

Calf Hutch Compliance



This document outlines the relevant legal and scheme compliance requirements for calves kept in hutches in the UK. It is based on the following documents:

1. The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland (separate regulations for each country with different dates from 2007 onwards)
2. The DEFRA guidelines for cross-compliance 2017
3. The Red Tractor Assurance for Farms Dairy Scheme
4. The DairyCo / AHDB Best Practice Guide
5. The RSPCA welfare standards for dairy cattle

They all have very similar requirements which have been law in England since 2007.

Individual milk buyers may have other requirements, but they are not based on either the law or recognised, scientifically based best practice.

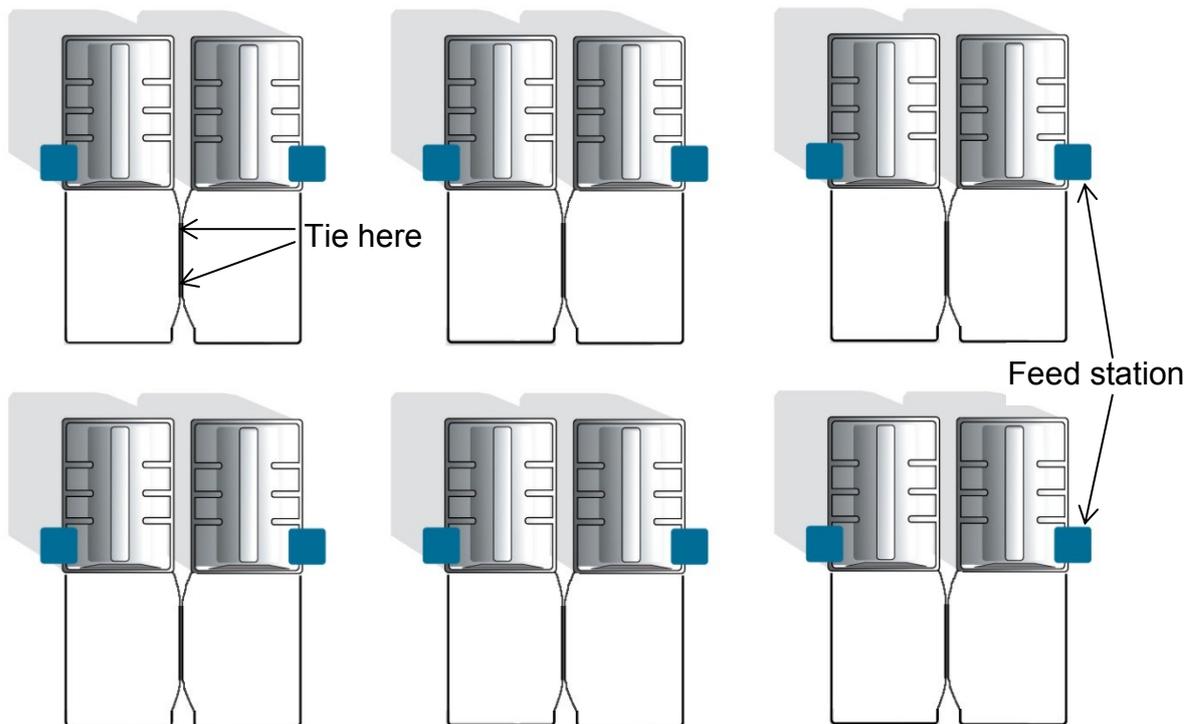
Individual Calves in Single Hutches

The key requirements for single hutches are:

- (1) **No calf may be confined in an individual stall or pen after the age of eight weeks** unless a veterinary surgeon certifies that its health or behaviour requires it to be isolated in order to receive treatment.
- (2) The width of any individual stall or pen for a calf must be at least equal to the height of the calf at the withers, measured in the standing position, and the length must be at least equal to the body length of the calf, measured from the tip of the nose to the caudal edge of the tuber ishii (pin bones), multiplied by 1.1.
- (3) **Individual stalls or pens for calves (except for those isolating sick animals) must have perforated walls which allow calves to have direct visual and tactile contact.**

We recommend that the best way to demonstrate compliance with these conditions while minimising the spread of disease and allowing access for feeding is:

- Arrange the hutches in pairs with a left and a right feed door
- Use cable-ties to clip the adjoining fences together to form an area for tactile contact between the calves.



To meet the space requirements of clause 2, the calves kept in Pro or Deluxe hutches should be no more than 1m at the withers and no more than 1.9m from nose to pin bone. At 2 months old Holstein calves are typically 87cm and Friesian 84cm at the withers so there should be no issues with the size of the hutch.

Groups of Calves in Hutches

(4) There is a space requirement for group housing calves.

Live weight of calf	Minimum amount of unobstructed floor space
Less than 150 kg	At least 1.5 square metres
Between 150 and 200 kg	At least 2 square metres
200 kg or more	At least 3 square metres

The floor area of a single Multimax with our fences is 14.5 m².

We recommend ideally 4 and no more than 5 calves are kept in a single Multimax at any time to minimise disease transmission.

This means the space requirements are always met with 4 calves, and are met with 5 calves until they are over 200kg, which is typically over 6 months old.

General requirements

(5) Each calf must be able to stand up, lie down, turn around, rest and groom itself without hindrance.

(6) Each calf that is kept on a holding on which two or more calves are kept, must be able to see at least one other calf.

These requirements are met in full by the above arrangements.