



# **International Position Statement on Animal Welfare**

“The ALDI SOUTH Group of Companies conducts its business according to the principle of corporate responsibility. In all we do, we assume responsibility towards our customers, business partners, employees, the community, and the environment.”

**(Source: Preamble Corporate Responsibility Principles of the ALDI SOUTH Group)**

This Position Statement is intended to describe how we fulfill our international responsibility towards people and planet in the area of animal welfare by means of our commitment and efforts. In this context, we focus on the essentials and work to develop simple and effective solutions to the complex questions and challenges faced. The following document provides an overview of the approach taken by the ALDI SOUTH Group. Each of the ALDI SOUTH countries is individually responsible for further developing and implementing this approach.

# 1. Our aspiration

Sustainable buying practices are essential for the long-term success of our business. We assume responsibility across our global supply chains and for the resources used in the production of our goods. Our aspiration is that all our products be made in a sustainable way. We consider environmental and social criteria, including animal welfare, throughout our product supply chains – from raw materials to final production.

As an international retailer, we trade considerable quantities of meat, dairy, and other animal-based food and non-food products. Irrespective of the high complexity resulting from the variety of products we sell and the markets we operate in, we strive to approach this topic at international level.

Our international structure, our market position, our decades of experience, and the daily commitment shown by our more than 100,000 employees provide us with the potential to make important contributions to more sustainable development. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals specified within the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development require measures in various areas related to farm animal welfare (Figure 1).



Figure 1:  
**Selected UN Sustainable Development Goals related to animal welfare (Source: United Nations 2016)**

We promote the achievement of these global goals by engaging in initiatives and implementing a range of national Animal Welfare Policies.

A basic requirement of all our business relationships is that our suppliers comply with the applicable legislation and relevant standards.

We strive to continuously improve animal welfare standards throughout our supply chains.

## 2. Our approach

Our approach to animal welfare is guided by the globally recognised 'Five Freedoms' proposed by the Farm Animal Welfare Council (FAWC):

- 1. Freedom from hunger and thirst** - by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour.
- 2. Freedom from discomfort** - by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area.
- 3. Freedom from pain, injury or disease** - by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
- 4. Freedom to express normal behaviour** - by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind.
- 5. Freedom from fear and distress** - by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering

This International Position Statement serves as the foundation for our commitment and efforts in the area of animal welfare, and demonstrates the extent to which the individual countries of the ALDI SOUTH Group have aligned their measures within this area. In addition, our national policies constitute binding documents for our suppliers and contain more specific commitments adapted to the requirements of the respective national markets.

The International Position Statement shall apply to all of our food and non-food private label products within the following product groups:

### **Food products**

- Meat and poultry products from all animal species
- Shell eggs
- Milk and dairy products
- Fish and seafood products

### **Non-food products**

- Textiles and bedding
- Health and beauty products, cleaners, detergents

Other product groups may be added to the scope of application of the International Position Statement at any time.

# 3. Our implementation

## 3.1 Governance and responsibilities

While our International Position Statement describes the position of the ALDI SOUTH Group as a whole, our national buying policies constitute binding documents for our buyers and suppliers, and form essential elements of our purchasing contracts.

We expect all of our suppliers and business partners to adhere to these standards, as well as other specific requirements which go beyond these standards and which have become part of our contractual relationships. Our suppliers and business partners are expected to apply these standards to all sub-suppliers throughout the entire production process. Where instances of non-compliance with our policies are detected, suppliers are expected to provide corrective action plans that clearly demonstrate how the relevant violations will be resolved within a specified timeframe.

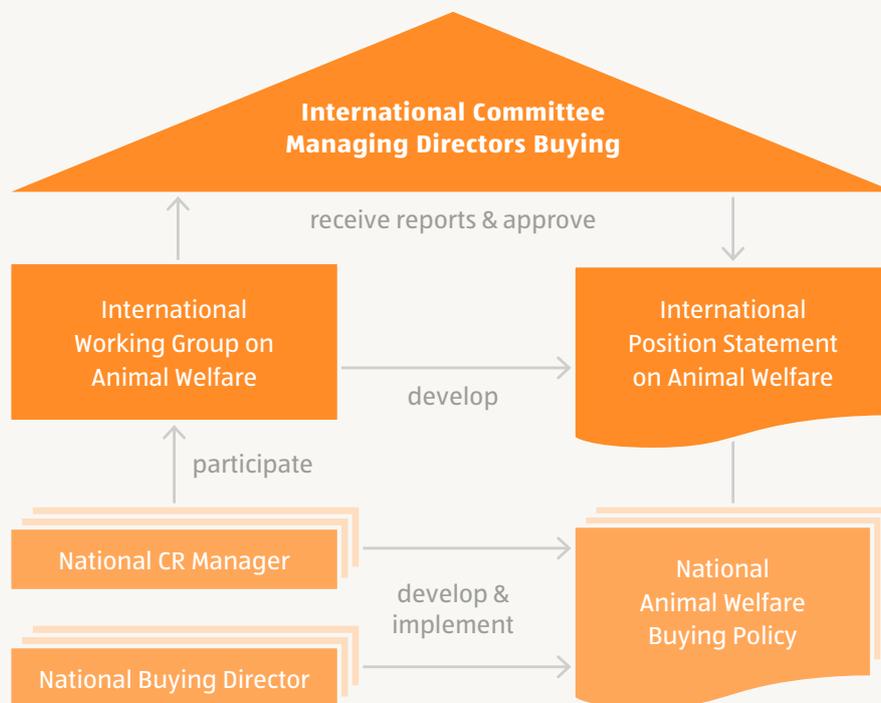


Figure 2: Policy development and implementation at the ALDI SOUTH Group

We implement our corporate responsibility requirements in close cooperation with our suppliers. We expect our suppliers to ensure that all personnel responsible for the handling of live animals is effectively trained to carry out routine husbandry practices in a way that minimises pain and distress, and, where necessary, is qualified to promote good standards of animal welfare within their areas of responsibility.

We require our suppliers to ensure traceability of raw materials back to their origin. Upon request, the supplier must be able to provide information on the entire value chain on the basis of product labelling. In the event that traceability is limited due to structural characteristics of the industry at national level, we encourage efforts to improve traceability.

As required, we conduct our own audits/spot checks in order to verify adherence with our policies or entrust third-party service providers with this task.

We define goals at national and international level and evaluate their status of achievement on an annual basis.

The Managing Directors Buying within the individual ALDI SOUTH countries are informed on the status of implementation of the respective national policies on a regular basis (at least annually).

The Animal Welfare Policies in their current version are assessed and, if required, adjusted on an annual basis. This is the only way to guarantee the long-term sustainable and responsible procurement of our animal-based products. At national level, the relevant policies are further developed by the national corporate responsibility departments in consultation with NGOs and/or national expert committees. An International Working Group on Animal Welfare, which comprises Corporate Responsibility Managers from the individual ALDI SOUTH countries and is chaired by the Corporate Responsibility International (CRI) department, is responsible for further developing our strategic approach at international level. Proposals for updates of our international approach are approved within the scope of the International Committee Managing Directors Buying .

The implementation of our standards during daily operations and the implementation of specific commitments, goals, and measures is the responsibility of the respective national buying departments and supported and coordinated by the national corporate responsibility departments.

### 3.2 Addressing key challenges

Irrespective of the complexity of the topic of animal welfare – especially regarding our various products from different areas (fresh meat and dairy as well as textile and cosmetics products) which fall within this scope and the various markets we operate in – we are aware of the fact that there are a number of key challenges that need to be addressed by the entire industry. We are committed to continuously improving our supply chains with regard to key challenges such as those described below.



Figure 3:  
**Key challenges to be addressed for improved animal welfare**

- Avoiding or improving housing conditions where animals are provided with very limited space and cannot move freely or express normal patterns of behaviour ('close confinement')
- Minimising the need for routine surgical procedures that are conducted to prevent problems or injuries associated with abnormal behaviour within certain husbandry systems ('routine mutilations') and improving necessary procedures in order to minimise pain and distress
- Ensuring that animals are rendered unconscious before being slaughtered ('pre-slaughter stunning')
- Limiting the duration of live transport
- Avoiding the use of prophylactic antibiotics and growth promoting substances
- Enabling the natural behaviour of animals by offering manipulable materials like straw bales and roughage ('environmental enrichment')
- Certification of good husbandry conditions and on-product communication to customers
- Measuring the status of improvement and reporting on the progress made with regard to those challenges.

We acknowledge that national market conditions strongly influence the materiality of specific topics for the individual countries of the ALDI SOUTH Group and that different measures are required for individual animal species or husbandry systems. Therefore, the individual countries of the ALDI SOUTH Group develop their policies in accordance with their national market conditions and priorities but under consideration of our international commitment to continuously improving our performance with regard to the key challenges listed above. We strive to implement more specific requirements and targets at international level in line with our future progress.

### 3.3 International achievements of the ALDI SOUTH Group

While our national Animal Welfare Policies focus on different market-specific goals and measures, the following commitments have already been adopted at international level:

- We completely **refrain from** using raw materials derived from **exotic and/or endangered animal species** for our products.
- For products containing down, feathers, or duck or goose meat, we contractually **prohibit both live-plucking and force feeding**.
- As a matter of principle, we do **not offer** any products containing **angora wool or real fur**.
- For products made from merino wool, we contractually **prohibit** our suppliers from using the **mulesing method**.
- The ALDI SOUTH Group allows **animal testing** neither for finished health and beauty products nor for detergents and cleaners.
- We offer our customers **vegetarian and vegan products as alternatives** to animal-based products and continuously review our corresponding product lines. The respective products are labelled accordingly to ensure that they are recognisable for consumers.
- We offer **organic products and other better welfare product** options within the areas of meat, poultry, egg, and dairy products, and ensure that these products are recognisable by providing corresponding information on the packaging, in our stores, and in our advertising materials.
- We are committed to sourcing 100% of our shell **eggs from cage-free supply chains by 2025** at the latest.
- We require our suppliers of fresh meat and poultry to take all necessary measures to ensure that **animals are stunned prior to being slaughtered**.

The national market requirements and conditions within the individual countries of the ALDI SOUTH Group are as different as the respective approaches taken in order to improve animal welfare standards throughout our supply chains. For further information on the specific commitments and goals defined by the individual ALDI SOUTH countries, please refer to our national Animal Welfare Policies and our national websites.

Our national Animal Welfare Policies and the International Position Statement will be further developed and revised on a regular basis in accordance with our international strategic approach in the area of animal welfare.



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Please see [cr.aldisouthgroup.com](http://cr.aldisouthgroup.com) for more information on our international corporate responsibility activities.