

Animal-friendly traditions?

Animal Welfare Considerations in Product Specifications of EU Geographical Indications

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GIs & animal welfare



responsible taste > animal welfare

ANIMAL WELFARE



CARE FOR ANIMAL WELLBEING



Our investigations on two farms producing Grana Padano cheese are back online



To what degree do **GI specifications** account for **animal welfare**?

→ Systematic **indicator-based analysis** of **GI cow cheese** regulations



Data

- **GI specifications from France, Italy, Germany & the Netherlands**

28.11.2013

EN

Official Journal of the European Union

L 317/17

COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) No 1209/2013

of 25 November 2013

approving non-minor amendments to the specification for a name entered in the register of protected designations of origin and protected geographical indications [Camembert de Normandie (PDO)]

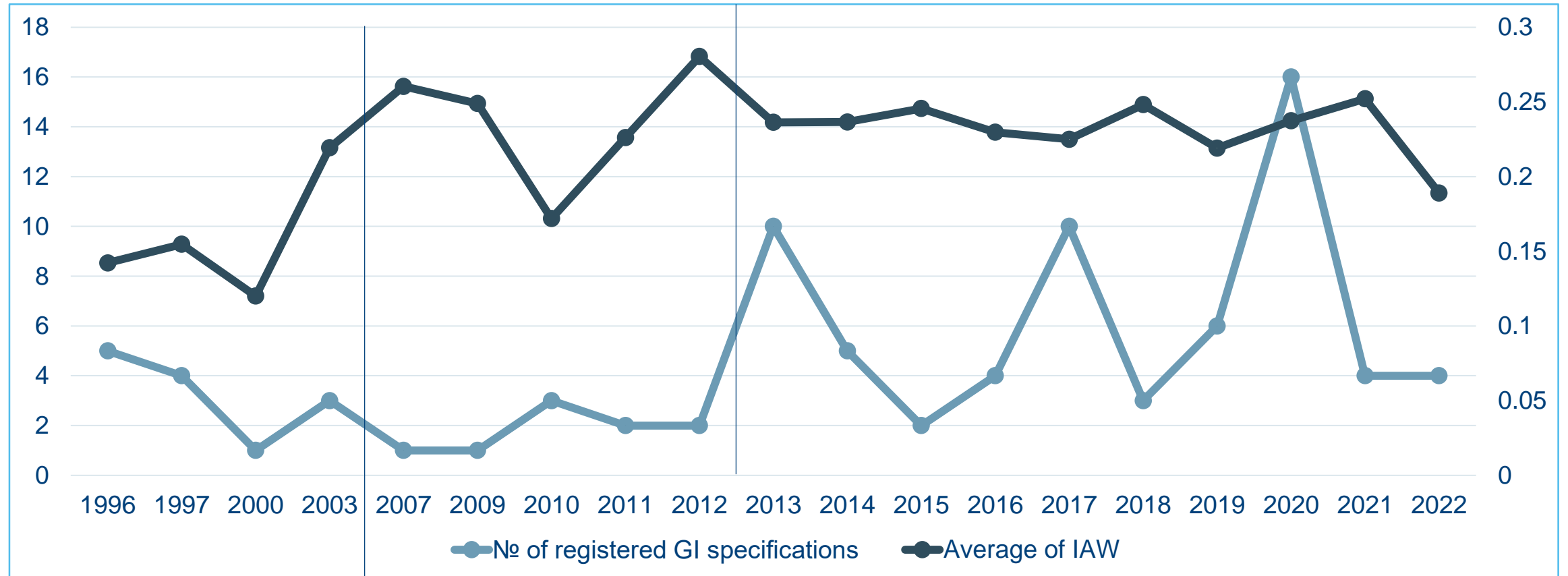
- **New indicator list based on established labels, literature & dairy experts**
 - ‘**A**rea & **B**reed’: e.g. local breed under conservation?
 - ‘**G**razing & **F**eed’: e.g. mandatory grazing days?
 - ‘**H**usbandry & **C**omfort’: e.g. brushes available?
 - ‘**P**ainful **P**rocedures’: e.g. dehorning banned?
 - ‘**C**alf **T**reatment’: e.g. early separation banned?

Majority of French GIs specify grazing days and space

Average mandatory grazing days and space as well as share of GIs specifying a minimum						
Country	No of days	No of GIs	Share	Area in ha	No of GIs	Share
France	149	30	75%	0.44	21	52%
Italy	143	4	13%	-	0	0%
Germany	80	1	13%	-	0	0%
Netherlands	-	0	0%	-	0	0%
Total	146	35	41%	0.44	21	24%

Slight upward trend in overall AW requirements

(EU) No 1151/2012



(EC) No 510/2006

Conclusion

- Some **GIs** have **potential** to contribute to **animal welfare...**

→ **Disparities** partly explained by differing **environmental** conditions and **institutional** pushes

→ Adherence to **higher standards (public or private)** should be considered



= IAW of 0.58
(GI avg = 0.23)

- ...but overall, current product specification **guarantees are very limited**

→ basically **no rules** on **indoor husbandry**, **painful procedures** & **calf treatment**

→ Consumers should **not rely on GI labels** as guaranteeing high animal welfare



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APPENDIX

Index of Animal Welfare (IAW) calculation

- Answers to key questions either as **Yes/No** or **in numbers** (e.g. grazing days)
- Index of animal welfare (**IAW**) for statistical **comparison**:
 - Yes = 1; No = 0
 - Numerical values normalised to 0-1 scale

$$IAW = \frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{1}{5} \sum_{i=1}^5 AB_i \right) + \frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{1}{8} \sum_{i=1}^8 GF_i \right) + \frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{1}{8} \sum_{i=1}^8 HC_i \right) + \frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{1}{9} \sum_{i=1}^9 PP_i \right) + \frac{1}{5} \left(\frac{1}{6} \sum_{i=1}^6 CT_i \right)$$

(cf. Belletti et al., 2015; MASA, 2023)

No GIs regulate procedures or calf treatment

Index of animal welfare (IAW) averages per country & GI type

Country	IAW	Area & Breed	Grazing & Feed	Husbandry & Comfort	Painful Procedures	Calf Treatment
<i>France</i>	0.27	0.75	0.58	0.01	0.00	0.00
<i>Italy</i>	0.21	0.71	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Germany</i>	0.13	0.43	0.17	0.03	0.00	0.00
<i>Netherlands</i>	0.13	0.60	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.23	0.69	0.42	0.01	0.00	0.00
PDO	0.24	0.73	0.43	0.01	0.00	0.00
PGI	0.16	0.50	0.26	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	0.23	0.69	0.42	0.01	0.00	0.00

Cubicle

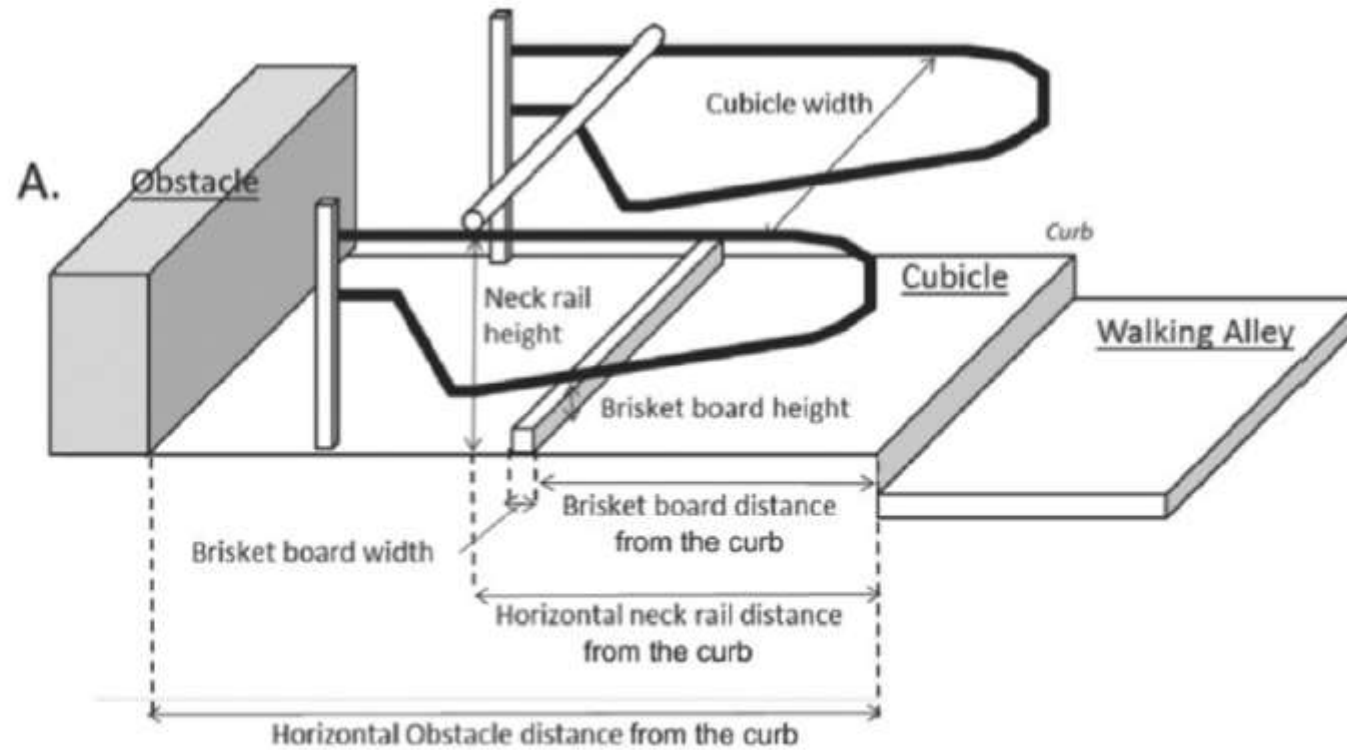


Figure 3: Schematic representation of important cubicle design criteria (© 2023 Elsevier inc.)

IAW & sub-indices

Variable	Observations	Mean	Std. Dev.	Min	Max
IAW	86	0.22	0.08	0.00	0.33
Area & Breed	86	0.70	0.19	0.00	1.00
Grazing & Feed	86	0.40	0.24	0.00	0.82
Indoor Husbandry	86	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.25
Painful Procedures	86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Calf & Treatment	86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

IAW per country & GI label

		France	Germany	Italy	Netherlands	Total
PGI	Mean	0.23	0.01	0.12	0.12	0.15
	SD	0.09	0.02	0	0	0.11
	No.	8	3	1	2	14
PDO	Mean	0.28	0.19	0.21	0.13	0.23
	SD	0.04	0.06	0.04	0.02	0.06
	No.	32	5	31	4	72
Total	Mean	0.28	0.13	0.20	0.13	0.22
	SD	0.06	0.10	0.05	0.02	0.08
	No.	40	8	32	6	86

Discussion

- **None** of the specifications consistently meets criteria of **industry benchmark**
- Some do partially, but **not enough to qualify for lowest criteria** (1 star):



“Better Life – Animal Protection”

= **IAW of 0.58**

1-star label elevated standards

