



The Beef Carcase Classification scheme: Union scale

Conformation classes

Conformation Class	Description	Additional Provisions	
S Superior	All profiles extremely convex; exceptional muscle development (double muscled carcase type).	Round: very highly rounded double- muscled visibly separated seams. Back: very wide and very thick, up to the shoulder. Shoulder: very highly rounded.	Topside spreads very markedly over the symphysis ((symphysis) pelvis). Rump very rounded.
E Excellent	All profiles convex to super-convex; exceptional muscle development.	Round: very rounded. Back: wide and very thick, up to the shoulder. Shoulder: very rounded.	Topside spreads markedly over the symphysis (symphysis). Rump very rounded.
U Very Good	Profiles on the whole convex, very good muscle development.	Round: rounded. Back: wide and thick, up to the shoulder. Shoulder: rounded.	Topside spreads over the symphysis (symphysis). Rump rounded.
R Good	Profiles on the whole straight; good muscle development.	Round: well-developed. Back: still thick but less wide at the shoulder. Shoulder: fairly well developed.	Topside and rump are slightly rounded.
O Fair	Profiles straight to concave; average muscle development.	Round: average development to lacking development. Back: average thickness to lacking thickness. Shoulder: average development to almost flat.	Rump: straight profile.
P Poor	All profiles concave to very concave; poor muscle development.	Round: poorly developed. Back: narrow with bones visible. Shoulder: flat with bones visible.	



Fat classes

Class of fat cover	Description	Additional provisions
1 Low	None up to low fat cover	No fat within the thoracic cavity
2 Slight	Slight fat cover, flesh visible almost everywhere.	Within the thoracic cavity the muscle is clearly visible between the ribs.
3 Average	Flesh with the exception of the round and shoulder, almost everywhere covered with fat, slight deposits of fat in the thoracic cavity.	Within the thoracic cavity the muscle is still visible between the ribs.
4 High	Flesh covered with fat, but on the round and shoulder still partly visible, some distinctive fat deposits in the thoracic cavity.	The seams of fat on the round are prominent. Within the thoracic cavity the muscle between the ribs may be infiltrated with fat.
5 Very high	Entire carcass covered with fat; heavy deposits in the thoracic cavity.	The round is almost completely covered with fat, so that the seams of fat are no longer clearly visible. Within the thoracic cavity the muscle between the ribs is infiltrated with fat.