

Guideline No. POS2/2014

Pacific Organic Standard(POS): Livestock Slaughter

1. Purpose

This guideline provides clarification with regard to the conditions for Livestock Slaughter under the Pacific Organic Standard.

2. Scope

This guidance applies to Registered Participatory Guarantee Systems (RPGS).

3. Background

The POS states:

In the Pacific, under traditional management, the slaughter of livestock was typically undertaken by the farmer as the need arose or sometimes as part of a cultural event. Animals were typically not transported far for this process for which a range of techniques were used. This standard recognises the traditional norms and aligns these with the organic principle that animals are subjected to minimum stress during transport and slaughter. The latter should include consideration of the specific needs of each animal and the quality and suitability of the mode of transport and handling equipment.

Standard

5.8.1 Animals shall be handled calmly and gently during transport and slaughter. The transport and slaughter of animals shall comply with all relevant national and regional regulations.

5.8.2 During the process of transportation and slaughter, organic animals shall be provided with conditions that reduce, and minimise the potentially adverse effects, of:

- stress;
- loading and unloading;
- mixing different groups of animals or animals of different sex;
- temperature and relative humidity; and
- hunger and thirst.

5.8.3 Animals shall not be treated with synthetic tranquilisers or stimulants prior to, or during transport. The use of electric prods and other such instruments is prohibited.

5.8.4 Slaughter shall be carried out quickly and without causing undue stress to the animal. Each animal shall be stunned before being bled to death. Slaughter by bleeding, without stunning, is not permitted unless it is done to meet cultural or religious requirements and the practice is carried out in an appropriate and calm environment.

5.8.5 Each animal or group of animals shall be identifiable at each step in the transport and slaughter process.

5.8.6 Slaughterhouse journey times shall not exceed eight hours. Exceptions to this requirement include cases where:

- there is no certified organic abattoir within eight hours drive;
- there is no abattoir capable of satisfying national or importing country requirements within eight hours drive.

4. Guidelines

Given the lack of abattoir facilities and available technology in the region, and cultural practices the use of a free bullet for purpose of stunning for cattle, sheep, pigs and deer is allowed **only for PGS certified livestock where the meat is for domestic market.**

Each animal shall be stunned before being bled to death. The animals must be restrained effectively but not injured or stressed. Slaughter shall be carried out quickly and without causing undue stress to the animal.

5. References

Pacific Organic Standard (2008)