

## **Annex to Government Buying Standards for Food & Catering:**

### **UK Standards of Production**

If you are purchasing food from the UK or abroad you must ensure it is sourced from producers who adhere to the relevant UK or equivalent standards of production. The standards of production are contained in the legislative standards for Cross Compliance as set out in Common Agriculture Policy legislation (Commission Regulation (EC) No 1122/2009 & 73/2009). The full set of cross compliance rules for England can be found at <http://rpa.defra.gov.uk/CrossCompliance2014>.

Cross compliance is the set of rules that serves as a baseline for all farmers in England applying for direct payments (such as the Basic Payment Scheme) and certain Rural Development payments. These rules cover the environment, animal, plant and public health, animal welfare and landscape features. They are split into two types; Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) which reflect specific elements of EU legislation, and standards of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC). SMR standards are the same in all EU member states; however, GAEC standards will have some variation.

You must therefore ensure that:

1. If sourcing from the UK or an EU Member State, your producer must adhere to the relevant cross compliance rules of the country of production. [Please note: Cross compliance rules differ between UK Devolved Administrations]
2. If sourcing from a third country, your producer must adhere to all Statutory Management Requirements (SMRs) in cross compliance, and all England Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) which are of relevance to the farming land and system in that country of production.

You should note that:

- Cross compliance rules differ between UK Devolved Administrations and can be found on each administrations website.
- Cross compliance rules will change from 1 January 2015 as the new CAP scheme comes into force (Commission Regulation (EC) No 1306/2013). Details of these changes will be published on Gov.uk in late 2014.

### **Summary of cross compliance GAECs and SMRs:**

#### Good Agricultural and Environmental Conditions

- GAEC 1 - Soil Protection Review (SPR)
- GAEC 5 - Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
- GAEC 6 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)
- GAEC 7 - Scheduled monuments
- GAEC 8 - Public rights of way
- GAEC 9 - Overgrazing and unsuitable supplementary feeding
- GAEC 10 - Heather and grass burning

- GAEC 11 - Control of weeds
- GAEC 12 - Agricultural land which is not in agricultural production
- GAEC 13 - Stone walls
- GAEC 14 - Protection of hedgerows and watercourses
- GAEC 15 - Hedgerows
- GAEC 16 - Felling of trees
- GAEC 17 - Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)
- GAEC 18 - Water abstraction
- GAEC 19 - No spread zones
- GAEC 20 - Groundwater

#### Statutory Management Requirements

- SMR 1 - Wild birds
- SMR 3 - Sewage sludge
- SMR 4 - Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs)
- SMR 5 - Habitats and species
- SMR 6 - Pig identification and registration
- SMR 7 - Cattle identification and registration
- SMR 8 - Sheep and goats identification
- SMR 9 - Restrictions on the use of plant protection products (PPPs)
- SMR 10 - Restrictions on the use of substances having hormonal or thyrostatic action and beta-agonists in farm animals
- SMR 11 - Food and feed law
- SMR 12 - Prevention and control of transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs)
- SMRs 13, 14, 15 - Control of foot and mouth disease, certain animal diseases and bluetongue
- SMR 16 - Welfare of calves
- SMR 17 - Welfare of pigs
- SMR 18 - Animal welfare

#### **Animal Welfare**

In most cases UK standards of production are the same as those required by the EU. See <https://www.gov.uk/animal-welfare>. There are certain differences in production of meat chickens and of pigmeat, where the UK has more stringent standards:

- EU meat chickens can be stocked to a maximum of 42 kg per m<sup>2</sup> if conditions in Annex 5 of [Directive 2007/43/EC](#) are met, whereas England, Scotland and Wales have an absolute maximum of 39 kg per m<sup>2</sup>.
- Close confinement stalls for breeding sows have been unilaterally banned in the UK since 1999, whereas the rest of the EU still permits sows to be kept confined individually for four weeks after service; [Council Directive 2008/120/EC](#), which partially bans the use of sow stalls, came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013.