



FACT SHEET

FEBRUARY 2024

ANIMAL WELFARE OBLIGATIONS FOR PAINFUL HUSBANDRY PROCEDURES IN CATTLE

This factsheet is a summary of the Code of Welfare: Painful Husbandry Procedures published by MPI. (Link at the bottom of the page)



These are the MINIMUM STANDARDS

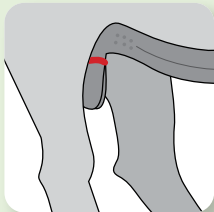
(The section in white at the bottom of the page is recommended best practice)

No painful procedures to be performed on animals under 12 hours old

CASTRATION



Pain relief MUST be used if animals are over six months old



Use correct size of rubber ring

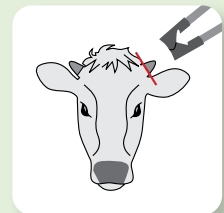
- Ring above testes and below teats
- If using high tension band then anaesthetic must be used (any age)

DISBUDDING OR DEHORNING



Disbudding

Thermal cauterising or chemical techniques must not damage animal tissue beyond the bud



Dehorning

Method must minimise pain, distress and risk of infection

Local anaesthetic authorised by a vet **MUST** be used on animals of all ages when disbudding or dehorning.

RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE



Always use pain relief for any age



Work Hygienically



Seek veterinary advice on best methods

GENERAL INFORMATION



Apply rubber rings to neck of scrotum between 1-4 weeks of age



No rubber rings after four months of age

RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE



Animals should be disbudded in preference to being dehorned



Use pain relief for any age when disbudding or dehorning



Use wound dressings to prevent blood loss when dehorning



Inspect animals during healing period after dehorning and treat infected wounds



If in doubt, seek veterinary advice on best methods

For more detailed information on minimum standards and best practice guidelines please refer to Animal Welfare (Painful Husbandry Procedures) Code of Welfare available from MPI Tel: 0800 008 333 or www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/codes-of-welfare/