

International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy



Version: July 2016

Our Claim

Simplicity, responsibility, reliability: these traditional trading values have been the basis for the sustained success of ALDI for over 100 years. Our success is the prerequisite for our continued development and assumption of greater responsibility. Through our actions, we want to help contribute to sustained positive development wherever we can.

As an internationally operating retail company, our daily decisions affect the entire supply chain. This is why we assume responsibility for safe and fair working conditions, the protection of our environment and the conservation of its natural resources and animals.

For this reason, ALDI Nord has developed this International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy. It is the subject of constant monitoring and consistent examination. The latest version is a binding framework for us and our business partners.

The current International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy is published on our website.

The International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy is available in German and English. In cases of doubt the German version shall prevail.

1. Background

The commitment of ALDI Nord to animal welfare is based on our self-perception of quality and responsibility as well as on the fact that we sell a large quantity of animal-based raw materials (e.g. meat, fish, eggs) and products with processed animal-based raw materials (e.g. ready meals, small leather goods). The complexity of the topic is particularly increased in that we operate within international markets with different demands and legal requirements. The safety of humans and animals is ensured through compliance with animal welfare, production and product standards, as well as the Code of Conduct based on the ILO Core Labour Standards.

The aim of the animal welfare commitment of ALDI Nord is the further development of the animal welfare standard when manufacturing our products in the defined scope of application, with the health and well-being of the animals taking top priority. We would like to raise the awareness of our customers and employees with regard to animal welfare matters through transparent information and a proactive dialogue.

2. Scope of application

The present International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy formulates our binding objective regarding our daily activities and our business partners. It shall apply to all ALDI Nord countries. The validity of the present policy will end with the publication of an updated version.

The International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy shall apply to all products from our food and non-food private labels involving animal-based raw materials. In particular, it shall apply to the following commodity groups:

Food products:

- Meat products from all animal species
- Eggs
- Products with processed eggs
- Milk and dairy products
- Fish and seafood

Non-food products:

- Textiles, small leather goods and shoes
- Cosmetics

Other groups of goods or products may be added to the scope of application of the International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy at any time.

3. Our animal welfare commitment

We have identified five areas of focus for our animal welfare commitment: product range selection geared to animal welfare, transparency and traceability, inspections and audits, contribution to animal welfare and proactive dialogue.

Product range selection geared to animal welfare

- We take animal welfare matters into account when developing our product range.
- We sell animal-based raw materials and products with animal-based raw materials bearing recognised certifications and those that fulfil our requirements in a comparable manner.
- We are continuously increasing the proportion of animal welfare-friendly products in the product range.
- We offer our customers vegetarian and vegan substitute products as alternatives to animal products.
- We do not sell certain animal-based raw materials, in line with our product range selection geared to animal welfare. Thus, the trading of real fur goods and angora wool is excluded in all ALDI Nord countries.
- We are striving to cease the sale of eggs from cage systems until 2025.
- We integrate animal welfare matters in our contracts.

Transparency and traceability

- We create transparency along the supply chain and demand the complete traceability of our products, as stipulated by law. Beyond the level required by law, our business partners must provide ALDI Nord with this information immediately upon request; for this purpose they must have established suitable information systems.
- We label products simply and clearly on the packaging, in our advertising media and in our retail outlets, e.g. with a seal or certificate, for the optimum orientation of our customers.

Inspections and audits

- We ensure that our quality and responsibility commitments towards our customers are upheld via, among other things, inspections and audits of our business partners. Inspections relate to the compliance with legal regulations, industry standards and specific ALDI Nord requirements. In doing so, we monitor the documentation of inspections on a random basis at our own discretion and, where appropriate, undertake our own on-the-spot inspections, including unannounced ones, or commission external, qualified third parties to do this. Such on-the-spot visits include the inspection of animal husbandry conditions, feeding, housing (farm, slaughterhouse), transportation, stunning and other species-specific requirements.

Contribution to animal welfare

- With our animal welfare activities, we pursue the objective of increasing the animal welfare standard beyond the level required by law. In doing so, we act in accordance with economically and scientifically feasible processes.
- We strive for continuous scientific and societal progress and adapt our requirements accordingly.
- We are involved in the development and continuous advancement of industry standards and are committed to relevant animal welfare initiatives and animal welfare networks. We thus promote a constructive exchange to improve animal welfare.
- We not only place this demand on ourselves, but also expect our business partners to display a proactive commitment to animal welfare, where possible in collaboration with us.

Proactive dialogue

- We communicate proactively with our stakeholders and offer transparent information. The improvement of animal welfare can only succeed through the joint action of all the actors involved, including farmers, processing companies, retail, inspection bodies, authorities, politics, science, consumers and non-governmental organisations.
- We assess the knowledge gained with regard to feasibility and use this to advance the topic of animal welfare.
- We are a reliable point of contact for our customers. Endorsements of our products and communication measures on our website, in retail outlets and advertising media boost awareness of animal welfare among our customers and help them to take animal welfare matters into account when making their everyday purchases.
- We continuously inform our employees about our animal welfare commitment.

4. Responsibilities, implementation and review of the International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy

The present International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy formulates our commitment to animal welfare for all ALDI Nord countries, which have the possibility to specify their requirements and demands subject to national conditions.

The implementation of the International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy requires close consultation with the Corporate Responsibility, Purchasing and Quality departments, as well as with our business partners. In the process, ALDI Nord will take into account recommendations from external experts as well as expectations with regard to relevant stakeholders. Objectives and measures will be continuously developed (competence with the department of Corporate Responsibility).

ALDI Nord's buyers are bound by the present International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy when carrying out their tendering and purchasing activities.

All ALDI Nord suppliers of animal-based raw materials and products containing such raw materials will be notified of the effectiveness of the International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy. Suppliers undertake to abide by the International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy when orders are placed.

The management board and other persons of responsibility within ALDI Nord will be given regular status updates on the implementation.

A collaboration takes place exclusively with those business partners who work in accordance with our International Animal Welfare Purchasing Policy.

Upon non-compliance with our requirements, corresponding sanctions will be imposed.

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