

DRAFT UGANDA STANDARD

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Grading of live goats — Specification



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This Draft Uganda Standard, DUS DARS 1845: 2023, *Grading of live goats — Specification*, is identical with and has been reproduced from a Draft African Standard, DARS 1845: 2023, *Grading of live goats — Specification*, and adopted as a Uganda Standard.

The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee UNBS/TC 213, *Live animals, meat and meat products*.

This standard will cancel and replace US 2156: 2020, *Live animals' grades — Specification*.

Wherever the words, "African Standard" appear, they should be replaced by "Uganda Standard".

Grading of live goats – Specification



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Introduction

There has been a high demand of goat meat across Africa. To support and facilitate trade of live goats, official goat grade standards are important. Grading adds value as well as increasing demand of goat in the market. This ensures consumer confidence in the goat. This draft standard (specification) was developed for the purpose of describing the grading of live goats for meat.

Grading of live goats – Specification

1. Scope

This draft African standard specifies requirements for grading of live goats based on body conditions, conformation, weight, age, and sex for meat trade.

2. Normative References

There were no referenced documents in this standard.

3. Terms and Definitions

For the purposes of this standard, the following terms and definitions shall apply:

3.1

grade

defined parameters that categorise live goats for meat trade into homogenous groups applied by market participants based on weight, age, sex, body condition and body conformation

3.2

sex

refers to whether a goat is male or female

3.3

body condition

overall body state of a goat assessed through visual observation taking into account fat and muscle deposition as it occurs in various places on the goat's body

3.4

body condition score

score assigned through visual appraisal of specific body parts. The extent to which specific skeletal body parts {including; hips, hooks and pins, rump, shoulders, back (spinous processes of the thoracic vertebrae), ribs} are either hidden or smoothened by flesh or fat. The goats are thus categorized as excellent; good; fair and poor;

3.5

body conformation

symmetry, size and shape of the various body regions of a goat relative to each other or the general appearance of the goat according to what is considered a desirable appearance.

3.6

conformation score

qualitative categorization of goat features based on body frame, goat height and defects, described as excellent, good or fair

3.7

castrated male

male goat whose testicles have been rendered dysfunctional through an approved procedure

3.8

live weight:

weight of a goat before slaughter determined through an appropriate and acceptable method

3.9

lordosis

excessive inward curvature of the spine

3.10

kyphosis

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excessive outward curvature of the spine

3.11

semitendinosus

long superficial muscle in the back of the thigh

3.12

quadriceps

large superficial muscle in the back of the thigh

3.11

apophysis/apophyses

natural protuberance from a bone.

4. Grading Specification for Goats

The grading of goats shall be done in accordance with age (dentition or records), sex (male castrated, male un-castrated, female), weight and body condition.

4.1 Age

Categories will be based on dentition and/or records.

4.2 Sex

Categories will be based on: male (castrated or un-castrated) and female.

4.3 Weight

A minimum weight of 15 Kgs will apply for Grade 1 and 2. The live weight will be determined by any appropriate method including weighing scale and/or weight band.

4.4 Body conditioning scores

The body condition of goats shall be determined according to Table 1 as excellent, good or poor.

Table 1: Descriptions for body condition scores for Goats

Body Score	Hind leg	Loin	Shoulder	Ribs	Brisket	Tail
Excellent	Muscle very well developed i.e., semi tendinosus, biceps femoris, quadriceps	Wide and very well developed loin up to the shoulder region, spinous processes are hidden or smoothened by flesh and/or fat	Shoulder muscles very well developed. Shoulder blade not visible	Ribs not visible	Brisket well developed, covered with flesh and/or fat	Well developed fat deposit
Good	Moderately developed,	Moderately developed loin,	Shoulder muscles moderately developed,	Ribs visible, moderate flesh	Brisket moderately developed	moderately developed fat deposit

		spinous processes not seen but easily felt.	shoulder blades slightly visible	cover		
Poor	Pin bone prominent	Poorly developed loin, spinous processes visible	Poorly developed shoulder muscles, shoulder blades prominent	Ribs visible	Brisket poor developed	Poorly developed tail head slightly raised, limited fat deposition.

4.5 Body Conformation Score (CS)

Body conformation score shall encompass the symmetry, size and shape of the various body regions of the goat relative to each other or the general appearance of the goat. The body conformation score of goats shall be determined according to Table 2 as excellent, good or fair

Table 2: Body conformation classifications and descriptions for goats

Scores	Description
Excellent	Goats of good height (tall), with large frame and long and straight rump, loin and back, large heart girth and straight legs, eye muscles feel very well rounded .
Good	Goats of medium height with medium frame, shorter but straight rump, loin and back, medium heart girth and straight legs, eyes muscles feel slightly rounded.
Fair	Goats with defects including a short and small frame, a small heart-girth in relation to the overall body size; lordosis or kyphosis, or feet and legs that are post-legged, buck-kneed, splay-footed or sickle-hocked, eye muscles feel slightly or noticeably dished.

4.6 Goat grades

The interaction of sex, age, body condition, and conformation shall be categorized into Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3 as described in Table 3:

Table 3: Grades and grading parameters for goats

Grade	Sex	Weight	Age	Body condition	Body conformation
1	Male uncastrated	Minimum 15 Kg	Max 48 months	Excellent	Excellent
	Male castrated	Minimum 15 Kg	Max 48 months	Excellent	Excellent
	Female	Minimum 15 Kg	Max 36 months	Excellent	Excellent

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2	Male uncastrated	Minimum 15 Kg	Max 48 months	Good	Good
	Male castrated	Minimum 15 Kg	Max 48 months	Good	Good
	Female	Minimum 15 Kg	Max 36 months	Good	Good
3	All eligible stock	No limit	No limit	Poor	Fair

Bibliography

1. Kenya Standard, KS 2774-2:2018, *Grading live animal for meat trade-Specification-Part 2:Goat*.

