

THE TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR THE IMPORTS OF BREEDING CATTLE

A- Breeding Female Cattle

1. The breeding animals to be imported shall be of the following breeds:
 - a. Dairy breeds; Holstein, Jersey, European Red (Danish, Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian Red)
 - b. Dual-purpose breeds; Simmental (Fleckvieh), Brown Swiss, Montbéliarde
 - c. Beef Breeds; Angus, Charolais, Limousine, Hereford, Belgium Blue
 - d. Buffaloes; Mediterranean Buffalo, Jaffarabadi, Murrah
 - e. Import demands for the breeds other than those stated in this article shall be evaluated and resolved by the Directorate General of Livestock.
2. The breeding animals intended to be imported shall have pedigrees/breeding certificates (purity rate shall be at least 87.5% or they shall be in category “A”). The dam, sire and the inseminating bulls of breeding beef cattle and buffaloes shall be of the same breed and they shall have a pedigree/breeding certificate. These documents shall be drawn up and approved by the relevant competent authority or by authorized associations/cooperatives of the exporter country.
3. The animals shall be born and raised in the country of export or in the countries which are approved by the Ministry for the imports of breeding cattle.
4. For imports to be made as of 01.01.2025, the country of origin of breeding animals and the country of loading shall be the same.
5. The animals shall bear eartags/microchips for their identification.
6. The breeding animals intended to be imported shall be progeny-proven or genomic-proven and they shall be the daughters of the bulls of the same breed, which are obtained through artificial insemination. This situation shall be stated in their pedigrees. (This requirement does not apply to buffaloes and beef breeds).
7. Pregnant animals; animals of dairy and dual-purpose breeds shall be inseminated with the semen of progeny-proven or genomic-proven bulls of the same breed; natural or artificial insemination shall be used for buffaloes and beef breeds. This situation shall be stated in their pedigrees/breeding certificates.
8. The sire of the progeny of the female cattle of Holstein breed shall not carry the genetic defects such as BLAD, CVM and Brachyspina. This situation shall be stated in the pedigrees/breeding certificates of the animal to be selected or in the pedigrees of the bull whose semen is used for insemination, or in the document drawn up and approved by the authorized associations/cooperatives.

9. The animals shall carry the phenotypic traits of their breeds.
10. The animals shall not have developmental disorders, cachectic, visible physical and orthopedic defects (lameness, blindness, etc.), pathological formations (tumors, abscesses, conjunctivitis, skin diseases, extra teats, etc.). Their conformation shall be fine and they shall have a healthy appearance.
11. The milk yield (milk yield records for 305 days) of the dams of dairy/dual-purpose breeds shall not be less than the values stated in the table below. If the dams are in their first lactation, the value for the first lactation and if they have more than one lactation period, the average of those lactation periods shall be taken into consideration, and they shall not be below the values for 305 days shown in the table. The documents attesting the milk yields of dams for periods less than 180 days shall not be accepted for evaluation; however, in the selection of pregnant heifers/female calves whose dams are in the first lactation period, milk yield values of the maternal granddam shall be taken into consideration if there are no milk yield records of the dam or milk yield records are below 180 days. Milk yield values of the maternal granddam shall not be below 305 days. These values shall be verified through the pedigrees of the animals (It shall be sufficient to cover one of these values in the pedigree).

Minimum milk yield values of the dam for 305 days

Breed	Data for the first lactation (Lt)	Average lactation (Lt)
Holstein	8000	8500
Simmental	6000	6500
Brown Swiss	6000	6500
Montbéliarde	6000	6500
Jersey	6000	6500
European Red	7500	8.000
Buffaloes **	1800	2000

** Milk yield of buffaloes shall be calculated for a duration of 270 days.

12. On the day of selection, the age of the non-pregnant animals shall be as follows:
 - Non-pregnant female cattle : 4-12 months old (120-360 days) [it shall be 4-15 months old (120-450 days) for the female cattle in the scope of projects of the ministry]
 - Non-pregnant buffaloes : 12-24 months old (360-720 days)

13. On the day of selection, the minimum live weight of female cattle shall be as follows:

Breed	Non-pregnant (4-12 months old) (Kg)	Non-pregnant (4-15 months old) (Kg)	Pregnant (3-7 months old) (Kg)
Holstein	125 – 320	125 – 400	425 – 500
Simmental	140 – 370	140 – 450	475 – 550
Brown Swiss	135 – 320	135 – 400	475 – 550
Montbéliarde	140 – 320	140 – 400	450 – 525
Jersey	100 – 270	100 – 325	375 – 425
European Red	125 – 320	125 – 400	425 – 500
Charollais	150 – 370	150 – 450	530 – 625
Limousine	130 – 370	130 – 450	400 – 625
Hereford	125 – 310	125 – 390	350 – 575
Belgium Blue	150 – 370	150 – 450	530 – 625
Angus	125 – 310	125 – 390	350 – 575
Buffalo *	240 – 320	200 – 400	450 – 650

*The age of non-pregnant buffaloes shall 12-24 months (360-720 days) and their gestation period is 3-8 months (90-240 days).

14. On the day of selection, the age of pregnant animals at the time of insemination shall be as follows:

- Dairy breeds: 13-20 months old (390-600 days);
- Dual-purpose and beef breeds: 13-22 months old (390-660 days)
- Buffaloes : 20-40 months old (600-1200 days).

15. On the day of selection, the gestation period of animals according to the submitted documents shall be as follows;

- Cattle : 3-7 months (90-210 days),
- Buffaloes : 3-8 months (90-240 days).

B-Breeding Male Cattle

- 1- The breeding male cattle to be imported shall be of beef breeds (buffaloes excluded).
- 2- The breeding animals to be imported shall have pedigrees which shall be drawn up and approved by the relevant competent authority or by the authorized associations/cooperatives of the exporter country, and which shall cover data for at least two generations.
- 3- The breeding animals to be imported shall be the progeny of progeny-proven or genomic-proven bulls of the same breed (This requirement does not apply to buffaloes).
- 4- The animals shall bear eartags/microchips for their identification.
- 5- On the day of selection, the age of the breeding animals shall be as follows:

- Cattle : 12 – 24 months old (360-720 days)
- Buffaloes : 12 – 24 months old (360-720 days)

- 6- On the day of selection, the minimum live weight of the breeding animals shall be as follows:
 - Cattle : 12 months old (360 days): 360 kg
 - Buffaloes : 12 months old (360 days): 300 kg
- 7- Milk yield of the dams of buffalo bulls for 270 days shall be minimum 1800 lt.
- 8- The animals shall carry the phenotypic traits of their breeds.
- 9- The animals shall not have developmental disorders, cachectic, visible physical and orthopedic defects (lameness, blindness, etc.), pathological formations (tumors, abscesses, conjunctivitis and skin diseases, etc.). Their conformation shall be fine and they shall have a healthy appearance.
- 10- The testicles shall be lowered to the scrotal bladder, shall be symmetrical to each other and there shall be no anomaly.

C- Other issues:

- 1- Besides the abovementioned criteria, the Directorate General may require additional information and documents when necessary. The importer shall be obliged to provide required additional information and documents.
- 2- According to the “Mandate on the Natural Insemination Activities for Bulls [bovine (buffaloes included)]”, the assent of the Department of Animal Breeding under the Directorate General Livestock shall be received for the imports of breeding male cattle intended for natural insemination.
- 3- According to the “Mandate on the Natural Insemination Activities for Bulls”, the imported breeding beef breed male cattle, which natural insemination permit is obtained for, shall be used in enterprises permitted for natural insemination activities. When the bull with permit is sold to another enterprise, the purchasing enterprise shall be obliged to re-apply for obtaining natural insemination permit.