequate feed supplies in emergencies.**

*Q Is there a contingency plan for adequate food supplies in emergencies?*

IG Arrangements must be made in advance to ensure that adequate supplies of suitable feed are available to deer in emergencies (e.g. heavy snow, periods of drought).

**4.6 Diets must not contain antibiotics, hormones or other substances unless prescribed by a veterinary surgeon.**

*Q Do diets exclude antibiotics, hormones or other substances?*

IG Feeds must not contain any antibiotics, hormones or other substances unless specified by the veterinary surgeon to address clinical illness. These substances must not be administered for the purpose of promoting enhanced growth.

**4.7 Producers must ensure all compounds; blends and straights are purchased from accredited suppliers of the UKASTA Feed Assurance Scheme (UFAS).**

*Q Are all feeds purchased from accredited suppliers of UFAS?*

IG All feed must be manufactured from good quality constituents free from contamination, which have been produced strictly to the standards laid down by all relevant UK and EU legislation. The ingredients must be subject to routine analysis and be non – GM to the level of detection e.g. 0.1%. Producers will be expected to provide documentary evidence from their feed suppliers that such materials are not included in the diets, which are being fed.

**4.8 Diets must contain only products, which are permitted by law to be fed to livestock and must not contain any product of mammalian or avian origin.**

*Q Do diets exclude animal products or any illegal substances?*

IG Diets must not contain any by-product of animal origin, including fish products, with the exception of milk.

**4.9 Where home mixing, producers must comply with EU and UK legislation for registration and maintain suitable records**

Q *Are details of appropriate feed formulations recorded and is the Code of Practice for on Farm Feed Mixers available?*

IG Home mixing is the mixing of ingredients, which takes place at the same location as the livestock to which it is being fed. It may or may not include home produced feeds and can be as simple as mixing together two ingredients or the production of complex complete feeds using dedicated machinery such as feeder wagons. Any home mix rations fed to the stock must be documented. Applicants are advised to obtain and comply with a copy of the Code of Practice for On-farm mixers, which summarises the legal obligations of farmers who mix their own feeds.

**4.10 Home mixers must retain a sample of all raw materials used and of the mixed feed every time there is a significant change in formulation. These samples must be taken and retained for four weeks after last use.**

Q *Are samples of feed retained?*

IG This applies both to the individual feed materials used for home mixing and the mixed feedingstuff produced on farm. It does not apply to moist feeds.

**4.11 Producers must be aware of mineral deficiencies on the holding.**

Q *Is the unit aware of any mineral deficiencies?*

IG There must be awareness on the unit of any mineral deficiencies and appropriate corrective action must be taken.

**4.12 Producers must keep delivery documents for all purchased feeds.**

Q *Are feed delivery documents kept for all purchased feeds?*

IG Delivery documents must be available for all purchased feeds that are intended for feeding to the deer.

**4.13 Producers must ensure all dry feeds are handled and stored in accordance with DEFRA Codes of Practice.**

Q *Are all dry feeds handled and stored in accordance with the DEFRA Codes of Practice?*

IG All feed must be transported and stored in accordance with good practice to ensure that it does not become contaminated or spoiled. All feed must be transported and stored in accordance with the DEFRA Code of Practice for the Control of Salmonella During the Storage, handling and Transport of Raw Materials Intended for Incorporation into, or Direct Use as, Animal Feedingstuffs [PB2202]. Rodents and other pests, including birds, must be prevented from contaminating feed. The units vermin control programme must be effective.

## SECTION 5 HOUSING AND HANDLING FACILITIES

### Key objectives.

To provide suitable deer housing systems to ensure that there is a comfortable environment and sufficient space for free movements without undue risk of injury. Deer must be housed in suitable sized groups appropriate to the systems of management and size of pen available. Appropriate management must be employed to ensure no individual or group of individuals are being bullied or are unable to obtain adequate rations or water. Generally housing groups are selected on parameters such as social group, age, sex and weight.

#### 5.1 Housing must be well constructed.

*Q Is housing of sufficient size and constructed so it can be kept clean and hygienic?*

*IG The accommodation, which may be fully or partly covered, must be well constructed, and of sufficient size to ensure good management, appropriate stocking densities, and be capable of being maintained in a clean and hygienic condition.*

#### 5.2 Housing must be of sufficient size to house stock and allow appropriate stocking densities.

*Q Is housing of sufficient size to allow appropriate stocking densities?*

*IG The following stocking densities for housing are provided as a guide only, local conditions, feed systems and farm management practices must also be taken into account. For Fallow and Sika deer space must be based on equivalent weights.*

RED DEER	Size	m <sup>2</sup>
Weaned calves	25-40 kg	2
Calves 5-11 months	40-90 kg	2.5
Yearlings / adults	75 kg +	3
Stags	130 kg +	5

#### 5.3 All housing must be maintained to safeguard against injury or distress to deer.

*Q Are houses maintained to safeguard against injury or distress to deer?*

*IG Most conventional farm buildings can be used for deer but may require modification. Pen sides must be high enough to discourage escape, without sharp edges or fittings. They need*

not be solid for the full height; the ability to see beyond the pen can reduce boredom.

#### **5.4 All stock must have a dry lying area.**

*Q Is the bedding kept clean and dry and of sufficient depth to ensure deer comfort?*

**IG** A sheltered clean dry bedded area of sufficient size must allow all the deer to lie up together is required. In addition there may be an area kept free of bedding to provide a hard surface to help maintain sound feet.

#### **5.5 All housing must be regularly cleaned out to remove manure as necessary.**

*Q Is the housing regularly cleaned?*

**IG** This area must be regularly cleaned.

#### **5.6 All housing must be adequately drained to assist deer cleanliness.**

*Q Are the floors adequately drained?*

**IG** Floors must be adequately drained. The presence of any excess fluid, which has not been cleared by the scraper, must be addressed. The accumulation of excess water, urine, dung and slurry is not acceptable.

#### **5.7 All housing must be adequately ventilated.**

*Q Is the housing adequately ventilated?*

**IG** Adequate ventilation must be provided but particular care must be taken to avoid draughts and the ingress of rain and snow. Ventilation must be adequate to maintain airflow free of contaminants, specifically inhalable dust and ammonia.

#### **5.8 Housing must have adequate lighting for day and night.**

*Q Does the housing have adequate lighting for both day and night?*

**IG** Housed stock must have access to a well-lit area during normal daylight hours. Ideally natural light supplemented with artificial lights when necessary. Adequate lighting, whether fixed or portable (high power hand lamp), must be available for the proper inspection of stock to be

carried out at any time. A light intensity of 100 LUX is recommended with a minimum of 50LUX being acceptable. 50LUX is the amount of light a person with normal eyesight needs to read standard newsprint without difficulty; a 1.2m fluorescent tube at a height of 2.3m can achieve this over a 3m<sup>2</sup> of pen. There must be adequate light in the facility to allow the stockman to work safely and efficiently, read ear tags, assess stock condition etc. The ability to reduce lighting levels when handling fallow deer can be useful.

### **5.9 Gates and doors must be well constructed and fitted.**

*Q Are gates and doors well constructed and fitted?*

IG Gates and doors must be well fitted and should move freely, they must be efficiently secured in position to avoid the risk of injury and the potential escape of stock.

### **5.10 Housing and access route must be free from hazards.**

*Q Is the housing and access route free from hazards?*

IG Housing pens and access routes to them must be free of potentially injurious obstacles, projections, trip hazards or trap points where limbs, necks, individuals or small groups of deer could become caught.

### **5.11 All deer must be housed in groups except for antlered stags and deer in 'sick bay.'**

*Q Are all deers housed in groups except for antlered stags and deer in 'sick bay'?*

IG With the exception of antlered stags and deer in 'sick bay' deer must not be housed individually. Ideally they should be able to see deer in other pens and activities on the farm to relieve boredom.

### **5.12 Unless yearlings, stags in hard antler must be penned individually.**

*Q Are stags in hard antler penned individually unless yearlings?*

IG The housing of stags in hard antler is discouraged on safety grounds for both stock and farm staff. If essential they must be penned individually. The exception to this would be yearling stags with minimal antler growth.



**5.13 An isolation facility must be available with permanent lighting and allow 'sick' deer sight of other deer.**

Q Is an isolation facility available with permanent lighting and allows 'sick' deer sight of other deer?

IG A small pen, which can be easily and effectively cleaned, must be available as a 'sick bay' in which a sick, injured or bullied deer can be housed. The pen must have good permanent light and ideally should allow the 'sick' deer sight of other deer without allowing physical contact with healthy deer.

**5.14 The facility must have good handling facilities.**

Q *Does the facility have good handling facilities?*

IG The facility must provide a means of easily, safely and efficiently sorting, treating and restraining deer whenever necessary without recourse to excessive force.

**5.15 When working with stock there must be a safe working environment for both stock and staff.**

Q *Is there a safe working environment for both stock and staff?*

IG The facility must provide a safe working environment for stock and staff. In areas where close contact with stock is necessary there must be adequate protection available for those working with the stock in the form of shields, doors, escape routes, overhead walkways etc appropriate to the size and nature of the unit.

**5.16 Feed troughs must be kept clean.**

Q *Are the feed troughs kept clean?*

IG Troughs must be kept clean, stale or wasted food must be removed regularly.

**5.17 Feed troughs must allow all animals to eat at the same time.**

Q *Do the feed troughs allow all animals to eat at the same time?*

IG When being fed supplementary feed in troughs there must be sufficient space for all deer to eat at the same time with minimal aggression due to competition for food. Age, sex, species, presence of antlers, volume of feed per head must all be taken into account. The following is provided as a guide only; for Fallow and Sika deer space should be based on equivalent

weights, additional space will be required for deer with antlers. Special provision must also be made for animals with worn-out or loose teeth.

Class of stock	Size	Ad lib feed	Rationed
Weaned calves	25-40 kg	15 cm	25 cm
Calves 5-11 months	40-90 kg	20 cm	30 cm
Yearlings / Adults	75 kg	40 cm	50 cm

**5.18 Electrical installations must be carried out by a competent electrician, to minimise the risk and injury to deer.**

*Q Are electrical installations protected and properly maintained?*

IG Electrical sockets, outlets, supplies and appliances must be properly marked, insulated and appropriately protected against the weather, water, vermin and stock. Wherever practicable they should be located out of reach of the deer.

**5.19 Facilities must be provided on the farm to allow the loading of deer with minimum stress and risk of injury.**

*Q Is the loading area free from projections?*

IG The loading area must be free from projections likely to cause injury; have a suitable non-slip floor

**5.20 Loading pens must be designed to prevent deer escaping.**

*Q Are loading pens designed to prevent deer escaping?*

IG The loading areas must have pens and races that are designed to prevent deer attempting to escape (i.e. no less than 2 metres in height)

**5.21 Loading pens must be designed to keep deer moving.**

*Q Are loading pens designed to keep the deer moving?*

IG The loading area must be designed to encourage the free movement of deer. In particular, races should be wide enough for deer to pass through side by side. Races of straight and curved designs have both been proved suitable, provided deer are kept moving, as have baffles and backing gates.

## **5.22 Loading facilities must be easy to clean.**

Q *Are loading facilities easy to clean?*

IG Loading facilities must be easy to clean.

## **5.23 Temporary loading facilities must be constructed in a suitable manner.**

Q *Are temporary loading facilities constructed in a suitable manner?*

IG If a permanent loading facility is not available, temporary facilities may be constructed “in the field”. Any such temporary facility must be constructed in a manner, which complies with the general principles on handling pens.

## **5.24 Loading ramps must be less than 30 degrees.**

Q *Are loading ramps less than 30 degrees?*

IG Loading ramps must not exceed 30 degrees (although a slope of 20 degrees is preferable). As a general principle deer prefer to move up, rather than down, slopes. Ramp construction should be such that the deer can maintain a good footing.

## **5.25 Hauliers must be aware of the requirements for deer to be transported in a way that does not cause injury or unnecessary suffering to the animals.**

Q *Are hauliers aware of the requirements for deer to be transported in a way that does not cause injury or unnecessary suffering to the animal?*

IG Deer must be handled, housed and transported in conditions, which reflect proper care and concern for their welfare and in such a way as to avoid injury or stress.

## SECTION 6 HERD HEALTH, VETERINARY TREATMENT AND MEDICINES

### Key objectives.

**All animals must be maintained in good health. Medicines and treatments must be administered in an appropriate manner and all relevant records kept. All deer must undergo routine disease testing/monitoring as required by the relevant competent authority.**

#### **6.1 The herd must have a named veterinary practice or surgeon.**

*Q Does the unit have a named veterinary surgeon?*

**IG** Each unit must have a designated Veterinary Surgeon to advise on animal health and welfare matters.

#### **6.2 Responsible persons must have a written herd health plan to help review their approach to animal health.**

*Q Does the unit have a written health plan?*

**IG** A written animal health plan, which need not be written by a vet, but should be drawn up in consultation with Veterinary assistance, must be adhered to which is based on good husbandry practices, good nutrition and good stockmanship. The Health Plan must include:

- Lameness
- Digestive disorders
- Respiratory disorders
- Calving
- Conditions arising from inadequate or unbalanced nutrition
- Parasite control
- Colostrum provision

The programme of treatments must be limited to that which is necessary to maintain the deer in good health taking account of known local conditions and problems.

#### **6.3 The unit must have a designated person responsible for on farm casualty slaughter.**

*Q Does the unit have a designated person responsible for on farm casualty slaughter?*

**IG** The unit must designate someone who will be responsible for on-farm casualty slaughter. That person must be competent in all

aspects of field slaughter and humane culling techniques and must have attended and satisfactorily completed the BDFA Field Slaughter Course. They must supervise or carry out themselves any on-farm slaughter necessary on welfare grounds using either a humane slaughter pistol or rifle with a minimum calibre of .240 and using ammunition which produces a muzzle energy of at least 1700 foot pounds. Alternatively the veterinary surgeon must be called to carry out the procedure if the deer can be approached or is inside.

#### **6.4 Animals suffering ill health or injury must receive immediate attention.**

*Q Do animals suffering ill health or injury receive immediate and proper attention?*

**IG** Animals suffering ill health or injury must receive immediate attention, including the attendance of a veterinary surgeon if necessary. Sick or injured deer must be treated without delay. It is ultimately a matter of judgement for the farmer to decide when to call the veterinary surgeon. As a general principle, farmers must be aware of the extent of their own competence, take appropriate action in cases of illness or injury and call the veterinary surgeon if in any doubt.

#### **6.5 All medicines must be authorised medicines, or those being used under the specific direction of a veterinary surgeon.**

*Q Are only antibiotics used under the prescription of a veterinary surgeon and are medicines used in accordance with the veterinary surgeon?*

**IG** Medicines must be used in accordance with the directions given by the attending veterinary surgeon. Antibiotics may be used only to address clinical illness and only under the prescription and control of a veterinary surgeon. The use of in-feed medication is permitted providing it is prescribed by the veterinary surgeon or is included in the programme of treatments outlined in the Health Plan.

#### **6.6 Withdrawal Periods for veterinary medicines must be strictly adhered to.**

*Q Are withdrawal periods for medicines strictly adhere to?*

**IG** Withdrawal periods must be noted and strictly observed. An animal must not be sold for slaughter before the end of the withdrawal period. This is to ensure medicinal residue levels do not compromise food safety.

**6.7 Routine use of hormones, artificial implants and growth promoters must be prohibited.**

*Q Is the routine use of hormones, artificial implants and growth promoters prohibited?*

IG The routine use of antibiotics, hormones and artificial implants and other substances as growth promoters or enhancers is not allowed.

**6.8 All persons involved in the administering of animal medication must be competent.**

*Q Are all persons who administer medication properly competent?*

IG A person competent in the task must administer injections, drenches and similar treatments. Appropriate hygiene and administration methods must be practised to minimise the risk of infection, abscesses, drenching injuries etc.

**6.9 All medicines must be stored securely under lock and key.**

*Q Are medicines and veterinary treatments stored properly?*

IG Medicines and veterinary treatments must be stored and used in accordance with current legislation, Codes of Practice and the manufacturer's recommendations. A lockable cupboard, which is clearly marked, is required for storage of medicines. If in house must still be in a secure cupboard/cabinet, which is locked.

**6.10 Medicines that are past their 'use by' date must be destroyed in accordance with supplier advice.**

*Q Are out of date drugs disposed of in an appropriate manner?*

IG Out of date drugs must be disposed of without delay either by return to the prescribing vet or pharmacy or via a disposal route approved by the relevant local authority. Disposal of medicines down the sink or drain and of medicines in the domestic rubbish is not acceptable.

**6.11 Medicines not licensed for deer must only be used under the recommendation from a veterinary surgeon.**

*Q Are medicines not licensed for deer only used under the supervision from a veterinary surgeon?*

IG The use of medicines not licensed for deer is permitted providing investigation of their suitability and effectiveness is undertaken

prior to their administration and that no licensed alternative exists. Such use may only be authorised by and under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon working to the veterinary cascade.

**6.12 A record of how treated animals are identified must be maintained.**

*Q Is there a record of how treated animals are identified?*

**IG** Earlier tagging may assist in management and traceability, particularly in relation to the use of animal medicines. If deer have received any medicinal treatments, they must be marked. In this case, the system of marking used must be adequate to allow the identification of individuals that have been treated.

**6.13 Each unit must maintain up to date and legal medicine purchase and administration records.**

*Q Does the unit have an up to date and legal medicine record according to the standard?*

**IG** Each unit must maintain up to date and legal medicine purchase and administration records, including sedation which must be kept for 3 years and include:

Purchasing – Date purchased  
 Name of medicine  
 Quantity purchased  
 Details of supplier  
 Batch number

Administration – Date administered  
 Name of medicine and Quantity used  
 Identity of animal/group treated  
 Number treated  
 Treatment finish date  
 Date meat withdrawal period ended  
 Name of person administering drug

Details of how the treated animals have been identified must be recorded so all personnel working on the farm are aware.

Precise and up-to-date records of all treatments administered must be kept in line with the requirements of the Animals, Meat and Meat Products (Examination for Residues and Maximum Residue Limits) Regulations 1991.

**6.14 Used needles and sharp instruments must be safely disposed of in a sharps box.**

*Q Are used needles and sharp instruments safely disposed of?*

**IG** The veterinary surgeon may be able to assist with syringes, needles and veterinary products and your local Council with other products. In all cases the risk of water, air and ground pollution and the risk to humans and animals, both farmed and wild, must be given careful consideration before adopting a method of disposal.

**6.15 The farm must have a written policy outlining the action that would be taken in the event of, or suspicious of, a needle or part needle being left in an animal, and must operate the policy.**

*Q Is there a written broken needle policy?*

**IG** Although a rare occurrence it is important that procedures are in place to prevent any broken needles remaining in meat purchased by the consumers.

**6.16 Deer must only be darted when necessary, never enter the food chain and tagged according to legislation.**

*Q Are deer only darted when necessary?*

**IG** Darting may be necessary to sedate deer and is subject to the Deer Act 1991. This practice must be limited to essential circumstances only and must not form the basis of stock management.

**6.17 All persons involved in the administration of tranquillisers must be competent based on experience and/or training.**

*Q Are only suitably experienced/fully trained people allowed to administer tranquillisers?*

**IG** The person administering the tranquilliser, who may be the unit's vet or another suitably experienced person, must be fully trained and totally familiar with all aspects of use of the equipment being used and the drugs being administered.

**6.18 Deer must only be darted in a suitable area of the farm where they are unable to injure themselves.**

*Q Are deer only darted in suitable areas?*



IG Deer must not be darted in situations where they might injure themselves, bearing in mind that sedating drugs may take some time to take effect.

**6.19 Deer must be closely monitored during and after sedation.**

Q *Are deer monitored closely during and after sedation?*

IG During and after sedation stock must be closely monitored by someone familiar with both the effects of the drug in deer and the appropriate action to be taken if problems arise. The stock must be monitored for at least 24 hours after the drug is administered, the recycling of drugs being a possibility.

**6.20 Darting drugs must be obtained only by persons referred to in standard 6.18 from the veterinary surgeon and must be recorded when the drug is used, returned and stored.**

Q *Are darting drugs only obtained for deer from the veterinary surgeon under his care and is a record maintained for tranquilliser drugs used, returned and stored?*

IG Drugs for darting must only be obtained from the veterinary surgeon for use in animals under his care. The drugs, including reversal agents, must be supplied with directions for their safe use and the action to be taken in emergency. A record must be maintained of any tranquillising drugs brought onto the unit, returns and any stocks held. The record must provide full details of the drug, precautions to be taken and any emergency treatment.

**6.21 Darting equipment and drugs must be stored in accordance with current codes of practice.**

Q *Is all darting equipment and drugs kept under lock and key?*

IG Darting equipment including guns and drugs must be kept under lock and key when not in use.

## SECTION 7 TRANSPORT

### **7.1 Deer must be transported according to the current DEFRA guidelines for the Transport of Farmed Deer and relevant legislation?**

*Q Are deer transported according to the DEFRA guidelines for the Transport of Farmed Deer?*

**IG** When deer are transported they must be handled with proper care and concern for their welfare and in accordance with all relevant legislation and the DEFRA Guidelines for the Transport of Farmed Deer. All vehicles used to transport deer must comply with the requirements of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order and any subsequent amendment to it. Applicants must be able to demonstrate an understanding of their obligations in this respect.

### **7.2 Farm vehicles used for transporting livestock must be suitable for deer, constructed in accordance with current legislation and maintained in good condition.**

*Q Are vehicles used for transporting suitable and constructed in accordance with current legislation?*

**IG** Vehicles used for the transport of animals must have adequate headroom for the animals to stand in a natural position. The flooring must be non-slip and free from projections and other hazards likely to cause injury. The floor should be covered in straw or sawdust.

### **7.3 Deer presented for transport must be clean, calm and relaxed.**

*Q Are Deer presented for transport clean, calm and relaxed?*

**IG** Deer presented for transport must be in a clean, rested and in a minimally stressed condition. Immediately prior to the journey they must have free access to water.

### **7.4 Abattoir staff must be informed of extensively farmed deer prior to arrival at the abattoir.**

*Q Are the abattoir staffs informed of extensively farmed deer before arrival at the abattoir?*

**IG** Deer which have been extensively farmed and/ or, are not accustomed to close human contact, handling, housing etc must not be transported to an abattoir unless the abattoir staff have

been previously warned and have confirmed in writing that they are able to make adequate provision to handle the deer and slaughter them without causing unacceptable levels of stress to the stock.

## **7.5 Only fit deer must be transported.**

*Q Are only fit deer transported?*

**IG** It is an offence to transport any animal that is unfit. Deer must not be transported if they are injured, ill, infirm, fatigued or stressed; in the last month of pregnancy; have given birth within the previous 48 hours or are new-born with unhealed navels. Only in exceptional circumstances should young calves (less than 38 kg for red deer) be transported. Before loading, the responsible person must assess the fitness and suitability of deer to travel. Where the person responsible for transporting the deer is not the owner of the deer, the responsibility for deciding whether an animal is fit to travel lies with the transporter, not the owner. Where necessary, or in the event of a dispute, veterinary advice must be sought and followed.

## **7.6 Deer in velvet or rutting males over 24 months must only be transported in emergencies.**

*Q Are only deer in velvet and rutting males over 24 months only transported in emergencies?*

**IG** Deer in velvet and rutting males over 24 months of age must not be transported, except in emergencies as provided by the DEFRA Guidelines for the Transport of Farmed Deer. I.e. if essential they should be de-antlered, however if this is not possible they may be transported, without sedation, providing that adequate safety precautions are taken during the loading and unloading of the stag. The stag must be individually penned and must be escorted on the journey by an experienced deer stockman who is competent and has made the necessary provision to take care of the stag in all eventualities.

## **7.7 Males under 27 months, which have been grazing or housed together, must be transported as a group.**

*Q Are males under 27 months transported as a group if they have been grazing or housed as a group?*

**IG** Males under 27 months of age may only be transported together as a group if they have been grazing or housed as a group. During the rut they must not have been exposed to females before or during transport.

**7.8 Unless penned separately, hard antlers must be removed 7 days prior to transporting for slaughter.**

*Q Are hard antlers removed 7 days prior to transporting for slaughter and if not are they penned separately?*

**IG** Hard antler must be removed no later than 7 days prior to transport when stags are being transported for slaughter. If hard antlers have not been removed stags of any age must be penned individually, and precautions taken for their safety and the safety of the haulier and any personnel involved in the loading and unloading. It is preferable that stags in hard antler are not transported.

**7.9 Animals that become unfit to travel during transportation must be taken to the nearest suitable place for unloading.**

*Q Are animals that become unfit to travel during the journey taken to the nearest suitable place for unloading?*

**IG** In the event that an animal becomes unfit to travel during a journey as a result of injury or any other cause, it must be delivered as soon as possible to the nearest suitable place for unloading, treatment or slaughter. The only exceptions permitted to the clauses in this section are where it can be demonstrated that a journey is not likely to cause additional unnecessary suffering and is directly to the nearest available place for veterinary treatment, diagnosis or slaughter. In such circumstances, all the requirements of the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997 (or other relevant legislation in force) must be strictly adhered to.

**7.10 Drivers must ensure that they have the necessary documents before departing and confirm their ETA during transit.**

*Q Do drivers ensure they have the necessary documents before departing and confirm their ETA?*

**IG** Before departure drivers must ensure that they have all necessary documentation for their journey, including any movement licences required by local or national competent authorities, clear directions to the destination, a route plan and an Animal Transport Certificate (ATC), as defined by WATO. During transport departure drivers must contact their destination to confirm estimated time of arrival and that facilities for unloading stock will be ready and available. This information must be recorded on the ATC.

**7.11 Deer can only be transported with other cattle providing a solid partition is in place.**

*Q Are deer only transported with other deer or cattle?*

IG Deer must only be transported with other deer or cattle. If transported with other cattle a solid partition must be in place to prevent the stock mixing during transport.

**7.12 Deer in any one compartment must be selected according to age, sex size and previous group familiarisation.**

*Q Are deer transported in any one compartment selected according to age, sex, size and previous group familiarisation?*

IG Groups for transportation in the same compartment must be selected according age, sex, size and previous group familiarisation. Mixing of animals should be avoided to prevent disturbance during transport.

**7.13 Stocking rates must be adhered to during transport and be able to stand naturally.**

*Q Are stocking rates adhered to during transport?*

IG Space allowances must not exceed the following criteria when deer are transported in groups. In any event, all deer must have adequate space to stand, lie down and turn around.

<b>Red Deer</b>	<b>Body Weight</b>	<b>m<sup>2</sup></b>
Calves to yearling hinds	45-74 kg	0.3-0.5
Adult hinds & Yearling stags	75-100kg	0.5-0.6
Adult stags	100kg+	1
<b>Fallow Deer</b>		
Female		0.35
Male		0.5

Adjustable penning must be used to achieve an appropriate space allowance. Pen sizes must be adjusted according to the prevailing weather conditions. In particular, stocking densities must be reduced in hot weather. (If external temperatures are, or are likely to become, critical during the journey (a maximum of 30 degrees Centigrade ambient temperature or 35 degrees Centigrade around the deer) transportation must not be attempted at all).

#### **7.14 Regular checks on deer must be made during the journey.**

*Q Are checks made during the journey?*

**IG** Deer must be checked at regular intervals during their journey, including an initial check shortly after loading to ensure that the load has settled. Subsequent checks must be made every time the vehicle stops for statutory breaks (vehicles with tachographs) or every two and a half hours. Ventilation must be checked and adjusted according to prevailing conditions and with proper consideration for any change in temperature or stocking that may occur during the journey.

#### **7.15 During statutory transport breaks stock must be cared for as in the codes of good practice.**

*Q During statutory transport breaks are stock cared for as in the codes of good practice?*

**IG** During statutory breaks and at other times when the vehicle is parked up whilst laden, care must be taken to park vehicles in shaded areas and, as far as is practicable, in areas away from noise, other traffic and not near vehicles with other livestock. If required to stop for a statutory vehicle inspection, drivers must request (showing proper courtesy to officials) priority on the grounds of animal welfare. (It should be noted that officials are under no obligation to grant such a request). Journey times must be kept to a minimum by good route planning and prior liaison between the haulier and respective farms and abattoirs. Stock do not need to be offloaded during statutory rest stops but should be provided with food and water and, or, a root crop with a high water content during journeys in excess of 8 hours.

#### **7.16 Deer must be unloaded calmly and allowed time to acclimatise in a safe environment.**

*Q Are deer unloaded calmly and allowed time to acclimatise in a safe environment?*

**IG** Deer must be unloaded calmly and without haste. They must be allowed a period of acclimatisation to light prior to release. Deer must not be unloaded in areas where they may injure themselves if startled, for example areas near wire fences.

### **7.17 Vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected between loads.**

Q *Are vehicles cleaned and disinfected between loads?*

IG Vehicles must be cleaned of bedding, washed and disinfected with a DEFRA approved disinfectant between loads and before leaving the final destination.

### **7.18 Guidelines for the transport of deer must be observed.**

Q *Are the guidelines for the transport of deer observed?*

IG The guidelines on the movement of deer contained in the Guidelines for the Transport of Farmed Deer must be observed.

## 8.0 FIELD SLAUGHTER

### Key Objectives.

#### 8.1 The marksmen must hold a valid firearms certificate and records of training.

Q *Do the marksmen hold a valid firearms certificate?*

IG Humane slaughter of deer in a field environment can be achieved by accurate shooting using a suitable high-powered rifle (minimum calibre .243) and ammunition. Where a rifle is used safety is of paramount importance and the marksmen should be trained and proficient in the use of firearms. Shooting at short range facilities accuracy and safety. A safe backdrop for the bullet is required and care must be taken in shooting one deer not to injure another.

#### 8.2 Deer must be held on grass 4 weeks prior to being slaughtered.

Q *Are the deer on grass 4 weeks prior to being slaughtered?*

IG The deer to be slaughtered must be on grass for a minimum of 4 weeks prior to slaughter.

#### 8.3 Precautions must be taken to ensure public safety when shooting.

Q *What precautions are taken to ensure public safety?*

IG Sensible precautions for public safety in the area must be taken into account.

#### 8.4 Procedures must be in place for the shooting of deer.

Q *What procedures are in place for the shooting of deer?*

IG Shooting must be undertaken when the deer are quiet, as will occur at a regular feeding site. It may be possible to shoot a number of deer before they become unduly disturbed. A maximum of 12 deer may be shot on any one day. Where deer are so tame and quiet that they present a stationary target at close range (10-20 m), a frontal head shot by an expert marksmen is effective. With wilder deer (up to 40 m range) a high neck shot, to break the spinal cord, is suitable. Shooting at distances further than 40 m should only be undertaken by proven marksmen.



**8.5 Each deer must be dealt with immediately after shooting.**

Q *Are deer dealt with immediately after shooting?*

IG If a deer is wounded it must be dealt with before another deer is shot. Following being killed by shooting, the deer must be bled without delay. One knife to open the pelt should be used and another to sever the main arteries. Contamination of the carcass must be kept to a minimum, bearing in mind the prevailing ground conditions at the time of shooting.

**8.6 Procedures must be in place to ensure they are delivered to the abattoir within the appropriate timescale.**

Q *How are the animals transported to the abattoir?*

IG The deer must be delivered to the abattoir for processing within three hours of the first deer being shot, if the vehicle is refrigerated, and one hour if not.

**8.7 Farms exercising Field Slaughter must comply with current legislation.**

Q *Are farms carrying out field slaughter complying with current legislation.*

IG Farms that carry out field slaughter must comply with current legislation.