Atradius
Dutch State Business

Animal Welfare Policy Statement

About Atradius Dutch State Business

Atradius Dutch State Business N.V. (Atradius DSB) is the export credit agency acting on behalf of the Dutch State. Atradius DSB provides insurance cover against payment and political risks associated with export transactions and foreign investments. An integral part of the underwriting process is the assessment of environmental and social risks. This assessment is based on Atradius DSB's Environmental and Social Policy, which is publicly available on the Atradius DSB website. This Animal Welfare Policy Statement forms part of that policy framework and sets out Atradius DSB's approach and considerations regarding animal welfare.

Definition of animal welfare

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH)'s definition of animal welfare is: 'Animal welfare means the physical and mental state of an animal in relation to the conditions in which it lives and dies [1].

An animal is considered to be in a good condition when it is healthy, safe and free from pain and distress, and able to exhibit natural behaviours. A high standard of animal welfare requires disease prevention, veterinary care, appropriate housing and nutrition. A stimulating and safe environment and humane treatment are also essential. This definition and its underlying principles provide the foundation for this Animal Welfare Policy Statement. Atradius DSB recognises animal welfare as both an ethical and corporate issue and takes animal welfare considerations into account when assessing projects involving animals.

International frameworks

International frameworks build on the above definition of animal welfare and the concept of the Five Freedoms. The Five Freedoms describe the fundamental needs of animals:

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst
2. Freedom from physical discomfort
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease
4. Freedom to express normal patterns of behaviour
5. Freedom from fear and distress.

International standards such as the Terrestrial Animal Health Code and the Aquatic Animal Health Code of the WOAH are based on these principles and provide a widely recognised framework for animal welfare. These standards are referenced in various international guidelines and recommendations, including the OECD-FAO Guidance for Responsible Agricultural Supply Chains and the OECD Guidelines.

Animal welfare due diligence

Atradius DSB assesses animal welfare aspects in projects involving supplies from Dutch exporters. Transactions involving intensive livestock farming or slaughterhouses are automatically classified as transactions in a sensitive sector. Atradius DSB always conducts environmental and social due diligence for these transactions with animal welfare being a key consideration. The scope and depth of this review is proportional to the environmental and social risks associated with the project. Animal welfare considerations are assessed regardless of the size of the transaction.

Political assessment criteria

Based on Dutch political decisionmaking, Atradius DSB applies the following animal welfare assessment criteria [2]:

- The exported product must be produced in accordance with Dutch animal welfare standards.
- The project receiving the Dutch export must, as a minimum, comply with internationally recognised animal welfare standards and applicable local legislation and regulations.
- Where no relevant international framework exists, European standards are applied. Where clarification of the European framework is absent, Dutch animal welfare standards are the benchmark.

Projects and buyers must demonstrate how internationally recognised animal welfare standards are embedded in their operations and supply chains. Atradius DSB may decline applications where insufficient information is available, significant deviations from applicable animal welfare standards are identified, or the relevant parties are unwilling to comply with those standards.



[1] Terrestrial Animal Health Code (WOAH) Chapter 7, article 7.1.1
[2] Letter to Parliament dated 22 November 2024 and Decision Memorandum dated 9 October 2024 concerning the implementation of the Teunissen motion, adopted on 6 February 2024. https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/.

Implications for acceptance of transactions

Atradius DSB considers certain livestock production systems and practices to be incompatible with the Five Freedoms and with the principle that animals possess intrinsic value. Consequently, Atradius DSB will not provide cover for the following transactions:

<u>Livestock production systems</u>

- Housing of laying hens: deliveries to, or related to, facilities using unenriched cages for laying hens.
- Housing of broilers: deliveries to facilities where broilers are kept at stocking densities exceeding 42 kg/m^2.
- Housing of sows: deliveries to facilities that do not provide adequate group housing for pregnant sows [3].
- Housing of calves: deliveries to facilities that do not provide adequate group housing for calves [4].

Excluded practices

Atradius DSB will not provide insurance cover for activities involving:

- Transport of livestock from the Netherlands that does not comply with EU and Dutch legislation on the transport of live animals
- The production or trade of angora wool
- The production or trade of products derived from mulesed sheep
- The production or trade of down sourced from live-plucked geese or ducks
- The force-feeding of geese or ducks
- The production or trade of fur products
- Trade in endangered animal species as defined under CITES
- The production or trade of skins and leather derived from exotic animal species
- Animal testing for cosmetics
- Animal testing involving non-human primates
- Animal cloning
- Whaling
- Fishing using explosives or poisons
- Fishing with drift nets exceeding 2.5 kilometres in open waters
- Shark finning
- Animal fighting
- The use of animals in shows and events.

Responsibility of the exporter

If an exporter is aware of animal welfare violations in a buyer's operations, the exporter must bring this to Atradius DSB's attention so that appropriate measures can be taken. The exporter must communicate both the identified violation and corrective actions taken to Atradius DSB.

Continuous development

Atradius DSB continuously monitors developments in the field of animal welfare. This is achieved through ongoing dialogue with exporters, ministries and civil society organisations. Site visits have provided additional insights that contribute to the continued development of Atradius DSB's animal welfare policy framework.



[3] Pregnant sows must be kept in groups from four weeks after insemination until one week before farrowing.
[4] Individual housing of calves is only permitted up to a maximum age of eight weeks.

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