208/2004 Coll. DECREE of 14 April 2004

laying down minimum standards for the protection of farm animals

The Ministry of Agriculture decrees in accordance with Section 29 of the Act No. 246/1992 Coll., on protection of animals against cruelty, as amended by the Act No. 77/2004 Coll. ("the Act"), for implementation of Section 10, 12a, Section 12c Article 3, Section 29a Article 2 of the Act:

Section 1 Opening clause

Livestock animals are bred with regard to species and weight category and other specific requirements for their protection and welfare in accordance with the minimal standards set by law, international contracts¹ the Czech Republic is bound by, and in compliance with the legislation of the European communities².

Section 2 **Minimal standards for protection of cattle**

- (1) Minimal standards for protection of cattle up to six months of age ("calves") prescribe the following conditions:
- a) after the parturition an animal attendant checks and makes sure that the newborn calf receives a sufficient quantity of colostrum from the mother or from another source as soon as possible, within 6 hours after birth at the latest,
- b) calves must not be tied, except for calves bred in herd, which may be tied while being fed by milk or milk substitute, but no longer than for one hour,
- c) calves must not be muzzled,
- d) all calves stalled in group which are not fed until they are sated according to the needs of each particular animal or using an automatic feeding system must have access to feed simultaneously with the other calves in the group; calves stalled in group without permanent access to feed must be fed at least twice a day,

¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs' notice No. 21//2000 Coll. m. n., on the European Agreement on protection of animals bred for agricultural reasons.

² Council directive 91/629/EEC issued on 19 November 1991 providing minimal requirements for protection of calves.

Council directive 97/2/EC issued on 20 January 1997 altering directive 91/629/EEC, providing minimal requirements for protection of calves.

Council directive 91/630/EEC issued on 19 November 1991 providing minimal requirements for protection of pigs.

Council directive 2001/88/EC issued on 23 October 2001 altering directive 91/630/EEC, providing minimal requirements for protection of pigs.

Commission directive 2001/93/EC issued on 9 November 2001 altering directive 91/630/EEC, providing minimal requirements for protection of pigs.

Council directive 1999/74/EC issued on 19 July 1999 providing minimal requirements for protection of layer hens.

- e) all calves older than 2 weeks must receive feed containing fibre whose amount will rise gradually from 50 g to 250 g for calves of 8 to 20 weeks of age and containing a quantity sufficient to ensure an average level of blood haemoglobin 4.5 mmol/litre or more,
- f) the width of an individual calve stall must correspond at least to the withers height of the calf in standing position, and the length of the stall must be equal to the length of the calf's body measured from the nose tip to the caudal side of the hip bump multiplied by the coefficient 1.1, or more. Individual calf stalls must not have solid side walls, but screens enabling each calf eye contact with other calves that do not pose an obstacle to hair care,
- g) no calf older than eight weeks may be kept in an individual stall unless a veterinarian has assessed its state of health and behaviour as requiring isolation and individual care,
- h) for calves bred in groups the space without obstacles for 1 calf of live weight up to 150 kg is at least 1.5 m²; for 1 calf from 150 kg to 220 kg of live weight it is 1.7 m² and at least 1.8 m² for a calf over 220 kg of live weight; this regulation does not relate to sucking calves with mothers and cow houses with less than 6 calves; further space and equipment requirements for stalling calves are set by a separate legal regulation³,
- i) cow houses for calves must have natural or artificial light; artificial light of an intensity corresponding to the natural light must be used at least since 9 a.m. till 5 p.m.,
- j) calves stalled in cow houses or boxes must be provided with appropriate bedding; this pertains especially to calves under two weeks of age and calves in isolation,
- k) calves under one week of age and calves with a not fully healed navel can be moved from birth farms only in emergency cases; when moving calves and during their transportation to the market, measures for protection of their health and welfare must be applied,
- 1) with calves bred inside buildings, the breeding organization must provide examinations at least twice a day, calves not bred inside buildings must be examined at least once a day.
- (2) Provisions of Article 1 pertain to newly build or reconstructed cow houses for calves and to all cow houses for calves after 31 December 2006.
- (3) The minimal standards for protection of breeding bulls registered in accordance with separate legal regulations⁴ for use in natural breeding and insemination and for breeding bulls over six months of age ("breeding bulls") set following requirements:
- a) the service stall is arranged and kept so as to prevent injuries in breeding bulls or cows,
- b) mechanical equipment forcing bulls into movement can be switched on for a necessary period on condition that it is appropriately checked and individually adjusted,
- c) the minimal area for individual stalling of breeding bulls in boxes is 16 m²; for bulls over 1,000 kg the area must be larger by 1.0 m² for each 60 kg of living weight, further space and equipment requirements for stalling breeding bulls are set by a separate legal regulation³⁾
- (4) Breeding bulls may be let to get accustomed to mating and used to be mounted by another breeding bull during seed-taking for insemination; animals of any cattle category must not be used and trained for horseback riding, they must neither be mounted for any reason or used for bullfighting.

³ Decree No. 191/2002 Coll., on technical requirements for agricultural buildings.

⁴ Act No. 154/2000 Coll., on cross-breeding, breeding and registration of agricultural animals and on alteratiton of some relevant acts (Breeding Act), as amended by Act No. 309/2002 Coll., Act No. 162/ 2003 Coll. and Act No. 282/2003 Coll.

- (5) Special attention must be paid to the state of hooves in all adult cattle categories; preventive measures include the check of the state of hooves and hoof treatment applied at regular intervals to prevent horn overgrowing, other hoof injuries and painful states leading to change of physiological posture or mobility of the animals.
- (6) The minimal standards for protection of bulls and heifers not registered in accordance with to separate legal regulations⁴⁾ for use in breeding aged six months and older ("fattening cattle") set the following requirements:
- a) cattle with horns cannot be kept in groups together with cattle without horns; space requirements for stalling are regulated by special legal regulations³⁾
- b) wires with electric current must not be used to prevent bulls from mounting one another
- c) further space and equipment requirements for stalling fattening cattle are set by a separate legal regulation³⁾.
- (7) Minimal standards for protection of breeding cows and heifers older than six months registered in accordance with separate legal regulations⁴⁾, for use in breeding or bred for this reason ("cows and heifers"), set the following requirements:
- a) the number of animals in free stalling must not be higher than the number of boxes and the number of places at the feeder unless feed is offered according to the animals' need until they are sated; the premise including corridors and open-air enclosures shall prevent excessive hording of animals,
- b) wires with electric current must not be used to limit movement of cows and heifers in stalls, especially during milking or to limit urination and defecation to the specific space of the dung passage,
- c) mechanical equipment forcing cows or heifers into movement can be switched on for a necessary time on condition that it is appropriately checked and individually adjusted; this equipment must not be used at all during last 2 months of pregnancy,
- d) milking technology and milking devices must be selected and treated so as to prevent damage of the milk gland. The persons attending to cows must be able to operate the technological devices used for milking and check its correct usage. During daily examinations of animals special attention must be paid to the milk gland and reproductive organs. Potential abnormalities must be paid special attention especially in the last month of pregnancy,
- e) cows or heifers in intensive breed stalling must be stalled in boxes with solid floor and bedding before and after parturition,
- f) the persons attending to cows or heifers must be able to assist in calving, paying a special attention to hygiene, especially in assisted parturitions; in case of suspicion of a difficulty in the parturition or impossibility to deliver the calf manually without threatening either the cow or the calf seriously, a veterinarian must be summoned without delay. No mechanical aids besides manually operated ropes may be used in a parturition assisted by a cow attendant.
- (8) Dogs may be used for guarding cattle if and only if they have been trained for this purpose, after a period of gradual accustoming.

Minimal standards for protection of pigs

- (1) In the part of a building where pigs are kept the level of continuous noise must not exceed 85dB. It is necessary to avoid permanent or sudden noise.
- (2) Pigs must be bred in spaces with light intensity of at least 40 lux for at least 8 hours a day.
 - (3) Pig stalls must be built so that every pig
- a) has access to clean, physically and thermally comfortable space equipped with appropriate draining and where the animals can all lie at a time,
- b) can see other pigs, excepting sexually mature breeding pigs registered in accordance with separate legal regulations⁴⁾ for use in natural breeding and insemination before their first mating ("gilt") or breeding pigs after the first parturition ("sow") in the last week before the expected parturition and in its course.
- (4) Pigs must have permanent access to an appropriate quantity of materials enabling them etological activities, e.g. straw, hay, wood, sawdust, compost, peat or mixtures of materials posing no risk to animal health.
- (5) Floors must be smooth but not slippery to prevent injury in pigs and they must be designed, constructed and maintained so that they do not cause injuries or suffering of pigs. The floors must be appropriate to the size and weight of the pigs and must provide a firm, flat, and stable surface.
- (6) All pigs must be fed at least once a day. Where pigs are stalled in groups where they are not fed until sated and according to their need or the stalls are not equipped with an automatic feeding system, each pig must have access to feed simultaneously with the other pigs in the group.
- (7) All pigs older that 2 weeks must have permanent access to an appropriate quantity of fresh water.
- (8) Minimal standards for protection of pigs between birth and weaning ("piglets") set the following requirements:
- a) piglets in parturition pens must be provided with appropriate space for natural movement, especially for being breast-fed or to drink water without difficulty,
- b) piglets between birth and weaning must be provided with dry space to lie on, where they can rest all at once and where the sow has no access; a source of heat that can cause no damage to the sow must be provided when needed,
- c) piglets must not be weaned earlier than at 28 days of age, except when further breast-feeding could be damaging to the state of health of the mother or the piglets; piglets may be weaned 7 days earlier as the maximum provided they are moved into a pen which has been emptied, thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to placement of the new group and which is separated from sow pens to minimize transmission of infections to piglets,

- d) shortening of tail of extirpation (extraction or grinding) of canine teeth in piglets before weaning must not be applied without reason, but only in cases where the sow's mamillas or ears or tails of other pigs have demonstrably been injured.
- (9) Minimal standards for protection of pigs between weaning and 10 weeks of age and pigs between 10 weeks of age and slaughter ("bred and fattening pigs") set the following requirements:
- a) groups for fattening or bred to for breeding purposes must be formed as soon as possible after weaning, within one week from weaning if possible; bred and fattening pigs are stalled in permanent groups and mixing is limited to minimum. If groups are mixed, pigs should have opportunity to escape or hide from other pigs.
- b) bred and fattening pigs kept in groups are provided with floor area without any obstacles of at least
 - 1. 0.15 m² per pig of living weight up to 10 kg,
 - 2. 0.20 m² per pig of living weight from 10 kg to 20 kg,
 - 3. 0.30 m² per pig of living weight from 20 kg to 30 kg,
 - 4. 0.40 m² per pig of living weight from 30 kg to 50 kg,
 - 5. 0.55 m² per pig of living weight from 50 kg to 85 kg,
 - 6. 0.65 m² per pig of living weight from 85 kg to 110 kg,
 - 7. 1.00 m² per pig of weight over 110 kg,
- c) where concrete grate flooring is used for pigs kept in groups, the width of the gaps between the tread areas of the grate ("grate bars") must be
 - 1. 11 mm for piglets,
 - 2. 14 mm for weaner pigs,
 - 3. 18 mm for bred and fattening pigs,

The minimal width of a grate bar must be 50 mm for piglets during and after weaning and 80 mm for bred and fattening pigs,

- d) Should bred and fattening pigs kept together show abnormal behaviour, measures against mutual attacks must be applied; pigs permanently displaying signs of aggression or pigs attacked by the aggressive animals must be isolated and kept separate from the group; in this case the individual pen used provide enough space for the animal to turn easily, where this is not contrary to the veterinarian's order.
- e) when forming groups of pigs from different litters, veterinary sedatives may be used with the approval of a veterinarian only.
- (10) Before any surgical treatment in accordance with Article 8 Letters d) and e), the farmer must apply other measures preventing tail biting and other behaviour disorders, respecting the conditions of the environment and the stalling density and considering the possibility of enlarging the stalling space. Inappropriate environmental conditions or way of stalling must be changed.
- (11) Minimal standards for protection of sexually mature breeding pigs registered in accordance with separate legal regulations⁴⁾ for use in natural breeding and insemination ("boars") set the following requirements:
- a) boar pens must be situated and constructed in a way enabling the boars turning, hearing, smelling and seeing other pigs; free floor area of a pen for one adult boar must be 6 m² or more,

- b) where pens are used as mating pens, too, the floor area for one adult boar must be 10 m² or more and the pen must be free of obstacles,
- c) shortening boar tusks can be used only as prevention of further injuries to other pigs or for safety reasons.
- (12) Provisions of Article 11 pertain to buildings for pigs under construction, being reconstructed or put into operation, and to all buildings for pigs after 1 January 2005.
- (13) Minimal standards for protection of sows and gilts set the following requirements, not pertaining to farms stalling less than six bred pigs or five sows with piglets:
- a) sows and gilts are kept in groups during the period starting 4 weeks after mating and ending 1 week before the expected parturition. A pen for one group must have sides longer than 2.8 m. Groups with less than 6 animals must be kept in pens with sides longer than 2.4 m,
- b) sows at farms with less than 10 sows can be stalled individually during the period specified in Letter a) provided that they can turn in their pens easily,
- c) floors for mated gilts and pregnant sows must fulfil the following requirements:
 - 1. for mated gilts and sows bred in groups, the total effective floor must be at least 1.64 m² per each mated gilt and at least 2.25 m² for each sow. If the animals are kept in groups of less than six, the total effective floor area must be by 10% higher. If the animals are kept in groups of 40 and more, the total effective floor area may be by 10% lower,
 - 2. part of the floor area required within Item 1 of at least 0.95 m² per gilt and at least 1.3 m² per sow must be unbroken solid floor area of which no more than 15% is reserved for drain holes,
 - 3. where concrete grated flooring is used for mated gilts and sows kept in groups, the maximum width of gaps between grate bars must be 20 mm and the minimum grate bar width must be 80 mm.
- d) in case that a check examination of pregnant gilts and sows detects parasites, treatment against internal and external parasites must be started,
- e) one week before the expected parturition, gilts and sows must have access to a clean and comfortable area to lie on and appropriate material for building a nest,
- f) to ensure easy spontaneous or assisted parturition, there must be some free area behind the sow or gilt; the system must provide for an assisted or unassisted parturition; birth pens where sows move freely must be equipped with barriers to protect the piglets and must be arranged so that pig injuries are prevented; where cage barriers are used the minimum size of the space for the sow is 2.1 m of length and 0.7 m of width; at least 0.3 m of free space must be behind the barriers.
- (14) Provisions of Article 13 Letters a) to c) pertain to buildings for pigs being built, reconstructed or starting operation, and to all buildings for pigs after 1 January 2006.
- (15) Further space and equipment requirements for stalling individual pig categories are set by a separate legal regulation³⁾.

Section 4 **Minimal standards for protection of sheep and goats**

Minimal standards for protection of sheep and goats provide following conditions

- a) hay bars, feeding troughs and feeding aids must be designed and arranged in a way preventing eye injury or damage and protecting sheep and goats from falling bars or feed bales.
- b) feeding pumps must be designed and arranged in a way minimizing the possibility of contamination of water with excrements or urine, the risk of water freezing or spilling and preventing injury; the animal attendant must keep the feeding pumps clean and check them at least once a day or more often at the event of extreme changes of weather. Further requirements for equipment of buildings for sheep and goats are set by a separate legal regulation³⁾,
- c) special attention must be paid to maintenance of tools used for shearing and branding animals and application of antiparasitics, and keeping equipment for antiparasitic sheep baths in working condition. Muzzles of the medicine feeders aperture must be of appropriate size depending on the age and breed of sheep,
- d) if the breeder does not have sufficient experience regarding all aspects of breeding such as sheep handling, assistance in parturitions, milking, shearing where applied, all bathing and spraying methods used, hoof care and other simple preventive and veterinary treatment following veterinarian advice, s/he must get professional aid or access to such equipment as to help him/her deal with common problems of operational character,
- e) sheep and goats may be bred individually only exceptionally,
- f) adult sheep of breeds kept for wool production are sheared at least once a year. Shearing machines must be cleaned and disinfected regularly, to keep them in working condition, and their size must be appropriate to the size and age of the animals. Before and during shearing the sheep must be handled carefully so as to prevent injury. Injuries caused during shearing must be treated immediately,
- g) shorn should not be driven outside the stalling when it can be assumed that the climatic conditions might have a negative impact on the state of health of shorn sheep,
- h) special attention must be paid to state of hooves; preventive measures include regular treatment of hooves to limit spreading of hoof rotting and other infections. Sheep must not be driven out to pastures where there is a serious danger of contamination. Entrances and exits of buildings should be kept in good condition, without obstacles and are designed so as to prevent animal injury or fleece damage,
- i) enclosures must be appropriately built and maintained so as to prevent escape and risk of injury in sheep or goats. Enclosures made of wire mesh must often be inspected and kept tight to prevent especially of horned sheep or goats from getting trapped. Wire mesh must not be used for enclosing areas used for parturition; mobile and stable enclosures may be combined. Electric fences must be designed and maintained so that an electric impulse or contact with the fence causes but immediate agitation of the sheep,
- j) dogs can be used for guarding sheep or goats if and only if appropriately trained and after gradual accustoming.

Section 5 **Minimal standards for protection of horses**

Minimal standards for protection of horses pertain to horses and, to where adequate, to donkeys and horse-and-donkey hybrids ("horses"). The following requirements are set:

- a) since birth, horses used for agricultural or hobby purposes must be accustomed to the presence of humans, contact with humans and basic horse-keeping operations and use of horse-keeping equipment, tools and aids,
- b) stables and open-air enclosures are built and used for horses; permanent all-year-round stabling in open-air enclosures only may be used with original rustic breeds only provided the animals kept in this way were accustomed to way of stabling in the given climatic conditions before the winter season,
- c) halters or neck straps tied to one or two ropes or straps tied loosely to a ring set in the wall in a central position or to rings on either side of the stall are used in stanchion housing. Chains are not used to tie horses with. Further space and equipment requirements for stabling horses are set by a separate legal regulation³⁾,
- d) feeding pumps and shelters must be provided when horses are kept at pastures, especially during summer season, unless the enclosure is adjacent to stables that can be accessed by the horses,
- e) premises, especially entrances and exits of buildings and open-air enclosures, must be kept free of obstacles and alien objects to prevent animal injury,
- f) all horses older than two weeks and not watered according to their need or by an automatic feeding pump system, must be watered at least three times a day to meet their water demand,
- g) all horses stabled in groups who are not fed until sated according to their need or by an automatic feeding system must have access to feed simultaneously with the other horses in the group; feed must be offered at least twice a day and the feeding ration must contain an appropriate quantity of digestible fibre,
- h) natural or artificial light must be provided in foal stables; artificial light is used from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. and its intensity should equal to that of natural light,
- i) stables with foals must provide suitable bedding; this pertains especially to foals younger than two weeks.
- j) foals must not be muzzled or permanently tied until weaning,
- k) special attention must be paid to the state of hooves; preventive measures include inspections of the state of hooves before return to stabling and horseshoe treatment at regular intervals to prevent overgrowing of the horn or other hoof injury,
- l) mating and the area for horse mating must be designed so as to prevent injuries in the breeding stallion or the breeding mare,
- m) mechanical equipment forcing animals into movement can be switched on for a necessary period of time on condition that it is appropriately checked and individually adjusted; this equipment must not be used at all during the last 2 months of pregnancy of mares,
- n) equipment, harnesses and horse-keeping aids should be appropriate to the horse anatomy, the abilities depending on the age and the efficiency of the particular horse, and must not cause any damage or injury; electrically operated aids and equipment, electric whips, or spurs with sharp points or tips must not be used; wheels on spurs must turn freely.

Section 6 **Minimal standards for protection of poultry**

Minimal space requirements and equipment of buildings for breeding domestic fowl (Gallus gallus f. domestica), domestic turkey (Meleagris gallopavo f. domestica), domestic duck (Anas platyrhynchos f. domestica), musky duck (Cairina moschata f. domestica), and

hybrids of these ducks, domestic goose (Anser anser f. domestica and Anser cygnoides f. domestica) and their hybrids are set by a separate legal regulation³⁾.

Section 7 Common regulations for protection of layer hens

- (1) Minimal standards for protection of hens of domestic fowl (Gallus gallus f. domestica), which reached laying maturity and are kept for egg production not intended for hatching ("layers") do not pertain to organizations keeping less than 350 layer hens and to organizations producing breeding hens.
 - (2) For the purposes of this Decree, the following terms are used:
- a) nest is used to mean a separated space for laying eggs for one layer or a group of layers (group nest); the bottom of the nest must contain no wire snares the layers could come to contact with,
- b) litter is used to mean any crumbly material enabling layers to satisfy their etological needs,
- c) effective area is used to mean space in enlarged cages that is at least 30 cm wide, the floor slope not exceeding 14% or 8°, and at least 45 cm high (clearance). Space for nests is not considered as effective area.
 - (3) The level of noise must be kept at a minimum. Permanent or sudden noise must be avoided.
- (4) All buildings must be lit so that the layers can see one another and be seen, to explore their surrounding visually and maintain their usual level of activity. Spaces with natural light must have windows arranged in a way allowing for even distribution of light in the whole space. After some days of adaptation, the light regime must prevent any health problems or behavioural disorders. A 24-hour light regime including an appropriate uninterrupted period of darkness lasting for one third of the day so that the layers can rest and their suffering is avoided must be applied. The time of light dipping must be long enough to allow the layers to settle down undisturbed and free of any danger of injury.
- (5) Parts of buildings, equipment or tools coming into contact with layers must be cleaned thoroughly and disinfected at regular intervals, after every emptying of the cage and before the placement of new layers as a minimum. While the cages are occupied all surfaces and all equipment must be kept clean. Dead layers must be removed daily.
- (6) Cages must be secured so as to preventing layer escapes. Technological systems with two or more cage storeys must be appropriately equipped or measures to enable easy inspection of all storeys and to facilitate taking the layers out must be adopted.
- (7) The shape and size of each cage door must allow for taking out an adult layer without unnecessary suffering or injury.
- (8) Layer breeders must comply with minimal standards for protection of layers and also standards depending on their choice of technology for

- a) alternative systems,
- b) other than enlarged cage systems,
- c) enlarged cage systems.
- (9) A list of organizations complying with minimal standards for other than enlarged cage breeding systems approved by the European Commission as specified in Section 29a Article 2 of the Act for the transitional period till 31 December 2009 is provided in the Appendix to this Decree.

Section 8

Minimal standards for protection of layers in alternative breeding systems

- (1) All alternative breeding systems being built or reconstructed and all breeding systems starting operation must comply with the following requirements with respect to all layers:
- a) there must be a trough feeder with at least 10 cm per layer, or a round feeder with at least 4 cm for one layer,
- b) there must be a permanent trough feed-pump with at least 2.5 cm per layer, or a round feed-pump with 1 cm per layer,
- c) where dropping or cup feed-pumps are used, there must be at least one such feed-pump for each ten layers. Where the feed-pumps are permanently fixed, each layer must have access to at least two dropping or cup feed-pumps,
- d) there must be at least one nest for each seven layers. Where group nests are used, at east 1 m² of nest area must be provided for the maximum of 120 layers,
- e) there must be appropriate perches without sharp edges, at least 15 cm per layer long. The perches must not be fixed above litter and the horizontal distance between the perch and the wall must be at least 20 cm,
- f) there must be at least 250 cm² of litter area per layer, litter occupying at least one third of the area.
- (2) The floor must be constructed so as to provide appropriate support for each of the forward-pointing toes of both feet.
 - (3) In breeding systems enabling layers freely movement between different floors
- a) there can be no more than four floors,
- b) the height (clearance) between individual floors must be at least 45 cm,
- c) feeding and watering machines must be arranged so that all layers have equal access to them.
- d) the floors must be arranged so that falling of droppings to lower floors is prevented,
 - (4) Where layers have free access to open enclosures,
- a) several hatches, at least 35 cm high and 40 cm wide and arranged across the length of the building, must be provided, enabling direct access to outer space; each 1,000 layers must have access to at least 2 m of hatches in all circumstances,
- b) the enclosures must be have an area appropriate to the stocking rate and the nature characteristics of the plot so as to prevent contamination,

- c) the enclosures must have a shelter for protection against severe climatic conditions and predators and where needed also by appropriate feed-pumps.
 - (5) The stocking rate must not exceed 9 layers per 1 m² of effective area.
- (6) The minimal requirements set by Article 1 pertain to all alternative systems after 1 January 2007.

Section 9

Minimal standards for protection of layers in other than enlarged cage systems

- (1) All other than enlarged cage systems must comply with the following requirements with respect to all layers:
- a) each cage must have a floor area of at least 550 cm² (by plan view) that can be used without limitations; turned-up edge areas preventing feed waste potentially reducing the effective free area do not count,
- b) the cage must be equipped with a trough feeder accessible without restraint. It must provide at least 10 cm per layer in the cage,
- c) if the system does is nit equipped with dropping or cup feed-pumps, each cage must be equipped with a continuous trough feed-pump of the same length as the trough feeder specified in Letter b). Where feed-pumps are permanently fixed, at least two dropping or cup feed-pumps must be accessible from each cage,
- d) cage height must be at least 40 cm for 65% of cage area and no lower than 35 cm in any place. The only exception from this provision are organizations included in the list with of organizations with permission for the transitional period in accordance with Section 29a Article 2 of the Act listed in the Appendix to this Decree,
- e) cage floors must be constructed so as to provide appropriate support for each forward-pointing toe of both feet. Floor slope must not exceed 14% or 8°. For floors made of mesh with other than rectangular meshes the slope can be bigger,
- f) cages must be equipped with suitable tools for shortening the claws.
- (2) Keeping layers other than enlarged cage systems as specified in Article 1 is permitted till 31 December 2011.

Section 10

Minimal standards for protection of layer hens in enlarged cage systems

All cages in enlarged cage systems must comply with the following minimal requirements:

- a) layer must have
 - 1. at least 750 cm² of cage area per layer, of which 600 cm² must be effective area; the height of cage other than above the effective area must be at least 20 cm at all places and no cage may have a total area smaller than 2,000 cm²,
 - 2. a nest
 - 3. material suitable for pecking and rooting,
 - 4. suitable perch of at least 15 cm per layer,

- b) a trough feeder to be used without limitations. Its must be at least 12 cm per layer in the cage long,
- c) each cage must be equipped with a watering system appropriate to the size of the group;
 where dropping feed-pumps are used, each layer must have access to at least two dropping or cup feed-pumps,
- d) to facilitate inspection, installations, and reduction of the number of layers there must be an aisle at least 90 cm wide between individual cage rows and a gap at least 35 cm wide between the floor of the building and the bottom row of cages,
- e) the cages must be equipped with suitable tools for shortening the claws.

Section 11

Minimal standards for protection of domestic fowl in kept for fattening

- (1) Minimal standards concern protection of domestic fowl kept for fattening ("broilers"). During construction and operation of buildings for broilers in accordance with separate legal regulations³⁾ the farmer must also ensure that
- a) the stocking rate throughout the period of fattening allows for easy access to feed and water by all broilers and a possibility to display natural behaviour, especially dust-bathing and fluffing up,
- b) each broiler is able to move from crowded space to free space,
- c) should a suspicion of or behaviour disorders arise, the feed ration is checked and modified to set things right.
 - (2) Broilers must have access to litter to be able to root, peck and dust-bathe.
- (3) In intensive hall systems feeders and feed-pumps must be arranged so that broilers need not move more 3 metres to reach feed and water. The distance must be even shorter with high stocking rates.
- (4) With respect to the importance of the natural balance between bone and muscle development for animal welfare
- a) the farmer should selects breeding programmes focused on prevention of movement problems in broilers,
- b) the farmer ensures prevention of pelvis limbs problems in broilers by appropriate breeding technologies; activity of the birds should be enhanced especially by light regulation, perches, lowering the stocking rate or improving air circulation.
- (5) Injured or ill birds must be treated immediately and if necessary separated from the flock and placed into special stalling rooms serving for this purpose.

Section 12

Minimal standards for protection of running birds bred at farms

(1) Minimal standards for protection of running birds bred at farms, especially ostrich (*Struthio camelus*), great rhea (*Rhea americana*) and emu (*Dromaius novaehollandiae*) set the following requirements:

- a) the farm fence must be at least 180 cm high, rounded in corners and strong and safe enough to prevent injury of the animals should they hit it. The farm must be secured against penetration of species of bigger wild animals or stray dogs,
- b) the minimum area of the enclosure for 3 adult ostriches is 1,000 m², for each additional adult animal there must be another 800 m²; the shortest side of the enclosure must not be shorter than 10 m and at least one side must be 100 m long,
- c) the minimum area of the enclosure for 3 adult great rheas or emus is 500 m², for each additional adult animal there must be another 250 m²; the shortest side of the enclosure must not be shorter than 7 m and at least one side must be 70 m long,
- d) only one breeding group may be kept in one enclosure, i.e. one breeding male and from 1 to 5 breeding females. This will prevent physical contact between different breeding groups; in addition to this a visual barrier may be necessary in some cases.
- (2) The minimum height of a shelter for adult ostriches should be 3 m. The minimum width of doors and passages is 150 cm. Walls enclose the shelter from 3 sides and neclosure system enables to separate the male. Minimal area for ostriches is 10 m² for 1 adult animal, for youngs this area grows since hatching till 6 months of age gradually from 0.25 m² do 2 m² for 1 animal, minimal summary area of pen for this cathegory is 30 m².
- (3) Minimal height of shelter for adult great rhea and emu is 2.5 m. Minimal width of doors and passages should be 150 cm. The shelter should be enclosed by walls from 3 sides and an enclosure system should be provided to separate the male. The minimum area for emu and great rhea is 5 m^2 for 1 adult animal, this area is for youngs ranges between 0.25 m^2 to 2 m^2 for 1 animal from hatching till 6 months of age, the minimum total area of a pen for this category should be 20 m^2 . The maximum number of young running birds per group is 40.
- (4) Ostriches, great rheas or emus may be kept individually only for a necessary period when ill, injured or behaving aggressively. Even then the animal must be able to see and hear other birds kept at the farm.

Section 13 Minimal standards for protection of fur animals kept at farms

- (1) The arrangement, design, and maintenance of fur animal breeding equipment must comply with species-specific requirements, providing enough space for normal locomotive behaviour, hair adjustment, lying down and rest, assuming a sleeping position, unrestricted limb stretching and rising.
- (2) Animals for whom movement is a natural part of their life or animals jumping when disturbed and animals standing upright on their hind legs when exploring the surrounding must have enough space for these movements in any place except for the area reserved for sleep.
- (3) The animals must be able to see other animals and, if it is part of their normal behaviour and contributes to their wellbeing, they must have opportunity to explore their social environment and exhibit behaviour related to social structure maintenance.
- (4) Floors and space under cages must drain the water well to enable easy removal of excrements and spilled water without disturbing, agitating or injuring the animals. Materials

used for flooring must be appropriate to the particular species of fur animals. Where perforated flooring is used, it is must be appropriate for the particular species, size, age and weight of animals and it must provide solid, flat, and stable surface.

- (5) Farms breeding fur animals must be permanently equipped with equipment for due handling of animals being examined, treated or tested, especially with catching aids and trapping cages.
- (6) For farm breeding of minks and ferrets the following cage areas without a cot are required:
- a) one adult animal area of 2,550 cm²,
- b) one female with youngs before weaning area of 2,550 cm²,
- c) youngs after weaning area for two animals of 2,550 cm²,
- d) minimum cage height 45 cm.
- (7) Technology adjustments at farms breeding minks and ferrets must be made before the following deadlines:
- a) all breeding systems with cage areas smaller than 1,600 cm² and a height lower than 35 cm must be closed before 31 December 2004,
- b) all breeding systems not complying with the parameters specified by Article 6, but with cage areas bigger than 1,600 cm² and a cage height over 35 cm, must be closed before 31 December 2013.
- (8) For farm breeding of foxes and racoon dogs the following parameters of cage areas without cots are required:
- a) one adult animal area of 8,000 cm²,
- b) one female with youngs before weaning area of 20,000 cm²,
- c) youngs after weaning area for 2 animals of 12,000 cm²,
- d) minimum cage height 70 cm.
- (9) For farm breeding of minks the following parameters for pen areas without cots are required:
- a) one adult animal area of 10,000 cm²,
- b) one female with youngs before weaning area of 20,000 cm²,
- c) youngs after weaning area for 2 animals 5,000 cm²,
- (10) For farm breed of chinchillas the following parameters for pen areas without cots are required:
- a) one adult animal area of 5,000 cm²,
- b) one female with youngs before weaning area of 5,000 cm²,
- c) young after weaning area of 3,330 cm²,
- d) minimum cage height 100 cm.

(11) All technological systems for farm breeding of fur animals listed in Articles 8 to 10 not complying with the required parameters will be closed before 31 December 2013.

Section 14 **Minimal standards for protection of cervids bred at farms**

- (1) Minimal standards set requirements for care of cervids, especially red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), sika deer (*Cervus nippon*) and fallow deer (*Dama dama*) for farms specialized in agricultural use of animals.
- (2) For breeding of red deer and fallow deer animal density from 0.5 to 15 animals per 1 hectare depending on environmental conditions and feeding intensity is envisioned. The farm area should be divided into several enclosures depending on local conditions to ensure adequate care of pastures by applying the rotating pasture system. The pastures may be divided using solid mesh or by electrical fence consisting of several wires placed one above another. Electrical fences must be made visible using a strap of textile 5 to 10 cm wide. Permanent electrical current must not be used and the current impulses must be no more than 2 seconds long. The animals may be kept in smaller enclosures in winter.
- (3) Manipulation enclosures of square shape 10 x 10 m may be used for placing up to 100 hinds of average size for period necessary for manipulation.
 - (4) If driving lanes are constructed at a farm, they should be at least 5 to 6 m wide.
 - (5) For animal pens for winter accommodation, quarantine etc. the area must be
- a) 2 m² for weaned fawns up to 25 kg,
- b) 2.5 m² for fawns from 5 to 11 months of age from 40 kg to 90 kg,
- c) 3 m² and more for stalling 1-year-old and adult animals over 75 kg.
- (6) In case that the animals are placed inside the stalling buildings during winter season, a deer fawn pen of 3 x 4 m can accommodate 5 animals, a fallow fawn breed pen of 4 x 2.5 m can accommodate 6 animals.
- (7) Pens may be built using a wooden construction; pen sides must be at least 1.8 m high for deers and solid up to 1 m of height, the remaining part can be made of mesh. Fallow deer pens should have whole sides solid. Concrete pen flooring should be covered with litter.
- (8) Equipment for animal manipulation, e.g. tools for branding or veterinary treatment, must be accessed through a passageway with a cover so that the animals can calm down in darkness, with a trapdoor and a slide screen to be used for animal immobilization.
- (9) Every farm must have appropriate water supply to water the animals. The biological need of water in cervids is satisfied either by permanent access of the animals to watering places or by daily supply of fresh water.
 - (10) Lactating females must have permanent access to fresh water.

- (11) Watering systems must be situated so as to reduce the risk of water contamination by excrements or urine or of water spilling, the terrain becoming muddy or animal injury to a minimum.
- (12) During manipulation with animals people must act in a calm way; animals should be pushed slowly when driven. Only dogs with special training may be used.

Section 15 **Effect**

This Decree shall become effective on the day when the Czech Republic Accession Treaty to the European Community becomes effective.

:

<u>List of organizations</u> with European Commission approval for the transitional period till 31/12/2009 to use other than enlarged cage technologies for keeping layers

No.	Organization name Address District / Shire		Layer capacity (in animals)
1			81, 900*
	Agricol s. r. o., Polička 521 T. Novákové St.	Farm: Opatovice	81, 900**
	572 01 Polička	318 Velké dráhy 664 61 Rajhrad	
	372 01 Policka		
		Bigger Brno / South Moravia Farm registration number: 62051745	
2	Danie o a o	Farm: Čeperka	50, 000
	Brave, s.r.o. Svinčany	533 45 Opatovice n. L.	30, 000
	533 61 Choltice	Pardubice / Pardubice district	
	333 01 Choruce	Farm registration number: 53087609	
3	Stately Minesley, a. a.	Farm registration number: 5508/009	14, 400*
3	Statek Miroslav, a. s. 1 Nádražní St.		14, 400
	671 72 Miroslav		
	Znojmo / South Moravia		
	Farm registration number: 62047740		
4	Podnik živočišné výroby Nový Jičín, a. s.	Farm:Kunín	18, 000
	9 Divadelní St.	742 53 Kunin	16,000
		/42 33 Kunın Nový Jičín / Moravian-Silesian district	
	741 01 Nový Jičín	2	
5	VEMA a a Chartina	Farm registration number: 81047516	94 420
3	VEMA, a. s. Chrudim 911 Dačická St.		84, 420
	537 60 Chrudim		
	Chrudim / Pardubice district		
	Farm registration number: 53041632		
6	Drůbežárna Holešov, s. r. o.		26, 000
O	1356 Bořenovská St.		20, 000
	769 01 Holešov		
	Přerov / Zlín district		
	Farm registration number: 72033746		
7	Jaroslav Jeřábek		1,512
/	Jarosiav Jerabek 12 Újezd		1, 312
	267 61 Cerhovice		
	Beroun / Central Bohemia		
	Farm registration number: 21052000		
	BIKOS, s. r. o. Velká Bíteš	Farm:Košíky	58, 864*
0	366 Tišnovská St.	595 01 Velká Bíteš	30, 004
	595 01 Velká Bíteš	393 01 veika bues Žďár nad Sázavou / Vysočina district	
	575 OI VEIKA DICES	Farm registration number: 61079777	
9	Proagro Nymburk, a. s.	Farm: Městec Králové	216, 000*
	2026 Poděbradská St.	Pražská St.	210, 000
	288 72 Nymburk	289 03 Městec Králové	
	200 /2 Hymburk	Nymburk / Central Bohemia	
		Farm registration number: 2105535	
	TDI CI 1 ' ' 1 140		

^{*} The floor slope in cages is over the 14 % required by the Directive. Authorization of these cages for the transitional period is therefore conditioned by a promise of rectification of the situation and compliance with the remaining requirements on height as agreed with the Czech Republic.