



Qualitätssicherung. Vom Landwirt bis zur Ladentheke.

Explanatory notes to the  
Guideline  
**Agriculture**  
**Poultry Production/  
Breeding Poultry**





## Explanatory notes Poultry Production/Breeding Poultry

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In addition to the Guideline Agriculture Poultry Production and Breeding Poultry, the subsequent document contains further explanations on the criteria required in the guidelines. These serve as an aid to interpretation and are to be understood as related requirements.

**Notes** (on legal requirements or other framework conditions) and **Suggestions** (for process assurance or as management aid) are identified by *italic* text. Notes and suggestions are not QS requirements, are not checked and are not included in the evaluation.

### 1 Fundamentals

#### ***From which point onwards the QS criteria must be complied with?***

By signing the declaration of participation and power of attorney, the company commits to comply with all QS requirements. The date of the declaration of participation and power of attorney is therefore the start date for QS.

As of the start of the QS participation, the QS requirements also apply to additional purchases: Feed fattening animals must be purchased from a supplier eligible to deliver into the QS scheme. The origin of the feed purchased before the start date is not included in the evaluation. It is not necessary to clear the feed store or the shed first; these feeds can be used up and the animals can be marketed as QS animals after a successful audit.

#### ***What is a company or location?***

The entire location is always considered, which is defined by the location number and production scope. The location number is usually the registration number according to the Livestock Transport Regulation (in Germany VVVO number/Balis number/Hi-Tier number). The location number must be 15 characters long and start with the ISO code for the respective country. If the number is not 15 characters long, you can customise the number by adding zeros to the front for example: ISO Code\_zeros\_location number possibly with letters). The production scope represents the company segment or the specialisation of the company.

All sheds, areas and installations belonging to a location number are considered. A drawing of the company and layout plans shows the divisions of the company. In addition, the entire area of the company will be inspected, e. g. when the hygiene on the farm is evaluated.

### 2 General requirements

#### 2.1 General system requirements

##### 2.1.1 **[K.O.]** General company data

#### ***In what form can the list of livestock care personnel be kept?***

The list of personal caring for the animals must contain all the required information. There are no specifications for the format, here every livestock owner can decide on his own. The list can also be kept as part of the emergency plan.

#### ***Does a list of livestock care personnel also have to be kept on family companies?***

For family members, the same requirements for qualification as livestock care personnel apply as for employees. Consequently, qualification/instruction and duration of the activity must also be specifically stated.



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For family members without agricultural or other job-related training, the required expertise must be ensured through comprehensive instruction/training and documented in the list of livestock care personnel.

If persons have already been familiar with livestock care on the company for many years, the duration of the activity can also be indicated approximately.

### ***What must a company sketch or plan look like?***

A company sketch or plan must be structured in such a way that all buildings including their function as well as all facilities and storage areas for operating resources (e.g. feed silos, carcass storage, dung storage, medicine storage, litter storage) can be clearly identified. External buildings, facilities and storage areas for operating resources (e.g. silo bales, field storages, outsourced tool sheds) that are not located on the company grounds but are assigned to the location number must also be considered.

In particular, in the case of companies or facilities which include several location numbers, it must be possible to trace which buildings or parts of buildings belong to which location number.

### ***Which animal numbers are recorded in the QS scheme?***

In the QS scheme, different animal numbers are recorded for the stage agriculture:

- Declaration of participation and power of attorney: The maximum number of animal places that can be occupied is recorded in the declaration of participation and power of attorney. If the number of animals for the location changes, the declaration must also be updated.
- Querying the number of animals in system audits: The maximum number of animal places that can be occupied can also be recorded in system audits. This information is mandatory in the case of a knock-out audit and voluntary in all other system audits. The data serve as pure information, e.g. for estimating the size of the farm, for plausibility checks and for comparison with the other recorded animal numbers. An automatic transfer of the animal numbers to other places (e.g. monitoring programs) does not take place.
- Antibiotics monitoring: For poultry, the maximum number of available animal places per production unit must be stored. In addition, herd data (including the number of animals per herd) is recorded. The data can be entered by the coordinator or by the livestock owner himself and must be available for all herds. The therapy index for poultry is calculated on the basis of the sum of the number of animals kept indoors.
- No animal numbers are recorded in the diagnostic data monitoring.

### **2.1.2 Implementation and documentation of self-assessment**

#### ***Do the corrective actions and implementation deadlines from the self-assessment have to be documented?***

Yes. For example the QS self-assessment checklist can be used for this purpose.

### **2.1.4 Incident and crisis management**

#### ***What is the use of an emergency plan and where must it be kept?***

The purpose of the emergency plan is to ensure proper care of the animals in the event that the head of operations or the person responsible for looking after the animals is unexpectedly absent



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or if important technical installations designed to supply fresh air, water or feed to the animals no longer function (e. g. in case of a power failure).

**Suggestion:** *The emergency plan should be clearly visible (placed) at a central place and at every location.*

**Note:** *When filling-in the emergency plan, the "Explanations Emergency Plan Livestock Farming" (separate document) should be taken into account.*

### **Which contact details must be included in the emergency plan?**

The emergency plan must include at least the contact details of a contact person who is familiar with the situation at the company and the attending farm veterinarian. If the care of the livestock is dependent on electricity (e.g. ventilation, alarm system, feeding, watering or heating system), the contact details of a technical emergency service (e.g. electrician) must also be included. If the supply of air/feed/water to the livestock on a company is not dependent on electrically operated systems, this information is not necessary.

### **Must a printed paper of incident be present in the company?**

No. Every livestock owner must have access to a paper of incident in order to be able to pass on all necessary information in a purposeful manner in the event of an incident. However, besides a printout, a digital version - such as a privately saved PDF or the document provided on the QS website - can also be used.

## 3 Poultry production requirements

### 3.1 Traceability and labelling

#### 3.1.1 Operational purchases and incoming goods

##### **Must bag tags of feed and feed additives be kept?**

Yes, because the batch number, which is needed for the exact allocation of the goods to the producer, is indicated on this. Since the purchase of feed must be documented in order to be able to trace it at any time, all bag tags must be assigned to the delivery notes and kept. This also helps in the event of a complaint and recourse claims. If the batch number is not indicated on the bag tag but on another part of the bag, this part of the bag should be kept in combination with the bag tag to be able to guarantee an allocation to the delivery note.

Instead of keeping the bag tag, other possibilities for documenting the batch number are conceivable, such as digital documentation (e.g. photo of the bag tag/bag part with the batch number), handwritten transfer of the batch number to the associated delivery note, keeping a register with all the necessary information and allocations, etc.

#### 3.1.2 Verification of eligibility of delivery

##### **Does the new criterion result in a higher documentation effort for the livestock owner?**

No, the new criterion does not cause any additional documentation effort for the livestock owner. As before, it must be possible to explain the procedure for checking the eligibility of delivery in the audit. Previously, this was checked in up to four different criteria, so the effort in the audit is now reduced.



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### ***At which time must the eligibility of delivery of suppliers/carriers etc. be checked?***

It is decisive that feed suppliers, livestock owners, livestock transport companies etc. are eligible to deliver at the time of delivery of livestock or feed or at the time of transporting livestock. Therefore, the query of the eligibility of delivery should be checked up-to-date at the time of delivery or on the day of the service. The eligibility of delivery into the QS scheme is checked in the software platform ([www.q-s.de/softwareplattform/en/](http://www.q-s.de/softwareplattform/en/)) under the scheme participant search. There, for example, the eligibility of delivery can be checked by entering the location number of the company of origin.

### **3.1.4 [K.O.] Origin and marketing**

#### ***Is it possible to keep only a part of the animals of a location number under QS conditions?***

No, the QS certification applies for the entire location. This is defined by a location number (in Germany VVVO number) in combination with the production scope. All animals from the location must be kept according to the QS requirements and are traded as QS animals. The QS requirements must therefore also be complied with, even if the QS animals are not marketed into the QS scheme (e. g. because they are delivered to a butcher who does not participate in the QS scheme).

#### ***How can the livestock owner check whether the animals come from a QS-certified company?***

The eligibility of delivery for the QS scheme is checked in the QS database ([www.qs-plattform.de](http://www.qs-plattform.de)) under the Scheme Participant Search. The eligibility of delivery can be viewed there by specifying the location number of the company of origin.

#### ***Do peking ducklings must be transported by a QS-certified livestock transporter to the peking duck rearing company?***

No, only the transport from a peking duck rearing company to a fattening farm or from a fattening farm to an abattoir must be done by a QS-certified livestock transport company.

#### ***How can the livestock owner prove the food chain information in the audit?***

Where the food chain information (e. g. standard declaration) is not available as a copy on the company, it can be transmitted by the abattoir during the audit.

### **3.1.5 [K.O.] Stock records**

#### ***From when must daily losses be documented?***

Daily losses must be documented separately for dead and culled animals from the start of fattening. If chicks hatch in the shed (procurement of hatching eggs), the losses must be documented from the calculated hatching day.

## **3.2 Animal welfare farming**

### **3.2.1 [K.O.] Monitoring and care of livestock**

#### ***What are the legal requirements for the operational self-assessment of animal protection?***

**Note:** In accordance with § 11 section 8 Animal Welfare Law, every livestock owner must assure due to the self-assessment, that § 2 of the Animal Welfare Law will be fulfilled.



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*In particular appropriate animal related properties (animal protection indicators) must be collected and evaluated.*

### 3.2.2 [K.O.] General farming requirements

#### **Can a free-range company also participate in the QS system?**

Yes, within the QS scheme free range and indoor housing systems are applicable.

### 3.2.3 [K.O.] Handling sick and injured animals

#### **Do livestock owners need a certificate of expertise for culling?**

Anyone who carries out culling must have the necessary knowledge and skills. Generally, the livestock owner does not require an official proof of competence.

#### **Whereon must attention be paid during stunning?**

When stunning with a blunt strike to the head, the object for stunning must be moved towards the animal. It is not allowed to hit the animal against an object.

#### **Whereon must attention be paid after the killing?**

After an animal got stunned and killed, care must be taken to ensure that death has occurred safely. If this does not apply and first signs of a recurring perceptive ability (e. g. persistent breathing movements, eye reactions) are observed, both the stunning and the killing must be repeated.

### 3.2.5 Shed climate, temperature, noise pollution, ventilation

#### **When is the most sensible time to inspect a ventilation system in closed sheds?**

**Suggestion:** *It is recommended to check the functionality every year prior to the start of the summer period.*

#### **What can be suitable measures against high enthalpy values in turkey sheds?**

##### **Suggestion:**

- Limit feed supply in phases
- Fully exploit ventilation capacity
- Daily checking of the full functionality of the supply systems

*The decisive factors for the effectiveness of these measures in the event of high enthalpy values are the circulation of fresh air and the extraction of heat in the areas in which the animals are present. The measures that need to be taken vary depending on the type of shed.*

### 3.2.6 Lighting

#### **What is the best setting for the lighting programme in a turkey shed?**

**Suggestion:** *Periods of darkness should be oriented towards the natural day-night rhythm and, where they deviate from the natural seasonal fluctuations, amount to a minimum of eight hours. It is recommended to set up dawn phases. Deviations from the lighting plan are allowed during the accustomization period, during destocking or on veterinary indications. An emergency light for orientation (0.5 lux) during darkening periods can be maintained.*



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### ***Is an orientation light permitted for chickens and turkeys?***

Yes, an orientation light (0.5 lux) during the dark phase can be maintained.

### **3.2.7 [K.O.] Space allowances**

#### ***What is the composition of the usable shed surface?***

Calculation of stock density using the information from the slaughter settlement or bill and stock documentation on shed surface (interior surface): The usable shed surface is the floor surface which is available to the poultry without restriction. The installation of a second level in order to increase the space allowances is possible, if these areas are completely in line with the requirements of a usable shed surface.

The surface under troughs can be included as usable surface, if these have adjustable heights and it is ensured there is unrestricted water and feed access from the 21st day on, and the feed and drinking facilities are at a height at which all animals can pass unhindered. For peking ducks, areas under feed, water and other shed facilities are included as usable surfaces if the poultries can pass below or above those facilities.

An outdoor area for broiler, which is freely available at the latest with the attainment of the stocking density limit in the shed, can be added to the effective area up to 100 %.

If an outdoor area is provided permanently to turkeys if possible by the sixth and at latest by the ninth week of life, the usable space of the outdoor area can be occupied with 50 % of the acceptable stocking density. The chargeable area of the outdoor area is limited to 25 % of shed floor space.

Used outdoor areas must be littered completely.

In case of the presence of a veterinary indication or snow-capped environment or rather very cold temperatures in the outdoor area (multiple days below freezing ( $<0^{\circ}\text{C}$ )), the access to the outdoor area can be restricted for a determined period or can be concluded for the veterinary prescribed period.

#### ***How is the stock density calculated?***

In general, the stock density is calculated on a shed-by-shed basis. If several sheds belong to one location number, the stock density must be maintained for each shed. The stocking density of 39 kg live weight per  $\text{m}^2$  of usable floor area must not be exceeded at any time. If the average weight of fattening chickens is less than 1600 g, the stocking density shall not exceed 35 kg live weight per  $\text{m}^2$  usable floor area on average in three successive passes.

### **3.2.8 Alarm system**

#### ***What type of alarm system must be present in a company?***

For electrically operated ventilation systems, a functioning alarm device must be present in every company. For this purpose, for example, either a signal horn or a signal lamp or a phone dialer must be present. Which type of device (or which combination of devices) makes sense for a particular company must be decided on a case-by-case basis. It is fundamental that a power failure or failure of the ventilation system is noticed immediately in any case (e.g. also during the night hours or in remote sheds).



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### 3.2.9 Emergency power generator

#### ***Can companies with solar systems use storage batteries as an emergency power generator?***

Solar batteries can be used as an emergency power generator so that the animals are supplied with food, water and air also in the event of a power failure. It must be ensured that the batteries have sufficient capacity to supply the sheds with electricity in the event of a power failure.

#### ***How must be acted if the ventilation fails?***

Assistance is provided by the emergency plan, in which contact details for the technical emergency service are contained.

If the ventilation stops working, the air supply must be restored as quickly as possible. In the event of a power failure, an emergency generator must be connected. If the ventilation has failed due to other technical defects, it must be ensured via a replacement device that fresh air reaches the compartments of the shed as quickly as possible. For example, the windows/shed gates/doors can be opened as a short-term emergency measure.

### 3.2.10 Livestock transport

#### ***How can the livestock owner check whether the livestock transport company is approved for QS?***

The eligibility of delivery into the QS scheme is checked in the database ([www.qs-plattform.de](http://www.qs-plattform.de)) under the scheme participant search. There the eligibility of delivery can be looked up namely.

#### ***Who has to check whether a livestock transport company is eligible to deliver?***

In general, the person who orders a livestock transport must ensure that the carrier is QS-approved.

(If the transport to another company or abattoir is ordered by a livestock trader company, this company must ensure that the carrier is QS approved).

If the livestock transport company, on his part, instructs an external transport service provider, then the livestock transport company must ensure that the subcontractor is eligible to deliver for QS.

#### ***When does the livestock owner have to check the eligibility of delivery of a livestock carrier?***

If a livestock owner orders the transport of his QS livestock to another company or to the abattoir, he must check the carrier's eligibility to deliver.

If livestock is delivered to a livestock company, the livestock owner must also check the carrier's eligibility to deliver - regardless of whether he has ordered the transport or not.

If livestock is picked up from the livestock company and the livestock owner has not ordered the carrier himself, he does not have to check the carrier's eligibility to deliver.

If livestock is to be delivered to a non-QS company, the livestock transporter does not need to be QS certified, as the QS chain is interrupted and the animals lose their QS status.



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### 3.2.11 Transportability

#### **Who is in charge to pay attention to the transportability of the animals?**

Both the livestock owner and the carrier of the animals are in charge of ensuring that only animals that are fit for transport are loaded.

### 3.2.14 [K.O.] Proof of competence of the livestock owner

#### **Who must attend an annual further training?**

At least one responsible employee or the livestock owner of the company must attend an annual further training. This person must be on the list of livestock care personnel. The confirmation of participation for the training must be issued in the name of the livestock owner/employee. If a livestock owner/employee is responsible for several locations, the participation proof can also be used for other locations.

#### **What topics does the expertise of the livestock owner cover?**

Areas of knowledge:

- Legal regulations, in particular in the areas of animal welfare and animal health
- Anatomy and physiology of fattening poultry
- Behaviour of fattening poultry in a controlled environment
- Appropriate provision of feed and water for fattening poultry
- Signs of health impairments in turkeys, chickens and peking ducks
- Correct handling of ill and injured fattening poultry in accordance with animal protection
- Correct stunning and slaughtering of fattening poultry in accordance with animal protection
- Required process technology for the rearing of fattening poultry
- Hygiene and disinfection

Areas of skills:

- Correct handling of fattening poultry in accordance with animal welfare
- Correct catching, loading and transport of fattening poultry in accordance with animal welfare
- Correct stunning and culling in accordance with animal welfare

## 3.3 Feed and feeding

#### **Which agricultural livestock owner must register with the responsible regional authorities?**

**Note:** In accordance with the Feed Hygiene Regulation agricultural companies that keep livestock must be registered with the responsible regional authorities. Poultry owners who use purchased, ready-to-use animal feed only are not obliged to register.

### 3.3.4 [K.O.] Feed procurement

#### **What should the livestock owner pay attention to when purchasing feed?**

Each livestock owner may only accept feed for his animals that comes from a producer or trader eligible to deliver into the QS scheme. He is obliged to order and purchase feed certified according to QS or a recognised standard. In the audit, it is checked whether the feed purchased was certified accordingly.



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If the feed (loose or packaged) is sold directly by the producer, the livestock owner must check that the producer is eligible to deliver into the QS scheme.

If loose feed is purchased from a trader, the livestock owner must check that the trader is eligible to deliver into the QS scheme. For his part, the trader is responsible for ensuring that the feed comes from a producer eligible to deliver into the QS scheme.

If packaged feed is purchased via a trader, the livestock owner must check the QS eligibility of delivery of the trader or the producer respectively; if the trader is listed in the database as eligible to deliver, there is no need to check the producer. If the trader is not eligible to deliver, the producer of the packaged feed must be listed in the QS database as eligible to deliver.

**Note:** Livestock owners may only obtain and use feed, that comes from companies, which are registered and if approved in accordance with VO 183/2005.

### **Where can be checked whether the companies (producers, traders, transport companies) are eligible to deliver?**

All suppliers can be checked in the database at [www.qs-plattform.de](http://www.qs-plattform.de) (scheme participant search).

For direct purchase from the producer, the following applies: In addition to the company name, the production scope for which the company is eligible to deliver is also listed.

- When purchasing feed materials, the producer must have an eligibility to deliver for this (production scope: "feed material production").
- When compound feed is purchased (declared as single feed, supplementary feed, milk replacer or mineral feed), the producer must have an eligibility to deliver for this (production scope: "compound feed production").
- When purchasing premixes, the producer must have an eligibility to deliver for this (production scope: "premix production").
- When purchasing additives, the producer must have an eligibility to deliver for this (production scope: "Feed additive production").

The company, production scope and declaration of the feed (on the delivery note or on the bag trailer) must be the same.

For the purchase from the trader applies:

- When purchasing bulk goods from a trader, the trader must have an eligibility to deliver for this (production type: "Trade").

### **Who must ensure that a feed transport company is eligible to deliver?**

The person who orders the transport. If the livestock owner instructs the carrier to transport **unpackaged** feed, he must ensure that he uses a feed carrier eligible to deliver. If **packaged** feedstuffs are transported, the carrier does not have to have QS approval.

(If a feedstuff is delivered by a carrier on the order of the manufacturer or trader, the supplier (i.e. manufacturer or trader) must ensure that the carrier is eligible to deliver).

If the carrier, on his part, instructs an external transport service provider, then the carrier must ensure that the subcontractor is eligible to deliver for QS.



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### ***When does the livestock owner have to check the eligibility of delivery of a feed carrier?***

Whenever the livestock owner orders the transport of **unpackaged** feed, he must check whether the carrier is QS-approved.

If the transport of feedstuffs is organised by the manufacturer or trader, the livestock owner does **not** have to check whether the transporter is a QS approved. The livestock owner only checks the eligibility of the manufacturer or trader to deliver (see "What must be taken into account when purchasing feedstuffs?")

### ***Is a QS approval required for feed transports within the own company?***

No.

### ***What can the labelling of feed certified according to QS or a recognised standard look like?***

Labelling must be carried out on an article-related basis. In the case of bagged goods, each bag must be labelled accordingly; in the case of bulk goods, the labelling is carried out on an article-related basis in the accompanying documents. The following options are available for labelling:

- Printing of the QS certification mark on the bag or article-related on the accompanying documents or
- The terms "QS feed" or "QS goods" are printed on the bag or article-related on the accompanying documents or
- QS-ID or location number on the bag or article-related on the accompanying documents (this option is possible until 31.12.2022) or
- General indication on the accompanying documents that the company only sells QS feed.

Feed certified according to a QS-recognised standard must also be clearly labelled as certified goods.

The following standards are recognised by QS:

- GMP+ International (GMP+ FSA)
- Ovocom (FCA)
- Agricultural Industries Confederation (UFAS, FEMAS, TASCC)
- AMA (pastus+)
- EFISC-GTP
- Fami-QS
- Oqualim (RCNA International)
- CSA-GTP

### ***Do silage additives must be purchased from QS-approved producers?***

Yes, because silage additives are feed additives and must therefore be purchased from producers who are QS-approved. These must also be additives that are certified according to QS or a recognised standard.

### ***What are primary agricultural products?***

For the purposes of QS, primary agricultural products are all unprocessed crops (e.g. cereals, rape, grass) produced on an agricultural company which have undergone no more than simple external processing.



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In the case of field crops, simple external processing is understood to mean the various degrees of grinding (e.g. whole grains, crushed, ground or milled), as well as cleaning, ensiling (e.g. corn silage), indirect drying and pressing (e.g. hay bales, lucerne press cylinders, straw pellets).

There are no purchase requirements for primary agricultural products - they can therefore be freely purchased from agricultural producers, the agricultural trade or from other sources without the producer or trader needing QS certification. Companies that use primary agricultural products as feed count as self-mixers and must participate in feed monitoring.

If primary products are processed more than simply externally, they lose the status of "primary product". This is the case, for example, if feeds are mixed or if rapeseed is pressed and separated into rapeseed cake and rapeseed oil.

### **May food be fed to livestock?**

Yes, food or former food may be used in livestock feeding. However, different requirements apply to the supplying company and the livestock owner, depending on whether it is clearly recognisable to the supplying company that the food can be used as animal feed or if it is not recognisable.

In the case of a clear intended purpose as animal feed, the supplying company as feed producer must be approved to supply QS.

If the purpose is unclear - i.e. if it is not clear at the time of purchase whether the livestock owner is using the food as such, converting it into feed or is using it in any other way (e.g. edible oil, carrots, etc. from the supermarket) - the supplying company is not required to obtain certification. The livestock owner must then, however, comply with the provisions of the Feed Hygiene Regulation (EC) 183/2005 Annex II. This includes the implementation of a HACCP concept, essentially an incoming goods inspection, the creation of reserve samples and corresponding documentation. In addition, the livestock owner must participate in feed monitoring. The livestock owner does not need a QS certification for feed production if no feed is sold to third parties outside the company.

Some former foodstuffs must be processed before being used as livestock feed. If this is done by the supplying company or by a specialised processing company, a QS certification as a feed producer is required and marketing is carried out as feed. If a livestock owner processes the food himself for feeding in his own company, he does not need a feed producing certification. Here too, however, he must comply with Annex II of the Feed Hygiene Regulation (EC) 183/2005, participate in feed monitoring and may not sell feed to third parties outside the company.

### **3.3.5 Assignment of compound feed deliveries (bulk) to location numbers**

#### **Why are location numbers recorded?**

By recording the deliveries to the location numbers, feed deliveries within the QS scheme can be clearly allocated to the respective livestock location.

When ordering bulk compound feed, the livestock owner must state the location number (e. g. VVVO number). When the goods are delivered, the specified location number must be checked (delivery note). If no or a wrong number is indicated, the livestock owner must inform the supplier to correct the location number, because the livestock owner is responsible for the indication and correctness as well as for the update with changes. In the audit the livestock owner must prove that this correction has been notified to the supplier.



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### **Does this also apply to single feed?**

No, these requirements are mandatory for compound feeds. **Suggestion:** It is recommended that the location number be assigned to feed material, feed purchased or collected by cash sale and packaged or bagged goods.

### **What must be written on the delivery notes of bulk compound feed produced in a cooperation?**

In the case of bulk compound feed produced in cooperations (e.g. total mixed ration), the location number of the company supplied must be documented on the delivery note, too.

The following exception applies: If the cooperations do not write out delivery notes (e.g. cooperation of several companies of one livestock owner), no location numbers must be shown.

### **3.3.6 Feed production (on-farmmixer)**

#### **What is an on-farm mixer?**

On-farm mixers in the sense of QS are agricultural companies that produce feed components for their own needs or buy them from other agricultural companies or via trade and produce farm mixtures for their own livestock or in cooperation with other livestock owners or use the individual feed components individually. When purchasing feed components, on-farm mixers must observe the requirements of criterion 3.3.4 [K.O.] *Feed purchase*. The feed components may be mixed and subjected to simple external processing. Simple external processing is understood to mean different degrees of grinding (such as whole grains, crushed, ground or milled), as well as cleaning, ensiling (e.g. corn silage), indirect drying, pressing (e.g. hay bales) and pelleting without additives.

The self-produced feed may only be used within the own company or within a cooperation for the production of feed. No feed may be sold to third parties outside the own company or the cooperation.

The responsibility for ensuring that the components used meet the legal and QS requirements, as well as the responsibility for the production of the feed mixtures, lies with the producing agricultural company. This counts as an on-farm mixer and must participate in feed monitoring. Companies that only purchase ready-mixed feed within a cooperation and do not use any primary products do not count as on-farm mixers.

#### **Do all companies that use primary agricultural products have to participate in the feed monitoring as on-farm mixers?**

In principle, all companies that use primary agricultural products as feed count as on-farm mixers. This also applies to companies that exclusively use primary agricultural products that are purchased **as QS goods** from QS-approved producers or traders. Consequently, they must also participate in the feed monitoring.

#### **Is it allowed to blend feed?**

This is because it is prohibited to place a feed containing a level of an undesirable substance that exceeds the maximum level laid down in Annex I to Directive 2002/32/EC on the market, to feed it or to mix it with the same or another feed for dilution purposes (prohibition of blending).

It is permitted to subject such feed to appropriate treatment to reduce or remove (cleaning) or inactivate (decontamination) the undesirable substance. The feed may only be used if the content



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of this substance after treatment does not exceed the maximum level laid down in Annex I to Directive 2002/32/EC.

### ***Must the use of silage additives (such as lactic acid bacteria) be documented according to HACCP standards?***

No. The documentation is mandatory for almost all feed additives but does not include the use of specially designated silage additives.

### **3.3.7 Feed production in cooperation**

#### ***When is a cooperation for feed production possible?***

Cooperations for feed production can be concluded between livestock owners in the QS scheme. The cooperations can be concluded between several livestock owners as well as between several locations of one livestock owner.

Within the cooperations, feed may be mixed and subjected to simple external processing (see on-farm mixers). If the feed is subjected to additional processing steps, certification as a feed producer is required.

#### ***What documentation requirements do cooperations for feed production have to observe?***

Within cooperations for feed production, the supply routes of the feed must be traceable. In the producing company, the name and address of the companies supplied as well as the type and quantity of feed delivered must be documented. In addition, delivery notes must be issued for the companies supplied. Collective documentation or collective delivery notes, e.g. weekly summarised delivery notes for daily feed deliveries, are also possible. The supplied companies must be able to provide evidence of these delivery notes in the audit.

Two cases are excluded from this documentation for the traceability of the delivery routes:

1. A livestock owner has several locations (location numbers) for which he produces or purchases feed in a cooperation for feed production.
2. Several location numbers at the same location (company grounds) form a cooperation. E.g.: companies of mother, father and son located at the same site.

In these cases, the documentation for the traceability of the supply chains in the producing company as well as the delivery notes can be dispensed with. The contract for feed production in cooperation must be available in any case.

#### ***How does the loss of the eligibility to deliver of a QS livestock owner affect the cooperation for feed production?***

A temporary loss of the eligibility to deliver (= blocking of delivery) has no effect on the cooperation for feed production. However, if a livestock owner is no longer a QS scheme partner, participation in the cooperation is no longer possible.



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### 3.3.8 [K.O.] Use of mobile feed milling and mixing plants

#### **Where can be checked which mobile plants are eligible to deliver?**

The mobile plants eligible to deliver into the QS scheme can be checked in the QS software platform at [www.qs-plattform.de](http://www.qs-plattform.de).

#### **Must retained samples be taken?**

There's no obligation. **Suggestion:** *It is recommended to take a retained sample of any feeds produced by a service provider and to keep this sample for later reference.*

#### **When do mobile plants not need to be QS approved?**

If feeds are only milled and not mixed, no QS approval of the equipment is required. If feed mixing equipment (e. g. for mixing, mincing or distributing raw feed) is used, no QS approval of the feed mixer is required either.

#### **What must livestock owners consider who produce feed together?**

If livestock owners deploy their own mobile feed milling and mixing plants individually or jointly, no QS approval of the equipment is required, as long as it can be guaranteed that no feed is being produced for third parties. A written agreement is required therefor.

#### **What must be considered for a co-operation of livestock owners producing feed together?**

All cooperating companies must take part in the QS-feed monitoring.

## 3.4 Drinking water

### 3.4.1 [K.O.] Water supply

#### **Must a drinking water analysis be carried done ensure water quality?**

No. **Suggestion:** *drinking water should be analysed risk-orientated (chemical-physical, microbiological) on a yearly basis, and the results should be evaluated by the veterinarian. If the veterinarian determines a health hazard for the animals, a concrete analysis of the drinking water in accordance with the guidelines provided by the veterinarian should take place. The veterinarian should evaluate these results again (e.g. on the basis of the orientation framework for the legal feed evaluation of the hygienic quality of drinking water, elaborated by the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture). If the veterinarian considers necessary to introduce measures for improving the quality of the drinking water, they should be documented written in a measure plan.*

#### **What must be observed when using additives in drinking water?**

Only products that are approved for this use may be used as additives in drinking water. Drinking water additives must also be microbiologically harmless and must not have a negative effect on the microbiological condition of the drinking water. The requirements for the quality of drinking water ("clean, clear and without extraneous odour") must not be impaired by the additives.

#### **Must products which are added to the drinking water be QS-approved?**

Yes, all additives that are added to the drinking water in the occupied shed and are thus consumed by the animals while drinking must be approved as animal feed or animal feed additive. These



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products must also be QS-approved and purchased from a QS-approved producer or trader. (Exception: When biocides are used for drinking water, no QS approval is required).

In the case of products that are used in an unoccupied shed and therefore will not be consumed by the animals, approval as animal feed and QS approval are not required. This can be the case, for example, with the use of cleaning agents or biocides for disinfection when cleaning the drinking facilities between two fattening cycles. The agents must be used in accordance with the producer's instructions. If necessary, the pipes must be rinsed before animals are re-housed so that the drinking water is not contaminated.

### 3.5 Animal health/ medication

#### 3.5.1 Care contract with farm veterinarian

##### ***What is the aim of the veterinary stock care?***

The objective of veterinary stock care is to use a uniform approach for maintaining the animals' state of health and improve it, if necessary. Regular, scheduled veterinary care is an essential component of the animal welfare, in order to maintain or improve the health of individual animals, groups of animals and the entire stock.

##### ***Must the veterinarian use the QS sample form?***

No, the sample form serves as a working aid. It contains all the relevant points that must be contractually regulated in the QS scheme for the care of livestock. The veterinarian can also use his own documents. The following points must be formulated in each stock care contract:

- Definition of the veterinary stock care
- Maintain/restore health of individual animals, animal groups and herds
- Curative and preventive services as well as monitoring and screening measures
- Preparation of an animal health and hygiene management plan in case of jointly identified need for action
- Development of an action plan in case of need

At least the following points must be clearly regulated:

- Transparency with regard to the scope of application, i.e. animal population and location number (even if there are several registration numbers according to the VVVO and/or production orientations, it must be clear which livestock's are managed)
- Frequency of visits for regular and plannable care outside acute cases of illness
- Documentation of stock visits (incl. results) and veterinary treatments, storage of documents (veterinary examination results and AuA documents) by the company (for turkeys also: assessment of animal health and state of care)

##### ***Must the stock care contract be updated annually?***

No, the stock care contract only needs to be adjusted if there is a change. Either a new contract can be signed, or the old contract can be updated with annexes.



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### 3.5.3 [K.O.] Procurement and application of medicines and vaccines

#### **Must the procurement and application of medicines and vaccines be documented in a stock book?**

No, the documentation does not necessarily require a stock book. Provided that all required information is contained, and the documentation cannot be subsequently changed, other forms of documentation are also conceivable (e.g. by combined receipts or electronically).

**Suggestion:** *In order to obtain a clearer overview, it is recommended that livestock owners keep a stock book.*

#### **What must be considered when administering medicines orally?**

**Suggestion:** *For the oral administration of medicines via feed and water, see the Guideline of the German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL) "Oral application of veterinary medicinal products in the livestock sector via feed or water".*

#### **If the procedure is the same, does a new application plan always have to be drawn up when new quantities of the same vaccine are delivered?**

No. As long as the same vaccine is obtained and there is no change in the vaccination procedure, the application plan can continue to exist even when new quantities of vaccine are given, unless it is terminated by a time limit imposed by the veterinarian.

### 3.5.4 [K.O.] Storage of medicines and vaccines

#### **Can medicines and vaccines be stored in the domestic refrigerator?**

Medicines and vaccines must be stored out of reach of unauthorised persons, especially children. If it is ensured that no children and unauthorised persons can access the medicines and vaccines, storage in the kitchen refrigerator is also conceivable (e. g. in a separate box).

Protection against unauthorised access is also provided, for example by a locked box in the refrigerator.

**Suggestion:** *Medicines should always be stored separately from foodstuffs.*

#### **Can medicines and vaccines be stored in an anteroom to the shed?**

Medicinal products and vaccines can be stored in the anteroom provided that it is locked when the room is unattended.

#### **What needs to be considered when a joint storage of medicines is used for several locations or different animal species?**

If a medicine storage is used for more than one location (several location numbers) or for different animal species, the stored medicines must be clearly assigned to the respective location or animal species for which they were prescribed. This can be done, for example, by marking or separate storage for each location or animal species.



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### 3.6 Hygiene

#### 3.6.1 Buildings and equipment

##### **What are buildings and facilities?**

This includes the entire company area, all technical facilities, company buildings and also the carcass storage. These must be clean and kept in proper condition. If necessary, appropriate cleaning measures must be taken.

#### 3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm

##### **How many signs indicating the livestock must be placed?**

Sheds must be identified by a sign "Livestock - Access prohibited for unauthorised persons" or similar. These signs should effectively prevent unauthorised persons from entering the sheds at any time and indicate that it is forbidden to enter the sheds. To ensure this, the signs must be placed at all shed entrances or, in the case of enclosed companies, optionally at the entrances to the company. Anyone wishing to enter the shed must be informed by means of a sign that unauthorised entry is prohibited.

##### **What hygiene requirements must be observed for the delivery and loading of animals?**

When delivering and loading livestock, it must be ensured that drivers who are not employed by the company only have as little access as possible to the company premises, sheds and loading ramps (black-and-white principle) and that it is ensured that unauthorised personnel do not access the driver's cab or cargo area of the vehicle.

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**Suggestion:** Hygiene sluices should be equipped with showers that allow "in" and "out" showers.

##### **Who is responsible for the cleaning and disinfection of transport vehicles and equipment used by other companies?**

**Note:** In the case of transport vehicles or equipment used in other companies, these must be cleaned and, if necessary, disinfected in the supplying company.

#### 3.6.4 Carcass storage and pick-up

##### **What must be considered at carcass storage and pick-up?**

**Suggestion:** Wherever possible, carcasses should not be stored in the direct vicinity of the sheds. The containers provided for the pick-up of carcasses should also be cooled and protected against the access of unauthorised persons.

**Note:** Transport of carcasses on public roads is only permitted to the special carcass disposal company responsible.

#### 3.6.5 Pest monitoring and control

##### **What is the purpose of the monitoring?**

The monitoring serves as a regular and systematic control of whether the company has a pest infestation, particularly by rodents and insects (both crawling and flying). Checks can be carried



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out by means of placing adhesive traps, bait boxes and similar devices in critical areas of the company.

### **How must pest monitoring and control be documented?**

A bait location plan must be drawn up in which all bait locations are listed. Pest monitoring and any necessary control measures must be documented for each of these bait locations. For this purpose, the sample form "Pest Monitoring and Control Plan (QS agriculture livestock farming)", which is published on the QS website, can be used.

### **What information must be documented as part of pest monitoring and control?**

The following information must be documented as part of pest monitoring and control:

- Date of the control
- Controlled bait site
- Pest being observed or controlled
- Monitoring measure (e.g. non-toxic baits)
- Control measure (e.g. poisoned bait, beating trap, electric insect killer, sticky fly trap,...)
- Documentation of infestation: Observations/findings from the inspection of the respective bait site.

In addition, the following information is useful:

- Consumption (quantity)
- User (name)
- Signature of the user

For the documentation of pest monitoring and control, the combined *Pest monitoring and control plan (QS agriculture livestock farming)* can be used. In the documentation, the distinction between monitoring and control must be clearly recognisable for each entry (in the QS sample form, this distinction can be made in column 5, e.g. with the entry of "M" or "C" for each line).

For the documentation of pest monitoring and control, the observations/findings from the monitoring of the individual bait sites must be recorded. Column 10 of the model form can be used for this purpose, in which the respective observations/findings from the monitoring of the bait sites can be entered, e.g. "feeding traces", "no change of the bait".

### **May the pest monitoring and the pest control be documented together?**

Yes, a joint document for pest monitoring and control is possible. It is decisive that all information is documented.

### **What must be considered when documenting monitoring and control of crawling and flying insects in the sheds?**

Since the control of insects in sheds is usually a very dynamic process, documentation of regular monitoring measures and the creation of a baiting plan is not necessary in this case. If control measures are carried out, e.g. if granules are used in bowls or surfaces are sprayed with biocides, the application must be documented, stating the relevant information (see explanation on information for pest monitoring and control). The (continuous) use of adhesive traps or electric insect traps must be described in a comprehensible manner and the traps must be checked regularly and renewed if necessary.



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### ***At what frequency must pest monitoring be carried out?***

There is no minimum frequency requirement for pest monitoring. The aim of pest monitoring is to ensure that a pest infestation is detected as quickly as possible. In this way, control measures can be taken promptly if necessary and an expansion of the infestation can be prevented. The aim is to effectively prevent or contain a pest infestation on a company.

Pest monitoring must be carried out continuously for this purpose. How often the inspection for pest infestation must take place depends on the individual situation on the company. The inspection interval of the bait points can be determined on a risk-oriented basis but must ensure that pest infestations on the company are detected promptly and reliably.

## **3.7 Monitoring programmes**

### ***Who must participate in the Feed monitoring?***

In principle, every company that uses primary products as feed or mixes feed itself is subjected to monitoring.

Livestock owners, who only use purchased QS complete feeds do not have to participate in the QS feed monitoring. With companies which are certified for QS crop farming, grassland use or forage production, the self-produced feed quantity is not taken into consideration for the calculation of the control plan. Samples for feed monitoring can still be taken in this kind of companies.

#### **3.7.1 [K.O.] Salmonella monitoring**

### ***In what way and by whom are the examinations carried out?***

Analyses have to be conducted by accredited laboratories (EN 17025). The exit control must take place as sock samples within a period of three weeks prior to the scheduled slaughter date (see Guideline Salmonellae Monitoring and Reduction Programme in poultry production)

**Note:** *The absorbent papers laid into the transport containers to improve hygiene, may be used as sample material for the entry controls, if they contain chick excretions.*

### ***What is the impact if, at the time of slaughter, no results are available on salmonella testing?***

A pre-requisite for the supply of QS fattening poultry to an abattoir is the presentation of the results of the salmonella tests (entry and exit examinations) at the time of slaughter. Results have to be available at the abattoir as written or digital document, before poultry leaves the company for slaughtering. If the results are not available at the time of slaughter, the not examined flock must be considered as positive or contaminated with salmonella.

#### **3.7.2 Salmonella monitoring: measures towards the reduction of salmonella contamination**

### ***What can help to identify sources of salmonella?***

**Suggestion:** *The checklist to determine salmonella entry sources in fattening poultry stocks from the Guideline Salmonella Monitoring and Reduction Programme in Poultry Meat Production can be used for this purpose.*



Qualitätssicherung. Vom Landwirt bis zur Ladentheke.



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### **3.8 Livestock transport**

#### ***What does "loading" include in relation to livestock transport?***

Loading always includes both uploading and unloading the animals during transport.

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