



National Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy

Version: July 2017

Content

1. Our animal welfare commitment
2. Product range selection geared to animal welfare
3. Transparency and traceability
4. Inspections and audits
5. Contribution to animal welfare
6. Proactive dialogue
7. Partners and standards
8. List of links

The National Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy is available in German and English. In case of deviations, the German version shall prevail.

1. Our animal welfare commitment

To concretize the International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy, ALDI North has developed a National Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy for Germany which illustrates the current commitment and defines the measures and targets with regard to the five areas of focus:

- product range selection geared to animal welfare,
- transparency and traceability,
- inspections and audits,
- contribution to animal welfare and
- proactive dialogue.

The National Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy applies to all products from our own food and non-food brands containing animal-based raw materials. It is subject to ongoing updates and constant reviews. The respective latest version is a binding operational framework for us and our business partners.

We co-operate exclusively with those business partners who act in compliance with our International and National Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy. In case that our targets are not being met, we collaborate with our business partners to develop specific measures for improved production processes. In certain cases, we reserve the right to impose appropriate sanctions – up to terminating the business relationship.

The implementation of measures and targets in the daily business is controlled by our animal welfare team established within the Corporate Responsibility department – involving the departments of buying and quality assurance as well as our business partners. Furthermore, we work in close communication with all ALDI North Group countries (Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Spain). The management board and other persons of responsibility within ALDI North will be given regular status updates on the implementation.

The International and the National Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy and further information on the subject are available on our website [\[→\]](#).

2. Product range selection geared to animal welfare

We strictly design our product range while taking animal welfare matters into account.

1. General measures and targets for food and non-food products

The following measures are implemented:

- We constantly monitor our product range with regard to relevant animal welfare aspects in order to incorporate new findings and experience into our range design. For this purpose, we also take into account recommendations from external specialists as well as expectations of relevant stakeholder groups.
- We sell organic products with the EU Organic logo in food groups with animal-based raw materials under our organic own brand 'GutBio', among others. Besides better protection of the environment, organic products indicate that the animals have more opportunity for species-appropriate behaviour, e. g. through more space. We are continuously expanding this area; having listed e. g. organic beef goulash, organic salmon and organic cheese in all of our stores.
- We will campaign against the use of antibiotics beyond the therapeutic level in farm animal husbandry to prevent resistance of microorganisms to pathogens. Prevention and hygiene are among the most effective measures to avoid bacterial diseases. The use of reserve antibiotics from human medicine in animal husbandry shall be avoided whenever this is possible. We have banned growth hormones throughout our supply chain as required by law.
- We require all of our German suppliers of fresh meat to be a system partner of the QS inspection scheme. Furthermore, the scope of application will be extended to include the commodity groups of cold cuts and deep frozen meat products. The QS inspection scheme defines binding requirements beyond statutory provisions for every stage of the food chain – starting with the animal feed industry and farming, slaughter and processing through to food retail. Only foods that have been produced and marketed in line with QS requirements bear the QS certification mark. The QS certification mark thus stands for controlled animal feed, controlled animal welfare matters, needs-based feeding, verifiable traceability and the strict monitoring of hygiene measures.
- In Germany, we use the seal 'Ohne GenTechnik' (no genetic engineering) from the food association 'Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik e.V.' (VLOG – Industry Association Food without Genetic Engineering) for any food deliberately produced without genetic engineering. Thus, consumers can rely on animal products such as milk, meat or eggs labelled like this not to originate from animals that were fed with animal feed containing GMOs (genetically modified organisms) and that the prescribed feeding times for each species prior to food production were complied with.

- We do not sell any products made of genetically modified and/or cloned animals or their descendants.
- We sell fresh meat only from those animals that were effectively stunned before slaughter.
- We are campaigning for the reduction of substances that are toxic to bees throughout our supply chain of fresh fruit and vegetables, flowers and plants.
- We do not sell certain animal-based raw materials as part of our product range selection geared to animal welfare:
 - We signed the ‘Fur Free Declaration’ by the Fur Free Retailer Program in 2015 and thus also make a public commitment to not selling real fur goods.
 - We do not sell any products made from angora wool.
 - We do not sell any rabbit meat.
 - We do not sell quail or their eggs.
 - We do not sell any products (food and non-food) with resources from exotic and endangered species (e. g. kangaroo or ostriches).

The following targets are set:

- We continue to expand the proportion of organic animal products in our range, depending on demand and availability.
- We will formulate minimum requirements for products with animal-based raw materials, among other things, in the fields of husbandry, feeding, transportation, slaughter and the use of antibiotics and set down these minimum requirements in our supplier contracts.
- We strive for any interventions on the animals causing pain being carried out only after effective stunning.

2. Poultry and eggs

The following measures are implemented:

- We only sell eggs from barn, free-range and organic farming with certification for alternative hen-rearing systems (KAT certification). ALDI North stopped selling eggs from hens reared in battery cages and small-group housing systems for reasons of animal welfare in 2004 – the first company within German food retail to do so. Eggs processed in products with a significant egg content are almost exclusively from barn farming. For our commitment in the product range 'eggs' we were awarded with the 'Good Egg Award 2016' by the NGO Compassion in World Farming (CIWF).
- Since January 1st 2015, for each kilogram of poultry meat and cold cuts sold we contribute four cents to the animal welfare initiative 'Initiative Tierwohl' (animal welfare initiative). This budget serves to support farmers if they implement certain criteria of animal welfare. From 2018, the contribution will be increased to 6.25 cents per kilogram. Simultaneously, the obligatory requirements will be expanded (checking the climate in the stables and the quality of water supply, additional manipulatable material, reduced stocking density).
- We have stipulated that no goose and duck meat from force-feeding ('foie gras') and live-plucking shall be supplied to us or processed in our products. Here, we are guided, among other things, by the 'Positive List of Geese Producers' from the animal protection association FOUR PAWS.
- In the scope of a pilot project, we are campaigning for the avoidance of chick culling. For this purpose, in August 2017 we will introduce a regionally listed product that supports the raising of male chicks through the sale of the eggs.
- We only offer fresh chicken and turkey meat originating almost exclusively from animals that were effectively stunned by carbon dioxide before slaughter.

The following targets are set:

- We will refrain from using any eggs from hens reared in battery cages and small-group housing systems in 100% of our processed egg products with a significant egg content by 2021 at the latest.
- We continuously expand the labelling of breeding methods for all products containing processed eggs.
- In 2017, we will gradually cease the sale of eggs from laying hens with trimmed beaks. Almost half of our suppliers have already achieved this target.

3. Pork

The following measures are implemented:

- We have excluded the sale of pork from castrated animals since January 1st 2017 (except for organic products). Alternatives that are currently available, such as boar fattening or vaccination to temporarily suppress the boar smell, are accepted. We are striving for a well-balanced relation of uncastrated male and female animals. We accept the alternatives also for our processed products, wherever these do not affect quality.
- Since January 1st 2015, for each kilogram of pork and cold cuts sold we contribute four cents to the animal welfare initiative 'Initiative Tierwohl' (animal welfare initiative). This budget serves to support farmers if they implement certain criteria of animal welfare. From 2018, the contribution will be increased to 6.25 cents per kilogram. Simultaneously, the obligatory requirements will be expanded (additional organic manipulable material as well as 10% of additional space).

The following targets are set:

- In our dialogue with relevant stakeholders, we are seeking for opportunities to improve the conditions in sowkeeping.
- We consider possibilities to substitute Pregnant Mare Gonadotropin Serum (PMSG) from non-European countries for PMSG of European origin or for synthetically obtained hormones.

4. Cattle

The following measures are implemented:

- We do not source any fresh meat of cattle delivered to the slaughterhouse in an advanced stage of pregnancy (third trimester), unless slaughter was effected on the basis of medical indication. In such a case, a respective certificate issued by the farm veterinarian in charge is to be presented to the slaughterhouse without delay. This will become part of statutory provisions in the future. Furthermore, the slaughterhouse is obliged by the QS inspection scheme to compile data on pregnancies in the final trimester and provide feedback to the supplier (or the farmer, respectively) in case a pregnant animal is delivered.
- Since 2016, we offer the product 'Meierkamp Alpenmilch' (Meierkamp alpine milk). The product is sold in more than half of our stores. From September 2017, this product will be additionally labelled with the first grade of the animal welfare label 'Für Mehr Tierschutz' (for more animal welfare) launched by the NGO Deutscher Tierschutzbund (german animal welfare association). The farmers involved comply with specific requirements, such as keeping the milk cows at least in exercise pens, providing for more comfort e. g. through cow brushes and straw-bedded resting areas as well as a seamless traceability from the farms to the shelf.
- We offer milk and dairy products from meadow milk. The product 'Noordholland Premiumkäse' (Noordholland premium cheese) made of meadow milk is available in all our stores. Moreover, we offer the product 'Meierkamp Weidemilch' (Meierkamp meadow milk) regionally. The milk for both products originates exclusively from controlled pasture management where the cows graze in meadows for at least six hours a day on 120 days per year. In the scope of our 'ALDI aktuell' (ALDI Informs) special-buy range, we also sell fresh beef from Irish pasture cattle.
- Our special-buy product buffalo mozzarella is subject to the minimum requirements of the animal protection association FOUR PAWS in order to improve the breeding conditions of buffalos and their calves.

The following targets are set:

- We consider excluding the sourcing of fresh meat from pregnant cattle irrespective of the stage of pregnancy (all trimesters), unless the slaughter was effected on the basis of medical indication. We expect our suppliers to proactively develop appropriate concepts and measures on this issue.
- In co-operation with relevant stakeholders, we consider feasible transition periods and exclusion dates for the all-year and temporary tethering in milk production.
- We consider extending the sale of the product 'Meierkamp Weidemilch' (Meierkamp meadow milk) and 'Meierkamp Alpenmilch' (Meierkamp alpine milk) to further regions of Germany in co-operation with our suppliers in order to offer animal welfare oriented alternatives additional to the organic product throughout our stores.
- We consider expanding our product range by further products containing meadow milk.

5. Fish and seafood

The following measures are implemented:

- We sell fish and seafood that bear the MSC and ASC seals, which ensure sustainability throughout the entire supply chain for fish and seafood from wild-caught stocks and aquaculture (e. g. use of environmentally-friendly methods of catching wild fish, responsible handling of fish stocks).
- We only sell preserved tuna that bears the 'Dolphin Safe' label.
- Furthermore, we do not sell any fish species that are categorised as 'threatened', 'protected' or 'moratorium species' on international species protection lists or such that do not comply with the requirements of our internal sustainability monitoring.
- We refrain from buying and selling the following species: eel, arapaima, bluefin tuna, orange roughy, rat tail fish, bigeye tuna, all shark species, lobster, parrotfish, John Dory, ray, red snapper, sturgeons caught in the wild, venus clams, whiting.
- For our fish and seafood product range, we have developed a Fish Purchasing Policy. The ALDI North Fish Purchasing Policy is available on our website [\[→\]](#).

The following target is set:

- We increase the proportion of more sustainable seafood and fishery products and campaign for the preservation of endangered fish species.

6. Vegetarian/vegan products

The following measures are implemented:

- We help our customers to follow a vegetarian or vegan diet by offering them corresponding products bearing the 'V-Label' of ProVeg Deutschland e.V. (formerly Vegetarierbund Deutschland e.V.). The V-Label can be found on a great variety of meatless or purely plant-based products such as alternatives for meat and cold cuts, ready-made meals, spreads as well as wine and juices and many other products.
- Moreover, we have introduced our own brand 'Mein Veggie Tag' (my veggie day) for vegetarian and vegan products in our range.
- We will require that our suppliers refrain from using avoidable small quantities of animal components in our products, e. g.:
 - In cheese production, coagulation of the milk is achieved by using a mixture of enzymes – so-called rennet – which can be of animal origin or microbially produced. If feasible without affecting taste and consistency, we avoid the use of rennet of animal origin. In this respect, each year we publish a list [\[→\]](#) on our website showing which cheese products were produced with microbial or without rennet .
 - Wines and juices can be naturally cloudy. Our vegan juices and wines are filtered only by plant-based or mineral processing agents instead of gelatine. These wines and juices are labelled with the V-Label.

The following target is set:

- We continue to expand our range of vegetarian and vegan products, depending on demand. Furthermore, we extend the certification of our products with the V-Label.

7. Non-food products

The following measures are implemented:

- We have stipulated that no meat and no down or feathers from force-feeding and live plucking are supplied to us or processed in our products. Here, we are guided, among other things, by the 'Positive List of Geese Producers' from the animal protection association FOUR PAWS.
- We exclude the practice of mulesing in sheep.
- In our product range, we regularly offer products made of leather alternatives (such as footwear, trousers, bags).
- Our end products in the ranges of cosmetics, personal hygiene, washing agents and detergents are not animal-tested, as regulated by law. In the production of finished cosmetic products and ingredients, animal testing has been banned by law already since 2004 and 2009, respectively.
- We offer vegan products in our range of cosmetics and personal hygiene. Moreover, in the scope of our 'ALDI aktuell' (ALDI Informs) special-buy range, we offer certified natural cosmetics (e. g. with BDIH certification).
- We do not sell cosmetic products containing mink oil.

The following targets are set:

- We will gradually convert our products containing down and/or feathers (such as textiles, bedding) to goods awarded with the certifications 'Responsible Down Standard' (RDS), 'Global Traceable Down Standard' (Global TDS) or 'Downpass' from 2018.
- We consider converting our products containing lamb's wool to goods awarded with the certification 'Responsible Wool Standard' (RWS).
- From autumn 2017, we will label our vegan cosmetic and personal hygiene products with the logo 'Vegan Trademark' of the Vegan Society, which also confirms that the products are free of animal testing. We consider an expansion to further commodity groups.

3. Transparency and traceability

We make our supply chain transparent and ensure the complete traceability of our products.

The following measures are implemented:

- We expect the complete traceability of the origin of our products, as stipulated by law, as this is a key aspect for ensuring increased animal welfare. Beyond the level required by law, our business partners must provide ALDI North with this information as well as information about animal welfare matters immediately upon request and have established suitable procedures for this purpose.
- We label the products bearing a seal or a certificate clearly and transparently on the packaging, in our advertising and in our stores for the orientation of our customers.
- We request batch-specific information on the origin for an increasing number of meat and meat-containing products from our suppliers. For these products, our customers find the ALDI Transparency Code (ATC) as well as a QR-Code on the packaging which allows access to more detailed information about the selected product. Our transparency features can be accessed via our website [\[→\]](#) or directly at transparenz.aldi-nord.de [\[→\]](#).
- We offer certain animal products from regional production, such as eggs and milk. Some of these products are labelled with the 'Regionalfenster' (regional window) logo issued by Regionalfenster e.V. 'Regionalfenster' is a voluntary declaration of origin, indicating the regional provenience and processing of foods. With the information provided by 'Regionalfenster', consumers can easily identify where the product originates from and where it was processed or packed.
- We offer comprehensive information for fish products, seafood and products containing fish by labelling our fish products on the individual packaging. Besides the information required by law, we also provide the exact time of catching, the vessel as well as the port of landing, if possible. Furthermore, the supplier shall be in a position to present the entire value chain of a product based on the product specification (batch number in connection with the relevant best-before date).
- Our fresh chicken and turkey products originate almost exclusively from Germany. This means that all production stages take place in Germany. The animals and their parents must hatch and grow up in Germany, be fed with feed from German feed mills and be slaughtered and processed in Germany.

- We only procure fresh meat from Brazil from slaughterhouses that have joined the 'Cattle Agreement'¹. We can thus rule out any association with the deforestation of the Amazon, where countless animal species live. Furthermore, social aspects such as the exclusion of forced labour, respecting the rights of indigenous people and land grabbing are taken into account.
- All our suppliers are obliged to comply with the BSCI Code of Conduct. Additionally, we have committed our suppliers of meat products and cold cuts to comply with the code of conduct of the association Fleischwirtschaft e.V. (beef industry). This codex stipulates that companies based in Germany and their contractors shall comply with social standards, particularly regarding the accommodation of employees from other EU member states.
- In the scope of our membership in the Leather Working Group (LWG), we actively take part in the working group on the issue of animal welfare (Animal Welfare Sub Group – LWG AWG). The working group aims at an increasing integration of animal welfare aspects in leather production. To this end, the first step will be to improve the traceability of the leather input particularly.

The following targets are set:

- We continue to expand the use of ATC and QR-Codes to further commodity groups (e. g. fresh eggs as well as fish and fish-containing products) and constantly strive to further expand the amount of information provided.
- We strive for the traceability of cashmere, merino and alpaca wool as well as leather.

¹ 'Minimum Criteria for Industrial Scale Cattle Operations in the Brazilian Amazon Biome'

4. Inspections and audits

We inspect and audit our business partners to ensure our quality and responsibility commitments towards our customers.

The following measures are implemented:

- Among other things, we obligate our business partners to maintain written documentation of inspections relating to compliance with legal regulations, industry standards and specific ALDI North requirements. We expect our suppliers to be able to provide us with evidence of the regular performance of inspections at any time.
- We also undertake unannounced on-the-spot visits on a random basis to inspect the available documentation and to comply with legal regulations as well as industry standards and specific ALDI North requirements. For this purpose, we commission auditors from independent, accredited certification institutes such as the QAL Gesellschaft für Qualitätssicherung in der Agrar- und Lebensmittelwirtschaft mbH (association for quality assurance in agriculture and food industry). Such on-the-spot visits include the inspection of husbandry conditions, feeding, housing (farm, slaughterhouse), transportation, stunning and other species-specific requirements. We obligate our suppliers to provide insight both to ALDI North and to the assigned third parties.

The following targets are set:

- We will expand the application of inspection and certification systems as well as our own standards that go beyond the level required by law and cover animal welfare matters.
- By the end of 2018, we will perform random checks regarding the requirements stipulated in this Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy through self-initiated or external audits: exclusion of eggs from caged hens in processed products, exclusion of piglet castration (boar fattening), exclusion of slaughter of pregnant cattle, exclusion of live-plucking/force-feeding of geese and ducks.

5. Contribution to animal welfare

With our animal welfare activities, we pursue the objective of increasing the animal welfare standard beyond the level required by law. In doing so, we act in accordance with what is economically and scientifically feasible.

The following measures are implemented:

- In the scope of various project groups, we are actively committed to the issue of animal welfare.
- As a founding member, we actively take part in the voluntary and cross-sector 'Initiative Tierwohl' (animal welfare initiative) in the pork and poultry industry. Together with other partners, we are campaigning for the constant advancement of basic requirements and criteria. We promote the idea of incorporating further species, such as cattle, in order to comprehensively improve the animal welfare standards here as well.
- We cooperate with our business partners to achieve an improvement in animal welfare. Some of our strategic suppliers, for instance, are actively involved in projects relating to beak trimming, piglet castration/boar fattening or chick culling.
- We also expect our business partners to be proactively involved in the development and continuous advancement of industry standards as well as being committed to initiatives, networks, research or their own projects on animal welfare matters.

The following targets are set:

- We will expand our active participation in relevant animal welfare initiatives and animal welfare networks to strengthen our commitment to animal welfare.
- We will expand collaboration with suppliers to jointly achieve improvements in animal welfare, e. g. on the topic of slaughtering pregnant cattle, dehorning cattle and docking pigs' tails.

6. Proactive dialogue

We engage in a proactive and transparent dialogue with our stakeholders and, in particular, are a reliable point of contact for our customers.

The following measures are implemented:

- We increase awareness of animal welfare among our customers. We do this by informing specifically on our products, our website, in our stores and in our advertising and by pointing out our animal welfare commitment (e. g. with seals and certifications, billboards, stickers).
- We continuously inform our employees about our animal welfare commitment (e. g. through staff magazines).
- We train our buyers in charge on the Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy and keep them informed on current developments.
- We regularly engage in a constructive dialogue with animal welfare organizations such as the Albert Schweitzer Foundation for Our Contemporaries, Deutscher Tierschutzbund, Compassion in World Farming (CIWF) or FOUR PAWS and other relevant experts.

The following target is set:

- We constantly extend the communication on animal welfare issues in order to increase the awareness on this issue and to promote sustainable consumption.

7. Partners and standards



Deutscher Tierschutzbund [→]

The association Deutscher Tierschutzbund e.V. (German animal welfare association) was founded as the umbrella organization of animal protection societies and animal shelters in Germany. The association campaigns for improved husbandry conditions for farm animals, among others. Therefore, the association launched the animal protection label 'Für Mehr Tierschutz' (for more animal welfare) for poultry and pigs, for which farmers have to comply with defined criteria of animal welfare. In the meantime, the label has been extended to the species of laying hens and milk cows.



Initiative Tierwohl [→]

The organization 'Initiative Tierwohl' (animal welfare initiative) promotes the improvement of animal welfare in farm animal husbandry as well as a more animal-friendly meat production and implements standards that go beyond the statutory provisions in as many farms as possible. In close co-operation with farmers, the meat industry and the food retail trade, the initiative has defined specific measures for more animal welfare in the pork, poultry and turkey husbandry. The member businesses have to comply with a stipulated list of basic requirements which is based on measures for animal-friendly farming, hygiene and animal health.

Compliance with these animal welfare criteria is regularly monitored by independent certification institutes. The additional costs for the farmers are funded by the participating food retailers.



KAT [→]

KAT (Association for Controlled Alternative Animal Rearing Systems), founded in 1995, is the most important supervisory body overseeing the origin and traceability of eggs from alternative poultry rearing methods within Germany and KAT member countries. The comprehensive guidelines of KAT encompass the requirements of the German poultry rearing provision as well as aspects of animal welfare in the organic, barn and free range farming. The criteria of KAT go beyond the statutory provisions and are regularly monitored by accredited testing institutes. The KAT data base includes all goods movements of the eggs. By entering a nine or ten-digit code consisting of letters and numbers printed on the egg into the KAT website, the customer can see what kind of rearing system, country of production and farm the egg originates from.



ProVeg [\[→\]](#)

ProVeg Deutschland e.V. (formerly Vegetarierbund Deutschland e.V.) has been campaigning for a long-term reduction of meat consumption and the establishment of a plant-based lifestyle as an attractive and healthy alternative since 1867. For consumers, experts and businesses ProVeg Deutschland has established itself as the leading contact point for any issues regarding a vegan/vegetarian living. In Germany, ProVeg Deutschland is responsible for awarding the V-Label. The V-Label informs customers about whether a product is vegetarian or vegan and serves as a reliable decision support at the shelf.

8. List of links

- Albert Schweitzer Foundation for Our Contemporaries
- ALDI North – Fish Purchasing Policy
- ALDI North – Traceability and transparency
- ALDI North – Animal welfare at ALDI North
- ALDI North – Vegetarian/Vegan
- ALDI Transparency Code (ATC)
- BSCI – Business Social Compliance Initiative
- CIWF – Compassion in World Farming
- Deutscher Tierschutzbund
- Downpass
- EU organic seal
- FOUR PAWS
- Fur Free Retailer Program
- Global TDS – Global Traceable Down Standard
- ITW – Initiative Tierwohl
- KAT – Association for Controlled Alternative Animal Rearing Systems
- LWG – Leather Working Group
- ProVeg Deutschland (formerly Vegetarierbund Deutschland)
- QAL – Gesellschaft für Qualitätssicherung in der Agrar- und Lebensmittelwirtschaft mbH
- QS – Quality and food safety
- RDS – Responsible Down Standard
- Regionalfenster
- RWS – Responsible Wool Standard
- The Vegan Society
- VLOG – Industry Association Food without Genetic Engineering

**Further information regarding our CR activities can be
found on our website www.cr-aldinord.com**

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