

Guideline

Agriculture Cattle Farming



Version: 01.01.2025



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Note: The Guideline Agriculture Cattle Farming is written in German and translated into English. In case of discrepancies between the translation and the German version, the German original is valid.

1 Fundamentals

Basic information on the QS scheme, such as organisation, participation conditions, use of the QS certification mark and sanction procedures can be read in the **Guideline General Regulations**.

1.1 Scope of application

Production branch cattle farming:

- Cattle production
- Calf production
- calf breeding
- Dairy farming
- Suckling cow production

Registration and participation in the QS scheme

Every livestock owner must register the company (= location = location number and production scope) in the QS scheme via a coordinator and sign a contract (declaration of participation and power of attorney) with the coordinator, from the moment of signing, he participates in the QS-scheme.

The list of approved coordinators is published under www.q-s.de/en.

The coordinator is the contact person in all questions about the QS scheme. He is among others responsible for

- The registration of the livestock owner in the QS database
- The administration of the master data in the QS database
- The organisation of the audits and
- The participation in monitoring programmes

Control on the company

Each company is controlled regularly. The controls (audits) are implemented by an auditor, who works for an independent certification body.

After registration in the QS scheme an initial audit is implemented and released by the certification body. If the audit was successful, the company is mostly eligible to deliver after a couple of days and is able to market its animals in the QS scheme. The eligibility of delivery can be checked under www.q-s.de/softwareplattform/en.

Depending on the result of the audit (QS status I, II or III) the company will be audited on a risk-based schedule (audit interval):

Table 1:

Scope	QS-Status I	II	III
Agriculture cattle farming	3 years	2 years	1 year

The regular audits take place unannounced for each company. In addition, 10% of the companies will receive an unannounced spot audit in the period between two regular audits.

Furthermore, each company can be controlled additionally, e.g. in a random sample audit.

All details about participation and audits can be found in the **Guideline General Regulations** and in the **Guideline Certification**, which are published on the QS-Website (www.q-s.de/en/) under the link documents.

1.2 Responsibilities

The livestock owner is responsible for ensuring

- Compliance with requirements in this guideline,
- The complete and correct documentation,
- The qualified performance of an annual self-assessment

The adequate and timely implementation of corrective actions. The QS criteria are based on good working practice requirements. The livestock owner must comply at all times with the requirements of the QS scheme and always be in a position to demonstrate compliance with said QS requirements. The livestock owner must ensure that in addition to the requirements of this guideline and the other applicable QS requirements (e.g. Guideline General Regulations, Guideline Certification, monitoring programs), the valid legal requirements (outside Germany comparable foreign legal rules) are satisfied.

Note: The separate document "**Explanations on the Guideline Agriculture Cattle Farming**" summarises interpretation aids and suggestions for criteria marked with the symbol 🔍.

2 General requirements

2.1 General system requirements

All documents and records must be kept for at least the period since the last regular audit (usually approx. three years) - unless longer storage times are stipulated by law - in line with the duty of care and proof to third parties.


2.1.1 General company data 🔍

A company overview containing the following contact/company data must be compiled:

- Address of the company and its locations (if the address is missing, geodata or route directions if applicable) with official location numbers (e.g. registration number according to the Livestock Transport Regulation (in Germany VVVO number))
- Telephone number, e-mail address
- Legal representative, contact person
- Person responsible for incident and crisis management
- Capacity/operational units for livestock farming, in particular the number of animals per unit (e.g. for the antibiotics monitoring)
- On-farm mixers (relevant for feed monitoring): the type of feed used (e.g. grains, maize silage, rape-seed meal but also stale bread and bakery products, the quantity of animals per unit (number of animal places (yearly)) or the feed quantity and change of feed

This data must be up-to-date and complete. The coordinator must therefore be informed without delay about any changes. Furthermore, a sketch of the company with clear naming of all areas of the company and a location plan for equipment must be provided; for externally stored equipment, a description is sufficient.

All documents concerning the general company data must be available at the company location. An up-to-date declaration of participation must be available.

 Company overview with contact/company data, sketch or map of the company, location plan, Declarations of Participation and Power of Attorney, documentation of equipment storage facilities


2.1.2 Incident and crisis management 🔍

The scheme participants must inform QS and their coordinator immediately via a paper of incident (recommendation: QS paper of incident) and - where a legal obligation exists - also the competent authorities about critical incidents as long as these are of relevance for the QS scheme.

In particular, the scheme participants must inform QS in cases where:

- nonconformities occur in the procurement of goods, in animal production or marketing that might pose a risk to food or feed safety
- preliminary proceedings are initiated due to violation of regulations regarding animal welfare or to regulations to secure feed or food safety


- media investigations critical reports in the media, or public protests are held on issues related to feed or food safety or animal welfare.

 Paper of incident

Emergency plan

Every company must have an emergency plan. It must contain at least the following contact details:

- Contact person who is familiar with the situation at the company (e.g. family member, advisor)
- Attending veterinarian (farm veterinarian)
- Technical emergency service (e.g. electrician) for heating, ventilation and feeding systems

 Emergency plan (Recommendation: QS sample form: Emergency Plan)

3 Cattle farming requirements

3.1 Traceability and labelling

3.1.1 Purchasing and incoming goods

The purchase of goods and services for cattle production, as well as the purchase of livestock, must be documented (date, type, quantity, supplier). The documentation (e.g. on basis of accompanying documents such as delivery notes or invoices) makes it possible to retrace purchased livestock, goods and services at any time.

This applies, among others, to:

- Livestock
- Feed (proof of the charging number)
- Animal medication
- Cleaning agents and disinfectants
- Services (e.g. the use of service providers for feed production, animal transporters)

 accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes, invoices), sack tags of feed

3.1.2 Verification of eligibility of delivery

Livestock owners are obliged to purchase certain feed and feed additives, animals, or services exclusively from companies that are eligible to deliver for QS. For this purpose, the QS eligibility of delivery of the respective suppliers/service providers must be verified. At the time of delivery/service, the suppliers/service providers must be eligible to deliver for the respective production scope in the QS database.

The procedure for checking the eligibility of delivery must be comprehensible. In addition to the query in the scheme participant search, the individual recipient and supplier list in the QS database can also be used.

The verification of the eligibility of delivery is relevant for the criteria

- ⇒ 3.1.4 [K.O.] Origin and marketing
- ⇒ 3.1.6 Livestock transport
- ⇒ 3.3.4 [K.O.] Feed procurement
- ⇒ 3.3.8 [K.O.] Use of service providers for feed production

3.1.3 [K.O.] Marking and identification of livestock

All livestock must be marked/identifiable (e.g. due to **German Animal Transport Regulation** (or relevant national legislation) and **EU Hygiene Package (EC) No. 852 – 853/2004** (Meat Hygiene Regulation)).

Livestock owners must permanently mark every animal with two official ear tags (calves within seven days after birth). If an animal loses an ear tag, the livestock owner must apply for an official replacement without delay and mark the animal immediately again.

Cattle may only be transported if it is properly marked.

 accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes)

3.1.4 [K.O.] Origin and marketing

Only animals from QS-certified companies that are eligible to deliver may be marketed as QS-animals.

All cattle (including purchased cattle) must be kept in a company with the eligibility to deliver into the QS scheme without interruption for at least the last six months prior to slaughtering. Calves for fattening must be kept in a QS scheme-certified company from weaning from the dam or, in the case of dairy fattening, from purchase from the birth farm and, in the case of rosé fattening, from purchase from the rearing farm until slaughter (max. eight months of age). If, in individual cases (excepting fattening calves), marketing becomes necessary before the six-month period has expired, the cattle must not be marketed as QS animals. If single fattening calves (maximum 1 % per marketing unit) are older than eight months, they may be marketed as QS fattening cattle (in accordance with the production scope 1001 cattle production), but not as fattening calves.

Calves, devourers or spreaders for further rearing and fattening do not have to be procured from QS companies.

When animals are sold, both the sender of the animals (= livestock owner) and the customer must have a copy of the delivery document. Digital proof is also possible. Proof of marketing can additionally be provided electronically in the HIT database (database for livestock origin and information) or via a corresponding HIT receipt.

Existing waiting times and any foreign bodies remaining in the animal must be indicated on the documents accompanying the goods (e.g. delivery notes) when they are handed over to third parties.

If a broken injection needle remains in the animal, the animal must be permanently labeled (e.g. ear tag, tattoo) to ensure that the broken injection needle does not enter the food chain. The abattoir must be informed accordingly via the food chain information.


 Stock book, accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes), extract from QS/HIT database, if necessary food chain information

3.1.5 [K.O.] Stock records

Each livestock owner must keep and store stock records (stock book or similar). A specific form of records (e.g. handwritten/digital) is not specified.

The following information must be recorded in a cattle farm stock register as soon as possible:

- Date of receipt or birth (if born in own company)
- Date of leaving, death
- Ear tag number, race, gender, ear tag number of mother
- Supplier: either the registration name or the name and address of the previous owner
- Buyer: either the registration number or the name and address of the follow-on business (abattoir, disposal firm, post-mortem examination, or other if necessary)


 Stock register, HIT-data, loss records, accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes), invoices, certificates from the animal carcass disposal company, inspection findings etc.

Evidence of this information can also be given per electronic HIT database.

3.1.6 Livestock transport

Animals may only be transported within the QS scheme by QS-eligible livestock transport companies. These can either be QS-eligible livestock owners (transport of own animals) or commercial livestock transport companies with QS eligibility of delivery.

If a livestock owner transports his own animals (with his own or borrowed vehicles), the requirements of ⇒ **Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.** of own livestock must be complied with.

 accompanying Documents (e.g. delivery notes), transport documents

3.2 Animal welfare farming

Transportability

Animals may only be loaded and transported if they are fit for transportation and are spared unnecessary suffering and pain (cf. **Tiertransportverordnung/Animal Transport Regulation: Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005** and **Tierschutztransportverordnung/Animal Welfare Transport Regulation (TierSchTrV)**) The animals' fitness for transportation must be checked before each loading.

Animals that are to be transported must not be given tranquilizers unless this is absolutely necessary for the well-being of the animals, and then only under veterinary inspection.

If there is any doubt about the animal's fitness for transportation, a veterinarian must be consulted who will certify the animal's fitness for transportation in writing.

Handling the animals during loading

Persons loading or discharging animals must be trained or qualified. They must not use force during loading and must not unnecessarily frighten the animals or cause them injury or suffering. Care must be taken to ensure that the welfare of the animals is impaired as little as possible during loading.

Drifting aids such as drift boards or drift paddles may only be used to protect the animals.

The use of electric driving aids must be avoided. They may only be used on adult pigs that refuse to move and only on condition that the animals have sufficient space to move forward. Electric shocks may only be administered for a maximum of one second at appropriate intervals and only to the muscle areas of the hindquarters. They must not be repeated if the animal does not react.

The following animals must be transported separately:

- Animals of different species¹
- Animals with a considerable difference in size or age¹
- sexually mature males separated from females¹
- Horned animals separated from unhorned animals
- rival animals
- Tethered animals separated from non-tethered animals

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

All animals must be well looked after and cared for in accordance with the good agricultural working practices by persons with the necessary skills, knowledge and qualifications.

The persons caring for the animals must attend to the animals' well-being at least once a day through direct inspection. Dead animals must be removed immediately from the livestock area during livestock control.

Daily checks of animal health must also be made, and the availability of food and water must also be ensured with grazing animals.

The claws of the livestock must be maintained appropriately.

3.2.2 [K.O.] General farming requirements

Each form of husbandry must be structured in such a way with regard to construction, material, technical fittings and conditions that no avoidable physical health and behavioral damage can be inflicted.

Equipment for the illumination, ventilation and supply systems must be at least checked daily. Defects at facilities and equipment must be corrected immediately. If that is not possible, measures to protect the health and welfare of the animals must be implemented until the defects are corrected.

The animals must have sufficient protection from adverse weather conditions.

Calves may not be tied up or restrained in any other way (compare **German animal welfare protection**). This does not apply if the calves are kept in groups, in which case each of them may be restrained for a

¹ These provisions do not apply if the animals have been reared in compatible groups and are used to each other. They also do not apply if separation would cause stress to the animals or in cases where females are carrying unweaned young animals.

maximum of one hour when feeding with milk or milk substitute. The equipment used to tie up or otherwise restrain the calves must not cause any pain or avoidable damage.

Calves

Single held calves must have visual and tactile contact to other calves (except when separating sick calves).

Calves that are less than 28 days old may not be transported within Germany. An exception to this are transports by farmers who transport their own animals in their own means of transport from their company over a maximum distance of 50 km. For transports that do not take place within Germany, calves that are less than 10 days old may not be transported unless the transport distance is less than 100 km.

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

If necessary, rejected, aggressive, weak, sick or injured animals must be separated as soon as possible, and treated or professionally culled in accordance with animal welfare regulations. If necessary, the livestock owner must notify the veterinarian immediately. Accommodation for the recovery of the animals must be available. The bays for sick and injured animals must be equipped with dry and soft litter or pad.

In particular, a veterinarian must be consulted especially if indications of an infection of the entire stock are detected

Culling

Any non-treatable animal must be stunned and culled on the company without delay in accordance with the **Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing/Verordnung über den Schutz von Tieren zum Zeitpunkt der Tötung (EU) N° 1099/2009** in conjunction with prevailing national regulations.

When animals must be culled, measures to prevent avoidable pain, stress and sorrow have to be taken.

Five steps, that must be observed in case of culling by the livestock owner:

- Determination if culling is necessary
- Proper anaesthesia with appropriate methods
- Control of anaesthesia (success of anaesthesia)
- Immediate killing of the anaesthetised animal (with appropriate methods)
- Control of death entry

3.2.4 Shed floor 🔍

Shed floors must be non-slip and secure in the area where the animals are kept. All facilities (in particular shed floors) must be such that the animals do not come more than unavoidable into contact with faeces and urine and are provided with a dry lying area.

Calves aged up to two weeks may only be kept in sheds if a lying surface covered with straw or a similar material is provided. Calves aged up to six months may only be kept on littered area or slatted floors. The space between the slats may be no more than 2.5 cm, or 3 cm with elastically wrapped beams or beams with an elastic coating, with a tolerance of 0.3 cm. The tread width of the slats must be at least 8 cm.

The shed floor in bays for calves must be provided with elastic layer in lying areas.

3.2.5 Shed climate and noise 🔍

Sheds must be heat-insulated where necessary and equipped so that air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and concentration of gas are kept at a level which is not harmful to the animals.

The noise level of technical annexes must be kept to a minimum in the area where the animals are kept. Continuous and sudden noises must be avoided.

3.2.6 Lighting

The intensity and duration of light must be appropriate for the animals kept in sheds. If the shed has too little natural lighting, it must be lit artificially.

A light intensity of at least 80 lux must be ensured for at least ten hours per day in areas where calves are kept. The lighting must be adapted to the daily rhythm and it must be distributed as evenly as possible.

3.2.7 [K.O.] Space allowances 🔍

Sufficient lying surfaces must be available in pens, all cattle must be able to lie at the same time. In free stall sheds with lying boxes every animal must have one lying box.

Calves

Calves may be kept separately until the age of two weeks. The stalls must be at least 120 cm long, 80 cm wide and 80 cm high.

Calves aged between two and eight weeks may only be kept in separate boxes if:

- The box is at least
 - 180 cm long with an internally mounted trough
 - 160 cm long with an externally mounted trough and
- The freely available box width is at least 100 cm in boxes whose lateral boundaries extend to the floor and over more than half of the box length and at least 90 cm in other boxes.

Calves aged over eight weeks may only be kept in groups. Calves may only be kept in a box in groups of up to three animals if the box has a minimum floor area of

- 4.5 m² for calves aged up from two to eight weeks
- 6 m² for calves aged over eight weeks.

In accordance with its live weight, each cattle in group housing must be provided with a floor area for unrestricted use that complies with the following table:

Table 1: Minimum floor area [m²]/animal [kg live weight] (applied to group housing)

Weight Range	Minimum Area
up to 150 kg	1.5 m ²
over 150 kg to 220 kg	1.7 m ²
over 220 kg to 400 kg	1.8 m ²
over 400 kg	2.2 m ²

3.2.8 [K.O.] Alarm system

In sheds where ventilation is provided by an electrically operated system, there must be a functional alarm system set up which operates independently of the power grid and provides a warning when the main system or rather the ventilation system breaks down.

3.2.9 Emergency power supply

A functioning emergency power supply must be present in facilities for keeping livestock in which adequate provision of feed and water for the animals is not assured in the event of a power failure. This applies in particular to facilities with self-supply water systems.

If an emergency power generator is necessary, technical conditions must exist to connect an emergency power generator.

If the emergency generator, in case of need, is borrowed from third parties, a contractual agreement of the provision of the emergency generator and its guaranteed functionality must be concluded.

A back-up device that ensures adequate air exchange in the event of system failure must be present in sheds in which ventilation is ensured via an electrical system.

 Contractual agreement on the provision of the emergency power generator

3.2.10 Requirements on loading and unloading equipment for livestock transport

Loading and unloading equipment and their floor must be constructed, set up, maintained, and used in a way that injuries, suffer, agitation and stress during the loading is avoided or kept as low as possible and the safety of the animals is guaranteed. The tread surface must be non-slip.

Suitable equipment should be used for loading and unloading animals which allows them to walk up and down the ramps without slipping and without effort.

With platform installations, protective screens must be in place so that the animals cannot flee from the side.

If the loading height is more than 50 cm or the animals are not led on and off individually, the loading ramp must be fitted with side protection which the animals cannot climb or jump over, stick their limbs through or injure themselves on. Suitable lighting must be ensured during loading and unloading.

3.2.11 Dehorning of calves

Dehorning of calves without anesthesia is only allowed for cattle under six weeks of age. Appropriate painkiller for alleviation of postoperative pains after dehorning of calves must be used.

 Proof of medication, combination sheet, stock book

3.3 Feed and feeding

Note: The term feed covers either compound feeds or premixes, raw materials (e.g. feed materials and agricultural primary products) and additives.

3.3.1 [K.O.] Feed supply

All cattle must be provided with food in sufficient quantity and quality daily. All feeds must be checked for quality before use (e.g. for moisture, stocking, mold infestation, pest infestation, metal and plastic party, packaging material, etc.). If quality defects are found or if the feed does not meet the legal requirements, the feed must not be fed.

The equipment must be constructed and set up in such a way that the feed contaminations and conflicts between the animals are kept to a minimum.

Calves

Calves must be provided with colostrum within the first four hours of life. Every calve must be fed at least twice a day. If calves are kept in groups and feed is rationed, it must be ensured that all calves are able to take up feed at the same time. This does not apply to feed-on-demand or comparable feeding systems. Roughage or other high fibred, structured feed must be freely available for calves at latest from the age of eight days onwards.

3.3.2 Hygiene of feeding facilities

All plants, equipment, containers and feeding lines, feed transport boxes, equipment (e.g. shovels) and vehicles used for feeding the animals and therefore coming into contact with feed must be kept clean and disinfected where necessary after cleaning.

After the use of veterinary drugs, all equipment, pipes, feeding lines, shovels, etc. that have come into contact with the medicated feed or (feeding) medications must be cleaned to prevent carry-over.

3.3.3 Usage and storage of feed

All feeds must be protected against contamination and impurities and stored carefully (clean, dry, with the use of building materials and coatings which will not pose a health risk, protected from the weather). Protective measures must be taken to protect against pests, rodents, birds, wild boar and other wild animals and pets.

Feed must be stored and transported safely and separately from waste, liquid and solid manure, hazardous substances, seeds, medication and chemicals.

The storage facility must be cleaned and disinfected if necessary. Field windrows are also suitable for storage.

Storage facilities and stored animal feed must be checked at regular intervals (e.g. for cleanliness, germ or fungal infestation, pest infestation, temperature, sensory properties of the feed). If necessary, suitable measures to remedy defects and/or a combat must be carried out.

Finished feed must be stored separately from unprocessed raw materials. Undesired mixing, for example of feeds for different species, or of grower-, fattening- and finisher diets, must be avoided, e.g. by using separate silos. The silo cells must be clearly marked.


⇒ Annex 9.4 Exclusion list (**Guideline Feed Sector**)

3.3.4 [K.O.] Feed procurement

Eligibility of delivery

Livestock owners may only purchase and utilise feed that are certified according to QS or another recognized standard and that come from feed producers or traders with QS eligibility of delivery.

- If feed (in bulk or packed) is procured directly from producers, they must be eligible to deliver into the QS scheme.
- If feed is procured unpacked (in bulk) via traders, they must be eligible to deliver into the QS scheme. If packaged feed is purchased via traders, the trader resp. the producer must be eligible to deliver into the QS scheme; if the trader is listed in the QS database as eligible to deliver, there is no need for verification of the producer. If the trader is not QS-eligible to deliver, the producer of the packaged feed must be eligible to deliver into the QS scheme.
- If a livestock owner commissions a transport company to transport unpacked feeds, the livestock owner must ensure that the transport company is eligible to deliver.
- If feed is procured from a cooperation of several livestock owners, the collaboration must be contractually established, and no feed may be marketed within the QS scheme to third parties who do not belong to this group. The purchase of feed from the cooperation must be traceable and verifiable by each cooperation partner by means of product-related documents (e.g. delivery notes, collective delivery notes/documentation possible). ⇒ Criterion 3.3.7 is checked at the producer of the feed.

 Delivery notes or invoices, sack tags, contractual agreement on feed production


Procurement of agricultural primary products

When purchasing and transporting agricultural primary products, there are no requirements on a QS approval for suppliers at the stage agriculture resp. feed; they can be obtained from the agricultural producer, agricultural trade, etc. without eligibility of delivery within the QS scheme. Companies deploying those products are classified as agricultural on-farm mixers.

⇒ Chapter 3.7 *Monitoring programmes*

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

When ordering loose compound feed (bulk), the livestock owner must state the location number (e.g. registration number) of the location to be supplied. This number must be indicated by the supplier on an accompanying document (e.g. delivery note). In the event of incorrect information, the supplier must be notified of any corrections.

 Accompanying documents of compound Feed with location number (e.g. delivery notes); correction note

3.3.6 Feed production (on-farm mixer)

If feed is produced in own facilities for the own company or in cooperation with other livestock owners for several companies, the following requirements must be met. This applies both to the production of feed materials or compound feed (e.g. crushing of primary agricultural products, mixing or pelleting of feed) and to the supply of basic feed via feed mixers.

If feed is produced in cooperation with other livestock owners, ⇒ 3.3.7 *Feed production in cooperation* also applies.

If service providers are used for feed production, ⇒ 3.3.8 [K.O.] *Use of service providers* also applies.

Feed produced in own production may not be marked with the QS certification mark or as QS products.

Feed materials in line with the QS-list

Only feed materials listed in the "QS-list of feed materials" may be used, see www.q-s.de/en/. Products subject to a statutory feeding ban or named in the QS exclusion list may not be used for feeding in the QS scheme.

If feeding stuffs are labelled as "non-QS goods" or "not for feed use", they may not be fed to QS animals.

- ⇒ Annex 9.4 Exclusion list (Guideline Feed Sector)
- ⇒ Annex 9.5 QS list of feed materials (Guideline Feed Sector)


Quality control of feed

If quality defects are found in the used feeds, the raw materials must not be used for feed production. If no maximum content of undesirable substances is exceeded, feed may be blended/diluted (see requirements of the Feed Hygiene Regulation). Water used in production must be suitable for animals (clean, clear and without extraneous odour).

Production and plant hygiene

All work processes in feed production must be designed to minimize hazards that may affect feed safety. Therefore, feeds must be protected against contamination and impurities, which may be caused, for example, by machine lubricants, fertilizers, pesticides, biocides, veterinary medicines and waste. The plants must be checked regularly for contamination and dust accumulation and cleaned if necessary. The penetration of pests must be avoided.

All plants and equipment used in feed production must be inspected annually and maintained or repaired as necessary. The inspection must be documented.


 Documentation for the inspection of plant and equipment (e.g. within the scope of self-assessment)

Use and documentation of feed additives

If feed additives (e.g. urea, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, trace elements and preservatives, such as propionic acid for the storage of moist cereals etc.) are used, exact dosage and mixing must be observed. All scales and measuring instruments used must be suitable for the scale of weights or volumes to be determined and must be checked regularly for accuracy. If there are indications of insufficient or incorrect dosage, measures must be taken (e.g. after-treatment or mixing in of an un-treated feed).

The producer's recommendations for the use and dosage of feed additives must be followed.

The use of feed additives must be documented according to HACCP principles.


 Documentation for the use of feed additives

3.3.7 Feed production in cooperation

If multiple livestock owners or multiple locations of a livestock owner join to produce their own feed, this cooperation must be contractually fixed; it must be specified in the contract which partner produces the feed. No feed may be produced within the QS scheme for third parties who do not belong to this group. A cooperation of livestock owners to produce feed is only allowed if all livestock farmers involved are QS scheme participants.


If the feeds are produced in cooperation with other livestock owners or for several companies, the delivery routes of the feeds must be traceable at all times. This does not apply to different location numbers at the same location and/or of one owner. In the company where the feed is produced, the name and address of the companies supplied as well as the type and quantity delivered (and the batch, if applicable) must be documented. The supplied companies must receive accompanying documents (e. g. delivery notes) (collective delivery notes/documentation possible), so that the purchase of the feed is traceable there.

A cooperation of livestock owners is also possible for pure purchasing groups. The cooperation must be contractually fixed. A certification for the feed trade is not necessary in this case.

 Contractual agreement on feed production, accompanying documents (e. g. delivery notes), invoices, documentation for traceability in case of cooperation

3.3.8 [K.O.] Use of service providers for feed production

If service providers (e.g. mobile soy toasters, oil presses or mobile feed milling and mixing plants) are used to produce feed, they must be authorized to deliver QS products. The only service providers excluded from this rule are those who do no more than simple external processing of feed – for example, mincing feed but not mixing or otherwise processing it. This also applies to the use of external service providers in a cooperation of livestock owners for feed production.

 Accompanying documents (e. g. delivery notes), invoices, extract from the QS database

3.4 Drinking water

3.4.1 [K.O.] Water supply

All cattle must always have access to a sufficient amount of water (ad libitum) of sufficient quality (Exception: calves under the age of two weeks).

The watering equipment must be constructed and set up in such a way that the water contaminations and conflicts between the animals can be kept to a minimum.

The drinking water must be clean, clear and without extraneous odour.

In tethered housing, a self-drinker must be available at every place. In group housing, a maximum 15:1 animal/drinker place ratio is required for individual-animal drinkers (recommended 10:1); if trough drinkers are used, the troughs per animal must be at least 6 cm wide. If the troughs are large enough for several animals to drink from at the same time, a maximum of 15 animals (recommended 10 animals) can be counted per drinking place (= animal width).

The flow amount of watering must be sufficiently high for animal friendly drinking.


3.4.2 Hygiene of drinking facilities

Drinking troughs must be controlled daily and cleaned when necessary. After the use of medicines, the facilities must be cleaned sufficiently in order to avoid residues or carry-over.

3.5 Animal health/medication

3.5.1 Care contract with farm veterinarian

Every livestock owner must have his stock attended by a veterinarian. The relationship must be agreed upon in a written agreement (for minimum requirements, see explanatory notes or sample contract, cf. www.q-s.de/en/).

 Veterinary care contract


3.5.2 [K.O.] Implementation of the stock care

The livestock owner must ensure that the agreements laid down in the veterinary care contract are complied with. The entire livestock must be inspected during the veterinary stock care. The veterinarian must visit the company before the initial audit and then regularly at least once a year, apart from acute cases of illness. If necessary, the veterinarian determines the company-specific, medically necessary preventive and treatment measures.

The veterinarian must document any visits he/she makes to the stock and their results (including veterinary examination findings), the evidence must be kept at the company.

As far as no stock-based abnormalities are found, no further actions are necessary and a simplified documentation of findings (e.g. on the invoice) is sufficient.

When a cause for action is determined by both the veterinarian and the livestock owner, an animal health and hygiene plan must be generated for each individual company. If necessary, an action plan must also be elaborated outlining the individual actions to be carried out by the livestock owner and the veterinarian.

 Veterinary visit records or similar documents, action plan, vaccination plan

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

Procurement of medicines and vaccines

The medicines and vaccines used by the livestock owners must be correctly labelled (producer, designation, lot number, type of application, ingredients, expiry date, waiting period, among others). The livestock owner must be able to present the completely filled-out proof of purchase for the acquisition of animal medicines at all times. This could be:

- Veterinary medicine documentation
- Receipts from the pharmacy
- Copies of prescriptions or preparation orders in the case of in-feed medicines.

All documents must be stored chronologically.

Application of medicines and vaccines

The use of antibiotics as performance enhancers or for prophylaxis is prohibited. All prescription veterinary medicines may only be used after veterinary examination within the scope of an indication and treatment. At the time of delivery, the veterinarian must document evidence of, among other things, the diagnosis, veterinary examination results and details of a therapy and immediately send it to the livestock owner.

The livestock owner must chronologically document every time medication and vaccination which is administered to his animals by the veterinarian or on his own (see **German Livestock owner veterinary drug detection regulation and Drug Law**) (the documents can also be held in electronic form, as long as the data cannot be modified). The following information must be recorded in writing immediately after each application:


- Number, type and identity of the animals and their location (if the location is required to identify the animals)
- Name of medicine and vaccines, number of the veterinary medicine document, date of administration
- Quantity administered, waiting period, name of person who administered the treatment

If the livestock owner administers the medication him/herself, he/she must follow the instructions given by the veterinarian. Prescribed medicines must be taken as prescribed. The waiting periods set must be compiled.

Serums, vaccines and antigens may only be administered by veterinarians.

If the veterinarian transfers the application of vaccines to the livestock owner, a valid vaccination schedule (application plan according to the German **Animal Vaccine Regulation**) must be present.

All medical supplies must be clean and fit for the purpose. Only flawless injection needles may be used; bent, blunt, broken and otherwise unfit needles must be replaced and disposed of immediately. Care must be taken to ensure that no injection needles are lost.

 Receipts on purchase and usage of medicines and vaccines (Veterinary medical documentation), combined receipts, prescriptions, vaccination pass and plan (usage plan in accordance with animal vaccine regulations), vaccination control book, livestock book).

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

Medicines and vaccines must be stored in accordance with the instructions of the producer (if necessary refrigerated). They must be stored inaccessible for unauthorised persons, such as external persons and children in a clean, locked container/cabinet or inaccessible room. Medicines and vaccines must not be used anymore and must be properly disposed of once their use expiry date has been reached. Empty containers must also be disposed of without delay (via domestic waste, unless indicated otherwise by the manufacturer).

Feed medicines must be stored in such a way that feeding to animals for which they are not intended is impossible.

3.5.5 [K.O.] Identification of treated livestock

Treated animals (individuals or groups/pens) must be clearly identifiable for at least the duration of the waiting period.

3.6 Hygiene

3.6.1 Buildings and equipment

Sheds and adjoining rooms, outdoor facilities including loading facilities, all shed equipment and feeding systems including containers and troughs, feed transport boxes, equipment (e.g. shovels) and vehicles used for feeding animals, must enable effective cleaning and pest control.

All buildings and equipment must be kept clean and in a proper condition.

Livestock loading bays, loading ramps, rooms for the temporary accommodation or marketing of animals, access and exit routes, loading and unloading areas, as well as the equipment used there, must be cleaned and disinfected after each consecutive use.

3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm

All shed entrances must be marked with a sign stating "Livestock – Access prohibited for unauthorised persons" or a similar text. Gates, doors and other entrances have to effectively prevent the entry of unauthorised persons and of animals. The doorways of the sheds must be lockable.

Sheds and other buildings used to house animals may be entered by external personnel only if they have been approved by the livestock owner and are wearing protective clothing (disposable or own company protective clothing). This must be provided by the livestock owner (e.g. drivers of animal transport trucks, who leave their vehicle for loading and unloading).

The following requirements must also be fulfilled for effective on-farm hygiene:

- Clean work clothing
- Functioning wash-hand basin, hand cleaning agent, disposable wipes or clean towels
- Clean hygiene sluices (if have been installed)
- Proper waste disposal
- Cleaning and disinfection of sheds/shed compartments that have become vacant between destocking and re-occupancy, including facilities and equipment, provided that the husbandry system allows this

Animals must not be able to access landfills and household waste

Specialized Fattening Calves

Livestock companies which also operate facilities for tourists or campers must keep these facilities separate from the livestock so that no direct or indirect contact between visitors and animals can occur. A supervised entrance may be admitted in exceptional cases if protective clothing or own company clothing is used and direct contact with the animals is avoided.

3.6.3 Handling litter

Litter must be suitable for animals, hygienic, clean and does not appear to be infested with fungus. Litter materials must be stored with care. For storage, field storages are also suitable.

3.6.4 Carcass storage and pick up

Carcass storage

Carcasses must be properly stored immediately after removal from the livestock area. They must be stored on paved areas and where possible outside the shed area.

The carcass storage must be of adequate size.

Cattle carcasses must be kept covered until they are picked up by the postmortem examination company.

Pick-up of carcasses

If possible, the carcass storage areas/containers for the pick -up of the carcasses must be positioned in such a way that vehicles from the carcass disposal companies do not come near the livestock sheds.

3.6.5 Pest monitoring and control

On the entire company including the storage facilities, a pest monitoring must be carried out, e.g. with the help of monitoring points, bait points or traps.

Traps and baits must be placed in a way that other animals do not have access to them. In case of infestation, the pests must be effectively and properly combated. These control measures must be documented.

 Control protocols

3.7 Monitoring programmes

Feed monitoring in on-farm mixing companies

Each company using primary products for feed, on-farm mixing companies or purchases already mixed feed from a cooperation are subject to the feed monitoring (definition agricultural on-farm mixers ⇒ Explanatory Notes). In agricultural on-farm mixing companies, samples must be drawn and examined every year in accordance with the control plans for agriculture (**Guideline Feed Monitoring**).

The organisation of feed monitoring, including the establishment of the inspection plan to control the feed, as well as the selection of the companies where the feed samples shall be drawn, is the responsibility of the coordinator and is also checked there.

Documentation of diagnostic data from slaughter

The transfer of the results of the diagnostic data collection to the QS diagnostic database is the responsibility of the abattoir. The requirements are laid down in the **Guideline Diagnostic Data in Cattle Slaughtering**. The reporting of diagnostic data is carried out for cattle delivered from agricultural companies participating in the QS scheme.

Antibiotics monitoring

All calves and cattle for fattening must take part in the antibiotics monitoring programme. The requirements are defined in the **Guideline Antibiotics Monitoring Cattle**.

Antibiotics may only be prescribed by veterinarians who are registered in the antibiotics database.

Each livestock owner receives information about the therapy index via his coordinator: either by sending the information letter on a regular basis or via direct access to the antibiotics database to view his own data.


3.7.1 Fattening calves: residue control program

Fattening calves (cattle that is slaughtered aged up to eight months) are subject to residue controls for such substances as beta agonists, artificial and natural hormones and other critical substances such as chloramphenicol.

The livestock owner must report the receipt (birth, if applicable) of the animals and the registration for slaughter to the coordinator in a timely manner. The coordinator then organizes the drawing of a sample, which is taken by a neutral institute in accordance with the residue control plan for fattening calves.

The livestock owner must submit the slaughter registration before slaughter and document it on the company.

⇒ Annex 5.1 Residue Control Plan for Fattening Calves.

 Results of Residue Controls, Certificate

3.8 Transport of own animals

Livestock owners must comply with the following requirements when transporting their own livestock with own (or borrowed) vehicles, regardless of whether they transport within the company, to other companies or e.g. to abattoirs.

Requirements for transporting own livestock with own vehicles

It must be ensured that the well-being of the animals is impaired as little as possible during the entire loading and transport process (up to unloading of the last animal). When transporting livestock, the driver must drive in a suitable and anticipatory manner which minimizes the risk of injury.

If the animals get injured or ill during the transport, they must be separated from the rest of the animals and, if required, be checked and treated by the veterinarian as soon as possible. Unnecessary suffering must be avoided and if, required, the animals must be emergency slaughtered or culled.

The animals should be transported to their destination without delay.

3.8.1 Requirements for the means of transportation

Vehicles must also carry adequate loading and unloading equipment. The vehicles and dividers must be in perfect technical condition and be clean and hygienic.

They must be constructed, used and maintained in such a way that injury and suffering of the animals are avoided and their safety is guaranteed. They must also be able to withstand the forces exerted by the animals. Vehicles and partitions must allow effective and light cleaning and disinfection.

If the animals are loaded one on top of the other (with intermediate decks), all necessary measures must be taken in order to:

- Avoid contamination of the animals on the lower level with excretions from the animals loaded on the upper level and
- Ensure that ventilation is not disabled

Restraining equipment may only be used if it does not inflict any pain, suffering or injury on the animals. Ropes, belts and similar equipment must be strong enough to withstand the expected loads and attached in such a way that the animals cannot strangle or injure themselves and can be released quickly.

Walls and roof

The animals must be protected against bad weather (e.g. hail, heavy rain, snow) at all times.

The vehicles must be set up in such a way that the animals cannot escape or fall out. They must also be capable of withstanding the forces of motion that occur during transport.

There must be a sufficient number of partition walls and these must be strong enough to withstand the weight of the animals. They must be set up in such a way that they can be moved quickly and easily and cannot be climbed or jumped over.

Ventilation

Cattle must have an appropriate and sufficient supply of fresh air.

Inside the loading area and on every intermediate deck, there must be enough space to ensure appropriate air circulation above the standing animals whose natural freedom of movement may not be restricted in any way.

Floor and litter

The floor must be non-slip.

All cattle must have a sufficient amount of litter or similar material in order to absorb their excrement.

Livestock control

Vehicles must be accessible in order to monitor the animals. Sufficient light (portable as well as permanently installed) must be available during transport for monitoring purposes.

3.8.2 [K.O.] Available space during livestock transport

Animals must be given sufficient floor and standing space corresponding to their size.

During transport, each animal must be provided with enough unrestricted space so that they can stand in their natural position and can all lie down at the same time. The space available must comply at least with the values in the following table.

Table 22:Space requirements for cattle during (road) transport

Category	Approximate Weight [kg]	Area [m ² /Animal]
Bred calves	50-55	0.30-0.40
Medium-weight calves	110	0.40-0.70
Heavy calves	200	0.70-0.95
Medium-size cattle	325	0.95-1.30
Fully grown cattle	550	1.30-1.60
Very large cattle	>700	>1.60

Up to 25 calves or up to six fully grown cattle if loaded crosswise or up to eight fully grown cattle transported in a group must each be separated by a partition device when transporting them by road.

Within Germany, sexually mature male cattle may only be transported in groups if the clearance height of the transport area is restricted to a maximum of 50 cm above the withers of the tallest animal during road transport.

The group size of cattle with a live weight of over 70 kg each can be exceeded by up to 20 % during transport within Germany if the animals being transported together were kept together as a group at the place of shipment for at least seven days prior to transport.

Documentation

Compliance with the space requirements (loading density) must be documented.

 Delivery documents, documentation of loading density

3.8.3 Cleaning and disinfection of means of transportation

Vehicles used to transport animals to livestock loading points, assembly points or abattoirs must be cleaned and disinfected before leaving any location of this kind.

Before each loading, the driver must check if the vehicle has been properly cleaned and disinfected. Only then may the transport vehicle be loaded again.

Disinfection control book (for livestock transport to abattoir)

Any driver of vehicles transporting livestock must carry a separate disinfection control book for each vehicle (that means one of the traction engine and on for the trailer) when transporting cattle to the abattoir; these books must contain the following information:

- Date of transport
- Species of animals transported
- Place and date of cleaning and disinfection of the vehicle
- Trade name of the disinfectant used


 Disinfection control book

3.8.4 Delivery documents

When delivering livestock to the customer (rearing/fattening company, abattoir etc.), the accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes) must contain the following information concerning the identification of the animals and of the carrier (= delivering livestock owner):

- Quantity
- Type of animal
- Animal markings (ear tags)
- location number of the sender (in German VVVO) (i.e. of the livestock owning company, e.g. VVVO number)

Both the sender and the customer must have a copy or carbon copy of the delivery document.

 Delivery documents

3.8.5 [K.O.] Time intervals for feeding and watering as well as duration of transportation times and resting times (for livestock transport over 50 km)

Cattle must not be transported for longer than eight hours.

But cattle can be transported for longer than eight hours as long as additional requirements concerning long transportations (⇒ Chapter 4.3 Terms and definitions) are met (see Animal Transport Regulation: **Regulation (EC) No 1/2005**).

In these cases, the intervals for feeding and watering, as well as for travelling time and rest periods are as follows:

- Calves not yet weaned and still fed with milk must be given a sufficient rest period, lasting at least one hour, when they are transported for nine hours. It is particularly important that they are able to eat and drink in this period. Following this rest period, they are then able to be transported for another nine hours.
- All other cattle must be given a sufficient rest period, lasting at least one hour, when they are transported for 14 hours. It is particularly important that they are able to eat and drink in this period. Following this rest period, they are then able to be transported for another 14 hours
- Once the maximum length of travel has expired, the animals must be unloaded, fed and watered and given a rest period of at least 24 hours.

In addition, the following requirements must be met for long transportations:


- Calves that are less than 28 days old must not be transported within Germany.
- For transports that do not take place within Germany, calves that are less than 10 days old must not be transported unless the transport distance is less than 100 km. In addition, calves must be older than 14 days for long transportations if they are not accompanied by their mothers.

The feed and water must be of good quality and must be given to the animals in a way that contamination is kept to a minimum.

In the case of transport within Germany, however, the maximum duration of transport to the abattoir must not exceed four and a half hours if it is not possible to guarantee that the outside temperature will not exceed 30 degrees at any time during the transport. Neither of these restrictions shall apply if the duration of transport is exceeded due to unforeseeable circumstances.

Documentation

The duration of transport and rest times, as well as the care of animals, must be documented.


 Records on the duration of transport and rest times, driver's log, documentation on livestock supply, delivery documents

3.8.6 Transport papers (for livestock transport over 50 km)

Any person transporting animals is obliged to carry documents (transport control book) in the transportation means, containing the following information:

- day and time when the transport started
- likely duration of the planned transport
- origin and owner of the livestock
- point of dispatch
- scheduled destination
- description of animals (e.g. species, type)

The data must always be entered before the transport starts.

 Transport papers, declaration of transport

3.8.7 [K.O.] Proof of qualification for drivers/carers (for livestock transport over 65 km)

All persons handling the animals during loading and unloading and during the actual transport must be appropriately trained or qualified and hold a qualification certificate. This applies to both drivers and animal handlers.

The proof of qualification must be carried on board. The company must also be in possession of a copy (cf. **Livestock transport Reg.REG (EC) No. 1/2005**).

 Proof of qualification for drivers/carers

II. **VLOG-Additional Module "Ohne Gentechnik"**


The VLOG-Additional Module is published as a separate document (only available in German language).


4 Definitions

4.1 Explanation of symbols

K.O. criteria are marked [K.O.].

References to related documents are highlighted by the use of **bold text**.

 This symbol means: A written confirmation must be provided. Next to this symbol also documents are listed that can be used as an evidence. All (also digital) control - and documentation systems which proof that the requirements are fulfilled can be used.

 This symbol means: For criteria with this symbol, the separate document **Explanations to the Guideline Agriculture Cattle Farming** contains interpretation aids.

References to other sections of the Guideline are indicated by ⇒.

Notes (regarding legal requirements), **suggestions** (regarding process assurance or as support for management) and **explanations** (about QS-framework, for transparency) are identified by *text in italics*. Notes, suggestions and explanations are no QS requirements, they are not controlled and they are not included in the evaluation.

4.2 Abbreviations

HIT	Origin assurance and information system for animals
K.O.	Knock out criterion
VO	Regulation in the sense of a binding legal form
VWVO	Livestock Transport Regulation

4.3 Terms and definitions

- HACCP (Hazard analysis and critical control point)
A system which identifies, evaluates and controls risks that are significant to food safety. All individual steps of a production technique are considered and assessed in a risk-based analysis, to determine causes of potential quality deviations.
- Transportation
The entire transport process, from shipment to arrival at the destination, including unloading and housing and loading at the stopover stations.
- Long transportation
Transportation which exceeds eight hours from the movement of the first animals in the consignment.
- Silage additives
– approved in acc. with Regulation EC 1831/2003 – are used in the production of primary products; they are added to feed to improve silage production (e.g. lactic acid bacteria). Documentation based on HACCP principles is not required.
- Animal/livestock transport
Every movement of animals/livestock in one or more transport vehicles and all related procedures, including loading, unloading, reloading and resting until the unloading of the animals at their final destination.
- QS Animals
QS-animals are animals, that are produced and marketed in a QS company with eligibility to deliver according to the QS scheme.

You can find a list of general terms and definitions in the **Guideline "General Requirements"**.

5 Annexes

5.1 Residue Control Programme for Fattening Calves

Implementation of the control programme

Calves and cattle slaughtered up to a maximum age of 8 months are considered as fattening calves.

The implementation of the residue control programme for fattening calves is organised by the coordinator. He arranges the control of the calf fattening companies and the conduction and analysis of residue samples. By 31 March each year, the coordinator sends an overview of the implementation of the control programme in the previous calendar year and the control results to the QS office.

If positive results have been measured or limits have been cut, QS and the livestock owner must be informed immediately by the coordinator.

5.1.1 Receipt reports to the coordinator

The calf fattening owner is obliged to report the following data to the coordinator:

- Receipt (birth, if applicable) within 7 days
- locations number
- ear tag number
- date of birth
- date of housing

5.1.2 Slaughter registration

The slaughter registration serves as proof for the livestock owner and the abattoir that the animals to be slaughtered have been properly reported to the coordinator and are thus subject to the residue control programme. The slaughter registration is given by the coordinator if there is no cause for complaint. Calves may only be marketed as QS animals with a valid slaughter registration.

The animals must be registered for slaughter no later than three weeks before the end of the fattening period.

The livestock owner must report the following data to the coordinator:

- Intended slaughter date
- Ear tag number
- Losses for calf fattening, e.g. animals for beef production, dead calves

The livestock owner must submit the slaughter registration to the abattoir before slaughter and keep a copy on the company as proof.

The slaughter registration must contain the following information:

- Name of the scheme participant (veal calf producer)
- Location number (e.g. registration number according to the Livestock Traffic Ordinance)
- Name of the coordinator
- Number of calves
- Ear tag numbers of the calves

5.1.3 Sampling

The residue control programme is dynamically structured and provides for up to three samplings per site (location number).

Samples are taken by the certification body. Sampling must take place unannounced. The sample is sent by the sampler. The livestock owner must assist the inspector in taking the samples.

Each location is sampled once per calendar year. For 20 % of the locations, sampling is carried out a second time, for 5 % a third time.

The certification body organises the sampling according to the following scheme:

One urine sample per 100 animals is taken at each location (location number). 10 % of the total number of samples per total number of companies is taken as a hair sample. For the examination of natural hormones, 2.5 % of the urine samples are replaced by blood samples in the course of a year.

5.1.4 Examination of samples and sample plan

The samples must be tested in a test laboratory accredited according to **DIN EN ISO 17025**. All samples are analysed by LC-MS/MS method or ECLIA (only for blood samples).

Independently of this, in the case of positive results, a confirmatory examination by LC-MS/MS procedure or ECLIA (only for blood samples) in another approved laboratory must be carried out to verify the result.

The samples shall be analysed as follows:

Table 3:

Sample	Parameter
Hair sample	(A) beta agonists
Urine sample	(A) beta agonists (B) artificial hormones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trenbolone • 19-nortestosteron • corticosteroid • stilbenes • ceranol • ethinyl estradiol (D) other critical substances ¹ , e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chloramphenicol • antibiotics
Blood sample	(C) natural hormones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • testosterone • 17-β-oestradiol

¹Specification of parameters at the estimation of the coordinator

5.1.5 Suspension and resumption of slaughter registration

If positive results are found within the residue control programme, the coordinator must immediately arrange for further sampling on the company; the type and scope of sampling depends on the findings and is determined between the coordinator, the certification body and the laboratory.

If there is a current slaughter registration, it is suspended until the facts of the case are clarified. The coordinator must inform all parties involved in the process (fatteners, abattoir). The coordinator's own database can be used at any time to check whether animals are due for marketing and to initiate further communication.

The suspension can only be lifted again when a new examination proves that there has been no transgression. In this case, a slaughter registration is given or re-released and the fattener and abattoir are informed. Otherwise, the slaughter batch cannot be marketed in the QS scheme.

Revision information version 01.01.2025

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
1.2 Responsibilities	<p>Clarification: The livestock owner is responsible for the qualified performance of an annual self-assessment.</p> <p>Deletion: The correct use of QS certification mark has been deleted.</p>	01.01.2025
2.1 General system requirements	<p>Clarification: All documents and records must be kept for at least the period since the last regular audit (usually approx. three years).</p>	01.01.2025
2.1.1 General company data	<p>Change to the evaluation options: No more K.O. criterion.</p> <p>Clarifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The following contact/master data must be included in the company overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – If the address is missing, geodata or directions if necessary – Person responsible for crises and incidents – On farm mixers: number of animal places (number of animal places used (year)) • All documents relating to the master data must be accessible at the company location <p>Deletions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fax number in the company overview • Examples of operating areas (sties, carcass storage) and operating resources (in particular feed, bedding materials) in the farm sketch • Requirements for keeping the list of animal caretakers 	01.01.2025
2.1.2 Implementation and documentation of self-assessment	<p>Deletion: The criterion has been deleted. As a result, the numbering of the following criteria in the chapter has been shifted.</p>	01.01.2025
2.1.3 Fulfilment of measures of the self-assessment	<p>Deletion: The criterion has been deleted. As a result, the numbering of the following criteria in the chapter has been shifted.</p>	01.01.2025
2.1.2 Incident and crisis management	<p>Deletions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General information on the structure of incident and crisis management • Definition of critical events (transferred to explanatory notes) 	01.01.2025

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements that every livestock owner must be able to access an incidence form. The requirements for reporting incidents remain in place. 	
3.1.1 Purchasing and incoming goods	<p>Renaming: previously "Operational purchases and incoming goods"</p> <p>Clarification: Services to be documented include, for example, service providers for feed production</p>	01.01.2025
3.1.3 [K.O.] Marking and identification of livestock	<p>Clarification: Cattles must be identified with two <u>official</u> ear tags.</p>	01.01.2025
3.1.4 [K.O.] Origin and marketing	<p>Deletions: Definition of QS animals</p> <p>Clarification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Definition at the start of calf fattening Individual fattening calves older than eight months may be marketed as QS fattening cattle (according to production type 1001 cattle fattening) <p>Extension: Existing waiting times and any foreign bodies remaining in the animal must be indicated on documents accompanying the goods (e.g. delivery documents) when they are handed over to third parties.</p> <p>Restructuring: If a broken hypodermic needle remains in the animal, the animal must be permanently labeled (e.g. ear tag, tattoo) to ensure that the broken hypodermic needle does not enter the food chain. The abattoir must be informed accordingly via the food chain information. (previously under 3.5.3 [K.O.] <i>Procurement and use of medicinal products and vaccines</i>)</p>	01.01.2025
3.1.6 Livestock transport	<p>Restructuring: previously under 3.2.10 <i>Livestock transport</i></p> <p>Deletion: If a livestock owner commissions livestock transport himself, only a transporter who is authorized to deliver QS may be used. (Requirements still included in explanatory notes)</p>	01.01.2025
3.2.1 [K.O.] Monitoring and care of livestock	<p>Deletion: Control criteria for the assessment of animal health deleted (<i>transferred to explanatory notes</i>).</p>	01.01.2025
3.2.2 [K.O.] General farming requirements	<p>Restructuring: Requirements for the transport of calves under 28 days of age (previously under 3.2.11 <i>Transportability</i>)</p> <p>Deletion: Requirements for the transport of fattening calves three months before slaughter</p>	01.01.2025

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
3.2.4 Shed floor	Extension: The shed floor in bays for calves must be provided with elastic layer in lying areas	01.01.2025
3.2.5 shed climate and noise	Renaming: previously <i>3.2.5 Shed climate, temperature, noise pollution, ventilation</i>	01.01.2025
3.2.8 [K.O.] Alarm system	Clarification: The alarm system must be functional. Deletion: The alarm system must be checked for functionality at technically required intervals.	01.01.2025
3.2.9 Emergency power supply	Clarification: The emergency power supply must be functional. Deletion: The functionality of emergency power generators must be checked at technically required intervals.	01.01.2025
3.2.10 Requirements on loading and unloading equipment for livestock transport	Deletion: Requirements for the angle of inclination of ramps deleted.	01.01.2025
3.2.11 Transportability	Deletion and restructuring: The criterion was deleted as a checkpoint and moved to chapter level <i>3. Animal welfare farming</i> . As a result, the numbering of the following criteria in the chapter has been shifted.	01.01.2025
3.2.11 [K.O.] Dehorning of calves	Deletion: The medicines prescribed by the veterinarian for this purpose must be used in accordance with the prescription.	01.01.2025
3.2.13 [K.O.] Handling livestock during loading	Deletion and restructuring: The criterion was deleted as a checkpoint and moved to chapter level <i>3.2 Animal welfare farming</i> . As a result, the numbering of the following criteria in the chapter has been shifted.	01.01.2025
3.3 Feed and feeding	Deletion: The paragraph on feed labeling has been deleted (<i>transferred to explanatory notes</i>).	01.01.2025
3.3.1 [K.O.] Feed supply	Restructuring: Feed that does not meet legal requirements may not be fed (previously under <i>3.3.6 Feed production (on farm mixers)</i>).	01.01.2025
3.3.3 Usage and storage of feed	Renaming: previously 3.3.3 Feed storage	01.01.2025

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
	<p>Clarifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All feed must be protected against contamination and pollution. The storage facility must be cleaned and disinfected if necessary. 	
3.3.4 [K.O.] Feed procurement	<p>Clarification: Procurement of primary agricultural products: can be procured from agricultural producers, agricultural trade, etc. without eligibility of delivery from QS.</p>	01.01.2025
3.3.6 Feed production (on farm mixer)	<p>Deletions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of feed used (already required under 3.1.1 <i>Purchasing and incoming goods</i>) Explanation of the documentation on the use of feed additives in accordance with HACCP principles 	01.01.2025
3.3.7 Feed production in cooperation	<p>Clarification: No feed may be produced <u>within the QS scheme</u> for third parties that do not belong to the association.</p>	01.01.2025
3.3.8 [K.O.] Use of service providers for feed production	<p>Renaming and restructuring: previously 3.3.8 [K.O.] <i>Use of mobile feed milling and mixing plants</i>.</p> <p>The chapter refers not only to mobile feed milling and mixing plants, but to all service providers for feed production.</p>	01.01.2025
3.4.1 [K.O.] Water supply	<p>Deletion: Recommendations for drinking water flow rates (still included in the explanations)</p>	01.01.2025
3.5.1 Care contract with farm veterinarian	<p>Deletion and restructuring: Description of veterinary stock care deleted; content moved to 3.5.2 [K.O.] <i>Implementation of the stock care</i></p>	01.01.2025
3.5.2 [K.O.] Implementation of the stock care	<p>Deletion: The plan drawn up when a need for action is identified must include a regular, planned, systematic and consistent application of veterinary knowledge and skills in accordance with the state of the art.</p>	01.01.2025
3.5.3 [K.O.] Procurement and application of medicines and vaccines	<p>Deletion: Receipts must be completed in full; exception for documentation of applications lasting several days. (<i>Exception shown in explanatory notes</i>)</p> <p>Clarification: Prescribed medicines must be used in accordance with the prescription.</p>	01.01.2025

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
3.6.1 Buildings and equipment	Restructuring: The requirements for the cleaning and disinfection of livestock loading points, loading ramps, rooms for the temporary housing or marketer of animals, access and exit routes, places for loading and unloading and the equipment used there have been assigned to this criterion (previously under 3.6.6 <i>Cleaning and disinfection measures</i>).	01.01.2025
3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm	<p>Clarifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All shed entrances must be marked with a sign Hygiene sluices must be clean <p>Restructuring: The requirements for cleaning and disinfecting sheds that have been vacated have been assigned to this criterion (previously under 3.6.6 <i>Cleaning and disinfection measures</i>).</p>	01.01.2025
3.6.3 Handling litter	<p>Renamed: previously 3.6.3 <i>Handling litter, dung and feed leftovers</i></p> <p>Deletion: Requirements for handling manure, litter and feed residues from livestock transport</p>	01.01.2025
3.6.5 Pest monitoring and control	Deletion: The documentation requirement for <u>monitoring</u> has been deleted.	01.01.2025
3.6.6 Cleaning and disinfection measures	Deletion and restructuring: The criterion was deleted and the requirements were assigned to criteria 3.6.1 <i>Buildings and equipment</i> and 3.6.2 <i>Hygiene on the farm</i> .	01.01.2025
3.7 Monitoring programmes	Deletion: Feed monitoring on farm mixers: All analysis results relating to the parameters dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and non-dioxin-like PCBs in feed must be submitted by the livestock owner to the relevant competent feed monitoring authority.	01.01.2025
3.8 Transportation of own livestock	Renaming: The chapter has been renamed, previously 3.8 <i>Livestock transport</i> .	01.01.2025
3.8.1 Requirements for the transportation of own animals with own vehicles	Deletion: The criterion was deleted as a checkpoint and moved to chapter level 3.8 <i>Transport of own livestock</i> . As a result, the numbering of the following criteria in the chapter has been shifted.	01.01.2025

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
3.8.1 Requirements for the means of transportation	<p>Deletions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devices for connection must be provided • Walls and roof: the animals must be protected from climate fluctuations • Ventilation: the needs of the animals are fully taken into account, taking into account their numbers and the weather conditions • Floor and litter: The floor surface must be designed to minimize the escape of faeces and urine • Requirements for transports over 50 km: Signage "Live animals" 	01.01.2025
3.8.5 [K.O.] Time intervals for feeding and watering as well as duration of transportation and resting periods (for livestock transport over 50 km)	<p>Deletion: Due consideration must be given to the fact that the animals must first become accustomed to the way they are fed and drinkers during transportation.</p>	01.01.2025
3.8.7 [K.O.] Proof of qualification for drivers/carers (for livestock transport over 65 km)	<p>Clarification: All persons handling the animals during loading and discharging and during the actual transport must be appropriately trained or qualified and hold a qualification certificate. This applies to both drivers and animal handlers.</p>	01.01.2025
4.3 Terms and definitions	<p>Deletions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary agricultural products • On-farm mixers 	01.01.2025

Guideline
Agriculture Cattle Farming

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