



Grands gibiers du Québec certifiés^{MD} certification
(Summary for breeders
interested in joining the program)

The designation “Grands gibiers du Québec certifiés” is a registered certification mark. For the sake of providing a **high-end certified quality product, healthy and natural**, this is the result of a quality approach undertaken in 2004 by the Fédération des éleveurs de grands gibiers du Québec (FEGGQ) in collaboration with industry stakeholders. This designation involves trade unions for bison, red deer, wild boar and wapiti breeders in Quebec and provides for the use of the *Grands gibiers du Québec certifiés* logo on the farmed game animals and on the various meat products derived from them.

Following all the standards from the book of specifications helps in developing superior quality farmed game meat and maximizing its extensive flavour. Furthermore, it helps differentiate farmed game meat produced in Quebec from the competition. Meat carrying the *Grands gibiers du Québec certifiés* designation meets strict criteria. Conforming to book of specification standards provides for quality standardization of products offered on the market for all deliveries, every breeder and each species. **By producing superior quality meat and by gaining consumer confidence, with a high-end certified product, breeders will thrive in the face of national and international competition and gain access to markets.** Furthermore, *Grands gibiers du Québec certifiés* certification offers the opportunity to various sections of the industry (distributors, restaurateurs and retailers) to benefit from the designation. Implementing certification therefore leads to a value added chain.

Every farm adhering to the certification program will be visited by an auditor (inspector) from an independent certification body. This approach guarantees consumers that all activities leading to the development of farmed game meat products such as breeding, transportation, slaughtering, maturation, cutting, warehousing, packing, labelling and advertising are done in Quebec according to precise criteria defined within the book of specifications.

Furthermore, control measures exist to monitor each step of the *Grands gibiers du Québec certifiés* meat product development. Thus, every certified meat product development activity is rigidly monitored. Continuous **traceability** ensures the identification of farmed game animals and of meat products derived from them.

For each of the four types of farmed game, breeders have agreed to standards concerning origin, health and standardization of the animals when slaughtered, their well-being, feeding and animal traceability. Breeders must promote animal well-being. They limit **the size of the herds** in order to prevent unduly exploiting the environment and limiting stress for the animals. Breeders pay attention to the material and equipment used so that protrusions don't injure or bruise the animals during breeding and transportation.

Appendix I of this document presents a summary of the key elements of the certification standards for breeding. Breeders are encouraged to read it in order to better understand the main standard requirements.

For products to carry the certification name and logo (live animals, carcasses or cuts of meat), a producer must at least raise his animals according to the book of specifications. A producer may also **conduct or hire out** for one or more activities of the *Grands gibiers du Québec certifiés* agri-food chain and sell products to distributors, restaurateurs, retailers and consumers. In any case, for as long as the breeder owns the product, he is responsible for applying the standards for every activity for which he is registered.

Agri-food chain activities include: **breeding, pre-slaughter transportation, slaughtering, maturation, post-slaughter transportation, cutting, warehousing, packaging, labelling and advertising.**

Information Confidentiality

The *Grands gibiers du Québec certifiés* certification program was designed to protect information provided by businesses.



The Certification Management Committee
Fédération des éleveurs de grands gibiers du Québec
Telephone: 450-679-0540, extension 8462 / www.grands gibiers.com

Steps for Implementing Certification

In order to participate in the *Grands gibiers du Québec certifiés* certification program, the interested breeder must :

1. Communicate with the FEGGQ at **450-679-0540, extension 8462**.
2. Order the *Système de gestion de la certification* (Certification management system). This document includes all the necessary tools (book of specifications, forms, records, procedures, etc) for implementing certification in a business.
3. Implement the certification program on his farm. This process will involve the most of the management items on the farm. It can last anywhere from a few days to a few weeks.
4. Greet the auditor. If the auditor determines that the farm meets certification requirements, he will issue a certificate to the farmer.
5. Sign the license for using the *Grands gibiers du Québec certifiés* logo and certification mark and use the certification mark for all products that meet the standards.

The FEGGQ Agrees to :

1. Promote certification:
 - add the name of certified farms on its Internet Website;
 - provide an advertising poster and certification logo stickers;
 - develop new promotional tools.
2. Provide telephone assistance.

Cost of Certification

Cost for certification is as follows :

- \$59.25 + taxes: certification management system, book of specifications and telephone assistance.
- \$490 + taxes: external¹ audit (inspection conducted by an independent inspector). Every farm requesting certification is subject to an external audit for the 2006-2008 period included. Once the farm is certified, a poster will be sent along with 20 logo stickers.
- \$100 + taxes: for the annual renewal of the certificate for 2007-2008 (this amount is payable only for the years the inspector does not visit the farm);
- Cost for logo stickers. Breeders purchase the logos they use, cost to be determined.

¹ If the farm wishes to certify meat cutting at the farm, an extra \$50 is required.
If the farm has several remote sites, an extra \$50 per site is required.

Summary of the Key Elements of the Certification Standards for Breeding

(For your information only. Refer to the complete version of the book of specifications for more details)

The following grid presents the key elements of the standard which can impact breeding methods, equipment and infrastructures on a farm. By studying these elements of the standard, the breeders who are interested in certification will be in a position to assess whether their system is compatible with certification requirements. Overall, the *Grands gibiers du Québec certifiés* certification program includes several other standard elements which are more document-based (quality policy, traceability, records maintenance, etc) and not require the breeder to install any particular equipment. Some quality requirements of the *Grands gibiers du Québec certifiés* certification necessitate adequate installations on the farm, such as the corral, restraining cage and scale.

This grid is divided into three columns. Here's a description of the content of each:

- **Element of the standard:** The element of the standard defines the quality criteria of the certification program.
- **Significance:** The element of the standard is classified according to its significance: major and minor. In order to become eligible to certification, your business has to comply with all elements of the standard of "major" significance and at least 80% of elements of the standard of "minor" significance.
- **Control action:** Here are listed the action(s) required to comply with elements of the standard.

Element of the Standard	Significance	Control Action	Self-assessment compliant (C)/ non-compliant (NC)
Admission requirements			
The breeder must be a member of the union related to the type of animal marketed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Quebec Red Deer Association ▪ The Association des éleveurs de wapitis du Québec ▪ The Association of Wild Boar Breeders of Quebec ▪ The Union québécoise du bison 	Major	A Breeders requesting certification must be member.	
The breeder's declaration concerning the size of the herd must comply with the number of animals located on the farm and be countersigned by a professional.	Major	When requesting certification, the breeder must have a physical inventory dating back less than 12 months (relevant to the inspector's visit). For subsequent years, the breeder must conduct a physical inventory every three years.	

Element of the Standard	Significance	Control Action	Self-assessment compliant (C)/ non-compliant (NC)
Breeding Site, Grazing and Woodlot Management			
Breeding livestock must take place in a healthy environment consistent with the animals' wild nature.	Major	The breeder must make sure that the previous use of the land, air quality, environmental activities do not affect the animals' health or the herds' dynamics. E.g. the farm should not be located on an old dumping site or near a large factory.	
The size of the husbandry, for grazing and woodlots, should be limited to: 4 bison per hectare (1.6 per acre) 20 red deer per hectare (8 per acre) 35 wild boar per hectare (14 per acre) 10 wapiti per hectare (4 per acre).	Major (By exemption, minor until January 1 st 2009)	The breeder must make sure that his land is sufficiently large for the size of the husbandry. The breeder divides the number of animals by the total area fenced in. - All the animals must be counted (males and females). A mother with an unweaned baby count as one. After weaning has occurred, calculate the young as one regular animal.	
Breeding Methods and Animal Wellbeing			
Livestock must be raised mostly outdoors.	Major	The breeder must make sure that animals are mostly raised outdoors, except for special cases (parturition, extreme weather conditions, sick animals, weaning period, etc).	
Feeding			
The breeder must apply one or several feeding programs, signed by a professional, based on the food's nutritional value in order to promote normal growth and reach the targeted age/weight.	Major	The breeder must have implemented a feeding program signed by a professional. This or these programs must comply with the animals' needs at least for pregnant or lactating animals or for animals intended for certified meat.	
Feeding areas must provide simultaneous access to food for all animals and must be kept free of soiled food.	Minor	The breeder must regularly monitor animals and make sure they all have access to the food. He must regularly clean feeding areas.	
Animals must have access to water at all time.	Major	Animals have access to water at all time. During winter, animals can use snow.	
The use of growth stimulants is prohibited.	Major	Rations must not contain any growth stimulant.	
Adding animal by-products (meat-and-bone meal, animal fat) to the food of livestock is prohibited, except for milk protein.	Major	Rations must not contain any animal by-products.	
The use of urea is prohibited.	Major	The breeder must apply a policy that prohibits the use of urea.	
Administering antibiotics in subtherapeutic concentrations and dosages is prohibited.	Major	Rations must not contain any antibiotics.	
Animal Health and Veterinary Care			
A control program against gastrointestinal and external parasites must be set-up with a veterinarian.	Major	The breeder must apply an internal and external parasite control program as recommended by his veterinarian.	

Element of the Standard	Significance	Control Action	Self-assessment compliant (C)/ non-compliant (NC)
Cervid breeders must participate in the certification program related to CWD.	Major	Cervid breeders must register in the program and abide by the agreement conditions.	
Young wild boars must be castrated at weaning, within 60 days following birth.	Major	The breeder must castrate young wild boars at an early enough period in the animal's life.	
Reproduction			
The use of purebred males for reproduction is compulsory.	Major	The breeder must make sure of the male's purebred status prior contact with the females. Purebred tests must be conducted for cervids if parents haven't been tested as purebreds. Wild boar purebred assessments are done using a chart. Non applicable for bison.	
Animal Identification and Off-farm Transportation			
Identifying all animals with a permanent identification tag must be done in compliance with government standards in effect or at the latest upon weaning. When purchasing an animal, it must be identified upon its arrival on the farm.	Major	The breeder must: - identify all animals as soon as possible; - regularly verify whether the animal still has its identification tag; - update relevant records.	
Preparing Animals Prior to their Departure to the Slaughterhouse			
Livestock must be weighed within 15 days prior to being loaded for transport.	Major	The breeder must systematically weigh the animals within 15 days prior to being loaded for transport.	
The breeder must classify the animals leaving the farm according to their status (certified or not). He determines whether the animal has reached the targeted age/weight.	Major	The breeder must monitor the evolution of each animal and record the necessary data. He must identify the animals that qualify for the certification program.	

Are you interested in the certification program? Please fill-out the Certification Program Membership Application Form (*Formulaire de demande d'adhésion au programme de certification*) to receive the complete program and the book of specifications. Along with your application form, please include a cheque for \$67.51 (\$59.25 plus taxes).

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