



CLARIFICATION N°4

Call reference: GP/EFSA/BIOHAW/2023/03

Call title: Animal care & welfare: welfare-related research on heat stress during transport, and dairy herd welfare indicators

Question 1: Throughout the proposal EFSA is constantly referring to dairy herds. Only on a very few places the call mentions the word "cows/ cattle". Just to be sure, this call does only relate to welfare in dairy cattle herds right (so excludes other types of dairy e.g. goats, sheep, buffalo)?

Answer: That is correct. The call only refers to dairy cow herds. Other species are not to be included.

Question 2: EFSA requests a sample of herds from five countries in five different regions in Europe and included a link to a page where multiple possibilities are presented to divide Europe in different regions. In our group we have five countries that show a large variety in dairy system (diff, herd sizes, density, risk behavior, grazing and calving patterns). However, in some of the maps two countries are assigned to the same region even though they are located at quite some distance from each other. Is it okay that these countries are still together in this consortium given that we truly believe that we meet the criteria with regard to variation in geographic location and dairy cattle system or is it out of the question when they are located in the same geographical area according to one of the presented maps?

Answer: As mentioned in the Call for proposals, please refer to the division of European regions according to the map based on "the world factbook" in the link provided under footnote 11 of page 8 (and not based on all maps of that webpage - just on that one). At least five of these European regions needs to be represented in your sample. You can have one or more countries part of the same region where sampling is to take place, as long as you justify your sampling criteria.

Question 3: In different parts of the call text EFSA refers to case and control herds. In other parts EFSA mentions test and control herds. We assume, but are not sure, that EFSA refers in both cases to 'case herds' i.e. herds with at least one FC that is associated with an increased risk and 'control herds' i.e. herds with none of the pre-defined herd characteristics. Can EFSA confirm or clarify this?

Answer: We confirm that "test herds" refer to "case herds".

Question 4: Same question for HBM (herd based measures) vs FC (farm characteristics). Does these terms have the same meaning or is there a difference?

Answer: We confirm the terms have the same meaning.

Question 5: From the call text it is a bit unclear if EFSA requires a separate SOP document for each FC (task 3a) or if they want one guideline with different SOPs (each FC is described in a separate SOP) included in that one document.



Answer: We prefer to the different SOPs in different documents.

Question 6: The call asks for submitting the signed documents such as the financial information form both as an electronic copy and as original. Regarding the latter, how can we deal with institutions which have exclusively switched to electronic signatures?

Answer: As stated on page 2 of the Call for proposals (section 'Indicative procedure timetable'), the application submission must contain one original unbound paper version and one USB key of all documents, including the technical proposal.

The documents needed signature can be signed either way, using e-signature or using blue ink.

Question 7: Does EFSA require the originals of e.g. the manually signed legal entity forms in the paper version of the application or will printouts of scans be accepted?

Answer: Yes, EFSA requires the originals of the manually signed documents in the paper version of the application.