**THE TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR THE IMPORTS OF BREEDING CATTLE**

1. **Breeding Female Cattle**
2. The breeding animals to be imported shall be of the following breeds:
3. Dairy breeds; Holstein, Jersey,
4. Dual-purpose breeds; Simmental (Fleckvieh), Brown Swiss, Montbéliarde
5. Beef Breeds; Angus, Charolais, Limousine, Hereford, Belgium Blue
6. Buffalos; Mediterranean Buffalo, Jaffarabadi, Murrah
7. Import demands for the breeds other than those stated in this article shall be evaluated and resolved by the Directorate General of Livestock.
8. The breeding animals intended to be imported shall have pedigrees/breeding certificates (purity rate shall be at least 87.5%). These documents shall be drawn up and approved by the relevant competent authority or by authorized associations/cooperatives of the exporter country.
9. 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.
10. The animals shall bear eartags/microchips for their identification.
11. 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. This situation shall be stated in their pedigrees. (This requirement does not apply to buffalos).
12. Pregnant animals shall be inseminated by the semen of the bulls of the same breed through artificial insemination. This situation shall be stated in their pedigrees(This requirement does not apply to buffalos; in addition, female animals of black & white Holstein breeds shall be inseminated by the semen of black & white Holstein bulls, and female animals of red & white Holstein breeds shall be inseminated by the semen of red & white Holstein bulls.)
13. The sire and the progeny of the female cattle of Holstein breed shall not carry the genetic defects such asBLAD, CVM and Brachyspina. This situation shall be stated in their pedigrees.
14. The animals shall carry the phenotypic traits of their breeds.
15. The animals shall not have developmental disorders, cachectic, visible physical and orthopedic defects (lameness, blindness, etc.), pathological formations (tumors, abscesses, conjunctivitis, skin diseases, abnormal teats, etc.). Their conformation shall be fine and have a healthy appearance.
16. 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 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 below. 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 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. (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 |
| Buffalos \*\* | 1800  | 2000  |

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

1. On the day of selection, the age of the non-pregnant animals shall be as follows:

 Non-pregnant female cattle : 4-15 months old (120-450 days)

 Non-pregnant buffalos : 12-24 months old (360-720 days)

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Breed** | **Non-pregnant (4-15 months old)****(Kg)** | **Pregnant (3-7 months old )****(Kg)** |
| Holstein | 125 - 400 | 425 - 500 |
| Simmental | 140 - 450 | 475 - 550 |
| Brown Swiss | 135 - 400 | 475 - 550 |
| Montbéliarde | 140 - 400 | 450 - 525 |
| Jersey | 100 - 325 | 375 - 425 |
| Charollais | 150 - 450 | 530 - 625 |
| Limousine | 150 - 450 | 530 - 625 |
| Hereford | 140 - 390  | 490 - 575 |
| Belgium Blue | 150 - 450 | 530 - 625 |
| Angus | 140 - 390 | 490 - 575 |
| Buffalo (\*\*) | 200 - 400 | 450 - 650 |

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

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

 - Cattle : 13-20 months old (390-600 days); 13-22 months old (390-660 days) for Simmental, Montbéliarde and Brown Swiss breeds

 - Buffalos : 20-40 months old (600-1200 days).

1. 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),

-Buffalos : 3-8 months (90-240 days).

**B-Breeding Male Cattle**

* 1. The breeding male cattle to be imported shall be of beef breeds (buffalos 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 progeny-proven or they shall be the progeny of genomic-proven bulls of the same breed (This requirement does not apply to buffalos).
	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 : 6 –18 months old (180-540 days)

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

* 1. On the day of selection, the minimum live weight of the breeding animals shall be as follows:

- Cattle : 6 months old (180 days): 200 kg

- Buffalos : 12 months old (360 days): 300 kg

* 1. Milk yield of the dams of buffalo bulls for 270 days shall be minimum 1800 lt.
	2. The animals shall carry the phenotypic traits of their breeds.
	3. 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 have a healthy appearance.
	4. 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 is obliged to provide required additional information and documents.