



GME CARES ABOUT ANIMAL WELFARE

GME, the Gelatine Manufacturers of Europe, represents the European gelatine manufacturers.

Animals should be treated with respect. GME is therefore committed to support all reasonable measures aimed at improving animal welfare, based on the “Five Freedoms” defined by the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health). This is the reason why GME has established a working group on Animal Welfare. This group is in regular contact as well as collaborating with suppliers and customers, including all relevant stakeholders in the supply chain.

GME members exclusively source their raw materials from authorised establishments providing animals fit for human consumption, inspected by veterinarians and compliant with all relevant European legislation. Legal requirements on animal welfare apply to the whole supply chain, from farm up until the point of slaughter. The European Commission and the National Competent Authorities of the EU Member States are responsible for the implementation of animal welfare legislation and for verification of compliance throughout the supply chain.

GME strongly supports full implementation and strict enforcement of all EU animal welfare legislation in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal and the Farm to Fork Strategy.

Validation period: until 31 December 2021.

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ANNEX I – Animal welfare legislation¹

Animal welfare rules

- Council Directive 98/58/EC: protection of animals kept for farming purposes
- Council Directive 2008/119/EC: minimum standards for the protection of calves
- Council Directive 2008/120/EC: minimum standards for the protection of pigs
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1/2005: protection of animals during transport and related operations
- Council Regulation (EC) No 1099/2009: protection of animals at the time of killing

Implementation and Official controls

- Regulation (EU) 2017/625 of 15 March 2017 on official controls and other official activities performed to ensure the application of food and feed law, rules on animal health and welfare, which apply from 14 December 2019.

ANNEX II – The “Five freedoms” as defined by OIE (World Organisation for Animal Health)²

According to this concept, an animal’s primary welfare needs can be met by providing:

- freedom from hunger, malnutrition and thirst;
- freedom from fear and distress;
- freedom from physical and thermal discomfort;
- freedom from pain, injury and disease; and
- freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour.

¹ Click [here](#) to know more about EU animal welfare legislation

² Click [here](#) to know more about the “Five Freedoms”

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