

## SOP - Claws

SOP - Claws describe working routines that are important to secure claw health and minimize spread of infection between animals.

The subjects are:

- Claw wash when moving the animals
- Selection of animals for claw trimming
- Guidelines to locomotion scoring
- Claw trimming and working conditions

All subjects are illustrated by drawings and short texts, on the basis of which you can make changes according to the environment of your farm.

When you need to adjust SOP and introduce it on your farm, it is an advantage for you to contact a SOP certified cattle adviser on the website [www.leankvaeg.dk](http://www.leankvaeg.dk). Experience shows that the introductory phase lead by a competent adviser is crucial to the benefit of SOP in the long term.

The enclosed guide "Get started with SOP" holds some tips to consider, before you start adapting SOP to your working routines.

We hope you will find your SOP instructions useful.



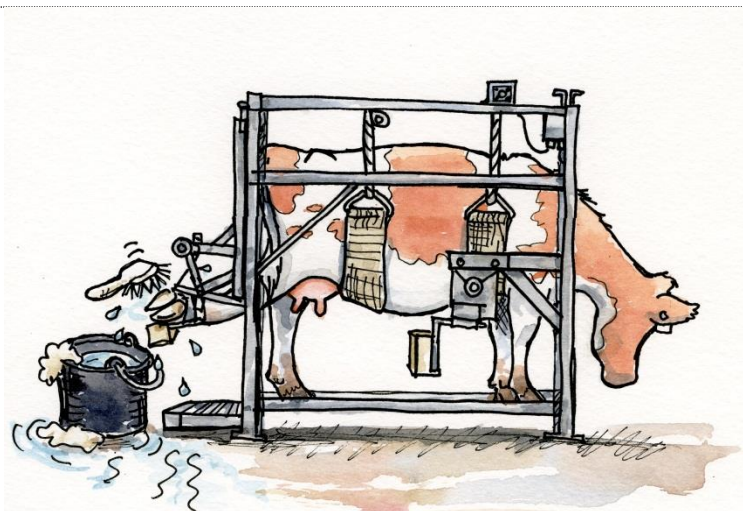
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# 1. Claws – introduction of animals

1.1 **When introducing animals to another barn section**

Wash claws in the trimming box



or

wash claws with a water hose.

- Remember the space between the claws.
- Max pressure at 15 bar



1.2 **Check claws**

Wash lower limb region thoroughly



Observe and record:

- Swelling
- Wounds in skin
- Injuries in horn

In case of problems, call:



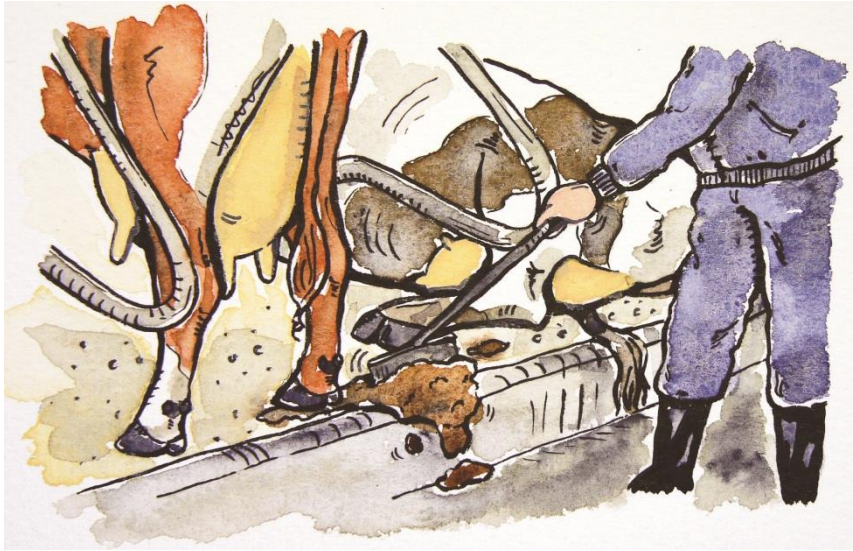
(claw expert/move animal to another pen)






<p>1.3 <b>Heifers</b></p> <p>Maintain groups</p> <p>Move animals in groups</p> <p>Clean pen section before introducing a new group of heifers</p>	 <p>A watercolor illustration of a heifer pen. The pen is a rectangular enclosure with a brown wall and a yellow floor. Several black and white cows are scattered throughout the pen. A person wearing a blue uniform and a yellow hat is kneeling on the floor, cleaning a section of the pen. There are windows on the wall and a door on the right side.</p>
<p>1.4 <b>Cows</b></p> <p>Avoid stressing the cows</p> <p>Move animals in groups</p>	 <p>A watercolor illustration of a cow walkway. A person wearing a blue uniform and a yellow hat is walking alongside a group of cows. The cows are of various colors, including black and white, and brown. The walkway is a narrow path with metal railings on both sides. In the background, there are large metal structures, possibly part of a milking parlor or a feedlot.</p>



## 2. Claws – routines in the barn

<p>2.1 <b>Lead the animals - do not chase them!</b></p>	 An illustration showing a person in blue overalls leading three cows (two black and white, one red) through a muddy barn aisle. The person is walking behind the cows, and the cows are moving away from them. The floor is wet and muddy with some straw.
<p>2.2 <b>Wash boots before entering other barn sections</b></p>	 An illustration of a person's hand holding a green rubber boot over a blue water trough. Water is being poured from the boot into the trough. A brush is on the floor next to the trough.
<p>2.3 <b>Clean cubicles every</b> <hr/><b>(morning/evening)</b>  among cows and heifers.  Clean floor passages manually</p>	 An illustration of a person in purple overalls cleaning a cow's hooves. The person is using a hoof pick to clean the hooves of a cow that is standing in a stall. The floor is muddy and there is some straw.

<p>2.4</p>	<p><b>When observing a claw problem</b></p> <p>Write down animal number on</p> <p>_____</p> <p>(blackboard/whiteboard)</p>	
<p>2.5</p>	<p><b>Dress cubicles well every</b></p> <p>_____</p> <p>(morning/evening)</p> <p>Supply all cubicles with enough bedding</p> <p>_____</p> <p>(amount of bedding)</p>	
<p>2.6</p>	<p><b>Separate cows in heat to avoid accidents</b></p>	<p><b>Vil du vide mere – køb hele SOP'en <a href="#">HER</a></b></p> 

### 3. Claws - finding lame animals for treatment

<p>3.1 <b>Milking parlour</b></p> <p>Make a locomotion score</p> <hr/> <p>(daily/weekday)</p> <p>on</p> <hr/> <p>(20 %/number of)</p> <p>cows arriving late for milking</p>	
<p>3.2 <b>AMS</b></p> <p>Make a locomotion score</p> <hr/> <p>(daily /weekday)</p> <p>on cows from the "missing visits" alarm list</p>	
<p>3.3a <b>Heifers</b></p> <p>Make a locomotion score</p> <hr/> <p>(daily /weekday)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On heifers looking lame</li><li>• On heifers not standing up during cleaning of the cubicles</li></ul>	




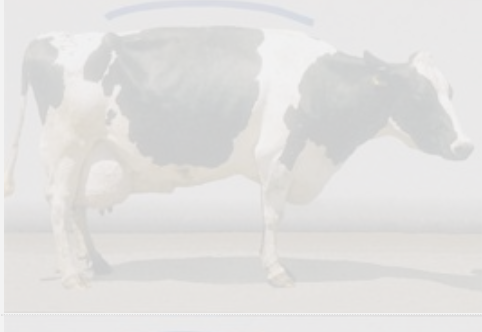
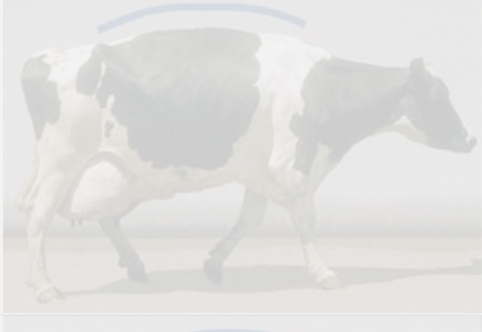
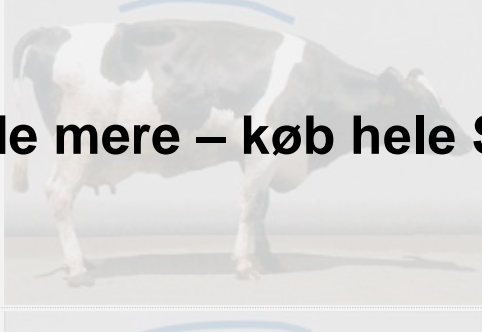

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<p>3.3b <b>Heifers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Observe daily each individual animal for indications of claw problems</li><li>• Write down animal number in case of swelling, skin disorders or claw injuries</li></ul>	
<p>3.4 <b>Follow up on lame and previously treated animals</b></p> <p>Write down animal number and follow up on disease status</p> <p>every _____</p> <p>(weekday, preferably more days)</p>	
<p>3.5 <b>When observing lame animals</b></p> <p>Write down animal number and locomotion score on _____</p> <p>(whiteboard)</p> <p>Call _____</p> <p>(claw trimmer/vet./claw expert, who will decide next step)</p>	<p><b>Vil du vide mere – køb hele SOP'en <a href="#">HER</a></b></p> 



## 4. Claws – guide to locomotion scoring

Locomotion score		
4.1	<b>Normal gait</b>  Level back and confident steps	 
4.2	<b>Irregular walk</b>  Back posture possibly arched during walking. Assymetrical and/or short steps	 
4.3	<b>Slightly lame</b>  Back posture often arched during walking and standing. No nodding of head	 
4.4	<b>Clearly lame</b>  Permanently arched back line. Nodding of head. No milk ing	 
4.5	<b>Severely lame</b>  Limited/no weight on affected limb	 

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Locomotion score system is developed by Zinpro Corporation after Spencher, D.J.; Hostetler, D.E.; Kaneene, J.B. 1997. Theriogenology 47: 1178-1187

## 5. Claws – finding animals for claw trimming

When trimming small groups: Always select animals by using management lists from "Dyrregistrering" (the Animal recording programme)

1. Claw trimming, management list, heifers
2. Claw trimming, management list, cows
3. Animals found lame
4. Animals with suspected claw disease

5.1	<p><b>Prevention - heifers</b></p> <p>Heifers 1-2 months before calving</p> <p>from _____ (15 months)</p> <p>max. _____ (120 days)</p> <p>since latest claw trimming</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Cow no.</th> <th>Time since last trimming</th> <th>Age</th> <th>Former severe claw disorders</th> <th>Days until expected calving</th> <th>Separated</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>2288</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2290</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2298</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2298</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2319</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2321</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2324</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2328</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2337</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2338</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2342</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2355</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2364</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2365</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2367</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2376</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2377</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2379</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2380</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2384</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2385</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2386</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2391</td><td>X</td><td>X</td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Claw trimming, management list, heifers</p>	Cow no.	Time since last trimming	Age	Former severe claw disorders	Days until expected calving	Separated	2288	X	X		X		2290	X	X				2298	X	X		X		2298	X	X				2319	X	X				2321	X	X				2324	X	X				2328	X	X				2337	X	X		X		2338	X	X				2342	X	X				2355	X	X		X		2364	X	X				2365	X	X		X		2367	X	X				2376	X	X				2377	X	X		X		2379	X	X				2380	X	X		X		2384	X	X				2385	X	X		X		2386	X	X				2391	X	X		X																												
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5.2	<p><b>Prevention - cows</b></p> <p>Claw trimming every _____ (4 months)</p> <p>2-3 months after calving</p> <p>During midlactation</p> <p>Before drying off</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Cow no.</th> <th rowspan="2">Time since last trimming</th> <th rowspan="2">Milk yield</th> <th rowspan="2">Former severe claw disorders</th> <th colspan="3">Lactation interval</th> <th rowspan="2">Separated</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1770</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>1903</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2038</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2093</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2112</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2123</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2128</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2129</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2139</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2144</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2153</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2199</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2200</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2230</td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2234</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2241</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2249</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2260</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2264</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>2268</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>X</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Claw trimming, management list, cows</p>	Cow no.	Time since last trimming	Milk yield	Former severe claw disorders	Lactation interval			Separated	1	2	3	1770						X		1903					X			2038				X				2093						X		2112						X		2123						X		2128						X		2129				X				2139					X			2144						X		2153				X				2199					X			2200						X		2230	X				X			2234					X			2241					X			2249					X			2260					X			2264					X			2268					X		
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5.3

All animals with suspected claw disorders, and all animals with locomotion score > 1 to be listed



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## 5.a Claws – manual claw wash

5.1a **No claw washing in milking parlour during milking**

Due to risk of contamination of milk and equipment



5.2a **The entire herd to be placed at the head lock**

every

(weekday)

Wash lame animals first



5.3a **Wash part of the animals according to management lists**

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No. animals

Weekday

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ day

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ day

\_\_\_\_\_

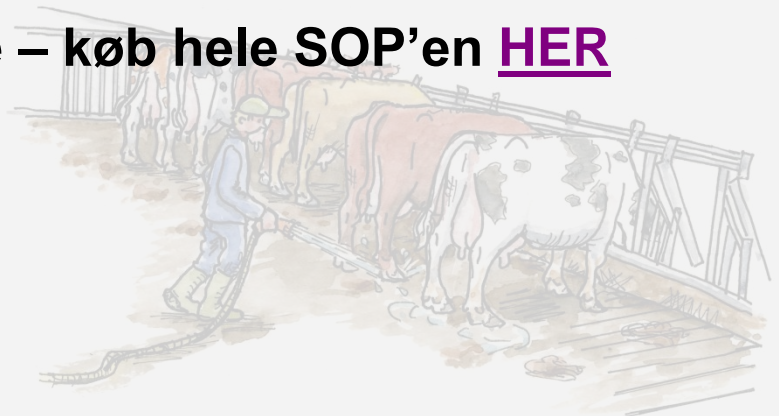
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5.4a **Wash with water hose**


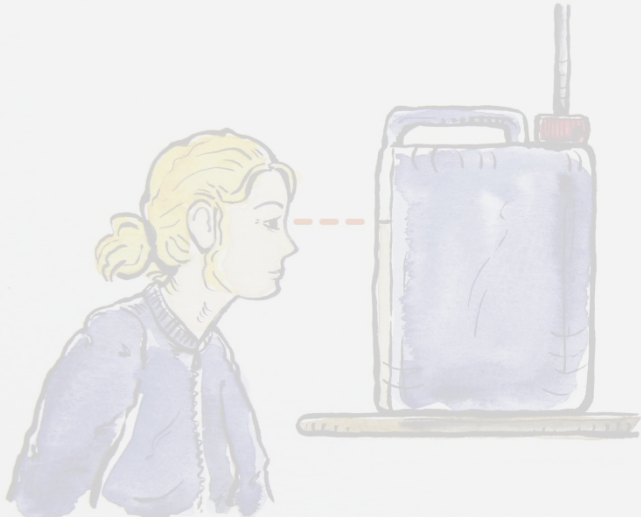
Remember the space between the claws. Max pressure at 15 bar



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## 5.b Claws – automatic claw wash

<p>5.1b</p>	<p><b>Washers with small amount of water</b> <b>Water must hit the claw region correctly.</b> Max pressure at 15 bar.</p> <p>Check setting of nozzles every _____ (weekday)</p>	
<p>5.2b</p>	<p><b>Washers with large amount of water and with recycling water</b></p> <p>Check that water is changed _____ (time)</p>	 <p><b>Vil du vide mere – køb hele SOP'en <a href="#">HER</a></b></p>
<p>5.3b</p>	<p><b>In case of breakdown, call</b></p> <p>tel. _____ (service number)</p>	

	
<p>5.4b <b>Control amount of soap/disinfectant</b></p> <hr/> <p>(daily)</p> <p>Replace the safety data sheet in the folder when new supply of soap/disinfectant is delivered.</p>	

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## 6. Claws – cows having recently calved

<p>6.1</p>	<p><b>Cows having recently calved</b></p> <p>No more than _____ (animals)</p> <p>in this section (occupancy rate optimally 90 %)</p> <p>At lack of space, give priority to first lactation cows</p>	
<p>6.2</p>	<p><b>Group of cows having recently calved</b></p> <p>_____ (days)</p> <p>in the barn section (optimally 45 days)</p>	
<p>6.3</p>	<p><b>Animals needing special care should be housed in deep-bedded pen</b></p> <p>min. <b>Vil du vide mere – køb hele SOP'en HER</b> (number of days)</p> <p>after calving</p> <p>Animals from deep-bedded pen should be moved in groups to fresh cow section.</p> <p>every _____ (weekday/even/uneven weeks)</p>	



## 7. Claw trimming – working conditions

### Risk of

- acute injuries as falls, collision with cow or splinters in the eyes
- osteoarthritis, nonspecific pain and stiffness due to a stooping twisted posture

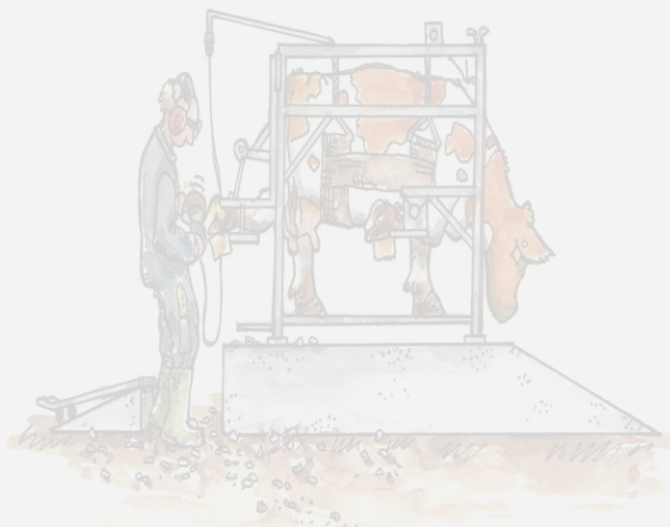
A permanent working place with a hoof care box, trap gate, good lighting, electrical outlets, water hose and tool table/box is the best working place for the hoof trimmer

#### 7.1 Working height and posture

The best boxes have hydraulics on all lifting and lowering functions.

The second best solution is a box placed on a concrete platform, so that the hoof trimmer get a better posture and working height.

Removable bars or fixed gates can be used as trap gates and shielding from the other cows.



#### 7.2 Avoid overloading the back

Pressure on the lower part of the loin (back joint L5S1) when the person is 1,8 m tall and weighs 90 kg:

Stooping posture:	224 kg
Angle of body:	102 kg
<b>Total load</b>	<b>326 kg</b>

When twisting the Body or when the cow suddenly moves the leg, the pressure on the back joints are increased.

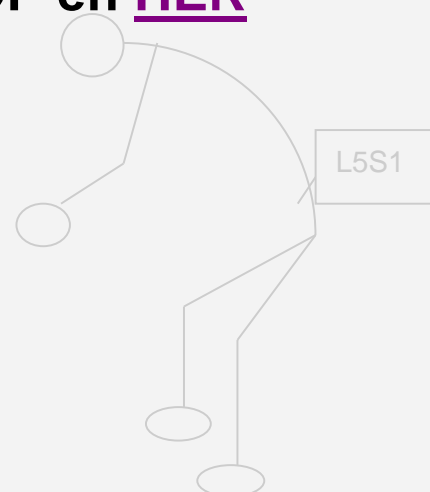
#### Avoid being kicked

Tie leg rope to both legs in the same side, but lift only the leg you are trimming.

Max. load on back joint L5S1, Kg

Age	Female	Male
30 years of age	387 kg	510 kg
40 years of age	326 kg	418 kg
50 years of age	255 kg	326 kg
Over 60 years of age	183 kg	234 kg

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7.3	<p><b>Remember</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety boots with non-slip soles</li> <li>• Safety glasses</li> <li>• Nitrile gloves when using Salicylic acid</li> <li>• Ear protection when using angle grinder and hydraulics</li> </ul> <p>Safety glasses, gloves and Salicylic acid etc. are placed in a closed container, when they are not used.</p>	
7.4	<p><b>Cleaning of box and floor in between trimmings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manure is scraped off</li> <li>• Visible dirt is washed off with low pressure hosing</li> </ul> <p>After ended hoof trimming, the box is high pressure hosed - floor and equipment. See instructions about pressure washing in Milking SOP: <i>Cleaning of stables and milking bails.</i></p>	

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