

THE TECHNICAL CRITERIA FOR THE IMPORTS OF BREEDING CATTLE

A- BREEDING FEMALE CATTLE AND BUFFALOES

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, Charollais, Limousine, Hereford, Belgium Blue, Brangus, Wagyu
 - 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 selection process shall be carried out among animals that possess either a **Breeding Certificate** (a document issued for breeding animals whose dam and sire are known, but whose ancestors' performance records are unknown) or a **Pedigree** (animals with documented dam and sire, as well as information and performance records of their ancestors), as specified in the Communiqué No. 2023/22 on Amending the Communiqué on the Importation of Breeding and Non-Breeding Animals and Reproductive Products (Communiqué No: 2025/23).
3. The breeding dairy and dual-purpose animals intended to be imported shall have pedigrees or breeding certificates. 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 or breeding certificate. These documents shall be drawn up and approved by the associations/cooperatives of the country of origin or by legal entities engaged in issuing breeding certificates/pedigrees (**Legal entity documents are valid for South American and Australian countries**).
4. For imports breeding animals, the country of origin and the country of loading shall be the same.
5. The animals shall bear eartags, etc. for their identification.
6. The animals shall carry the phenotypic traits of their breeds.
7. 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.
8. 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; if the dam has not completed its first lactation, its milk yield shall be calculated for 305 days. 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. 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.

9. Milk yield records for animals (those which have no yield records of their own, but have only records of dam and sire) with breeding certificate (pedigree or breeding certificate) shall be taken into consideration on the basis of country/state average.

10. 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)

11. 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
Brangus	125 – 350	125 – 400	350 – 625
Wagyu	125 – 310	125 – 390	350 – 575
Buffalo *	240 – 320	200 – 400	450 – 650

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

12. 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).

13. On the day of selection, the gestation period of animals according to the submitted documents (if available in the document) 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, etc. 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 relevant legislation on bovine (buffaloes included) animals, 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-** The pedigree/breeding certificate of breeding male cattle to be imported for Semen Production Centers shall be requested at the application stage and the opinion of the Breeding Department is obtained in terms of technical and health criteria.

- 4-** According to the relevant legislation, the imported breeding beef breed male cattle, which natural insemination permit is obtained for from the Ministry, 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.