



# **ALDI Ireland**

## **Animal Welfare Policy v2**

Published: September 2020



## Position Statement

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ALDI Ireland is part of the ALDI SOUTH Group.

“The ALDI SOUTH Group of Companies conducts its business according to the principle of corporate responsibility. In all we do we assume responsibility towards our customers, business partners, employees, the community, and the environment.”

(Source: *Corporate Responsibility Principles of the ALDI SOUTH Group*)

## Background

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ALDI is committed to the principle of high animal health and welfare standards in the sourcing of poultry, meat, eggs, dairy and fish products. We believe that a model of continuous improvement is the most appropriate route to deliver these objectives.

Underlying the ALDI IE Animal Welfare Policies are the following ‘Five Freedoms’, as set out by the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC):

- **Freedom from hunger and thirst:** by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- **Freedom from discomfort:** by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- **Freedom from pain, injury and disease:** by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- **Freedom to express normal behaviour:** by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animals own kind.
- **Freedom from fear or distress:** by ensuring conditions and treatment, which avoid mental suffering.

Beyond these foundation requirements, ALDI also believe that all animals – being sentient beings – should experience positive emotional health, reflected as a minimum in a life worth living and wherever possible, as a good life.

The ALDI IE Animal Welfare Policies reflect our minimum requirements, which we strive to exceed wherever possible. We expect all our Suppliers and business partners to adhere to these standards, which form part of our contractual relationships. It is the responsibility of the Supplier to ensure that these Policies are adhered to by all partner organisations throughout its supply chain.

## Scope

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The ALDI IE Animal Welfare Food Policies apply to all of our own-label food products sold in IE, irrespective of tier, geography or species, unless otherwise stated. However, certain policies such as pre-stunning applies across branded and own label products.

The scope excludes pet food and non-food products. In this case, please refer to Policy 3.9 ALDI Animal Welfare Policies - Non-Food. The scope also excludes food products sold in ALDI GB stores where reference should instead be made to Policy 3.8a ALDI UK Animal Welfare Policies - Food.



## General Policies

### Cloned Animals

3.8.1	ALDI products must not be sourced from cloned animals or their offspring. Cloning is banned under EU legislation.	Requirement	Scope: All own label & branded food products.
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### Farm Assurance Certification

3.8.2b	ALDI products must be assured by Bord Bia as a minimum.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary poultry, meat & shell eggs.
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### Country of Origin

3.8.4b	ALDI products sold in IE stores must be sourced from Ireland all year round. (Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland).	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary poultry, meat, shell eggs & milk.
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### Growth Promoters

3.8.5	No growth promoters are permitted on any farms producing ALDI products. The use of in-feed growth promoting substances (hormonal or antibiotic) is prohibited.	Requirement	Scope: All own label & branded food products.
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### Force Feeding

3.8.6	The force feeding of animals is not permitted in the production of any product destined to be supplied to ALDI e.g. foie gras.	Requirement	Scope: All own label & branded food products.
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### Slaughter

To avoid unnecessary suffering, all animals must be pre-stunned prior to slaughter.

3.8.7	<b>Pre-slaughter stunning:</b> All farm animals must be stunned prior to slaughter. The stunning method used must ensure animals are unconscious and insensible to pain until death is caused.	Requirement	Scope: All own label & branded food products containing poultry, meat, eggs & dairy.
3.8.8	<b>Alternative stunning methods:</b> Suppliers should be continually monitoring and reviewing the latest research, to ensure humane slaughter and continual improvement to animal welfare.	Recommendation	Scope: All own label products containing poultry, meat, eggs & dairy.
3.8.9	<b>CCTV in abattoirs:</b> All abattoirs must have CCTV that covers all areas of the abattoir where live animals are being held and handled, including the stunning and slaughter area. CCTV footage must be reviewed regularly by an employee in a management level position responsible for animal welfare and/or external auditing agency and used as a training and management tool for all employees handling live animals.	Requirement	Scope: All own label products containing poultry, meat, eggs & dairy.
3.8.10	<b>Emergency slaughter:</b> Animals killed as emergency slaughter on farm or at the abattoir (outside of standard slaughter process) must not be used in ALDI products.	Requirement	Scope: All own label products containing poultry, meat, eggs & dairy.
3.8.11	<b>Stun equipment:</b> Must be regularly inspected and maintained to a documented schedule	Requirement	Scope: All own label products containing



	<p>(which must not be less frequent than the manufacturer’s guidelines). Service information must be recorded and available for inspection. Back up stunning devices must be available at all times during killing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duplicate stuns to be recorded.</li> <li>• Suppliers must maintain records of where an animal recovers consciousness on the bleed rail, and the causes must be investigated and rectified. This should be available to Aldi on request.</li> </ul>		poultry, meat, eggs & dairy.
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## Transport

Livestock transport and movements can be stressful to animals and should be kept to a minimum.

3.8.12	<p><b>Transportation times:</b> All livestock transport times for all journeys must not exceed 8 hours from the first animal loaded to the last animal unloaded.</p> <p>Where the 8 hour transport limit is exceeded, the Supplier must notify the ALDI CR team and ensure they have appropriate documentation available upon request, to show they’re compliant with the additional legal and/or farm assurance requirements.</p>	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary poultry, meat, shell eggs & milk.
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## Animal Welfare Training

3.8.15	<p><b>Animal Welfare Manager:</b> The Animal Welfare Manager on site at abattoirs must hold a current certificate of competence EC 1099/2009.</p>	Requirement	Scope: All Suppliers of own label fresh primary poultry & meat.
	<p><b>All personnel:</b> All personnel involved in live animal handling and management at the abattoir must have received training from the certified Animal Welfare Manager.</p>	Requirement	Scope: All Suppliers of own label fresh primary poultry & meat.

*\*Policies 3.8.3, 3.8.13 and 3.8.14 are applicable to the Aldi UK Animal Welfare Policy only and are therefore not included in this document.*

## Antibiotics

Suppliers and their Producers must comply with Policy 3.10 ALDI GB & IE Responsible Antimicrobial Use Policy.



## Pork Policies

### Farm Management Practices

ALDI aims to prohibit routine farm practices for pigs such as teeth clipping and tail docking but understands the farm management challenges this would incur.

3.8.17	<b>Castration:</b> The castration of pigs by physical or chemical means is prohibited.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary pork.
3.8.18	<b>Tail Docking:</b> In line with the Bord Bia Pig Producer Standard, tail docking is not permitted unless recommended by the veterinary surgeon on welfare grounds in the Health and Welfare Plan. These procedures may only be carried out by competent trained operators on piglets under 1 week of age.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary pork.
3.8.19	<b>Tooth Reduction:</b> In line with the Bord Bia Pig Producer Standard, tooth reduction is not permitted unless recommended by the veterinary surgeon on welfare grounds in the Health and Welfare Plan. These procedures may only be carried out by competent trained operators on piglets under 1 week of age.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary pork.
3.8.20	<b>Nose Rings:</b> The use of nose rings in the top of the nares (snout/disc) is prohibited. Septal nose rings in outdoor sows are only permitted following veterinary recommendation detailed in the Veterinary Health Plan and on welfare grounds only.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary pork.

### Confinement

ALDI aims to work with Suppliers to remove the requirement to confine sows during the farrowing period.

3.8.21	<b>Sow Stalls:</b> Sow stalls can be used, but sows cannot remain in them permanently.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary pork.
3.8.22	<b>Free Farrowing:</b> Suppliers must be proactive in understanding the latest research on commercially viable alternatives to the use of farrowing crates, in order to develop a longer-term proposal for how to minimise time sows spend in confinement.	Recommendation	Scope: All own label fresh primary pork.

### Environmental Enrichment

3.8.23	<b>Environmental Enrichment:</b> Pigs must have permanent access to environmental enrichment in order to satisfy their manipulation behavioural requirements, reduce instances of tail biting and other uncharacteristic behaviours.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary pork.
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### Slaughter

3.8.24	Sows should not be sent for slaughter in the final trimester of pregnancy.	Recommendation	Scope: All own label fresh primary pork.
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## Chicken Policies

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### Farm Management Practices

3.8.26	<b>Mutilations:</b> Mutilations are prohibited. Examples of mutilations include beak trimming, de-toeing or de-spurring.	Recommendation	Scope: All own label fresh primary chicken.
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### Environmental Enrichment

3.8.27	<b>Litter:</b> Chickens should have access to dry, friable litter to allow for dust bathing and exploratory scratching behaviour.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary chicken.
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### Slaughter

3.8.28	Suppliers should use alternatives to electrical stunning, for example the use of anoxic gas stunning.	Recommendation	Scope: All Suppliers of own label fresh chicken.
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## Eggs Policies

### Farm Management Practices

ALDI aims to prohibit routine farm practices for laying hens such as beak trimming but understands the farm management challenges this could incur. Beak trimming is used to reduce the risk of feather or injurious pecking, which can affect the health of a flock and can also cause injury or mortality. This procedure is carried out on chicks within 10 days of hatching via infra-red technology only.

3.8.29	<b>On-Farm Mutilations:</b> Mutilations must not be carried out on farm, unless in exceptional circumstances to avoid a greater welfare issue. Where this is required, veterinary approval must be granted prior to the procedure. Examples of mutilations include beak trimming and de-toeing for hens, bill trimming, claw trimming and wing clipping for ducks.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh shell eggs.
3.8.30	<b>Beak Trimming:</b> Suppliers must be proactive in understanding alternative management practices, where laying hens could be managed without beak trimming under commercial conditions, without a greater risk to their welfare than that caused by beak trimming.	Recommendation	Scope: All own label fresh shell eggs.

### Confinement

3.8.31	<b>Cage Free (Shell Eggs):</b> All shell eggs must be cage free.	Requirement by 2025	Scope: All own label and branded fresh shell eggs.
3.8.32	<b>Cage Free (Ingredients):</b> All egg ingredients must be cage free.	Requirement by 2025	Scope: All own label products containing egg ingredient.

### Male Chicks

3.8.33	Suppliers must be proactive in understanding the latest sexed embryo research, in order to develop longer-term practices to reduce the percentage of male chicks hatched.	Recommendation	Scope: All own label fresh shell eggs.
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## Cattle (Milk & Beef) Policies

### Farm Management Practices

ALDI understand there are welfare concerns around management practices of dairy or beef cows and their calves, for example disbudding, and would like to limit the use of these where possible. Where these practices are required, steps should be taken to minimise the impact it has on the animal's welfare.

3.8.34	<b>Disbudding and Dehorning:</b> Calves should be disbudded before 4 weeks of age (unless completely raised horned, or naturally polled). Dehorning must only take place where the horn is growing in such a way that is injurious to the animal. If disbudded or dehorned, animals should receive both local anaesthesia and longer-term pain relief (e.g. with a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug).	Recommendation	Scope: All own label fresh primary beef and liquid milk.
3.8.35	<b>Castration:</b> If animals are to be castrated, this should be done before 8 weeks of age, but as young as possible. Animals should receive both local anaesthesia and longer-term pain relief.	Recommendation	Scope: All own label fresh primary beef and liquid milk.
3.8.36	<b>Identification:</b> Cattle must not be hot branded or identified by dewlap tags.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary beef and liquid milk.
3.8.37	<b>Tail docking:</b> Tail docking is not permitted for any cattle in line with EU legislation.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary beef and liquid milk.

### Confinement

3.8.38	<b>Tethering:</b> Tethering is not permitted on farm. Lockable yokes may be used for management purposes for a temporary (less than 12 hours) period of time.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary beef and liquid milk.
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### Slaughter

3.8.39	Any animal 7 months in-calf or over should not be sent for slaughter (with the exception of those under statutory disease control regulations).	Recommendation	Scope: All own label fresh primary beef and liquid milk.
3.8.40	Healthy calves born on farms supplying milk to ALDI must not be euthanised on farm. Instead Suppliers must work with farmers to ensure there are alternative options for the marketing of dairy bull calves. Suppliers should encourage the use of sexed and beef semen to support this standard. Only where a calf is showing clear clinical signs of disease and unlikely to recover, or a calf is unable to stand or eat properly, may it be euthanised on farm.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh liquid milk.





## Health Planning

3.8.41b	<b>Johnes:</b> All supplying farms must be participating in the Irish Johnes Control Programme (IJCP) and be undertaking appropriate screening annually as a minimum, to ascertain the Johnes status of the herd.	Recommendation	Scope: All own label fresh primary beef and liquid milk.
	<b>BVD:</b> All supplying farms must be signed up to the National Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Eradication Programme.	Recommendation	Scope: All own label fresh primary beef and liquid milk.
	<b>Colostrum:</b> Producers must have a veterinary-led plan in place to ensure new born calves receive adequate quality colostrum intake, in order to reduce the risk of failure of passive transfer of immunity.	Recommendation	Scope: All own label fresh primary beef and liquid milk.

*\*Policy 3.8.42 is applicable to the Aldi UK Animal Welfare Policy only and is therefore not included in this document.*



## Lamb Policies

### Farm Management Practices

3.8.43	<p><b>Castration:</b> Careful consideration should be given as to whether castration is necessary. The procedure should only be carried out when lambs are likely to be retained after puberty (approx. 5 months old) and where it is necessary to avoid welfare problems associated with the management of entire males. Castration, where necessary, must be performed by a competent, trained operator and in strict accordance with the law.</p>	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary lamb.
3.8.44	<p><b>Tail Docking:</b> Careful consideration should be given as to whether tail docking is required in the flock and it may be carried out only if failure to do so would lead to subsequent welfare problems because of dirty tails and potential fly strike. Tail docking, where necessary, must be carried out only in strict accordance with the law and be performed by a competent, trained operator. It is essential that sufficient tail is retained to cover the vulva in the case of female sheep and the anus in the case of male sheep.</p>	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary lamb.
3.8.45	<p><b>Mulesing:</b> Mulesing is not permitted.</p>	Requirement	Scope: All own label products.

*\*Policies 3.8.46 and 3.8.47 are applicable to the Aldi UK Animal Welfare Policy only and are therefore not included in this document.*



## Turkey, Duck & Goose Policies

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### Farm Management Practices

3.8.48	<b>Mutilations:</b> Mutilations must not be carried out on farm, unless in exceptional circumstances to avoid a greater welfare issue. Where this is required, veterinary approval must be granted prior to the procedure. Examples of mutilations include de-snooding and beak trimming.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary turkey, duck & goose.
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### Environmental Enrichment

3.8.49	<b>Environmental Enrichment:</b> All poultry must be provided with appropriate environmental enrichment. Suitable enrichment must include access to dry, friable litter to allow for shovelling and dibbling. Suppliers must ensure all enrichment is safe.	Requirement	Scope: All own label fresh primary turkey, duck & goose.
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## Fish Policies

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Aldi aspires to develop welfare standards for fish. Please refer to ALDI's Fish and Seafood Policy (Policy 3.1) for specific policies relating to fish.

## Rabbit Policies

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3.8.50	The use of rabbit meat in any product is prohibited.	Requirement	Scope: All own label & branded products.
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## Wild Caught Game Policies

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3.8.51	All game birds and mammals must have been legally shot in the open season for that species.	Requirement	Scope: All own label products containing wild-caught meat.
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## Implementation

As part of the tender provided to ALDI, all Suppliers of food products containing poultry, meat, eggs, dairy and fish must confirm that they are compliant with the ALDI Animal Welfare Policies.

On an ongoing basis, Suppliers must ensure that poultry, meat, eggs, dairy and fish in ALDI products is legally compliant, but determine whether further changes can be made to improve the health and welfare of animals through the supply chain. A risk assessed approach must be used to determine the appropriate assessment and control measures.

All poultry, meat, eggs, dairy and fish in products must be declared in the product specification provided to ALDI via the online specification system. Supporting documentation such as Bord Bia certificates must also be in date and uploaded to the specification.

## Definitions

<b>Bord Bia</b>	Ireland Farm and Quality Assurance Scheme.
<b>BVD</b>	Bovine Viral Diarrhoea, a highly contagious viral diarrhoea disease which has welfare and economic impacts on cattle.
<b>CCTV</b>	Closed Circuit Television.
<b>CR</b>	Corporate Responsibility.
<b>Environmental Enrichment</b>	Environmental enrichment is the process of providing stimulating environments for animals in order for them to demonstrate their species-typical behaviour and to enhance their well-being.
<b>Irish Johnes Control Programme (IJCP)</b>	An industry initiative to manage and reduce the incidence of Johnes in Ireland.
<b>National Eradication Programme for BVD</b>	An industry programme is supported by legislation in Ireland. Key points include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirement to test all calves born from 1st January 2013 onwards.</li> <li>• Ban on sale of calves without a negative result.</li> <li>• Testing where PIs (persistently infected animals) are identified.</li> </ul>
<b>NSAIDs</b>	Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. These are a class of drug that are used for analgesic (pain-killing) purposes.
<b>Organic</b>	Organic food, adhering to stricter antimicrobial standards on farm, likely assured by an assurance body.