

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY
AYRSHIRE LINEAR ASSESSMENT / TYPE CLASSIFICATION SCHEME REGULATIONS

1. ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for linear assessment and classification a heifer or cow must:

- a. Be in-milk.
- b. Be registered in the Herd Book or the Red and White Register of the Ayrshire Cattle Society
- c. Have had one or more calves at the time of inspection.
- d. It is possible to linear assess/classify the animal twice in the same lactation providing the inspection takes place during a routine or special TCS visit.

2. APPLICATION

- a. Application must include:
 - (i) All heifers that have calved for the first time since the previous visit.
 - (ii) All first calved animals brought into the herd since the previous visit and not already classified.
 - (iii) Cows already classified that are considered to merit up-pointing.
- b. If additional animals become eligible between the time of application and the field officer's visit, they must be advised to NBDC or the classifier immediately so that enough time is allocated to the visit
- c. If the herd is kept on more than one farm, application in respect of all eligible animals on all the farms must be made at the same time. If the routine visit is cancelled please note that there will be no inspections carried out until the next routine visit.

3. CLASSIFICATION CHARGE

- a. The classification charges will be as follows:-
Flat rate fee of **£108.00** for visits of 1 - 15 animals. For visits where 16 - 100 animals are inspected - **£7.21** per animal. From 101st animal to 150th animal the headage fee will reduce to **£3.61** per animal. From 151st animal onwards the headage fee reduces to **£2.58** per animal. Single Bull inspected alongside females - **£15.90**. A Classification special visit (defined as a non-scheduled visit outside the regular cycle agreed for that herd) **£210.00** (to include the first 20 inspections). Special Bull visit **£108.00**. Cancellation charge of less than 3 days' notice will incur a charge of **£108.00**.
- b. The Ayrshire Cattle Society will invoice members direct on being notified of the numbers classified by the NBDC classifiers.
- c. If any heifers are withheld from inspection, the classification of animals which were inspected at the time of the herd visit will be cancelled and the fee not refunded. (See also 5 (d) below).

4. INSPECTION

- a. Heifers must be in-milk.
- b. Animals must at all times be presented for inspection in natural condition. Should a field officer be of the opinion that such is not the case he is authorised to refuse to assess or classify the animal and shall submit a written report of the circumstances to the Society.
- c. The member or his representative must be present at the time of inspection, and the animals readily available for the field officer at the premises stated in the application. **THEY MUST NOT BE LOOSE IN FIELDS. INSPECTIONS WILL BE CARRIED OUT ONLY ON HARDSTANDINGS.**
- d. Animals will be identified by the official ear tag or the registration number. If the registration certificate is not available for this purpose, or the animal cannot be identified from the registration certificate, the field officer will record the official ear tag number for later identification.
- e. The current monthly recording statements must be available for inspection by the field officer.
- f. After inspection a copy of the field officer's report on each animal will be issued on the farm, and the registration certificate endorsed.
- g. THE DECISION OF THE FIELD OFFICER IS FINAL. An animal can be reassessed at any subsequent routine inspection.

5. GENERAL

- a. A computer print-out summary of assessments and classification scores awarded by the field officer will be issued to the member.
- b. Special Visits may be in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Society.
- c. Fees applicable to the Linear Assessment/Classification Scheme are as published in the Journal.

d. Excellent Class Only

A cow must have had 3 calves before she is eligible for Excellent and the following conditions will apply. 3rd calver's must score a minimum of 90 for udder and the maximum overall score will be EX93. The maximum score for a 4th calver will be EX94. The maximum score for a 5th calver will be EX95. To classify 96 and above, the animal must have had 6 calvings. She will not be made EX if DRY or in an ADVANCED stage of lactation. However, cows at the end of their third or later lactation can be presented at a routine visit and a special inspection after her next calving may be recommended by the field officer. The decision as to re-inspection will rest solely with the field officer, and a special visit fee will be payable if a cow is to be re-inspected for 'Possible Excellent'.

Excellent scores will be shown thus- EX90(3) 5years with the figures in brackets denoting the number of times that EX has been awarded

e. Bull Classification Regulations

Bulls of 2 years of age will be eligible for classification.

f. TCS Pointing System

Cow Classification			Heifer Classification		Minimum VG legs & udders
100 – 90	Excellent	(EX)	89 – 85	VG	
89 – 85	Very Good	(VG)	84 – 80	GP	
84 – 80	Good Plus	(GP)	79 – 75	G	
79 – 75	Good	(G)	74 – 65	F	
74 – 65	Fair	(F)	64 - 40	P	
64 - 40	Poor	(P)			

A cow that has been classified cannot be down-pointed at any subsequent inspection; however, she can be up-pointed.

- g. The member has the option to present the registration certificate to the field officer before or immediately after the inspection of the animal.