

Position Paper on Killing Methods

One of the most frequently asked questions to the fur sector is the one on killing methods of fur animals. An IPSOS survey of public opinion on fur farming conducted in January 2013 revealed that many people lack information on this matter and often believe that cruel killing practices are used, which is very far from the truth. Therefore, Fur Europe finds itself responsible for informing the public that the killing of fur animals is a transparent and well regulated procedure.

All animal killing is performed in thorough conformity with European legislation. EU adopted its regulation on killing methods in 2009, and the regulation had to be implemented by 1st of January 2013. You can find the Regulation here:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:303:0001:0030:EN:PDF>

The Regulation lays down rules for the killing of animals bred for the production of food, wool, fur and other products as well as killing of animals for the purpose of depopulation and for related operations. It asks for specific rules on the killing methods for each type of animal. The Regulation does not only lay down the rules of how the animals should be handled during euthanasia, but also emphasizes the meaning of education, competence and self-monitoring.

According to the valid legislation, the farmer is obliged to:

- plan the killing procedure by drawing up Standard Operation Procedures
- do control reports
- have certificated competence for killing fur animals
- inform authorities about killing beforehand
- killing equipment must be checked
- reports concerning the conditions and service procedures of killing equipment have to be kept at least for a year and upon request have to be presented to the competent authority

In case of a breach of the Regulation, the authority has the right to: A) require farmers to amend their standard operating procedure and, in particular, slow down or stop the production, B) require the farmer to increase the frequency of checks, C) suspend or withdraw the certificate of competence. It is up to the authority in the Member States to organize the training of the farmers and to issue the certificate.

In practice, animals are euthanized by either gas (CO₂) or electricity, thus avoiding unnecessary pain and stopping heart function quickly. Moreover, the animals are euthanized directly on farms. Independent scientists developed a code of conduct for killing mink and foxes. We firmly expect all our members to follow the rules laid out in the code of conduct. In general, our approach is to rely on science to improve the farming activities.