



Quality Assurance. **From farm to shop.**



**QS. Quality
Scheme for Food.**

Press release

Open for comments:

QS presents the new items in the English scheme manual 2011 for discussion ahead of time

As of November 15th, 2010, we are publishing the reworked English-language guidelines and check lists that will enter force at the start of next year: The documents can be viewed and directly commented upon by all interested parties on the Internet until December 5th, 2010. QS will use this commenting phase to constantly improve the scheme manual.

The practicality of the content is thus checked by those who actually have to use it, explains Dr. Hermann-Josef Nienhoff, managing director of QS: "We are happy to let people look over our shoulders. Not just because those who are now able to comment will be those who use the check lists and guidelines in practice. We thus hope to ensure an even wider acceptance of the scheme manual as well as obtaining useful suggestions."

Overall, the scheme manual and the guidelines have been streamlined and made more easy to use with this revision. Very few additional requirements have been added. This applies to the meat and meat products supply chain including poultry and to the fruit, vegetable and potatoes supply chain. All of the changes have been discussed by the advisory boards and resolved unanimously.

In October the German scheme manual was open for public comments. As a result, the English documents contain already some improvements, which were suggested for the German versions.

After the comments and notes have all been reviewed, the new guidelines will enter force as of January 1st, 2011.

More information about commenting: www.q-s.de

QS Qualität und Sicherheit GmbH is the scheme owner and responsible for the QS scheme for foodstuffs. The standards defined by QS specify strict, traceable production criteria for all stages in the chain of value creation, from the farmer to the shop. The cross-stage monitoring of these criteria, along with the traceability of the agricultural products and the foodstuffs made using these products, are characteristic of the system. More than 129,000 compa-

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nies involved in animal feed, agriculture, livestock transport, slaughtering/deboning, processing, butchery, wholesale and food retailing, as well as 20,000 from the fresh fruit, vegetables and potato sectors, have chosen to take part in the QS scheme for foodstuffs to date.

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