Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua

National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee

Rodeo Code of Welfare: Proposed Changes

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consultation document

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the proposed changes to minimum standards in the Code of Welfare: Rodeos (the Code).

The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) is seeking your views on the revision of the Code.

This document should be read in conjunction with the draft Code and the draft evaluation report. It can be used as a guide when you provide feedback regarding proposed changes to the draft Code.

Scope

This document outlines changes to existing minimum standards and proposed new minimum standards contained in the draft Code.

It should be noted that the draft Code contains changes to recommended best practices and example indicators. These are not addressed in this document, but can be viewed in the draft Code with supporting information in the draft evaluation report.

Provide Feedback

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

The best way to have your say on the draft Code and regulations is to make a submission.

The deadline for submissions on the draft Code is 5pm on 09 December 2026.

Making a submission is important. It provides us with evidence to help us ensure that the Code reflects scientific knowledge, good practice, economic considerations, as well as changes in societal expectations. It is your opportunity to ensure that your views are heard.

You can make a submission:

- online via our survey https://mpi.surveymonkey.com/r/NWSBJHF;
- by email animal.consult@mpi.govt.nz ; or
- by post to Animal Welfare, Ministry for Primary Industries, PO Box 2526, Wellington 6140.

Your submission should include:

- those aspects of the draft Code you support, and the reasons for this support;
- those aspects of the draft Code you oppose, and the reasons for this opposition; and
- any alternative to provisions of the draft Code that you wish to recommend.

If you send us an email, or a document, please include the following information:

- the title of this paper;
- your name;
- your organisation's name (if you are submitting on behalf of an organisation); and
- your contact details (for example, your phone number, address, or email).

Submissions are public information

Any submission you make, including those made online, becomes public information. Anyone can ask for copies of all submissions under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA)[1]. The OIA says we must make the information available unless we have a good reason for withholding it. You can find these grounds under sections 6 and 9 of the OIA.

[1] https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1982/0156/latest/DLM64785.html?src=qs

NEXT STEPS

After the closing date for public comment, we will analyse all submissions.

MPI and NAWAC will use the submissions to inform separate advice to the Government on the new Code of Welfare: Rodeos.

NAWAC will provide advice on animal welfare matters. MPI will provide advice to the Minister on the proposals put forward by NAWAC, including the matters that the Minister must consider when issuing a Code of Welfare.

A summary of feedback received will be published on our website, www.mpi.govt.nz.

Proposed Changes to Minimum Standards in the Rodeo Code of Welfare

OVERVIEW

NAWAC has completed a review of the Code. When NAWAC reviews a code, it must consider scientific knowledge, good practice, and available technology. It may also consider any other matters that are relevant, such as practicality and economic impact.

Each proposed minimum standard is compared to the 2018 Code and a brief rationale is provided regarding the need for the change. It is recommended that you use this document as a guide when filling out the accompanying survey. Detailed information on each of the proposed changes is contained in the evaluation report.

It should be noted that the draft Code contains changes to recommended best practices and example indicators. These are not addressed in this document but can be viewed in the draft Code, with supporting information in the evaluation report.

If you are submitting via our survey, you will have the opportunity to offer additional comments for each section of the Code, including feedback on proposed example indicators, recommended best practices, and any alternative proposals you wish to suggest. If you are making a written submission, you can include feedback on these aspects of the Code in your submission.

Please note that if you provide an alternative option to any proposals in the draft Code, it must meet the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 (‘the Act’).

PART 2: RESPONSIBILITIES AND STOCKPERSONSHIP

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No.1 – Responsibilities and Stockpersonship (a) A rodeo organiser must be appointed for each rodeo competition and is responsible for running the rodeo competition. (b) The rodeo organiser must appoint an animal welfare officer or officers for each rodeo competition and ensure that at least one animal welfare officer is on duty at any time during the rodeo competition. (c) An animal welfare officer is responsible for overseeing animal welfare at the rodeo competition in conjunction with the veterinarian. (d) An animal welfare officer must not compete at the rodeo competition while on duty. (e) A veterinarian experienced in treating cattle and horses must be in attendance throughout the rodeo competition. (f) The attending veterinarian at the rodeo competition must: i) inspect all horses used for bucking events and all cattle to ensure they are fit to compete; ii) inspect all horses used for bucking events and all cattle for injuries after they have competed; and iii) treat any injured animals. (g) Persons supplying animals for a rodeo competition must ensure the animals have been trained and are fit to compete.	Minimum Standard No. 1 - Stockmanship (a) Persons in charge of rodeo events must ensure that animals are cared for by a sufficient number of personnel who possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence to maintain the health and welfare of the animals in accordance with the minimum standards in this Code. (b) Personnel involved in handling rodeo animals must be competent at recognising normal and abnormal behaviour that indicates distress or suffering due to injury, disease, physiological state or other abnormality. (c) At least one animal welfare officer must be appointed and present at each rodeo. (d) A veterinarian who is experienced in treating horses and cattle must be in attendance throughout the rodeo.

(h) The rodeo organiser must ensure that animals at a rodeo competition are cared for by personnel who collectively possess the ability, time, knowledge, and competence to maintain the health, welfare, and safety of the animals. (i) Personnel caring for animals at a rodeo must be competent at recognising behaviour that indicates pain, distress, illness or injury and take any required remedial action.	
Rationale	
MS 1 was revised to clarify the roles and responsibilities for key personnel involved in rodeos (e.g., rodeo organiser, animal welfare officers, veterinarians and those supplying animals for the rodeo). For more information, refer to the Responsibilities and Stockpersonship (Code of Welfare Part 2) section (subsection: 4.3 Responsibilities and Stockpersonhip) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

PART 3: FEED AND WATER

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 2 – Feed and Water (a) Each animal must have access to water that is palatable and not harmful to health in a quantity sufficient to allow regulation of body temperature, maintain hydration and satisfy thirst. (b) The provision of feed must be appropriate to performance requirements as well as the species, age, physical state and condition of the animals and meet their health needs.	Minimum Standard No. 2 – Food and Water (a) Animals must have access to water that is palatable and not harmful to health in a quantity sufficient to satisfy their thirst. (b) The provision of food and water must be appropriate to performance requirements as well as the species, age, physical state and condition of the animals to allow them to regulate body temperature and meet their health needs.
Rationale	
MS 2 was revised to incorporate minor changes to specify that body temperature is regulated by water intake. For more information, refer to the Feed and Water (Code of Welfare Part 3) section (subsection: 4.4 Feed and Water) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

PART 4: SELECTING AND HANDLING RODEO ANIMALS

Part 4.1 Selecting Animals

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 3 – Selecting Animals (a) Only cattle and horses must be used in rodeos. (b) Cattle and horses must not be used in rodeos if they display signs of pain, distress, illness or injury that could compromise their welfare. (c) Horses used for bucking events must be at least 4 years of age. (d) Cattle and horses used in rodeos must be physically fit to withstand the event without suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress. (e) All cattle regardless of event and horses used in bucking events must be inspected by the veterinarian prior to the commencement of the rodeo competition and may only be used if they are found to be fit for the intended purpose. (f) All animals must be trained for their event before being selected for rodeo competitions and familarised with the relevant rodeo facilities at the venue where they are competing. (g) Cattle and horses must not be placed into a chute if they are displaying behaviours that are likely to cause injury to themselves. (h) Riders must not be heavier than is appropriate for the animal in question, taking into account the size of the animal, its breed, physiological status and workload that it is being asked to perform.	Minimum Standard No. 3 – Selecting Animals (a) Only horses and cattle must be used in rodeo events. (b) All animals to be used must be fit enough to withstand the event and inspected by the veterinarian prior to the commencement of the rodeo. (c) Animals must not be used in a rodeo if they display injuries, signs of disease, physical abnormalities, abnormal behaviour, signs of fatigue or are physiologically compromised in any other way that could compromise their welfare during the rodeo. (d) Horses used for bucking events must be at least 4 years of age. (e) Horses used for bucking events must not be used more than 3 times on any one day (including practice for the event and the event itself). *[Information contained in clause (e) is covered in proposed Minimum Standard 7 – Saddle and Bareback Bronc Riding]* (f) On each day, contract cattle and calves must not be used on more than 3 occasions and noncontract cattle and calves on no more than 2 occasions (including practice for the event and the event itself). *[Information contained in clause (f) is covered in proposed Minimum Standard 8 – Bull, Steer and Junior Steer Riding]* (g) The same animal must not be used for both steer wrestling and roping events on any one day.

(i) Animals must not be selected for a rodeo competition unless they meet the following minimum weights: i) calves for rope and tie – 100 kg; ii) calves for breakaway roping – 100 kg; iii) cattle for steer wrestling, bull and steer riding and team roping – 200 kg; iv) horses for bareback and saddle bronc riding - 350 kg; v) cattle selected for steer riding must be at least 275 kg for riders weighing more than 50 kg; and vi) cattle selected for bull riding must be at least 400 kg for riders over the age of 15 years. (j) Animals must not be selected for a rodeo if they are under the effect of any substance that might modify their performance.	(h) Animals must not be used if they are likely to injure themselves if placed into a chute. (i) Animals must not be used in the rodeo unless they meet the following minimum weights: i) calves (for rope and tie) – 100 kg; ii) calves (for calf riding with rider <40 kg) – 150 kg; iii) calves (for calf riding with rider 40-50 kg) – 200 kg; iv) bareback and saddle bronc horses – 350 kg; v) steers (riders under 15 years) - 275 kg; vi) steers / bulls (riders of 15 years and above) – 400 kg; vii) time event cattle (steer wrestling, team roping) – 200 kg.
Rationale	
MS 3 was revised to clarify that animals must be both inspected and deemed fit to compete by a veterinarian. It also includes information to ensure animals are trained and familiar with the event venue as well as revisions to appropriate animal weights for different events. For more information, refer to the Selecting and Handling Rodeo Animals (Code of Welfare Part 4) section (subsection: 4.5.1 Selecting Animals) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Part 4.2 Handling

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 4 – Handling (a) Cattle and horses must be penned, yarded and handled in a way that minimises the risk of pain, injury or distress to themselves and other animals. (b) Only the minimum force must be used when moving animals. (c) Goads must only be used where there is sufficient room for the animals to move away from the goad and where: i) their use is essential to move difficult animals; or ii) the safety of the handler or another person is at risk. (d) Electric prodders must only be used by experienced handlers. (e) Animals of different species must not be penned together during yarding. (f) Animals in pens or yards must be kept at a stocking density that does not cause distress or injury. (g) Animals must be released from the chute as soon as practicable, checked by the veterinarian and not used again in that rodeo competition if they: i) show signs of distress; or ii) go down in the chute; or iii) attempt to jump out of the chute. (h) Animals must be guided out of the arena in a manner that minimises distress.	Minimum Standard No. 4 - Handling (a) Animals must be handled at all times in such a way as to minimise the risk of pain, injury or distress. (b) Animals of different species must not be penned together during yarding. (c) Animals that are likely to cause injury or distress to other animals (such as those that are aggressive or have horns) must be managed appropriately to avoid injury to other animals. (d) Animals in pens or yards must be kept at a stocking density that does not cause stress or injury. (e) Only the minimum force must be used when moving animals. (f) Any animal that becomes excessively excited, goes down in a chute, or attempts to jump out of the chute in a manner that may cause it to injure itself must be released. ~~(g) Animals must not be struck or prodded with a goad in the udder, anus, genitals, or eyes.~~ *[now covered under regulation]* ~~(ga) Animals must not be prodded in sensitive areas.~~ *[now covered under regulation]* (h) Animals must be handled at all times in such a way as to minimise the risk of pain, injury or distress. (i) Goads must only be used where there is sufficient room for the animals to move away from the goad and where: i) the safety of the handler or another person is at risk; or ii) their use is essential to move difficult animals.

	~~(j) Electric prodders must not be used on animals except cattle that weigh over 150 kg. Where permitted to be used, an electric prodder may be used only on the muscled areas of the animal's hindquarters or forequarters, and the animal must have sufficient room to move away from the prodder.~~ *[now covered under regulation]* (k) Electric prodders must not be used by inexperienced handlers.
Rationale	
MS 4 was revised to clarify that animal handling should reduce the risk of injury to the animal as well as other animals. It also includes revised requirements when animals show signs of distress when in the chute. For more information, refer to the Selecting and Handling Rodeo Animals (Code of Welfare Part 4) section (subsection: 4.5.2 Handling) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

PART 5: FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT

Part 5.1 Facilities

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 5 – Facilities (a) Rodeo facilities must be designed, constructed and maintained in a manner that minimises the likelihood of pain, injury or distress to animals. (b) Rodeo facilities must provide animals with the means to minimise the risk of thermal stress. *[Information contained in clause (b) was previously covered in Minimum Standard 14 – Health, Injury and Disease]* (c) The arena must provide enough space to minimise the risk of animals being injured by contact with the perimeter fence. (d) Arena fencing must be of a construction, height and appearance that: i) is clearly visible to animals; ii) discourages animals from attempting to run into or jump over it; and iii) safely confines them. (e) The arena surface must provide animals with appropriate grip and shock absorption for each event.	Minimum Standard No. 5 - Arena (a) The arena must be of a size suitable for the events to take place and to minimise the likelihood of injurious contact with the perimeter fence. (b) All fittings and internal surfaces, including fences, chutes, gateways and holding yards, must be constructed and maintained to ensure that there are no hazards that are likely to cause injury to the animals. (c) The fencing of the arena should be of a construction, height and appearance that is clearly visible and discourages animals from attempting to push through or jump over it. (d) The arena surface must provide traction and be free of hazards that may injure animals. ~~(e) Fireworks, pyrotechnics and gas fired explosions of any type must not be used at rodeos or at any practice events for rodeos.~~ *[now covered under regulation]*
Rationale	
MS 5 was renamed and revised to clarify requirements around the size of the arena as well as features of the arena surface.	

For more information, refer to the Facilities and Equipment (Code of Welfare Part 5) section (subsection: 4.6.1 Facilities) of the evaluation report.

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Part 5.2 Equipment

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 6 – Equipment (a) All gear and equipment must be designed, maintained and fitted to minimise the risk pain, injury or distress to the animal. (b) All gear and equipment must be inspected prior to use to minimise the risk of pain, injury or distress to the animal. (c) Ropes or straps must not be fitted with noise-making equipment. (d) Fully locked rowels, or rowels that are capable of being fully locked, must not be used. (e) Partially locked rowels, or rowels that are capable of being partially locked, must not be used. (f) Flank straps/ropes must be of the quick release type and covered with a soft material that lies against the hide of the horse, steer or bull. (g) Equipment used on rodeo cattle must not: (i) cause a cut that bleeds or discharges; or (ii) cause a skin abrasion that bleeds or discharges; or (iii) cause a swelling; or (iv) prevent the animal from breathing normally or drinking.	Minimum Standard No. 6 - Gear (a) All gear and equipment to be used in a rodeo must be adequately inspected prior to commencing the rodeo, to ensure that it will not cause discomfort. (b) All gear and equipment must be of a suitable design, maintained in good condition and be fitted so that it will not cause injury or discomfort to the animal. (c) All competitors must present their gear and equipment for inspection at the request of the attending veterinarian, animal welfare officer or warranted inspector. (d) Spurs must not be used in a way that injures the animal. (e) Fully locked rowels, or rowels that are capable of being fully locked, must not be used. (f) Partially locked rowels, or rowels that are capable of being partially locked, must not be used in the saddle or bareback bronc riding events. (g) Flank straps/ropes must be of the quick release type and covered with a soft material that lies against the hide of the horse, steer or bull. (h) Ropes or straps must not be weighted with noise-making equipment.
Rationale	

MS 6 was renamed and revised to focus on the suitability and inspection of equipment that is used during rodeo events.

For more information, refer to the Facilities and Equipment (Code of Welfare Part 5) section (subsection: 4.6.2 Equipment) of the evaluation report.

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

PART 6: SPECIFIC EVENTS

Part 6.1 Saddle and Bareback Bronc Riding

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 7 – Saddle and Bareback Bronc Riding (a) Horses used for saddle and bareback bronc riding in rodeo competition must not be used more than 3 times per day. *[Information contained in clause (a) was previously covered in Minimum Standard 3 – Selecting Animals]* (b) The flank strap must be removed from the horse as soon as it is practicable to do so once the rider is off the horse.	Minimum Standard No. 7 – Saddle and Bareback Bronc Riding (a) The flank strap must not be so tight as to restrict the movement of the horse. (b) A minimum of two pick-up riders must be present in the arena during each ride. (c) The flank strap must be removed from the horse as soon as it is practicable to do so once the rider is off the horse.
Rationale	
MS 7 was revised to clarify requirements around the number of time horses may be used per day as well as the removal of the flank strap from the animal. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 6) section (subsection: 4.7.1 Saddle and Bareback Bronc Riding) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Part 6.2 Bull, Steer and Junior Steer Riding

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 8 – Bull and Steer Riding (a) Cattle used for bull and steer riding in rodeo competition must not be used more than 3 times per day. (b) The flank strap must be removed from the bull or steer as soon as it is practicable to do so once the rider is off the animal.	Minimum Standard No. 8 – Bull and Steer Riding (a) Equipment used for bull and steer riding must be fitted so as to fall off the animal once the rider falls or dismounts, to prevent possible injury to animals. (b) The flank strap must not be so tight as to restrict the movement of the animal. (c) A minimum of two rodeo protection athletes must be present in the arena during each ride.
Rationale	
MS 8 was revised to clarify requirements around the number of time cattle may be used for bull, steer and junior steer riding per day. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 6) section (subsection: 4.7.2 Bull and Steer Riding) of the evaluation paper.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Part 6.3 Calf Riding

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 9 – Calf Riding Cattle under 200 kg must not be ridden.	Minimum Standard No. 12 – Calf Riding (a) Calves must not be ridden more than once on any one day. (b) The rider's weight must be kept behind the shoulder of the calf. (c) Calves must not be ridden with the rider facing backwards. (d) Calves must be habituated by being walked or run through the arena from the release chute to the exhaust pen prior to the event.
Rationale	
MS 9 was revised to prohibit the riding of bovines under 200kg. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 6) section (subsection: 4.7.3 Calf Riding) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Part 6.4 Rope and Tie

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 10 – Rope and Tie (a) Cattle must not be brought to a sudden stop. (b) Cattle must stay on their feet after being brought to a stop. (c) Cattle must not be made to be recumbent. (d) The event must not exceed 30 seconds from the release of the animal from the chute. (e) The rope must be removed from the animal as soon as it is practicable to do so.	Minimum Standard No. 9 – Rope and Tie (a) Calves must be handled using the minimum force and in a way that minimises pain and distress at all times during the event. (b) Calves must be habituated by being walked or run through the arena from the release chute to the exhaust pen prior to the event. (c) All reasonable precautions must be taken to ensure that calves are not busted, dragged or harmed in any other way during calf roping. (d) A neck rope must be fitted to horses used for roping and tying and the catch rope must pass through it before being tied to the saddle horn. (e) The calf must be tied for the minimum time to meet competition standards and released by experienced handlers immediately after the tie has been signalled. (f) The event must not exceed 30 seconds from the release of the calf from the chute.
Rationale	
MS 10 was revised to clarify that cattle must not be brought to a sudden stop nor made to be recumbent. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 6) section (subsection: 4.7.4 Rope and Tie) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Part 6.5 Breakaway Roping

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 11 – Breakaway Roping (a) Cattle must not be brought to a halt by the rope. (b) The rope must be removed from the animal as soon as it is practicable to do so. (c) The event must not exceed 30 seconds from the release of the animal from the chute.	NA
Rationale	
MS 11 was developed to specify requirements for breakaway roping. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 6) section (subsection: 4.7.5 Breakaway Roping) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Part 6.6 Team Roping

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 12 – Team Roping (a) The animal's ears and horns must be protected from rope injuries. (b) Roping attempts must not exceed 30 seconds from the release of the animal from the chute. (c) Each roper must not make more than one attempt at roping the animal. (d) If the header's rope is unsuccessful, the heeler must not carry out their roping attempt. (e) Ropes must not be pulled so tight that they injure or stretch the animal. (f) The animal's legs must not be pulled off the ground by either rope.	Minimum Standard No. 10 – Team Roping (a) Cattle horns must be wrapped with protective material to protect the ears and base of the horns from rope burns. (b) Event must not exceed 30 seconds from the release of the steer from the chute.
Rationale	
MS 12 was revised to clarify requirements around roping attempts during team roping. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 6) section (subsection: 4.7.6 Team Roping) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Part 6.7 Steer Wrestling

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 13 – Steer Wrestling (a) Cattle must stay on their feet after being brought to a stop. (b) Cattle must not be made to be recumbent. (c) Pressure must not be placed on the eyes, lips or nose of the animal. (d) The head and neck of the animal must not be forcibly twisted. (e) The event must not exceed 30 seconds from the release of the animal from the chute.	Minimum Standard No. 11 – Steer Wrestling (a) The steer must not be knocked down or thrown before it is brought to a stop, or the direction has changed, and the catch is made. (b) Pressure must not be placed on the eyes, lips or nose of the steers when wrestling them to the ground. (c) Manipulation of the tail must not be performed at any time during steer wrestling. (d) Event must not exceed 30 seconds from the release of the steer from the chute.
Rationale	
MS 13 was revised to ensure that cattle must stay upright after being brought to a stop, they must not be made to be recumbent nor have their neck forcibly twisted. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 6) section (subsection: 4.7.7 Steer Wrestling) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Part 6.8 Barrel Racing

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 14 – Barrel Racing (a) Horses must be ridden in a manner that minimises the risk of pain, injury or distress. (b) The layout of the course must minimise the risk of pain, injury or distress to the horse. (c) If used more than once, horses must be provided with sufficient time to enable them to recover between each race.	Minimum Standard No. 13 – Barrel Racing Horses must be ridden in a manner that minimises pain and distress during this event.
Rationale	
MS 14 was expanded to ensure the layout of the course is appropriate to the event and that when horses are used more than once they are given sufficient rest between races. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 6) section (subsection: 4.7.8 Barrel Racing) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

PART 7: RODEO TRAINING

Part 7.1 Training Rodeo Animals

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 15 – Training Rodeo Animals (a) Personnel training animals for use in a rodeo must be competent at recognising behaviour that indicates pain, distress, illness or injury and take any required remedial action. (b) Animals must be familiarised with the relevant rodeo facilities, equipment and their event.	NA
Rationale	
MS 15 was developed to emphasise the importance of training rodeo animals prior to their exposure to rodeo competition. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 7) section (subsection: 4.8.1 Training Rodeo Animals) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Part 7.2 The Use of Animals for Training Rodeo Personnel

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 16 – The Use of Animals for Training Rodeo Personnel (a) Personnel using animals to train people must be competent at recognising behaviour that indicates pain, distress, illness or injury and take any required remedial action. (b) Where animals are used to train people, an animal welfare officer responsible for animal welfare must be appointed and in attendance throughout.	NA
Rationale	
MS 16 was developed to emphasise the importance of training for personnel participating in rodeo competition. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 7) section (subsection: 4.8.2 The Use of Animals for Training Rodeo Personnel) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

PART 8: HEALTH, INJURY AND DISEASE

Proposed Minimum Standard	2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)
Minimum Standard No. 17 – Health, Injury and Disease (a) Signs of ill-health or injury must result in timely preventative or remedial action, as appropriate. (b) Where an animal is injured in the arena and is unable to move on its own accord, further management must be carried out on the instruction of a veterinarian. (c) A method for safely and humanely moving any injured animal must be available at a rodeo and used when required. (d) Injured animals that need to be moved must not be dragged in direct contact with the ground. (e) Animals must not be given substances that modify performance.	Minimum Standard No. 14 – Health, Injury and Disease a) Signs of ill-health or injury must result in timely preventative or remedial action, as appropriate. (b) Where an animal is injured in the arena and is unable to move on its own accord, it must be immediately placed under the care of a veterinarian. (c) A conveyance capable of removing any rodeo animal from the arena for treatment must be kept on site at all times during the rodeo. (d) Animals must not be removed from the arena by being dragged in direct contact with the ground. (e) Medication must only be used in accordance with registration conditions and manufacturer's instructions or professional advice. (f) Non-therapeutic medicines must not be given to any animal used in any rodeo event. (g) All rodeo animals must be inspected by the veterinarian prior to the start and in the case of multiple events, also at the end of each day, to ensure that they are fit to compete on ensuing days. *[Information contained in clause (g) is covered in proposed Minimum Standard 3 – Selecting Animals]* (h) All rodeo animals must be provided with the means to minimise the effects of heat or cold stress. *[Information contained in clause (h) is covered in proposed Minimum Standard 5 – Facilities]*

	(i) If either the animal welfare officer or the veterinarian considers that any individual animal is not fit to compete, then that animal must not be used in any event.
Rationale	
MS 17 was condensed as selected information regarding inspection of animals and thermal stress is now covered in other parts of the proposed code. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 8) section (subsection: 4.9 Health, Injury and Disease) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

PART 9: EMERGENCY HUMANE DESTRUCTION

Proposed Minimum Standard	**2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)**
Minimum Standard No. 18 – Emergency Humane Destruction (a) If emergency humane destruction of rodeo animals is required, persons must: i) act to minimise pain and distress; ii) be competent in killing horses and cattle; and iii) use equipment that is suitable to the species and is maintained to operate efficiently. (b) If emergency humane destruction is required by a firearm or captive bolt, rodeo animals must: i) be immediately rendered insensible and remain in that state until death; and ii) be monitored until death is confirmed. (c) The spinal cord must not be severed or broken in any animal, until after death. (d) If the veterinarian or animal welfare officer assesses that any animal requires humane destruction, then the animal must be destroyed in a timely manner.	Minimum Standard No. 15 – Emergency Humane Destruction (a) Horses and cattle must be handled, restrained and killed in such a manner as to minimise unnecessary pain and distress prior to death. (b) Persons undertaking destruction must be competent in the handling and killing of horses and cattle. (c) Equipment kept for emergency humane destruction must be well maintained in order to operate efficiently. (d) Animals being killed must be rapidly rendered insensible and remain in that state, until death. (e) The spinal cord must not be severed or broken in any animal, until after death. (f) If either the veterinarian or the animal welfare officer considers that any sick or injured animal needs to undergo humane destruction, then the animal must be destroyed.
Rationale	
MS 18 was revised to clarify requirements around emergency humane destruction. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 9) section (subsection: 4.10 Emergency Humane Destruction) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

PART 10: CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Proposed Minimum Standard	**2018 Code of Welfare (for reference)**
Minimum Standard No. 19 – Contingency Planning The rodeo organiser must ensure a contingency plan is in place to address any anticipated adverse events, including hazards identified in local emergency management plans which could negatively affect the welfare of the animals.	NA
Rationale	
MS 19 was developed to outline requirements around contingency planning and to align with other codes of welfare. For more information, refer to the Specific Events (Code of Welfare Part 10) section (subsection: 4.11 Contingency Planning) of the evaluation report.	

Indicate your support of / opposition to the proposed minimum standard and provide feedback in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Provide any feedback on example indicators, recommended best practices, or alternative proposals in the accompanying survey or your written submission.

Appendix 1: Relevant extracts from the Animal Welfare Act 1999

This appendix sets out relevant extracts from the Animal Welfare Act 1999. Please refer to www.legislation.govt.nz for the full Act.

Part 1 Care of animals

9 Purpose

(1) The purpose of this Part is to ensure that owners of animals and persons in charge of animals attend properly to the welfare of those animals.

(2) This Part accordingly—

(a) requires owners of animals, and persons in charge of animals, to take all reasonable steps to ensure that the physical, health, and behavioural needs of the animals are met in accordance with both—

(i) good practice; and

(ii) scientific knowledge; and

(b) requires owners of ill or injured animals, and persons in charge of such animals, to ensure that the animals receive treatment that alleviates any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress from which the animals are suffering; and

(c) imposes restrictions on the carrying out of surgical procedures on animals; and

(d) contemplates that regulations will prohibit or impose requirements on the surgical or painful procedures that may be performed on animals; and

(e) contemplates that regulations will prescribe the persons or classes of persons who may perform surgical or painful procedures on animals; and

(f) specifies certain minimum conditions that must be observed in relation to the transportation of animals.

Obligations of owners and of persons in charge of animals

10 Obligation in relation to physical, health, and behavioural needs of animals

The owner of an animal, and every person in charge of an animal, must ensure that the physical, health, and behavioural needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both—

(a) good practice; and

(b) scientific knowledge.

12 Animal welfare offences

A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or a person in charge of, an animal,—

(a) fails to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 10; or

(b) fails, in the case of an animal that is ill or injured, to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 11; or

(c) kills the animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Part 5 Codes of welfare

68 Purpose

The purpose of this Part is to establish procedures for the development, issue, amendment, review, and revocation of codes of welfare that—

(a) relate to animals that are owned by any person or are in the charge of any person; and

(b) establish minimum standards with regard to the way in which persons care for such animals and conduct themselves towards such animals; and

(c) include recommendations on the best practice to be observed by persons in caring for such animals and in conducting themselves towards such animals.

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A code of welfare may relate to 1 or more of the following:

(a) a species of animal;

(b) animals used for purposes specified in the code;

(c) animal establishments of a kind specified in the code;

(d) types of entertainment specified in the code (being types of entertainment in which animals are used);

(e) the transport of animals;

(f) the procedures and equipment used in the management, care, or killing of animals or in the carrying out of surgical procedures on animals.

70 Preparation of draft code

(1) The Minister, the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, or any other person may prepare a draft code of welfare.

(2) Where any person other than the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee prepares a draft code of welfare, that person must forward the draft code to the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee.

71 Public notification

(1) The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee must publicly notify a draft code of welfare if the Committee is satisfied that—

(a) the draft should proceed; and

(b) the draft complies with the purposes of this Act; and

(c) the draft is so clearly written as to be readily understood; and

(d) the draft indicates any matters that the Committee considers should be dealt with by regulations under this Act; and

(e) representatives of the persons likely to be affected by the draft have been consulted about it; and

(f) the Minister has approved the notification of the draft.

(2) If the Committee decides not to proceed with a draft code prepared by any person other than the Committee, it must—

(a) give the person its reasons in writing for not proceeding; and

(b) notify the Minister of its decision.

(3) The National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee must publicly notify the draft code of welfare—

(a) by publishing, in 1 or more daily newspapers circulating in the cities of Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, and Dunedin, a notice complying with subsection (4); and

(b) by giving such further notice (if any) as the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee considers appropriate, having regard to the persons likely to have an interest in the draft code.

(4) Every notice published or given under subsection (3) must—

(a) contain a description of the draft code of welfare; and

(b) state that submissions on the draft code of welfare may be made in writing by any person; and

(c) state that every submission on the draft code of welfare should specify—

(i) those aspects that the submission supports; and

(ii) those aspects that the submission opposes; and

(iii) the reasons for supporting the aspects supported and the reasons for opposing the aspects opposed; and

(iv) any alternatives to provisions of the draft code that the person wishes to recommend; and

(d) a list of the places where the draft code may be obtained or inspected; and

(e) the closing date for the receipt by the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee of submissions on the draft code, being a date no earlier than 30 working days after the date on which the notice is first published in a daily newspaper in accordance with subsection (3)(a); and

(f) the address of the place to which submissions on the draft code may be delivered or sent.

183A Regulations relating to standards of care

(1) The Governor-General may, on the recommendation of the Minister, by Order in Council, make regulations for all or any of the following purposes:

(a) prescribing standards or requirements for the purposes of giving effect to Parts 1 and 2 (other than sections 30A to 30E), including—

(i) animal welfare standards or requirements relating to the care of animals by owners or persons in charge of animals;

(ii) animal welfare standards or requirements relating to the conduct of those persons towards animals owned by them or in their charge;

(iii) the prohibition of specified things or activities;

(b) establishing any minimum standard that could be established under Part 5, or amending, revoking, or replacing any minimum standard or any part of a minimum standard established under Part 5.

(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), regulations made under this section may prescribe standards or requirements that do not fully meet—

(a) the obligations of section 10 or 11; or

(b) the obligations that a person would need to observe in the treatment, transport, or killing of animals if that person were to avoid committing an offence against section 12(c), 21(b), 22(2), 23(1), 23(2), or 29(a).

(3) The Minister must not recommend the making of regulations in reliance on subsection (2) unless he or she is satisfied that either or both of the following apply:

(a) any adverse effects of a change from current practices to new practices have been considered and there are no feasible or practical alternatives currently available;

(b) not to do so would result in an unreasonable impact on a particular industry sector within New Zealand, a sector of the public, or New Zealand's wider economy.

(4) In deciding whether any impact is unreasonable under subsection (3)(b), the Minister must have regard to the welfare of any affected animals.

(5) Any regulations made in reliance on subsection (2) in accordance with the considerations in subsection (3) must provide for the regulations to be in force for a period of time specified in the regulations (the **specified period**) that—

(a) is reasonably necessary to enable a transition from current practice to a practice that fully meets the obligations specified in subsection (2)(a) and (b); and

(b) does not exceed 10 years (which period may, however, be extended once under subsection (6)).

(6) The specified period may be extended once only by up to 5 years by regulations made under this subsection on the recommendation of the Minister if he or she is satisfied that the majority of participants in the sector concerned—

(a) have made significant progress towards implementing compliant practice; and

(b) cannot reasonably be expected to become compliant before the close of the specified period, taking into account the steps that still need to be completed for implementation of compliant practice; and

(c) will become compliant within the extended period.

(7) Despite subsections (3) to (6), if the Minister considers that requiring a practice to fully meet the obligations specified in subsection (2)(a) and (b) would impose an unjustifiable limitation on the requirements of a religious or cultural practice, the Minister may recommend the making of regulations in reliance on subsection (2) for an indefinite period subject to review at 10-yearly intervals or shorter intervals specified in the regulations.

(8) In reaching a decision not to recommend the making of regulations in reliance on subsection (2), the Minister may consider any factors that the Minister thinks would make such regulations contrary to New Zealand's overall interests (including, without limitation, health, social, economic, international, or environmental interests).

(9) Nothing in this section obliges the Minister to recommend the making of regulations in reliance on subsection (2).

(10) The Minister must consult the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee before recommending the making of any regulations under this section (other than regulations already proposed by the Committee), but nothing in sections 71 to 75 applies in relation to the making of regulations under subsection (1)(b).

(11) If a person does or omits to do anything in reliance on regulations made under subsection (2) that would otherwise be a contravention of, or failure to comply with, any provision of Part 1 or 2, the person has a defence to a prosecution for an offence under this Act in respect of the act or omission if the court is satisfied that the act or omission was authorised by the regulations.