

Purpose

This document outlines the on-site inspection requirements for a *veal producer* obtaining a third-party *certification* according to Proposition 12 (2018) [Animal Confinement Regulations](#), Chapter 10 (commencing with section 1320) of Division 2 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations (3 CCR). Information in this document details the minimum requirements of what the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) or another *certifying agent* will review during the on-site inspection portion of the *certification* process including inspection of the facility, *covered animals*, and records for the purpose of issuing a new or renewal *certification*. Review and understanding of this document will help the *veal producer* applicant prepare for their on-site inspection to receive *certification* in a timely manner.

Commencing January 1, 2024, any person engaged in business in California as a *veal producer*, or any out-of-state *veal producer* that is keeping, maintaining, confining, and/or housing calves (*calf*), for the purposes of producing *whole veal meat* for human food for *commercial sale* in California, shall hold a valid *certification*. 3 CCR section 1321.1(b)

Veal producer means a person engaged in the business of keeping, confining, and/or housing a *calf* of the bovine species, to be slaughtered at more than 21 days of age or more than 150 pounds, for the purpose of producing the human food product described, advertised, represented, identified, or labeled as veal. 3 CCR section 1321(dd)

This definition shall not apply to the following:

- A person housing calves exclusively for purposes of standard dairy herd management practices at, or for, a dairy farm holding a valid market milk permit or manufacturing milk permit pursuant to section 33222 of the Food and Agricultural Code or a valid permit issued by the government milk regulatory authority where the dairy farm is located if not in California; or
- An establishment at which mandatory inspection is provided under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. Sec. 601 et seq.) and that holds an establishment number (prefix “M”) granted by the Food Safety Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Key terms italicized in this guidance are described in [Key Terms for Stakeholders](#) guidance document.

Mission of Animal Care Program

To serve animal agriculture producers and California consumers by promoting and protecting the welfare and care of animals in agriculture in order for Californians to have access to food that is sourced from humanely and sustainably raised animals.

For a description of all *veal producer* requirements to comply with Animal Confinement regulations, click on link to [Animal Care Producer Veal](#) guidance document.

On-Site Inspection Requirement

In order to grant *certification*, CDFA or another *certifying agent* must conduct an initial on-site inspection of each production unit, facility, and site that produces or distributes *covered animals* or *covered products* that is included in an operation for which *certification* is requested. For a *veal producer*, CDFA or another *certifying agent* will conduct an initial on-site inspection of a *veal producer's* facility where *calves* covered under the *certification* request are kept. An on-site inspection must be conducted at least once every 12 months thereafter for the purpose of determining whether *certification* of the *veal producer* operation should continue.



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This 12-month interval begins on the “effective date” for current *certification*. For a *certifying agent* to renew *certification* each year, an on-site inspection must have been conducted during the previous 12-month *certification* period which began on the “effective date” listed on the current *certification*. 3 CCR sections 1326.5(a)(1) and 1326.8(b)

The initial on-site inspection will be conducted within three (3) months following a determination that the *veal producer* applicant appears to comply or may be able to comply with Animal Confinement regulations. A list of *certifying agents* is on the [Animal Care Program Certifying Agent website](#) for the *veal producer* to choose from. 3 CCR section 1326.5(b)(1)

What to Expect During an On-Site Inspection

All on-site inspections must be conducted when an authorized representative of the *veal producer* operation who is knowledgeable about the operation is present, can access operation *records*, and at a time when facilities and activities that demonstrate the *veal producer's* compliance with or capability to comply can be observed. 3 CCR section 1326.5(b)(2)

The On-Site Inspection of a Veal Producer Operation Will Verify:

- The *veal producer's* compliance or capability to comply with the requirements. 3 CCR section 1326.5(c)(1)
- The information provided on the application for *certification* accurately reflects the practices used by the *veal producer*. 3 CCR section 1326.5(c)(2)

The On-Site Inspection Will Cover:

1. General Information

- The *veal producer* must allow access by CDFA or another *certifying agent* to areas of the production operation for which *certification* is requested including pastures, fields, structures, and houses where *calves* may be kept, produced, processed, handled, stored, or transported, including the inspection of all *enclosures of calves*. 3 CCR sections 1326.1(a)(2) and 1326.1(a)(3)
- The *veal producer* must allow access by CDFA or another *certifying agent* to operation offices during normal business hours for review and copying of required *records*. 3 CCR sections 1326.1(a)(2) and 1326.1(a)(6)
- If a *split operation*, CDFA or another *certifying agent* will verify the management practices, physical barriers, and standard operating procedures established to prevent commingling of compliant *calves* with noncompliant *calves*. 3 CCR sections 1326.3(a)(5) and 1326.5(c)

2. Recordkeeping

- *Records* are required to be available for not less than two (2) years beyond their creation. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(3)
- *Records* show the size of the farm. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(6)
- *Records* show the quantity of *calves* produced or processed from each facility or farm unit in the operation. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(6)
- *Records* show the number of *calf enclosures* for each facility or farm unit, the size and *usable floorspace* of each *enclosure*. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(6)
- *Records* show the quantity of *calves* in inventory, number of *calves* kept in each *enclosure* and the dates of stocking, harvest, and production. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(6)
- *Records* show the *calf* transactions. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(4)



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- *Records* pertaining to the production, processing, handling, packaging, storage, transportation, or sale of *calves*, sold, intended for sale in California or identified or represented as compliant with requirements. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(5)
- *Records* must be maintained in sufficient detail to document that *calves* were confined in compliance with requirements as detailed below in **3. Confinement**. 3 CCR sections 1326.2(a) and 1326.2(b)(1)
- If the operation is a *split operation*, *records* must sufficiently demonstrate the identification, segregation, distribution, and handling of compliant *calves* to prevent commingling with any noncompliant *calves*. 3 CCR section 1326.2(b)(7)
- If *calves* are kept in noncompliant *enclosures* for animal husbandry purposes, 3 CCR section 1324.1(a)(7), then *records* must be maintained by a *veal producer* in sufficient detail to document that *calves* are not kept in noncompliant *enclosures* for longer than six hours in any 24-hour period, and no more than 24 hours total in any 30-day period. 3 CCR sections 1324.1(a)(7), 1326.2(a), and 1326.2(b)(1)
- If *calves* are kept in noncompliant *enclosures* for individual treatment, 3 CCR section 1324.1(a)(2), then *records* must be maintained by a *veal producer* in sufficient detail to document individual treatment *records* for the *calves*, under direction of the herd veterinarian with a current Veterinary-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR). 3 CCR sections 1324(b), 1324.1(a)(2), 1326.2(a), and 1326.2(b)(1)

3. Confinement

- All *enclosures* allow *calves* to lie down, stand up, fully extend limbs, and turn around freely. 3 CCR section 1321.1(a)(1)
- All *enclosures* provide a minimum of 43 square feet of *usable floorspace* per *calv*. 3 CCR section 1321.1(a)(2) Refer to [Animal Care Producer Veal](#) guidance document.

4. Exit Interview

The *certifying agent* will conduct an exit interview with an authorized representative of the *veal producer* operation who is knowledgeable about the inspected operation to confirm the accuracy and completeness of inspection observations and information gathered during the on-site inspection. The *certifying agent* will also address the need for any additional information as well as any issues of concern. 3 CCR section 1326.5(d)