

Guideline No. POS5/2013

Pacific Organic Standard(POS): Worm Treatments

1. Purpose

This guideline provides clarification with regard to the worm treatments for lambs under the Pacific Organic Standard.

2. Scope

This guidance applies to all POETCom Approved Certification Partners (ACPs) and Registered Participatory Guarantee Systems (RPGS).

3. Background

The POS states:

5.7.1 The operator shall take all practical measures to ensure the health and well-being of animals through using preventive animal husbandry practices. These include:

- selection of appropriate breeds or strains of animals;*
- adoption of husbandry practices appropriate to the requirements of each species, such as regular exercise and access to pasture and/or open-air runs, to encourage the natural immunological defences of the animal to stimulate natural immunity and tolerance to diseases;*
- provision of good quality organic feed;*
- appropriate stocking densities;*
- grazing rotation and management.*

5.7.2 If an animal becomes sick or injured despite preventive measures, it shall be treated promptly. The initial use of natural, herbal or homeopathic products or practices is recommended in preference to the use of chemically synthesised veterinary products. Producers shall not withhold medication where it will result in unnecessary suffering for livestock, even if the use of such medication will cause the animal to lose its organic status. An operator may use synthetic veterinary drugs or antibiotics only if:

- a. preventive and alternative practices are unlikely to be effective in treating sickness or injury;*
- b. the drugs are used under the supervision of a veterinarian or other suitably qualified supervisor;*
and
- c. withholding periods are not less than double those required by national legislation or where this is not available – as established by other neighbouring countries legislation, e.g. Australia, New Zealand, or a minimum of 48 hours, whichever is longer.*

4. Guidelines

The POS is to be applied and in the first instance it is recommended to utilise anthelmintic plants such as papaya seeds for parasite prevention. If such practices are unsuccessful in the case of

parasites treatment for lambs the EU COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No 889/2008 Article 24 #4 with regard to parasite treatments will be accepted as the Guideline for implementation of the POS.

Article 24 #4. States: “With the exception of vaccinations, treatments for parasites and compulsory eradication schemes where an animal or group of animals receive more than three courses of treatments with chemically-synthesised allopathic veterinary medicinal products or antibiotics within 12 months, or more than one course of treatment if their productive lifecycle is less than one year, the livestock concerned, or produce derived from them, may not be sold as organic products, and the livestock shall undergo the conversion periods laid down in” the POS.

5. References

European Union Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008

Pacific Organic Standard (2008)