



Climatex AG - Animal Welfare Policy

based on the IWTO/OIE Guidelines for Wool Sheep Welfare

Climatex hereby confirm that for the wool for Climatex products LifeguardFR and Dualcycle we only work together with sheep farmers who pay highest attention to Good Animal Husbandry and Animal Welfare with respect to the OIE One Health Concept. Climatex is actively working to influence and improve on how organic agriculture standards address animal welfare concerns.

Climatex AG is member of the International Wool Textile Organisation (IWTO). The World Organisation of Animal Health (OIE) speaks about the One Health concept, where human health and animal health are interdependent and committed to the ecosystems in which they exist. The IWTO and OIE have been partners in a cooperation agreement for seven years, committed to constantly updating scientific evidence regarding animal welfare and communicating the results in a responsible and transparent manner. IWTO supports responsible grower practices and encourages all aspects of sheep wellbeing. Our members remain fully committed to sustainable practices throughout the value chain. (IWTO Specifications for Wool Sheep Welfare)

Specifications for Wool Sheep Welfare:

In the establishment of the Terrestrial Animal Health Code, the OIE acknowledges the guidance provided by the internationally recognized Five Freedoms²²:

1. Freedom from hunger, thirst and malnutrition – through ready access to fresh water and a diet sufficient to maintain full health and vigour.
2. Freedom from discomfort – through provision of an appropriately sheltered and comfortable environment.
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease – by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour – through provision of sufficient space, suitable facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
5. Freedom from fear and distress – ensuring conditions and treatments imposed avoid mental suffering.

Specifically:

1. Sheep should be purpose-bred and effectively managed so as to enable a high level of physical adaptation to the production environment and minimise undue stress
2. Sheep should be inspected at intervals appropriate to risks to their welfare
3. Consideration should be given to the provision of shelter in the absence of natural protection.
4. When sheep are confined for extended periods, they should:
 - a. have effective ventilation
 - b. be housed in social groups; and
 - c. have non-slip, non-abrasive and free draining floor surfaces that avoid the accumulation of faeces and urine likely to compromise their welfare
5. Handling facilities should be free from protrusions and obstacles that may cause injury
6. Measures should be put in place to prevent sheep being harmed or killed by predators.

Nutrition

The OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code states:

*“Animals should have access to sufficient feed and water, suited to the animals’ age and needs, to maintain normal health and productivity and to prevent prolonged hunger, thirst, malnutrition or dehydration.”*¹⁰ Extending the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code specific to wool production practice guidelines:

1. Sheep should have reasonable access to feed and water appropriate for their age and needs
2. If sufficient feed and water cannot be provided for sheep, options such as relocating, selling, or humanely disposing of the sheep should be considered before their welfare is adversely affected
3. Self-feeders and watering points should be checked regularly to ensure feed and water quality and quantity is maintained
4. Access to contaminated and spoilt feed, toxic plants and harmful substances should be avoided
5. Digestive problems should be prevented by gradually introducing sheep to a change of diet.

Environment

The general principles for the welfare of animals in livestock production systems of the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, states:

*“The physical environment, including the substrate (walking surface, resting surface, etc.), should be suited to the species so as to minimise risk of injury and transmission of diseases or parasites to animals. The physical environment should allow comfortable resting, safe and comfortable movement including normal postural changes, and the opportunity to perform types of natural behaviour that animals are motivated to perform. For housed animals, air quality, temperature and humidity should support good animal health and not be aversive. Where extreme conditions occur, animals should not be prevented from using their natural methods of thermo- regulation.”*⁹

Extending the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code specific to wool production practice guidelines, the general principle is that sheep should be managed to minimise the impact of threats to their lifetime welfare, including extremes of weather, natural disasters, disease, injury and predation.

Source:

IWTO | Specifications for Wool Sheep Welfare IWTO | Specifications for Wool Sheep Welfare

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⁷ OIE (2016), Terrestrial Animal Health Code, Article 7.1.2

⁸ FAO (2010), “Legislative and regulatory options for animal welfare”, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/i1907e/i1907e01.pdf>

⁹ OIE (2016) Terrestrial Animal Code, Article 7.1.5 (3-4, 6).

¹⁰ OIE (2016) Terrestrial Animal Code, Article 7.1.5 (7)