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## Community scale for the classification of carcasses of ovine animals

Carcasses of ovine animals shall be classified by assessment of:

- (i) conformation (six classes: S, E, U, R, O, P);
- (ii) fat cover (five classes: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5).

In order to be given an S classification, the carcass must have superior conformation and must be without defect in respect of its essential parts.

In order to be given an E classification, the carcass must have excellent conformation and must be without defect in respect of its essential parts.

In cases of U, R, O and P conformation, carcasses whose three essential parts are not of a homogeneous nature shall be placed in the class applicable to two of the three parts.

*NB:* The photographs for the different conformation and fat classes relate to carcasses in the middle of the class.

Council Regulation (EC) No 1234/2007

Commission Regulation (EC) No 1249/2008

### Low

None up to low fat cover

**External** – Traces of or no fat visible

**Internal** –

*Abdominal:* traces of or no fat visible on kidneys

*Thoracic:* traces of or no fat visible between the ribs

### Slight

Slight fat cover; flesh visible almost everywhere

**External** – A slight layer of fat covers part of the carcass but may be less evident on the limbs

**Internal** –

*Abdominal:* traces of fat or slight layer of fat envelops part of the kidneys

*Thoracic:* muscle clearly visible between the ribs

### Average

Flesh, with the exception of the hindquarter and shoulder, almost everywhere covered with fat; slight deposits of fat in the thoracic cavity

**External** – A light layer of fat covering most or all of the carcass; slightly thickened fat zones at the base of the tail

**Internal** –

*Abdominal:* light layer of fat envelops part or all of the kidneys

*Thoracic:* muscle still visible between the ribs

### High

Flesh covered with fat, but on the hindquarter and shoulder still partly visible; some distinctive fat deposits in the thoracic cavity

**External** – A thick layer of fat covering most or all of the carcass but may be thinner on limbs and thickening on shoulders

**Internal** –

*Abdominal:* kidney is enveloped in fat

*Thoracic:* muscle between the ribs may be infiltrated with fat; fat deposits may be visible on the ribs

### Very high

Carcass thickly covered with fat; heavy fat deposits in the thoracic cavity

**External** – Very thick fat cover; patches of fat sometimes visible

**Internal** –

*Abdominal:* kidneys enveloped in thick layer of fat

*Thoracic:* muscle between the ribs infiltrated with fat; fat deposits visible on the ribs

# S



# E



# U



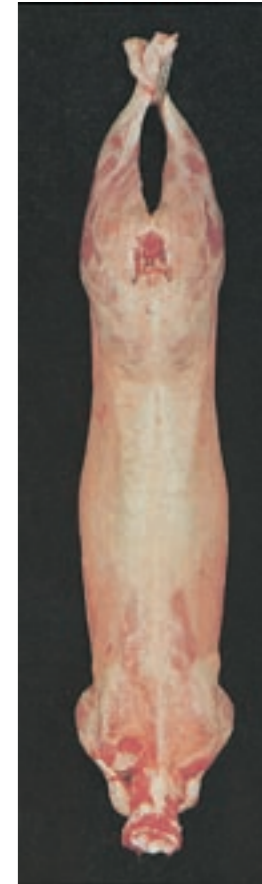
# R



# O



# P



## Superior

All profiles extremely convex; exceptional muscle development (double-muscled carcass type)

**Hindquarter:** double-muscled; profiles extremely convex

**Back:** extremely convex, extremely wide, extremely thick

**Shoulder:** extremely convex and extremely thick

## Excellent

All profiles convex to extremely convex; exceptional muscle development

**Hindquarter:** very thick; profiles very convex

**Back:** very convex, very wide and very thick to the shoulder

**Shoulder:** very convex and very thick

## Very good

Profiles on the whole convex; very good muscle development

**Hindquarter:** thick; profiles convex

**Back:** wide and thick to the shoulder

**Shoulder:** thick and convex

## Good

Profiles on the whole straight; good muscle development

**Hindquarter:** profiles mainly straight

**Back:** thick but less wide to the shoulder

**Shoulder:** good development, but less thick

## Fair

Profiles straight to concave; average muscle development

**Hindquarter:** profiles tending to be slightly concave

**Back:** lacking width and thickness

**Shoulder:** tending to be narrow; lacking thickness

## Poor

Profiles concave to very concave; poor muscle development

**Hindquarter:** profiles concave to very concave

**Back:** narrow and concave with bones apparent

**Shoulder:** narrow, flat and bones apparent