II

(Acts whose publication is not obligatory)

COMMISSION

COMMISSION DECISION

of 27 July 1994

amending Decision 86/130/EEC laying down performance monitoring methods and methods for assessing cattle's genetic value for pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species

(94/515/EC)

THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES,

Having regard to the Treaty establishing the European Community,

Having regard to Council Directive 77/504/EEC of 25 July 1977 on pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species [1], as last amended by Directive 91/174/EEC [2], and in particular the first indent of Article 6 (1) thereof,

Whereas the performance monitoring methods and methods for assessing cattle's genetic value for pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species laid down by Commission Decision 86/130/EEC [3] should be adjusted in line with scientific and technological developments;

Whereas the assessment by statistical analysis of the performance and the genetic value of cattle should be carried out by bodies approved by the competent authorities of the Member States;

Whereas the measures provided for in this Decision are in accordance with the opinion of the Standing Committee on Zootechnics,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The Annex to Decision 86/130/EEC is hereby replaced by the Annex hereto.

Article 2

This Decision is addressed to the Member States.

Done at Brussels, 27 July 1994.

For the Commission

René STEICHEN

Member of the Commission

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[1] OJ No L 206, 12. 8. 1977, p. 8.
[2] OJ No L 85, 5. 4. 1991, p. 37.
[3] OJ No L 101, 17. 4. 1986, p. 37.

ANNEX

I. The competent authorities of the Member States are to approve the bodies responsible for setting the rules for performance recording and assessing the genetic value and for publication of the evaluation results of pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species. The names of the approved bodies must be notified to the Commission and the other Member States.

In particular, these bodies shall give an account of the recording methods, the model of performance description, the statistical method of analysis and the genetic parameters used for each evaluated trait.

II. Performance Recording

All data must be recorded under the responsibility of the approved body.

1. *Beef production traits*

(a) Individual performance and/or progeny testing at a station

(i) The test method and the number of animals tested are to be indicated.

(ii) The following are to be indicated in the test protocol:

— conditions for acceptance into the station,

— if applicable, the on-farm-performance of the test animals prior to entry into the station,

— identity of the owner of the test animals for individual performance testing,

— maximum age for the test animals entering the station and the age of range of contemporary animals on the station,

— length of adaptation and test periods at the station,

— type of diet and system of feeding.

(iii) Traits recorded: the minimum traits to be recorded include live weight gain and muscular development (beef conformation) and, if available, other traits such as feed conversion and carcass trait.

Specialized units can operate as stations under the responsibility of the approved body.

(b) Testing in the field (on-farm)

The test method and the method to validate test results must be provided by the approved body. The minimum traits to be recorded include live weight and age and, if available, other traits such as beef conformation.

(c) Testing through survey data from farms and points of sale and slaughter

If available and appropriate the live and slaughter weights, sales prices, carcass grade according to the Community carcass classification scheme, meat quality and other beef traits must be recorded.

2. *Milk recording*

Recording milk production data must comply with the principles agreed by competent international bodies (e.g. International Committee for Animal Recording (ICAR)).

3. *Reproduction (secondary traits)*

When fertility, calving aptitude and longevity are being evaluated, they must be assessed on the basis of data on fertilization (e.g. non-return-rate), calving score and on functional age (e.g. stayability, culling age, length of productive life), respectively.

4. *Morphological (type) assessment*

When Morphological rating is carried out, it must be done using an approved recording system.

III. Genetic evaluation

1. *Principles*

The genetic evaluation of breeding animals must be carried out under the responsibility of the approved body and must include the following performance traits according to the selection objectives:

— milk production traits for animals of dairy breeds,

— beef production traits for animals of beef breeds,

— milk and beef production traits for dual-purpose breeds.

Furthermore, it is recommended that the genetic evaluation should also include the traits of reproductive performance and of morphology for breeds in which recording of these traits is being practised.

The breeding value of an animal is calculated on the basis of the results of the performance of the individual and/or of its relatives.

The statistical methods applied in genetic evaluation must comply with the principles agreed by competent international bodies (e.g. ICAR) and should guarantee a genetic evaluation unbiased from the influences of the main environmental factors and data structure.

The reliability of the genetic evaluation must be measured as the coefficient of determination in accordance with principles agreed by competent international bodies (e.g. ICAR). When publishing the evaluation results, the reliability as well as the date of evaluation must be given.

Genetic peculiarities and genetic defects of an animal defined by the bodies officially appointed for the determination of these characters, in agreement with the breeders organizations or associations, recognized in conformity with Commission Decision 84/247/EEC of 27 April 1984 laying down the criteria for the recognition of breeders organizations and associations which maintain or establish herd-books for pure-bred breeding animals of the bovine species [1], have to be published.

2. *Genetic evaluation of bulls for artificial insemination*

The bulls must be subjected to a genetic evaluation on compulsary traits and breeding values on them must be published. Other available breeding values also must be published.

These provisions do not apply to breeds threatened with extinction.

(a) Genetic evaluation of artificial insemination bulls for milk production traits

In the genetic evaluation of dairy traits, the milk yield and content (butterfat and protein percentage) as well as other available and relevant data for the genetic aptitude for dairy traits must be included.

The minimum reliability of the genetic evaluation of AI bulls of the dairy breeds must be at least 0,5 for the main production traits according to ICAR principles taking into account all information from relatives.

(b) Genetic evaluation of artificial insemination bulls fof beef production traits

The genetic evaluation of these bulls is carried out on the basis of one of the following performance testing methods:

(i) individual performance testing on station;

(ii) progeny and/or sib test on station or in specialized units;

(iii) progeny and/or sib test on farm; in such a way that the offsprings are distributed among the recorded herds to allow a valid comparison of bulls to be made;

(iv) progeny and/or sib test by means of collecting data on farms, in auction sales or in slaughter houses in such a way that a valid comparison of bulls can be made.

If carcass weight and, where appropriate, traits of meat quality, growth performance and calving aptitude are being recorded, these traits as well as any other relevant trait must be included in the genetic evaluation of the bull.

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[1] OJ No L 125, 12. 5. 1984, p. 58.