

Will your farm meet Code requirements by July 1, 2018?

Building a new barn or renovating an existing structure is a large investment. It shows commitment to raising veal and demonstrates confidence in the Ontario veal industry. One of the many things to keep in mind when beginning a construction or renovation project for calf or cattle housing is the industry standards set out in the *Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Veal Cattle* (Code). The Code mandated significant revisions to the housing of veal cattle and calves when it was released in 2017. The Code has a phase-in timeline for some housing requirements and includes several requirements that will come into effect as early as July 2018.

If you are planning on building a new barn or renovating cattle or calf housing areas this year, there are a few changes you should be aware of.

Hutches or outdoor enclosures

Effective **July 1, 2018**, if calves are housed individually in hutches or outdoor enclosures, they must be grouped as young as possible, and not later than eight weeks of age.

Effective **December 31, 2020**, calves in hutches and outdoor enclosures must not be tethered and calves in hutches must be able to access an area outside the hutch.



Individual stalls

As of **July 1, 2018** in all holdings which are newly built, substantially renovated, brought into use, or where existing stalls are modified, calves must be housed in groups as young as possible, and not later than eight weeks of age.



This calf, resting upright on the chest with the legs tucked under the body, is resting sternal. A calf in the lateral resting posture is lying on the side of the body with legs extended.

Individual housing

If individual housing is used in the first eight weeks of age, it must allow calves to turn completely around without assistance, groom, adopt sternal and lateral resting postures, easily stand up and lie down, and have visual and physical contact with other cattle.

Tethering

If you are currently planning on building, renovating or modifying a veal barn, effective **July 1, 2018**, tethering will **NOT** be permitted. By **December 31, 2020** tethering on any veal operation will not be permitted.

Herd health plan

In some cases, time in individual housing can be extended past eight weeks to improve the health and welfare of the calf. However, this extension can only be made on the advice of the herd veterinarian or in accordance with the herd health plan developed with the herd veterinarian. Developing a herd health plan with your veterinarian will help plan for these exceptions.

Summary of housing requirements

As a veal producer, it is your responsibility to be aware of acceptable industry standards. This summary chart of housing requirements will help to provide an overview of the new requirements. For more detailed information, refer to the updated Code that is available on the Veal Farmers of Ontario website. A hard copy will be delivered to all Ontario veal producers. Please contact the office if you need any assistance understanding or applying the requirements of the Code to your operation. ■

Type of individual housing	Specifications	Phase in date
Existing stalls/individual housing	Permitted for the life of the stall if they: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are in good condition. • Allow calves to groom, adopt a sternal resting posture, easily stand up and lie down, and have visual contact with other cattle. 	Currently in effect
	Existing stalls that meet the above Requirements and where less than 50% of each of the two side panels is solid, may be used for the lifetime of the stall.	July 1, 2033
	Stalls where more than 50% of the side panels are solid are prohibited.	July 1, 2033
	Individual housing is used for a maximum of eight weeks of age prior to group housing.	Dec. 31, 2020
	Tethering is prohibited.	Dec. 31, 2020
Hutches or outdoor enclosures	Calves must be able to easily stand up and lie down, turn completely around without assistance, groom, adopt sternal and lateral resting postures and have physical or visual contact with other cattle.	Currently in effect
	Calves in hutches and other outdoor enclosures must be able to stand fully upright without touching the top of the enclosure.	Currently in effect
	Calves in hutches and other outdoor enclosures must be grouped as young as possible, and not later than eight weeks of age.	July 1, 2018
	Tethering is prohibited.	Dec. 31, 2020
New or renovated stalls	Calves must be housed in groups as young as possible, and not later than eight weeks of age.	July 1, 2018
	Stalls allow calves to turn completely around without assistance, groom, adopt sternal and lateral resting postures, easily stand up and lie down and have visual and physical contact with other cattle.	July 1, 2018
	Tethering is prohibited.	Dec 31, 2020

Looking for more information on veal cattle welfare? Visit our website ontarioveal.on.ca.