



The DFC Board have approved the following advanced-approval proAction requirements related to animal housing and freedom of movement:



Effective April 1, 2027, new code requirements will be included in proAction validations.

Area	Requirements	Code Effective Date	ProAction Effective Date	Future Transition
Unweaned Calf Housing	<p>ALL unweaned calf housing must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be maintained to minimize injury and lameness • Allow calves to stand fully upright, turn completely around, rest comfortably, and groom themselves • Provide adequate bedding to achieve insulation, dryness, comfort, traction and cleanliness • Permit visual contact with other cattle • Provide fresh air to prevent the buildup of harmful gases, dust and moisture, and reduces the risk of heat and cold stress. 	Apr 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2027	N/A
Unweaned Calf Housing – Indoor	Indoor housing* must not include tethering. Producers must have a documented transition plan to pair/group housing.	Apr 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2027	Effective April 1, 2031: calves that are healthy, thriving, and compatible must be housed in pairs or groups by 4 weeks of age.
Unweaned Calf Housing – Outdoor	Outdoor housing* must allow physical contact between calves. If tethered, calves must have access outside the hutch and must include a collar.	Apr 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2027	N/A

***Indoor Housing** is defined as housing that involves a roofed structure with four closeable sides. Calf hutches located under a roofed structure with four closeable sides would be considered indoor housing.

***Outdoor Housing** is defined as housing that does not involve a roofed structure with four closeable sides. Calf hutches located under a roofed structure with less than four closeable sides would be considered outdoor housing.



The DFC Board have approved the following advanced-approval proAction requirements related to animal housing and freedom of movement:



Effective April 1, 2027, new code requirements will be included in proAction validations.

Area	Requirements	Code Effective Date	ProAction Effective Date	Future Transition
Freedom of Movement – Newly Built Barns	Barns built <i>after</i> April 1, 2024 must provide daily untethered movement (minimum one hour per day) year round. Cows must not be tethered at calving and must be able to turn around.	Apr 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2027	N/A
Freedom of Movement – Pre-Existing Barns	Barns built <i>before</i> April 1, 2024 must provide a minimum of 55 days of untethered movement per production cycle (consecutive or not). If only during dry period, dry period average must be at least 55 days. If daily exercise periods are offered, they must be a minimum of one hour.	Apr 1, 2027	Apr 1, 2027	N/A
Dry and Lactating Cow Stocking Density	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free-stall barns must not routinely exceed 1.1 cows per usable stall. Bedded-packs must provide 9.3 m² (100 ft²) per cow. Smaller breeds require at least 80% of Holstein space allowance. Scrape alleys are no longer included in space calculations. Hospital area must provide 9.3 m² (100 ft²) per cow. 	Apr 1, 2027	Apr 1, 2027	Effective April 1, 2031: Maximum 1.0 cow per stall.
Calving Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides sufficient bedding Is separated from the lactating herd Provides enough space for the cow to be assisted 	Apr 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2027	Effective April 1, 2029: All farms must calve in loose housed maternity pens or pastures that permit cows to turn around.
Stanchion Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanchion housing is no longer permitted. Presence of stanchion housing will result in a Major non-conformance under proAction validations. 	Apr 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2027	N/A



The following requirements are Pending DFC approval:

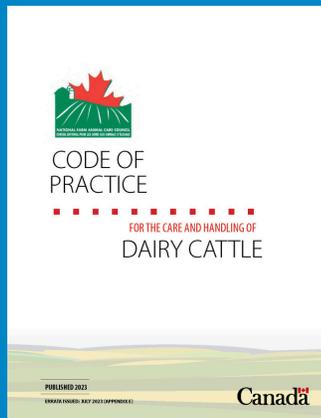


Effective April 1, 2027, new code requirements will be included in proAction validations.

Area	Requirements	Code Effective Date	ProAction Effective Date	Future Transition
Electric Crowd Gates and Trainers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrified crowd gates are not permitted • Electric trainers must be adjustable and positioned to enable normal eating, standing and lying behaviour. • Electric trainers must be used only to train or retrain individual cattle. 	Apr 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2027	N/A
Weaned Heifer Housing	<p>ALL weaned heifer housing must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be maintained to minimize injury and lameness • Allow heifers to stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures, and groom themselves • Provide adequate bedding and ventilation • Provide physical contact with other cattle • If tethered, allow heifers to rest in a head back position 	Apr 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2027	N/A
Dry Cow Housing	<p>ALL dry cow housing must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be maintained to minimize injury and lameness. • Allow cattle to stand up, lie down, adopt normal resting postures and groom themselves. • Provide adequate bedding to achieve insulation, dryness, comfort, traction and cleanliness. • Permit cattle to have visual and physical contact with other cattle. • Provide fresh air to prevent the buildup of harmful gases, dust and moisture, and reduces the risk of heat and cold stress. • If tethered, allow cattle to rest in a head back position. 	Apr 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2027	N/A
Bull Housing	<p>ALL bull housing must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be maintained to minimize injury and lameness • Allow breeding bulls to stand up, lie down, turn completely around, adopt normal resting postures, groom themselves, and mount safely • Provide adequate bedding and ventilation 	Apr 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2027	N/A

New ProAction Requirements Summary

Refer to Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Dairy Cattle 2023 document to review all Code updates



The remaining proAction requirements will be approved and available in July 2026.

The Reference Manual including these changes will be available in October 2026.

