

Guideline

Agriculture Breeding Poultry



Version: 01.01.2026



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Note: This **Guideline Agriculture Breeding Poultry** 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

All details on the organisation, participation in the QS scheme and the 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). The following document contains the basic requirements for participation in the QS scheme in the respective criteria. The accompanying explanations serve as an aid to interpretation and are to be understood as applicable requirements together with the guidelines. These are therefore subject to verification during the audit, if necessary.

1.1 Scope of application

Breeding farming (adult breeding poultry for multiplying):

- producing hatching eggs for Broiler chick rearing
- producing hatching eggs for Turkey chick rearing

Note: For details on the product scope, refer to the production scope list.

Registration and participation in the QS scheme

Every livestock owner signs a contract (declaration of participation and power of attorney) with a coordinator for their location (location number and production scope) to participate in the QS scheme and 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 programs

Control on the location

Each location is controlled regularly. The controls (audits) are implemented by an auditor.

After registration in the QS scheme, an initial audit is implemented. If the audit was successful, the location is mostly eligible to deliver after a couple of days and is able to market its animals and their hatching eggs in the QS scheme. The eligibility of delivery can be checked under <https://www.q-s.de/softwareplattform/en/>.

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

Stage \ QS-Status	I	II	III
Agriculture Poultry Farming	2 years	1 year	6 months

Each location selects if the regular audits will be implemented announced or unannounced. If the livestock owner chooses announced regular audits, unannounced spot audits will take place occasionally, where some criteria in the shed will be checked again.

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

1.2 Responsibilities

The livestock owner is responsible for ensuring

- Compliance with requirements in this guideline, and the explanatory notes,
- The complete and correct documentation,
- The qualified implementation 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 their compliance. The

livestock owner must ensure that in addition to the requirements of this guideline and the other applicable QS requirements (e.g. Explanatory notes, General rules and regulations, guideline for certification, monitoring programs), the legal requirements (outside Germany comparable foreign legal rules) are in addition to the requirements of this guideline met.

Note: The separate document "**Explanations on the Guideline Agriculture Poultry Production/Breeding Poultry**" 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. two years) - unless longer storage times are stipulated by law in individual cases. Evidence may be provided in paper form (analogue) or digitally.

Incident and crisis management

The scheme participants must inform QS and their coordinator immediately via a paper of incident (recommendation: QS paper of incident or online report) 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 report 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 of regulations to secure feed or food safety or
- Media investigations, critical reports in the media or public protests are held on issues related to feed or food safety or animal welfare.

2.1.1 General company data 🔍


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

- Address of the location and its locations (if no address is available, geodata or route directions if applicable) with official registration 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 crisis and incident management
- Number of animal places
- Usable shed area (incl. nest area) per shed unit
- On-farm mixers (relevant for feed monitoring): the type of feed used (e.g. grains, maize silage, rapeseed meal), number of animal places or the feed quantity and change of feed

This data must be provided to the coordinator when registering for the QS scheme and must be up-to-date and complete. The coordinator must be informed without delay about any changes.

Furthermore, a sketch or a plan of the company or a location plan must be drawn up showing all buildings, facilities and free-standing equipment used for poultry farming on the company. Permanent storage facilities must be labeled on the location plan or in the company sketch. If other resources for poultry farming are stored (if available), the storage location must be documented.

All documents relating to the general master data must be available or accessible for inspection at the company location. An up-to-date declaration of participation must be available.

 Overview with contact/company master data, company sketch or plan, location plan, Declaration of Participation and Power of Attorney, documentation of external operating resource storage sites

Incident/crisis reporting

It must be demonstrated how QS can be informed quickly and comprehensively in the event of an incident or crisis (recommendation: QS paper of incident or online reporting).

Emergency plan

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

- Contact person who is familiar with the situation at the location (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)

List of livestock care personnel

If more than one person is responsible for taking care of the animals, a list of the relevant livestock care personnel must be kept. This list must be made before the initial audit. It must be updated if required.

All the persons (first and last name, qualification/instruction, period of employment) who are regularly entrusted with the care of the animals (e.g. family members, permanent staff, temporary employees) must be listed.

 List of livestock care personnel

3 Breeding poultry keeping requirements

3.1 Traceability and labelling

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 delivering/service, the suppliers/service providers must be eligible to deliver for the respective production scope in the QS database.

3.1.1 Purchasing, incoming goods and services

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

This applies to:

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


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

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

All livestock must be tagged and/or thus identifiable.

Broods must be identified clearly, cooped poultry by:

- Delivery notes from the hatchery or breeder (location number/company number)
- Delivery date
- Breeder flock number
- License plates number of the transportation vehicle for breeding poultry

 Accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes) for poultry access

3.1.3 [K.O.] Origin and marketing

For the production of hatching eggs, sexually mature breeding hens (and breeding roosters) must always be kept under QS conditions. The eligibility of delivery is checked in the QS database (www.qs.de/softwareplattform/en/) under the scheme participant search. There, for example, eligibility of delivery can be checked by entering the location number of the farm of origin.


Only hatching eggs and slaughter animals from QS-certified and delivery-authorized locations may be marketed as QS animals.

When animals are sold, both the sender of the animals (= livestock owner) and the receiver must have evidence of the accompanying documents (e.g. loading logs, official certificates) for the animals handed over. The farm of origin (location number) of the animals must be indicated.

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

Hatching eggs deliveries to hatcheries must be accompanied by the following information at the least:

- Name of the breeding farm for multiplying (with location number)
- Week of production/laying (laying date from ... to ...)
- Number of hatching eggs delivered
- Breeder flock number
- Breeding line of flock


 Documentation of poultry movements and waiting times for poultry purchases and sales

3.1.4 [K.O.] Stock records

Each livestock owner must keep and store stock records. This includes e.g. shed cards, or the like (sample forms can be found in the supporting documents). A specific form of records (handwritten/digital, etc.) is not specified.

The documentation is (e.g. as a shed card) to be kept with at least the following information for each flock of a shed:

- Number of stocked livestock, date of stocking and origin, Date of destocking
- Daily losses, separated by dead and culled animals
- Laying performance


 Shed card, master data sheet, records of losses, accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes) for poultry arrivals, invoices, certificates from the animal carcass disposal company, inspection findings etc.

3.1.5 Livestock transport

Livestock may only be transported within the QS scheme by QS-eligible livestock transport companies.

The eligibility of delivery by (commercial) animal transport companies is checked in the QS database (QS softwareplatform) under the system partner search. There, for example, eligibility of delivery can be checked by entering the location number of the farm of origin.

The livestock owner entitled to transport his own animals within the QS scheme. If a livestock owner transports his own livestock (with his own or borrowed vehicles), the requirements of ⇒ Chapter 3.8 *Transport of own livestock* have to be fulfilled.

 Accompanying transport documents (e.g. delivery notes)

3.2 Husbandry, care and handling

Transportability

Livestock may only be loaded and transported if they are fit for transportation.

The animals' fitness for transportation must be checked before each loading.

Animals that are to be transported may not be given tranquilizers unless this is necessary for the well-being of the animals and is done under veterinary inspection.

Animals that are unable to move under their own power due to illness, injury, or physical weakness are considered unfit for transport. Animals that are unfit for transport due to illness or injury must be selected.

Injured animals and animals with physiological weaknesses or pathological conditions are considered unfit for transport.

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

All animals must be cared for and looked after in accordance with good professional practice by persons with knowledge and skills relevant to animal welfare (see criterion 3.2.12 [K.O.] *Proof of expertise and further training*).

Persons caring for animals must check the condition of poultry at least once each morning and evening (control checks two times daily) through direct visual inspection and in case of anomalies act immediately. Dead animals must be removed immediately from the livestock area.

The quality of litter and the functionality of the ventilation, drinking and feeding has to be checked during walkthroughs at least at a daily basis.

3.2.2 [K.O.] General farming requirements

Each shed and each other 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 behavioural damage can be inflicted.

Poultry may not be exposed to direct electricity at no part of the occupied area. Thereof exempted are feeding and drinking facilities, which are not covered by the definition of the occupied area.

Also exempted are temporary limited measures on the basis of veterinary indications that are present.

Veterinary indications

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

A shed structure (keeping environment) must be recognisable. This includes:

- Rest area for laying eggs
- Supply areas

Litter and manipulable material

The litter must be such that the animals can pick and scratch, for instance, and serve as enrichment material. Litter must be replenished in good time. The formation of crusted or moist litter must be prevented.

Litter must also allow the animals to take dust-baths in subareas.

Modifiable manipulable material must always be available for the animals. Manipulable material can be fresh litter or mixed litter (e.g. wood shavings).

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

Determining reasons of sick poultry

If the animals do not look healthy, have difficulties to walk, are injured or exhibit behavioral abnormalities, the livestock owner must immediately take steps to determine the cause and implement measures to rectify the problem. If necessary, the observation of the stock must be intensified. If the actions taken by the livestock owner are not effective and if necessary, a veterinarian must be consulted and, if necessary, expert advice regarding other relevant factors must be obtained.

If the cause obeys to an environmental factor within the production unit which cannot be rectified immediately, it must be rectified when the shed is vacant and before the next group of animals is brought in.

If necessary, aggressive, weak, or injured animals must be separated (e.g. recovery bays), treated or professionally culled.

Where necessary, the livestock owner must inform the veterinarian immediately. In particular, he must be consulted if there are indications of the presence of a disease in the flock (e.g. if there are increased losses) or if an epidemic is suspected.

In case of increased losses, the cause must be clarified. A reference to the investigation findings must be made on the shed card. Disposals are considered to be increased when the daily loss rate in the first week of life exceeds 1.5 %.

Culling


Any non-treatable animal must be stunned and killed on the location without delay.

Five steps that must be observed in case of culling by the livestock owner, so that animals are spared any avoidable pain, distress or suffering:

- 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 (culling success)

Every livestock owner must have a company specific written work instruction for animal welfare friendly stunning and killing of animals and instruct or train its care personal accordingly.

 Company specific work instruction for stunning and killing of animals, proof of training for livestock care personnel, date of training (e.g. as an additional note in the list of animal handlers)

3.2.4 [K.O.] Shed floor

Poultry keeping in sheds is only allowed on compacted floors, which due to their consistency can be effectively washed and disinfected.

3.2.5 Shed climate and noise

Shed temperature

Temperatures must be controlled in accordance with the age and physiological condition of the animals.

Noise

The noise level from technical facilities must be kept as low as possible in areas where animals are kept. Continual and sudden noise must be avoided.

Ventilation

The functionality of the ventilation system in closed sheds must be checked regularly in a technic check, at least once a year. The technic checks must be documented in a comprehensible manner (e.g. on the shed card). Fans in open sheds must receive maintenance in a way that they may be operated at any time.

In sheds where ventilation depends on an electrically operated system, a backup device (e.g., flaps, gates, doors) must be available to ensure sufficient air exchange in the event of a system failure.

 Records of technic checks of the ventilation system for every shed unit

Breeding broiler

Ventilation and if necessary, cooling and heating systems must be installed and operated so that

- heat stress is avoided and excess humidity is extracted.
- when the outside temperature is under 10 °C the average air humidity of 70 % in the shed is not exceeded within 48 hours.
- an air exchange of at least 4.5 m³ per hour per kg of total live weight of the breeding broilers in the shed can be achieved.

Breeding turkeys

Ventilation systems must be designed in such a way that with enthalpy values in the outside air of up to 67 kJ per kg of dry air, a sufficient exchange of air is guaranteed in the area where the animals are kept. The livestock owner is obliged to find out about problematic weather conditions by referring to weather data/enthalpy values in a timely manner and initiate suitable measures.

3.2.6 Lighting

The intensity and duration of light must be appropriate for the animals kept in sheds.

Artificial light in sheds needs to be flicker-free, according to the veterinary specific requirements for poultry (see **German Animal Welfare and Livestock Protection Regulation (TierSchNutztV) Art. 4 Sec 1**).

To proof that the artificial light is flicker-free, a written confirmation from the electrical contractor, or a certificate or technical description of the used lamps are required.

 Lamps' certificate; confirmation provided by the manufacturer or the electrical contractor

In closed old stables and stables with light incidence that also use artificial lighting, a lighting program must be used that ensures at least 20 lux in the animal area and ensures as uniform illumination as possible in the activity area of the poultry during the bright phase. In new buildings¹ the incidence of natural daylight must be

¹ Buildings that were approved or put into user after 01.01.2014

arranged, whereby the light must fall evenly in the poultries' area; the light incident surface must be at least 3 % of the shed surface.

Breeding broiler

A 24-hour rhythm is required with at least one uninterrupted (continuous) six-hour period of darkness. Twilight periods are not counted as hours of darkness.

Breeding turkeys

Turkey sheds for productive laying turkey hens must have openings for the incidence of natural light covering an overall surface of at least 3 % of the shed's surface in order to guarantee that the light is spread as evenly as possible over the entire shed's surface. This does not apply to buildings in which breeding cocks are housed.

During the hours of darkness, an emergency light with a light intensity of up to 0.5 lux can be provided for the orientation of the animals.

Restricting the intensity of artificial light or restricting the incidence of natural light during a passage for the welfare of the poultry is only permissible after veterinary indication with a corresponding recommendation for the herd concerned.

Times of restricting the light must be recorded immediately.

 Records, veterinary indication with recommendation for the restriction of lighting (darkening)

3.2.7 [K.O.] Space allowances

The livestock owner must choose the space allowances such that

- during the whole period of production every poultry has easy access to water and feed,
- the poultries can move and behave normally (e.g. dust-baths and wing-flapping),
- each poultry that wishes to move from a confined position to a free space may do so,
- it is determined on the basis of the ventilation capacity.

The available space in the shed means the area which is available to the animals at any time without restriction. Nests count as usable shed areas. Also, the raised covers of the faeces pit can be counted to the available shed area. The littered area must be available to the animals at all times without restriction and must be at least one third of the available area of the shed.

Breeding broiler

With the planning of the space allowances the livestock owner must ensure for every shed that the amount of 35 kg live weight per m² of usable shed area is never exceeded.


Breeding turkeys

With the planning of the space allowances the livestock owner must ensure for every shed that for turkey hens the live weight of 52 kg and for turkey cocks the live weight of 58 kg per m² of usable shed area is not exceeded.

 Slaughter result reports, information on usable shed area, shed cards

3.2.8 [K.O.] Alarm system

In sheds where ventilation is provided by an electrically operated system, there must be an 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. The alarm systems must be checked weekly in a technic check to ensure that they work properly and the technic check must be recorded.


 Records of technic check

3.2.9 Emergency power supply

An emergency power supply must be present in sheds for keeping livestock in which adequate provision of feed and water for the animals is not assured in the event of a power failure. If an emergency power generator is necessary, technical conditions must be able to connect.

Emergency power generators must be checked for proper functioning in a technic check once per week, the technic check must be recorded.

In addition, these generators must be tested under work conditions at least three times per cycle, at sufficiently spaced intervals; this technic check must also be recorded.

 Records of technic checks

3.2.10 Requirements on loading and unloading equipment

Loading and unloading equipment must be constructed, maintained and used in a way that injuries 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.

3.2.11 [K.O.] Handling livestock during loading

Persons who load animals (includes loading and unloading) must be properly trained or qualified. They must not exercise any violence when loading and must not scare unnecessarily or produce injure or harm to the animals.

It is forbidden to:

- Hit or kick poultry,
- Exert pressure on particularly sensitive areas of the body which causes the animal unnecessary pain or suffering,
- Use any instruments with a pointed end,
- Tug or pull animals by their head, plumage, wings, tail or legs.

Requirements for catching slaughter poultry

- To avoid stress, lighting of sufficient strength should be ensured during destocking.
- All persons who catch animals must be trained in the animal-friendly handling of poultry. If external personnel are used, it must be ensured and documented that the crew leader has been sufficiently trained and that the catchers have received sufficient instruction on the animal-friendly handling of poultry during catching and loading.
- Livestock owners who use their own or external personnel to catch and load animals must ensure that these persons handle the poultry in the appropriate, animal-friendly manner.
- All catchers (in-house and external) must be recorded in writing by name each time poultry are loaded; before catching poultry, each catcher must document by signature that they have been instructed by the foreman or the livestock owner in handling poultry (e.g. using the checklist **Model form "List of persons assigned to destocking of poultry for slaughter"**).

 Documentation of the involved catchers during destocking of slaughter poultry

3.2.12 [K.O.] Proof of competence and training 🔍

Proof of the competence of the livestock owner must be provided in the form of

- Completed vocational training in agriculture or farming or
- Degree in the field of agronomy or veterinary medicine or
- Proof that the livestock owner has reared the poultry in question independently and without any animal welfare objections for at least three years or
- Certificate on a passed examination recognised as being equivalent by the authorities.
- Attainment of competence based at the participation in a course recognised by the competent body and proof of competence in the form of a passed examination.


Livestock owners must prove their competence and ensure that all persons employed or occupied to care for or catch and load poultry can prove they possess up-to-date knowledge and skills in the area of animal welfare to perform their tasks and responsibilities, including the stunning and slaughtering of poultry.

 Proof of competence, training, etc.

Proof of annual further training

Every livestock owner must participate of relevant and technically specific further trainings at least once a year. Evidence to this effect must be kept.

⇒ Chapter 2.1.1 *General company data*; List of livestock care personnel

 Proof of further training measures, e.g. certificate of participation in technical lectures

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

It must be ensured, that all animals are provided with food in sufficient quantity and quality every day.

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

Equipment must be constructed and set up in such a way that the feed cannot be contaminated and conflicts between the animals can be kept to a minimum.

The following specifications of feeding facilities must be met for every shed.

Feeding facilities

Breeding broiler

- Cock feeding
Circular feeders: 11 cocks per circular feeder at most
Long feeders: at least 18 cm usable trough rim per animal
- Hen feeding
Long feeders: at least 12,5 cm usable trough rim per animal
Circular feeders: at least 8 cm trough rim per animal

A lower number of feeding facilities is only permitted if the feeding systems serve to improve the supply of the animals and an official permit has been obtained.

Breeding turkey

Feeding equipment must be planned, constructed, mounted, operated and maintained in such a way that

- the contamination of feed and water, as well as the spilling of the water are kept to a minimum to avoid the contamination of the litter around the troughs,
- all animals have sufficient access,
- the animals are not injured and
- it is operable in all weather conditions.

In tube feeding systems with a standard dish (round troughs) diameter of approx. 30 to 50 cm, at least one dish must be available per 250 kg of live weight in the rearing phase and per 1,000 kg of live weight during the fattening phase.

- Long troughs: If long troughs are used, at least 160 cm usable inner trough rim must be available
- Freestanding individual automatic feeders: With individual automatic feeders with a diameter of approx. 60 cm, at least one automatic device must be available per 1,500 kg of live weight during the fattening phase.
- If only free-standing feeding troughs or bowls with a diameter of approx. 30 to 50 cm are used in the rearing phase, at least one feeding bowl must be available for each 250 kg live weight.

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 medicines and before the use of vaccines, all equipment, pipes, feedinglines, shovels, etc. that have come into contact with the medications must be cleaned to prevent carry-over.

3.3.3 Handling and storage of feed

All feeds must be protected against contamination and impurities. They must be stored clean, dry, with the use of building materials and coatings which will not pose a health risk and protected from the weather. Furthermore, feed must be protected against pests, rodents, birds and other wild animals and pets.

Feed must be stored and transported separately from waste, slurry, manure and hazardous substances, seeds, medicines and chemicals.

The storage area must be cleaned and disinfected if necessary.

Storage facilities and stored feed must be regularly inspected (e.g. for cleanliness, temperature, germ or fungal infestation, pest infestation, sensory properties of the feed).

Finished feed must be stored separately from unprocessed raw materials. Mixing, e.g. with feed for other animal species or of starter, fattening and final fattening feed, must be avoided, e.g. by using separate silos. The silo cells must be clearly labelled.

There are substances that must not be used, see annex

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

Note: Dust bags used to fill silos, big packs and other containers/packaging used for feed delivery should remain on site for biosafety reasons and must be disposed of if necessary.


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. Eligibility of delivery is checked in the QS database (<https://q-s.de/softwareplattform/en/>) under the system partner search.

- If feed (in bulk or packed) is procured directly from producers, these producers must be QS-eligible to deliver.
- If feed is procured unpacked (in bulk) via traders, they must be QS-eligible to deliver.
- If packaged feed is purchased via traders, the trader the producer must be QS-eligible to deliver; if the trader is QS-eligible to deliver, there is no need for verification of the producer. If the trader is not QS-eligible to deliver, the livestock owner must ensure that the producer of the packaged feed is QS-eligible to deliver.
- If a livestock owner commissions a transport company to transport unpacked feeds, the livestock owner must ensure that the transport company is QS-eligible to deliver. There are no requirements regarding the eligibility of delivery of transporters/freight forwarders for the transport of packaged animal feed.

Note: Procurement of feed from a cooperation, see criterion ⇒ 3.3.7 Feed production in cooperation.

 Accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes, consolidated delivery notes), 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; these primary products can e.g. be obtained from the agricultural producer, agricultural trade, etc. without QS-eligibility to deliver. Locations that use deploying those products are considered classified as agricultural on-farm mixers and must participate in feed monitoring.

⇒ Criterion 3.7 Monitoring programme

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

When ordering 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 feeds with location number; correction note

3.3.6 Feed production (on-farm mixer) 🔍

If feed is produced in own facilities for the own locations or in cooperation with other livestock owners for several locations, 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 for feed production 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. 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 purchased and/or 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, 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

In the entire 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.

All plants and equipment facilities used in feed production must be checked regularly for contamination and dust accumulation; they must be kept clean and cleaned as necessary.

Furthermore, they 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 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, they must be precisely measured and mixed in. 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 to rectify must be taken (e.g. after-treatment or mixing in of an untreated 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 on the use of feed additives, mixing protocols


3.3.7 Feed production in cooperation

If multiple livestock owners or multiple locations of a livestock owner join to produce their own feed or establish a purchasing cooperation, this cooperation must be contractually fixed; it must be specified in the contract which partner produces the feed and who the recipients are. Within the QS scheme, no feed may be produced for or marketed to third parties who do not belong to this cooperation. A cooperation between livestock owners or between several locations of a single livestock owner for the production of feed or purely for purchasing purposes is only allowed if all livestock farmers involved are QS scheme participants. In this case, certification for feed production and road transport by the cooperative is not necessary.

The delivery routes and the procurement of feed must be traceable at all times for each cooperation partner. The name and address of the locations supplied, as well as the type and quantity (and, if applicable, batch) delivered, must be documented at the manufacturing site. The locations supplied must receive accompanying documents (e.g., delivery notes, collective delivery notes/documentation) so that the procurement of feed can be traced there.

Documentation of the delivery routes is not necessary if there are several locations (VVVO no.) of a livestock farmer within the cooperation and/or the cooperation consists of several location numbers (VVVO no.) on the same premises.

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


 Contractual agreement on feed production, accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes, consolidated 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 toasting plants, oil presses or mobile feed milling and mixing plants) are used for the feed production, they must be QS certified. The only exceptions to this are service providers that do not carry out more than simple external processing of feed - e.g. only mince feed, but do not mix or otherwise process it.

Eligibility of delivery is checked in the QS database (<https://q-s.de/softwareplattform/en/>) under the system partner search.

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 QS database

3.4 Drinking water

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

All animals must always have access to water at all times in sufficient quantity (ad libitum) and quality (e.g. clean, unclouded, without foreign odours).

The watering equipment must be constructed and set up in such a way that the water cannot be contaminated and conflicts between the animals can be kept to a minimum.

The following specifications of watering equipment must be met for every shed.

Breeding broiler

- For round drinking troughs, at least 0.66 cm of usable drinking side length per kg LW must be available.
- For long or channel troughs at least 1.5 cm (inner side) usable trough per kg LW must be available.
- If long troughs are only usable from one side (e.g. wall standing or parietal) the double length of the long troughs is required.
- For nipple drinking troughs: max. 10 animals per nipple

A lower number of drinking spots is only permitted if the drinking systems serve to improve the supply of the animals and an official permit has been obtained.

Breeding turkey

Watering equipment must be planned, constructed, mounted, operated and maintained in such a way that:

- The contamination of feed and water, as well as the spilling of the water are kept to a minimum to avoid the contamination of the litter around the troughs,
- All animals have sufficient access to avoid unnecessary rivalry between individual animals,
- The animals are not injured,
- It is operable in all weather conditions.

Drinking facilities

- Line drinkers: Line drinkers with multiple nipples and cups below the nipples or drink cup must have at least one drinking unit (e.g. nipple) per 500 kg of live weight in the fattening phase.
- Round drinkers: With individual drinkers (e.g. Plasson drinkers) with a standard dish diameter of approx. 25 to 50 cm, at least one drinker must be available per 2,000 kg of live weight during the fattening phase.
- Long drinkers/ channel drinking troughs: If channel drinking troughs are used, at least 180 cm of usable inner rim must be available and per 2,000 kg live weight during fattening phase.

If well water is used as drinking water, it has to be analysed risk-orientated on a yearly basis and the results should be evaluated by the veterinarian.

 Proof of analysis or evaluations by the veterinarian

3.4.2 **Hygiene of drinking facilities**


Drinking troughs must be controlled daily and kept as clean as possible; they must be cleaned when necessary.

After the use of medicines, all facilities, pipes, drinkers, drinking bowls etc. that have come into contact with medicinal products must be cleaned sufficiently in order to prevent residues contamination 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 contract (for minimum requirements, see explanatory notes or sample contract for minimum requirements, cf. www.q-s.de/en/).

 Veterinary care contract


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

The livestock owner must ensure compliance with the agreements set out in the veterinary care contract. The veterinarian must (regardless of acute cases of illness) visit the location before the initial audit.

The stock visits and their results must be documented by the veterinarian.

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.

If action is required, a plan with preventive and treatment measures must be drawn up for the location.

 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 following information must be available for all medicines and vaccines used: clear designation (product name), lot number, type of application, ingredients, expiry date, waiting period.

The livestock owner must be able to present proof for the acquisition of animal medicines arranged chronologically 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

QS active agent catalogue for poultry

Only drugs with active substances listed in the QS active substances catalogue for poultry may be used, see www.q-s.de/en/.

⇒ Annex 4.1 **Guideline Antibiotics Monitoring Poultry**

Proof must be on hand showing which active substances were contained in the administered drugs (e.g. pack insert).

Application of medicines and vaccines

The use of antibiotics as performance enhancers or for prophylaxis is prohibited.

All valid prescription veterinary prescription medicines must only be used provided for each use of prescription medicines.

The livestock owner must chronologically document every use of medicines or vaccines administered by himself or the veterinarian, see the **German Livestock Owner Veterinary Drug Detection Regulation** and **German Pharmaceutical Law** (the documents can also be kept in electronic form, as long as the data cannot be altered).

The following information must be recorded in writing immediately after each application:

- Number, type and identity of the animals treated and their location (if the location is required for identifying the animals)
- Name of medicine/vaccine, assignment of the veterinary drug record (e.g. by numbering), date of application
- Amount administered, waiting time, name of person who administered the treatment

The application can be documented by the combined evidence or by a stock book.


If the livestock owner administers the medication him/herself, he/she must follow the instructions given by the veterinarian. Prescribed medicines must be used in accordance with this prescription.

The waiting periods must correspond to the specifications of the QS active agent catalogue. They must set by the veterinarian and must be complied with.

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

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

All equipment used to administer medicines and/or vaccines must be clean and suitable. Only flawless injection needles may be used; bent, blunt, broken and otherwise unfit needles must be replaced and disposed of immediately.

 Receipts on purchasing and use of medicines and vaccines (veterinary medical documentation, combined receipts, invoices, prescriptions, vaccination book, vaccination plan (usage plan in accordance with animal vaccine regulations), vaccination control book, stock book, etc.)

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(e.g. such as external persons and children) in a clean, locked container or/cabinet or inaccessible room.

Once the expiry date has been reached, medicines and vaccines must not be used anymore and must be properly disposed of. Empty containers must also be disposed of without delay.

Feed medicines must be stored in such a way that the risk of 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/flocks) 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, hatching egg stores, outdoor areas including the loading equipment, all shed equipment and feeding systems including containers and troughs, feed transport boxes, equipment (e.g. shovels) and vehicles used for feeding animals, must permit effective cleaning.

The outdoor area of poultry sheds in front of the shed gable ends and other entrances and the facilities for loading (load and unloading) animals (including floor spaces of the transport vehicles) must be paved in a way (e.g. asphalt, concrete, pavement) that allows the maneuvering of the vehicles which load or deliver livestock or hatching eggs and ensures that an effective cleaning and disinfection takes place.

All buildings and equipment must be kept clean and must be kept in a proper condition. In addition, pests must be effectively controlled.

Hatching egg storage areas must be air conditioned, inaccessible to rodents and easy to clean. Anterooms to poultry flocks should facilitate wet cleaning and disinfection.

The exterior facilities in the close surroundings of the poultry sheds have to be constructed in a way which provides no shelter for pests (e.g. rodents). Growth of shrubs, ground covers or bushes adjacent to the sheds is prohibited. Grass cover must be kept short.

Livestock gathering areas, loading ramps, places for loading and unloading, bays/rooms used for the screening of poultry as well as the equipment used at each of these locations must be cleaned and disinfected after every use.

3.6.2 **Hygiene on the farm**

Gates, doors and other entrances have to effectively prevent the entry of unauthorized persons and of animals. The doorways of the sheds must be lockable and must be locked during rest periods.

Sheds and other facilities used to house the animals may only be accessed by external persons with the consent of the livestock owner and only with protective clothing and under supervision.

External persons must be provided with protective clothing (disposable clothing or the company's own protective clothing), and staff must wear work clothing (e.g. drivers of animal transport vehicles who leave the vehicle for loading or unloading).

Direct contact with the animals must be avoided.

A visitors' book must be kept. External persons who have contact with the livestock must document their visit.



Visitors' book

The following requirements must be implemented per age group on a farm for an effective livestock housing hygiene:

- Work clothes are clean (including provision of disposable or protective clothing)
- Functional handwash basins, hand cleaning agent, disposable towels or clean fabric towels
- Clean hygiene sluices
- Waste is disposed properly

Every shed must be entered via a hygiene sluice. A hygiene sluice (black and white separation) which effectively separates the outdoor area from the area where the animals are kept must be set up in the entrance area of every shed. The hygiene sluice must offer the possibility for wearing the protective clothing.

Protective clothing must remain on the farm after use.

The contact of livestock with wild animals, in particular birds and pests, must be effectively prevented.

Hygiene during loading

Special hygiene measures must be complied with when destocking and loading animals for slaughter or transferring them to a different shed, in order to protect the animals that remain in the shed from increased germination levels. Every company must have specific instructions on what to do in these cases.

The following rules must be implemented:

- All persons involved in the loading must wear clean working clothing
- Hands and shoes must be cleaned and disinfected prior to loading
- Stocks may only be accessed via hygiene sluices
- Cleaning and disinfection of the loading equipment and transport containers used in the shed



Handling instructions

3.6.3 Handling litter and activity material

Use and storage of litter and activity material

Litter and activity materials must be suitable for animals, hygienic, clean, dry and to be free of fungus. Bedding and activity material must be stored cleanly and protected from access by wild populations (eg. weather conditions, rodents). For storage, field storages are also suitable.

If a mobile device is used for bedding, precautions must be taken to prevent the introduction of pathogens into the shed (e.g. through contamination with wild bird droppings).

It must be avoided to use bark mulch and compost due to the risk of introducing diseases (e.g. avian tuberculosis), unless that it can be proven by means of the proper analysis that the used materials do not represent any high risk.

3.6.4 Carcass storage and pick up

Carcass storage

Carcasses must be properly stored immediately after removal and must be kept cooled and secured against unauthorised access.

The containers used for carcass storage must be designed in a way that it is ensured that they are waterproof as well as easy to clean and to disinfect.

At least during the service period, the company (storage site and containers) must be properly cleaned and disinfected.

Storage capacities must be adequately measured.

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. After emptying, the containers must be cleaned and disinfected as necessary.

3.6.5 Pest monitoring and control 🔍


On the entire company including the storage facilities, a pest monitoring must be carried out.

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. Measures to combat pests must be documented.

 Control protocols

3.6.6 Cleaning and disinfection measures

In between the removal of the stock and its replacement with another, the vacated shed, including the facilities and equipment as well as the forecourts and gable areas of the shed, must be cleaned and disinfected properly and in a risk-oriented manner. The executed actions must be documented.

 Cleaning plan and/or procedural instructions and/or records of cleaning and disinfection measures (e.g. on the shed card)

3.7 Monitoring programmes 🔍

Feed monitoring for on-farm mixing companies

Each location using primary products as feed, mix their own feed or purchases already mixed feed from a cooperation must participate to the feed monitoring (Definition "on-farm mixing" compare *Explanations*).

In these locations, samples must be drawn and examined every year in accordance with the control plans for agriculture (**Guideline Feed Monitoring**) and examined.

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

Antibiotics monitoring

Poultry farmer must participate in the antibiotics monitoring. The requirements are specified in the **Guideline Antibiotics Monitoring Poultry**.

Antibiotics may only be prescribed and dispensed by veterinarians 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 [K.O.] Health surveillance programme 🔍

Participation

To safeguard animal health of breeding farms for multiplying and hatching egg production, livestock owners are obliged to participate in a monitoring programme which takes into account the relevant EU provisions (see **Directive 2016/429/EC on epizootic diseases in conjunction with Regulation (EU) 2019/2035 laying down rules for hatcheries**). Participation on monitoring is the prerequisite for eligibility to deliver hatching eggs to the hatchery and comprises farm-specific health surveillance with the goal of assuring the quality of the hatching eggs and chicks. This applies as a minimum to the infections listed below:

Salmonellae and mycoplasma infections in breeding farms

Infections with *Salmonella pullorum* and *Salmonella gallinarum* (breeding farms for broiler and turkey) and *Salmonella arizonae* (breeding farms for turkey) health control programme:

- Serological and/or bacteriological examinations are used to establish infection.
- Depending on each instance, the samples to be examined use blood, cloaca swabs and sock-tip swabs.
- Prior to the laying period, every flock must be checked once for the presence of the disease at the most favourable point in time (see **REG (EU) No. 1190/2012 on the reduction of Salmonella enteritidis and Salmonella typhimurium in flocks of turkeys**).

Infections with *Mycoplasma gallisepticum* (breeding farms for broiler and turkey) and *Mycoplasma meleagridis* (breeding farms for turkey) health control programme:

- Serological and/or bacteriological and/or molecular-biological examinations are used to establish infection.

- Depending on each instance, the samples to be examined use blood, tracheal swabs and choanal swabs.

The examinations must be carried out immediately before the laying period begins and every three months thereafter.

The hatchery receiving delivery must be notified of the results of the health surveillance programme. If the results are positive, all necessary measures must be recorded in a plan.

 Documentation of the health surveillance programme, plan of measures

Participation in salmonella monitoring

Poultry farmers must conduct salmonella monitoring. To do so, every delivery has to be included in sampling for salmonella. Examinations may only be performed by accredited laboratories (EN 17025). The outgoing animals are tested by means of a sock-tip swab within the last three weeks prior to the probable date of slaughter (see **Guideline Salmonella Monitoring and Reduction Programme in Poultry Meat Production**).

Salmonella results


The prerequisite for deliveries of QS-poultry is that the results of the salmonella tests (incoming and outgoing examinations) are available at the time of slaughter. It should be noted here that the abattoir must have the sample results in written or electronic form before the animals in question are transported to the abattoir. If the results are not available at the time of slaughter, flocks that were not examined are to be regarded as positive.

 Results of salmonella testing in written or electronic form

3.7.2 Salmonella monitoring: measures towards the reduction of salmonella contamination

Poultry farmers with a positive salmonella finding must ensure without delay that suitable examinations are carried out to find the source of the salmonella occurrence and plausible measures suitable for minimizing the salmonella risk are carried out. Qualified external support is recommended. The measures taken must be documented.

The checklist for determining salmonella introduction sources in poultry production stocks from the **Guideline Salmonella Monitoring and Reduction Programme in Poultry Meat Production** can be used here.

 Checklist to determine salmonella entry sources (e.g. QS-supporting document), records of measures in the event of positive salmonella findings


3.7.3 Monitoring of diagnostic data from slaughter

Poultry farmers must document the number of delivered animals for each marketing of slaughter poultry. The information provided by the abattoir on the delivered slaughter weight, transport fatalities and main rejection grounds (findings) as well as the number of rejections must be documented.

Poultry farmers are obligated to participate at the monitoring of diagnostic data from slaughter if they market to QS abattoirs. The key element of the monitoring of diagnostic data from slaughter is the systematic recording of indicators at both the agricultural companies that keep animals as well as at the abattoir. The indicators need to be suitable to detect where corrective actions need to be taken to improve the animal welfare. These indicators include at least:

- Mortality in the shed
- Losses due to transport (monitoring is performed in the abattoir)
- Main rejection grounds (monitoring is performed at the abattoir)

With the binding participation of Poultry farmers at the monitoring of diagnostic data from slaughter, the results of the systematic recording of indicators and the therefrom derived corrective actions (e.g. change of parameters) must be documented.

 Documentation of participation at the monitoring of diagnostic data from slaughter (or similar programme abroad), results of the recorded indicators (information letter or direct access to the diagnostic data database (Vetproof)); if necessary, measures to improve animal welfare

3.8 Transport of own livestock

Livestock owners must comply with the following requirements when transporting own livestock with own (or borrowed) vehicles, regardless of whether it is transported 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 not impaired during the entire loading and transport process (up to unloading of the last animal).

All livestock transportation vehicles must be driven in a suitable and anticipatory manner which minimises the risk of injury. The animals should be transported to their destination without culpable delay.

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 a veterinarian as soon as possible. Unnecessary suffering must be avoided and, if required the animals must be emergency slaughtered or culled.

3.8.1 Requirements for means of transportation

The vehicles and dividers must be in perfect technical condition as well as clean and hygienic.

They must be constructed, used and maintained in such a way that the animals do not have to suffer any pain or injury and their safety is guaranteed. They must also be able to withstand the forces exerted by the animals. The vehicles and partitions must allow for effective cleaning and disinfection.

While loading the transport containers on top of each other all required arrangements must be met in order to:

- to prevent animals on lower levels from being contaminated by excrement from animals above them, or to keep such contamination to a minimum.
- Ensure the stability of the transport containers
- Ensure that the ventilation is not disabled

Walls and roof

The animals must be protected against bad weather (e.g. hail, heavy rain, snow) and extreme temperatures at any time. The transport containers must be designed in such a way that the animals do not escape or fall out and that the animals can withstand the forces of motion that occur during transport.

Ventilation

The poultry must have an adequate and sufficient supply of fresh air to fully meet their needs, taking into account their number and the weather conditions. Within the transport containers, there shall be sufficient space to ensure adequate air circulation above the animals.

Livestock control

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

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

Transport in transport containers

The following minimum floor surface must be guaranteed (Tab. 1). Deviations to these loading densities are possible according to the weight and size of the poultries, as well as their physical constitution, weather conditions and the estimated duration of transport.

Table 1: Loading density (excluding day-old chicks) during transport in containers

Poultry Live weight [up to _ kg per poultry]	Surface [cm ² /kg LW]	Minimum height of transport container [cm]
1.0	200	23
1.3	190	23
1.6	180	23
2.0	170	23
3.0	160	23

Poultry Live weight [up to _ kg per poultry]	Surface [cm ² /kg LW]	Minimum height of transport container [cm]
4.0	130	25
5.0	115	25
10.0	105	30
15.0	105	35
30.0	105	40

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

 Accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes), documentation of loading density

3.8.3 Cleaning and disinfection of means of transportation

Vehicles used to transport poultry to slaughterhouses must be cleaned and disinfected before leaving the premises.

Before each loading, the driver must check that 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 must carry a separate disinfection control book for each vehicle (that means one for the traction engine and one for the trailer/container) when transporting poultry to the abattoir which contains the following information:

- Date of transport
- Animal species transported
- Place and date for the 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 (abattoir, etc.), the delivery documents must contain the following information concerning the identification of the animals and the transporter (= delivering livestock owner):

- Quantity
- Type of animal
- Proper identification of the herd/flock
- Location number of the sender (i.e. of the livestock owner, e.g. VVVO-number)

Both the sender of the livestock 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 and resting times (for livestock transport over 50 km)

During transport, the animals must be provided with food and water at appropriate intervals, depending on their species and age, and they must be able to rest. Unless otherwise stipulated (see notes below), poultry must be fed at least every 24 hours and watered at least every twelve hours (excluding loading and unloading time). Appropriate feed and drinking water must be provided in adequate quantities and of good quality and must be given to the animals in such a way that contamination is kept to a minimum.

Documentation

The duration of transport and rest times must be documented.


 Records on the duration of transport, rest times and animal care, 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 in the vehicle (transport control book) containing the following information:

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

The data must 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)

Drivers and attendants who are directly responsible for the welfare of the animals during loading and discharging and during the actual transport must be appropriately trained or qualified and hold a qualification certificate. This does not apply to persons who assist in driving the animals at the point of departure or destination

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


 Proof of qualification for drivers/carers


4 Definitions

4.1 Explanation of symbols

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

References to related documents are highlighted by **bold print in the text**.

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

 This symbol means: For criteria with this symbol, the separate document **Explanations to the Guideline Agriculture Poultry Production/Breeding Poultry** contains interpretation aids and suggestions. It is possible that since then explanations to further criteria have been added.

References to other chapters in the guideline are marked with ⇒.

Notes are identified by **Note** in *italics*. They are not quality assurance requirements, are not checked and are not included in the evaluation.

4.2 Abbreviations

K.O. Knock out criterion

KJ Kilojoule

ppm parts per million

LW Live weight

VO Regulation in the sense of a binding legal form

VVVO Ordinance on protection against the spread of animal diseases through livestock trading (German Livestock Transport Regulation - ViehVerkV)

4.3 Terms and Definitions

- Animal/livestock transport

Every movement of livestock in one or more transport vehicles and all related procedures, including loading, unloading, reloading and resting, until the animals have been unloaded at their final destination.

- **Transportation**

The entire transportation process, from shipment to arrival at the destination, including unloading and housing and loading at the stopover stations.

- **Long Transport**

Conveyance in excess of 8 hours from the moment the first animal in the consignment is moved.

- **QS Animals**

QS animals are regarded as animals which are produced or marketed at a QS certified farm in accordance with QS scheme requirements.

- **HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point)**

A system that identifies, evaluates and controls risks that are of significance to food safety. To do so, all of the individual stages of a production process are observed and evaluated in line with a risk-based analysis in order to establish the cause of possible quality deviations.

- **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.

You find a listing of general terms and definitions in the **Guideline General Requirements**.

Revision Information Version 01.01.2026

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
1 Fundamentals	Clarification: The following document contains the basic requirements for participation in the QS scheme in the respective criteria. The accompanying explanatory notes serve as an aid to interpretation and are to be understood as requirements that apply in addition to the guideline.	01.01.2026
2.1 General system requirements	Restructuring: Incident and crisis management previously separate checkpoint (<i>2.1.2 Incident and crisis management</i>) – content retained, moved to <i>2.1 General system requirements</i> .	01.01.2026
2.1.1 General company data	Restructuring: Requirements for incident re-reporting and the emergency plan moved to <i>2.1.1 General company data</i> (previously <i>2.1.2 Incident and crisis management</i> , deleted as a separate criterion).	01.01.2026
2.1.2 Incident and crisis management	Deletion: Deleted as a separate criterion – content moved to <i>2.1 General system requirements</i> and <i>2.1.1 General company data</i> .	01.01.2026
3.1 Traceability and labelling	Restructuring: "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." moved to <i>3.1 Traceability and labelling</i> (previously <i>3.1.2 Verification of eligibility of delivery</i>).	01.01.2026
3.1.1 Purchasing, incoming goods and services	Renaming: previously ' <i>3.1.1 Purchases and incoming goods</i> '.	01.01.2026
3.1.2 Verification of eligibility of delivery	Restructuring/Deletion: Deleted as a separate requirement, as it is already checked as a requirement in individual test criteria.	01.01.2026
3.2 Husbandry, care and handling	Renaming: previously " <i>3.2 Animal welfare-farming</i> ".	01.01.2026
3.2.5 Shed climate and noise	Restructuring: 'A back-up device that ensures adequate air exchange in the event of system failure must be present in sheds in which ventilation is via an electrical system.'	01.01.2026

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
	moved to 3.2.5 <i>Shed climate and noise</i> (previously 3.2.9 <i>Emergency power supply</i>).	
3.2.6 Lighting	Specification of requirements for light restriction.	01.01.2026
3.2.9 Emergency power supply	Postponement of requirements for replacement devices to test criterion 3.2.5 <i>Shed climate and noise</i>	01.01.2026
3.3.3 Handling and storage of feed	<p>Renaming: previously 3.3.3 <i>Usage and storage of feed</i>.</p> <p>Deletion: „The storage facility must be cleaned and disinfected where necessary.“</p> <p>Extension: Note: <i>Dust bags used to fill silos, big packs and other containers/packaging used for feed delivery should remain on site for biosafety reasons and must be disposed of if necessary.</i></p>	01.01.2026
3.3.4 [K.O.] Feed procurement	<p>Deletion: „If feed is procured from a cooperation of several livestock owners, the collaboration must be contractually established, and within the QS scheme no feed may be marketed 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) ⇒ 3.3.7 <i>Feed production in cooperation is checked at the producer of the feed</i>“</p> <p>Extension: There are no requirements regarding the eligibility of delivery of transporters/freight forwarders for the transport of packaged animal feed.</p>	01.01.2026
3.3.6 Feed production (on-farm mixer)	Extension: Mixing protocols have been added as document references for the use and documentation of feed additives.	01.01.2026
3.3.7 Feed production in cooperation	Clarification: Certification for feed production and road transport by the cooperation is not necessary	01.01.2026
3.5.3 [K.O.] Procurement and application of medicines and vaccines	<p>Clarification: A clear designation (product name) is required.</p> <p>A veterinary prescription must be provided for each use of prescription drugs.</p> <p>Deletion: The manufacturer and batch number are no longer mandatory information, and the indication is also no longer required.</p>	01.01.2026

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm	Deletion: Requirements for signage at shed entrances. Clarification that protective clothing must remain on the farm after use.	01.01.2026
3.8.7 [K.O.] Proof of qualification for drivers/carers (for livestock transport over 65 km)	Clarification: Drivers and attendants who are directly responsible for the welfare of the animals during loading, unloading and transport must be adequately trained or qualified and hold a certificate of competence. This does not apply to persons who assist in driving the animals at the place of departure or destination.	01.01.2026

Guideline
Agriculture
Breeding Poultry

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