

ANIMAL WELFARE STATEMENT
Responsible procurement

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metro

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1. Responsible procurement: Vision

Offering responsible products is one of the priorities of METRO's corporate responsibility (CR) approach. Since the publication of its first CR roadmap in 2010, several initiatives related to responsible procurement have been achieved, including the adoption of a **Supplier Code of Conduct** for responsible procurement in 2017.

The rigorous approach adopted by METRO to manage its practices is based on this structuring document, which are in addition to our other responsible procurement policies and programs.

The Supplier Code of Conduct was developed according to best practices and recognized standards. It is based on **four key principles** that build on METRO's product and service selection criteria, such as price, quality, and availability:

- Business ethics,
- Respect for workers,
- Protection of the environment,
- Respect for animal health and welfare.

2. Management principles

The implementation of METRO's responsible procurement program is governed by management principles and a range of operationalization tools.

- Collaboration with suppliers in a perspective of ongoing improvement,
- Reliance on practices, recognized certifications, and corporate responsibility initiatives,
- Consideration for the market's capacity to provide alternative product options at competitive prices and in sufficient amounts,
- Transparency and sharing our results and initiatives,
- Follow up on results based on performance indicators and communication of these results in METRO's annual corporate responsibility report.

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3. Criteria

METRO seeks to ensure the health and welfare of terrestrial and aquatic animals across the supply chain, from farm to slaughterhouse and during transport.

Our approach is based on the following criteria:

- **Consideration for the needs of livestock**

METRO aims to ensure that the physiological and behavioral needs of the animals are met.

- **Prevention of all forms of abuse**

METRO aims to prevent all form of abuse that negatively impact the health and welfare of the animal.

- **Compliance with science-based standards**

METRO advocates a science-based approach and supports the process and approach of the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFAACC), a multi-stakeholder forum recognized as the national leader in farm animal welfare standards in Canada.

METRO expects suppliers to refer to science-based standards recognized by their industry, to respect animals and to commit to implementing farming, transport, slaughtering, and fishing conditions recognized as protecting animal health and welfare.

4. METRO's commitments

As an active member of the Canadian retail industry, METRO continually works with its suppliers to promote responsible practices and find better alternatives when necessary.

One of the objectives METRO has set in its 2022-2026 Corporate Responsibility Plan is to require the application of practices aiming to ensure animal health and welfare by our suppliers for unprocessed farmed meat and salmonids, milk, cheese, and eggs.

For these categories, METRO requires that its suppliers at a minimum follow the Codes of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals developed by NFAACC or an equivalent.

METRO has also made commitments for two specific product categories:

- **Pork: broaden our offer of fresh pork products from sows that were not raised in gestation stalls according to the transition rate of our suppliers.**

METRO recognizes that the use of gestation cages for sows is a welfare issue and considers group housing to be the preferred alternative.

- **Eggs: sell eggs from free-range chickens in all our stores.**

METRO recognizes that the use of conventional battery cages is a welfare issue for laying hens, particularly in the expression of their natural behaviors, and considers enriched cages or cage-free systems to be the preferred alternatives.

METRO recognizes that cage-free systems offer more opportunities for hens to express their natural behaviors than enriched cages. However, there is currently no consensus that cage-free housing provides better overall welfare for hens.

For our reporting on animal welfare, please see our [Corporate Responsibility Reports](#).