

Council Regulation (EEC) No 1208/81 of 28 April 1981 determining the
Community scale for the classification of carcasses of adult bovine animals
Official journal NO. L 123, 07/05/1981 pp. 0003 - 0006

council regulation (eec) no 1208/81
of 28 april 1981

determining the community scale for the classification of carcasses of adult bovine animals
the council of the european
communities ,

having regard to the treaty establishing the european economic community ,
having regard to council regulation (eec) no 805/68 of 27 june 1968 on the common organization of the
market in beef and veal (1) , as last amended by the 1979 act of accession ,
having regard to council regulation (eec) no 1358/80 of 5 june 1980 fixing the guide price and
intervention price for adult bovine animals for the 1980/81 marketing year and introducing a community
grading scale for carcasses of adult bovine animals (2) , and in particular article 4 (1) thereof ,
having regard to the proposal from the commission ,
whereas regulation (eec) no 1358/80 provided that a community grading scale for carcasses of adult
bovine animals should be applied for recording prices and for intervention in the beef and veal sector ;
whereas the classification must be made on the basis of conformation and the degree of fat cover ;
whereas the combination of these two criteria enables carcasses of adult bovine animals to be divided into
classes ; whereas carcasses thus classified must be identified ;
whereas , in order to ensure the uniform application of this regulation in the community , provision should
be made for on-the-spot checks by a community inspection committee ;
whereas , taking into account the practical problems that are entailed by the implementation of the
community scale for classification in the member states , it is necessary to provide for its gradual
application ,
has adopted this regulation :

article 1

this regulation lays down the community classification scale for the carcasses of adult bovine animals .

article 2

1 . for the purposes of this regulation the following definitions shall apply :

(a) carcass : the whole body of a slaughtered animal as presented after bleeding , evisceration and
skinning , presented :

- without the head and without the feet ; the head shall be separated from the carcass at the atlanto-occipital joint and the feet shall be severed at the carpometacarpal or tarsometatarsal joints ,
- without the organs contained in the thoracic and abdominal cavities with or without the kidneys , the kidney fat and the pelvic fat ,
- without the sexual organs and the attached muscles and , in females , without the udder or the mammary fat ;

(b) half-carcass : the product obtained by separating the carcass referred to in (a) symmetrically through the middle of each cervical , dorsal , lumbar and sacral vertebra and through the middle of the sternum and the ischiopubic symphysis .

2 . furthermore , for the purpose of establishing market prices , the carcass shall be presented without the removal of external fat :

- without kidneys , kidney fat , or pelvic fat ,
 - without thin skirt or thick skirt ,
 - without the tail ,
 - without the spinal cord ,
 - without fat on fold of hindquarter flank ,
 - without fat on the inside of topside ,
 - without jugular vein and the adjacent fat ,
- the neck being cut in accordance with veterinary requirements .

however , member states shall be authorized to accept different presentations when this reference presentation is not used .

in such instances , the adjustments necessary to progress from those presentations to the reference presentation shall be determined in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 27 of regulation (eec) no 805/68 .

article 3

1 . the carcasses of adult bovine animals shall be divided into the following categories :

- carcasses of uncastrated young male animals of less than 2 years of age ,
- carcasses of other uncastrated male animals ,
- carcasses of castrated male animals ,
- carcasses of female animals that have calved ,
- carcasses of other female animals .

the criteria shall be laid down to differentiate between categories of carcasses in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 27 of regulation (eec) no 805/68 .

2 . the carcasses of adult bovine animals shall be classified by assessment respectively of :

(a) conformation ,

(b) fat cover ,

as defined in annexes i and ii , respectively .

member states are authorized not to take into consideration as an additional criterion the muscular development for the conformation of carcasses .

member states which intend to use this authorization shall so notify the commission and the other member states .

3 . member states shall be authorized to subdivide each of the classes envisaged in annexes i and ii into a maximum of three sub-classes .

article 4

1 carcasses or half-carcasses shall be classified as soon as possible after slaughter and such classification shall be carried out in the slaughterhouse itself .

2 . the classified carcasses or half-carcasses shall be identified .

3 . before identification by marking , member states shall be authorized to remove the external fat from the carcasses or half-carcasses if this is justified by the fat cover .

the conditions in which removal of the external fat will be applied shall be determined in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 27 of regulation (eec) no 805/68 .

article 5

on-the-spot inspection shall be carried out by a community inspection committee composed of experts from the commission and experts appointed by the member states . this committee shall report back to the commission on checks carried out .

the commission shall , if appropriate , take the measures necessary to ensure that the classification is carried out in a uniform manner .

these inspections shall be carried out on behalf of the community , which shall bear the resulting costs .

the detailed rules for applying this article shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 27 of regulation (eec) no 805/68 .

article 6

additional provisions specifying the definition of the classes of conformation and fat cover shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in article 27 of regulation (eec) no 805/68 before 30 june 1981 .

the commission shall , before 31 december 1981 , submit to the council a report on the problems arising from the implementation in the different member states of the community scale , particularly as regards the application of the provisions of the second subparagraph of article 3 (2) .

the council , acting on a proposal from the commission , shall decide before 31 march 1982 , in the light

of the said report , on the date from which the establishment of market prices and application of intervention measures shall be effected on the basis of the community scale .
until the date of application for the establishment of market prices , price tables will be drawn up on a parallel basis , firstly , in accordance with currently-applicable community and national provisions and , secondly , on the basis of administrative methods to be drawn up progressively in accordance with the provisions of this regulation .

article 7

this regulation shall enter into force at the beginning of the 1981/82 marketing year .
this regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all member states .
done at luxembourg , 28 april 1981 .
for the council
the president
j . de koning

annex i

conformation

development of carcase profiles , in particular the essential parts (round , back , shoulder)

// //

conformation class // description //

//

e excellent // all profiles convex to superconvex ; exceptional muscle development //

//

u very good // profiles on the whole convex ; very good muscle development //

//

r good // profiles on the whole straight ; good muscle development //

//

o fair // profiles straight to concave ; average muscle development //

//

p poor // all profiles concave to very concave ; poor muscle development //

annex ii

degree of fat cover

amount of fat on the outside of the carcase and in the thoracic cavity

// //

class of fat cover // description //

//

1 low // none up to low fat cover //

//

2 slight // slight fat cover , flesh visible almost everywhere //

//

3 average // flesh , with the exception of the round and shoulder , almost everywhere covered with fat , slight deposits of fat in the thoracic cavity //

//

4 high // flesh covered with fat , but on the round and shoulder still partly visible , some distinctive fat deposits in the thoracic cavity //

//

5 very high // entire carcase covered with fat ; heavy fat deposits in the thoracic cavity //