

WORKING GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

TYPE HARMONISATION

1. Purpose

To maintain and improve harmonisation of inspection techniques and statistical performance within International Linear Assessment and Type Classification programs.

2. Working Group Focus

The Working Group (WG) will concentrate its activities on the following issues: -

- The definition of the biological extremes of all standard linear traits.
- The methodology and assessment for each trait.
- Aim to improve the reliability of information through improved inspection methods
- Investigate the introduction of new traits which must have the following criteria: essential, heritable, measurable, and of economic importance.
- To recommend to the WHFF Council any new traits or changes to existing traits.
- Recommend methods for Classifier monitoring and training programs.
- Organise a biennial Head Classifier workshop.

3. Composition of the Working Group

The Working Group should consist of a maximum of 7 people with :

- 5 members being from Herdbook organisation - Head Classifiers.
- 1 member with data and genetic evaluation analysis experience.
- 1 member from ICAR.
- The WHFF Council to nominate a Chairperson and candidates for the Working Group for a term of four (4) years; re-appointment may be possible.
- The WHFF Council will designate one of its Members to serve as liaison between the WG and the Council.

4. Procedure

The Chairperson of the Working Group should arrange a meeting of the group at least once a year, with a workshop every second year. Communication for the group should be by email and by a virtual platform. All recommendations must be supported by well researched papers.

5. International Workshops

International workshops are exclusively for WHFF members. Workshops are organised on a global basis to ensure all countries can attend.

The workshop must combine practical and theoretical sessions, with the emphasis on practical assessment.

6. Time Schedule

- The Working Group should meet at least once a year to review new findings/traits and to report to the WHFF Council. This meeting may be through a virtual platform.
- WHFF Council to ratify all WG findings before they are communicated to industry.
- Activity of the Working Group to be reported on an annual yearly basis to WHFF Council. Reporting should be through the Chairperson; if the Chairperson is unavailable, reporting should be through the Council member on the Committee.
- A report detailing the workshop and any subsequent recommendations must be presented to Council for consideration and final acceptance at the General Assembly.
- Presentation and discussion of report to WHFF Council on activities and/or recommendations at General Assembly every four (4) years, or yearly if activities are time sensitive.
- Presentation at World Conference.
- Final decisions are communicated on the WHFF Website (www.whff.info).
- The complete history of the developments up to 2005 is provided in the archive document "International type evaluation of dairy cattle".

7. Budget

- If required a budget can be requested from the WHFF Council.
- All travel expenses of the WG members are taken by their individual employers.