**Additional questions on the use of rabbits overseas**

The expectations of the major UK public funding bodies for the use animals in bioscience research are set out in the document ‘[Responsibility in the Use of Animals in Bioscience Research’](https://www.nc3rs.org.uk/responsibility-use-animals-bioscience-research). Compliance with the principles in this document is a condition of receiving funds for animal research. Welfare standards consistent with the principles of UK legislation must be applied and maintained,whereverthe work is conducted. For further information, see [www.nc3rs.org.uk/use-animals-overseas](http://www.nc3rs.org.uk/use-animals-overseas)

Please confirm the following: (Y/N)

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| 1. The enclosure sizes and space allocations meet or exceed those in Annex III to [Directive 2010/63/EU](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32010L0063) (Tables 2.1 – 2.4). (Floor pens are preferred over cages).
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| 1. Caged rabbits are provided with a raised area for refuge, to stimulate exercise and offer a choice of microenvironment; the area does not cover more than 40% of the floor space, and the animal is able to lie, sit and easily move underneath.

Rabbits in floor pens are provided with similar refuges (e.g. tunnels, huts).  |       |
| 1. Enclosure height allows the rabbits to rear upwards, for exploration and play.
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| 1. Rabbits are housed socially; excluding male rabbits, which may be separated from other males at sexual maturity (12 to 14 weeks) and housed individually with visual and olfactory contact with other rabbits. Exceptions to this must be justified below.
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| 1. Visual barriers are provided to allow the animals to initiate or avoid social contact.
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| 1. Rabbits are provided with: a) substrate/bedding on a solid floor; and b) dietary enrichment and gnawing objects (e.g. hay, chew blocks).
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| 1. Rabbits are [handled appropriately](http://www.ahwla.org.uk/site/tutorials/BVA/BVA08-Rabbit/Rabbit.html), gently and frequently from early in life.
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| 1. Appropriate, contemporary anaesthesia and/or analgesia is provided to minimise pain and distress. Any withholding of pain relief during painful procedures must be justified below.
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| 1. Surgery is performed using aseptic technique, the least invasive surgical approaches, and appropriate perioperative care (pre-operative medications, hypothermic prevention, ophthalmic protection, nursing care where required).
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| 1. Animals are monitored with a frequency appropriate to keep pain and distress to a minimum, using appropriate, tailored welfare indicators and score sheets.
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| 1. Humane endpoints have been established for each experiment with the potential to cause moderate or severe harm, after consultation with the veterinarian and animal care staff, and implementation of these is recorded during the experiment. (Note the humane endpoint criteria may be requested).
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| 1. The methods of humane killing are those recommended by the [AVMA (2013)](https://www.avma.org/KB/Policies/Documents/euthanasia.pdf) or permitted under Directive 2010/63/EU.
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Where there are deviations from the above, please explain below:

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