



Chapter 5: Social

5.7 Housing and Living Conditions

Housing and living conditions

In this activity, we will look at **safe**, **clean**, and **decent** housing and living conditions for workers and their families.



5.7 Housing and Living Conditions

No.	Base requirement	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.7.1	<p>Workers and their families housed or lodged on-site are provided with safe, clean, and adequate living quarters considering local conditions. This includes the following:</p> <p>Location and construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe construction in a non-hazardous location, protecting against extreme weather conditions, with dry floors, permanent walls, and in good repair. Dry floors should be raised from ground level and made of cement, stone, tile, wood, or sealed and leveled clay. • Protection against air pollution and surface runoff of <u>wastewater</u>. • Workers/families are informed about emergency evacuation plans. • Group accommodation has marked evacuation routes, installed and maintained firefighting equipment, and instructions for its use. <p>Health and hygiene:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Availability of sufficient safe drinking water, at least 20 liters per adult per day and within 1km/30 minutes round trip. • Safety and privacy of vulnerable groups ensured by well-lit and lockable facilities. <u>Sanitary</u> facilities are located within the same buildings or at a safe distance (no more than 60 meters from rooms/dormitories) and provided separately for men and women. • Adequate closed-<u>sewage</u> or pit latrines, <u>sanitation</u>, and <u>waste</u> disposal facilities. • Cooking areas with smoke ventilation. • Pest control measures to prevent rats, mice, insects, and vermin that could cause disease or carry parasites. <p>Comfort and decency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families of permanent workers with children have separate rooms from non-family members. • Workers' children living on-site are in a safe place and under adult supervision during working hours. • <u>Electricity</u> is available in-house or nearby if available in the area. <p>For collective housing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Separate, lockable rooms, washing facilities, and toilets for men and women. Each worker is provided with an individual bed, and there is a minimum space of 1 meter between beds. If bunk beds are used, there must be at least 0.7 meters of clear space between bunks. • Storage for personal belongings is provided, either through individual cupboards or at least 1 meter of shelf unit per worker. <p>ILO Workers' Housing Recommendation, 1961 (No. 115) ILO Code of Practice on Safety and Health in Agriculture, 2010</p>		✓		✓

Read the requirement and its applicability before you move on to the next page

5.7.1

Workers and their families housed or lodged on-site are provided with safe, clean, and adequate living quarters



- Safe location and construction
- Protection against weather, pollution, wastewater
- Dwellings with dry floors and permanent walls
- Installed and maintained fire safety equipment
- Emergency evacuation plans



James must ensure that the workers in his large farm have safe living quarters where their health is not at risk. The dry floors should be raised from ground level and made of cement, stone, tile, wood, or sealed and leveled clay. With regards to the evacuation plans, James informs the workers/families about them and marks the evacuation routes.

5.7.1

Health and hygiene



- Safe drinking water
- Gender-separated sanitary facilities
- Adequate sewage, sanitation, and waste disposal
- Cooking areas with smoke ventilation
- Pest control measures (rats, mice, insects)



James must ensure availability of sufficient safe drinking water for his workers: minimum 20 liters per adult per day and within 1km/30 minutes round trip. He provides well-lit and lockable facilities for workers and sanitary facilities are located within the same buildings or at a safe distance (less than 60m from rooms/dormitories). Separate toilets are provided for men and women.

5.7.1

Comfort and decency



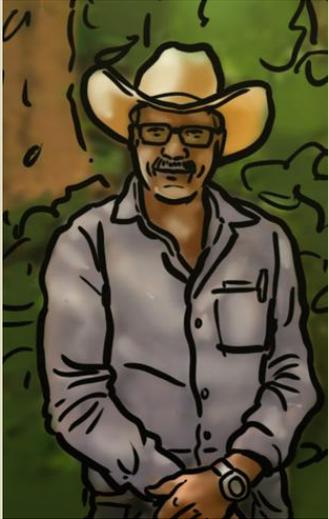
- Separate rooms from non-family members
- Children living on site are safe and under adult supervision
- Electricity is available in-house or nearby
- Separate lockable rooms for men and women
- Individual beds for workers
- Storage for personal belongings



James ensures that families of permanent workers have separate rooms from non-family members. For collective housing, James provides separate, lockable rooms, washing facilities, and toilets for men and women. Workers have their individual bed, and there is a minimum space of 1 meter between beds. If bunk beds are used, James ensures at least 0.7 meters of space between bunks.

Case scenario

Let's look at a scenario at a James' farm.



James provides the worker families one bedroom, one toilet, one shower, one handwash facility, and one kitchen per family.

The kitchens of the three families are next to each other as can be seen in the photo.

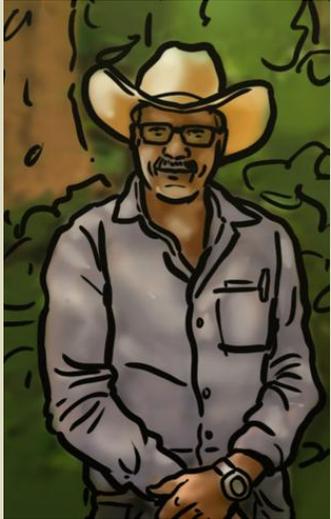


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Is James providing adequate living and housing conditions to his workers?

Think about the answer before you move on to the next page

Case scenario - Solution



The answer is “No”.

James does provide enough rooms, toilets, showers, and handwash facility to the worker families.

However, the photo of the kitchens shows that they are **filled with smoke and do not have proper smoke ventilation.**

Therefore, **James does not comply with the specifications of cooking area in the requirement.**



5.7.1

Examples of inadequate, hazardous housing conditions



No.	Base requirements	Group certification			Ind. cert.
		S-farms	L-farms	Group mgt.	S/L
5.7.2	<p>Children living on-site and of school-going age attend school. They either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend a school within safe walking distance • Attend a school within reasonable traveling distance with safe transport available • Receive on-site schooling of a recognized and equivalent level. 		✓		✓
5.7.3	<p>Workers and their families housed on-site have safe, clean, and decent living conditions that consider local standards. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe accommodation in non-hazardous locations, with protection from extreme weather, dry floors, permanent walls, and well-maintained structures. • Marked evacuation routes for group accommodations. • Protection against air pollution and surface runoff, with adequate sewage, sanitation, and waste disposal facilities. • Access to safe drinking water. • Adequate sanitary and washing facilities, ensuring the safety and privacy of vulnerable groups through well-lit and lockable facilities. <p>ILO Recommendation, Workers' Housing Recommendation, 1961 (No. 115)</p>	✓		✓	



Read the requirements and their applicability before you move on to the next page

5.7.2

Children living on-site and of school-going age attend school



Children either...

- Attend a school within safe walking distance, or...
- Attend a school within reasonable traveling distance with safe transport available, or..
- Receive on-site schooling of a recognized and equivalent level.



Large farm owner James oversees that the workers' children living on-site can go to school. If there is no school within walking distance, James can organize safe transport to the children or set up a school on the property. This school must be recognized by the local government authority to provide on-site schooling.

5.7.3

Workers and their families housed on-site have safe, clean, and decent living conditions



Alex, small farm owner, while considering local standards, provides his workers:

- Safe accommodation in non-hazardous locations, with protection from extreme weather
- Marked evacuation routes for group accommodations
- Protection against air pollution, surface runoff
- Adequate sewage, sanitation, and waste disposal facilities



The housing provides protection from extreme weather, has dry floors, permanent walls, and well-maintained structures.

5.7.3

Workers and their families housed on-site have safe, clean, and decent living conditions



Alex provides his workers:

- Access to safe drinking water
- Adequate sanitary and washing facilities
- Safeguards and privacy for vulnerable groups through well-lit and lockable facilities



This requirement also applies to group management.

Case scenario

Let's look at a scenario at Amina's individually certified small farm.



- Amina and her family live in their own house, and they are the only ones living on the farm.
- Their house is built at a safe location. The family has access to safe drinking water and the garbage collection system of the village.
- The house has a toilet and shower next to it with a proper sewage system.
- However, the roof of the house has leaks. The toilet does not have a door, so it is not lockable.



Are the living conditions at Amina's farm adequate?

Think about the answer before you move on to the next page

Case scenario - Solution



The answer is that the requirement 5.7.3 on workers' living conditions **does not apply to Amina and her family since she is an individually certified smallholder.**

If Amina's farm was part of group certification, the group management would have to ensure compliance with this requirement.

No.	Continuous improvement requirements			
5.7.4	<p>On-site living conditions have improved through:</p> <p>Location and Construction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measures taken to reduce extreme climate impacts like flooding. • Natural ventilation ensures airflow in all weather. <p>Health and Hygiene:</p> <p>Adequate sanitary facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines or toilets connected to wastewater systems or sewage systems. • Facilities: 1 toilet, urinal, handwash, and shower per 15 persons. Handwash facilities include a tap and basin. • Bedrooms are free from cooking smoke. • Sufficient daylight and artificial lighting. <p>Comfort and Decency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered or comfortable areas for meals and breaks, respecting customs. <p>Group Accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunk beds limited to two levels. • Increased space for group accommodation. 		✓	✓



Read the requirement and its applicability before you move on to the next page

5.7.4

Improvements to be made on housing location and construction, health and hygiene and comfort and decency



In his large farm, James invests in the health and comfort of his workers by taking steps to improve the on-site living conditions by..

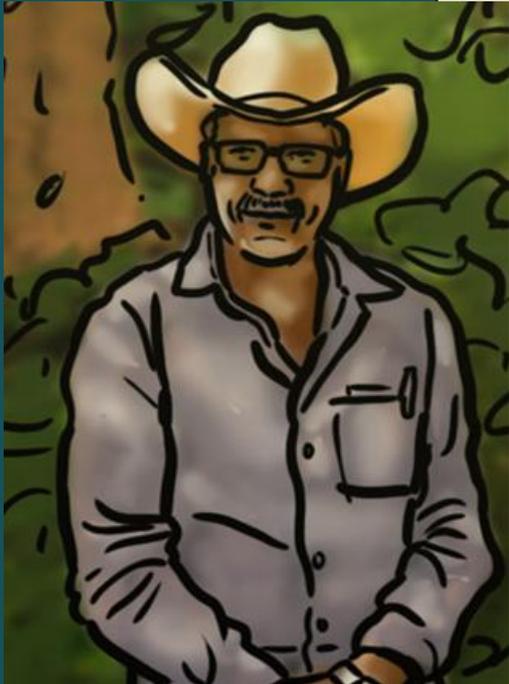
- Reducing extreme climate impacts like flooding
- Boosting natural ventilation and airflow in all weather conditions



This is a continuous improvement requirement and becomes applicable during the 2nd certification cycle for large farms and individually certified farms.

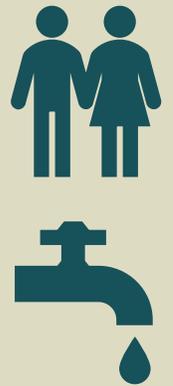
5.7.4

Improvements to be made on housing location and construction, health and hygiene and comfort and decency



James also improves health and hygiene conditions by setting up..

- Ventilated Improved Pit (VIP) latrines or toilets connected to wastewater systems or sewage systems.
- 1 toilet, urinal, handwash, and shower per 15 persons. Handwash facilities include a tap and basin.



This is a continuous improvement requirement and becomes applicable during the 2nd certification cycle for large farms and individually certified farms.

5.7.4

Improvements to be made on housing location and construction, health and hygiene and comfort and decency



Finally, James takes steps to improve the health, hygiene and comfort of his workers by setting up..

- Bedrooms that are free from cooking smoke
- Sufficient daylight and artificial lighting
- Covered or comfortable areas for meals and breaks, respecting customs
- Bunk beds limited to two levels
- Increased space for group accommodation



This is a continuous improvement requirement and becomes applicable during the 2nd certification cycle for large farms and individually certified farms.



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