

Guideline

Agriculture Pig Farming



Version: 01.01.2026



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Note: The Guideline Agriculture Pig 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🔍

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

Production branch pig farming:

- Pig production
- Gilt rearing/boar rearing
- Sow and piglets production up to weaning
- Piglet rearing

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.

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 site

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. If the audit was successful, the location 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) every location will be audited on a risk-based schedule (audit interval):

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

These regular audits take place unannounced. In addition, 10 % of the locations will receive an unannounced spot audit in the period between two regular audits.

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 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 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, Guideline General Regulations, Guideline Certification, monitoring programs), the legal requirements (outside Germany comparable foreign legal rules) are met.

Note: The separate document "**Explanatory notes on the Guideline Agriculture Pig Farming**" summarizes interpretation aids and other applicable requirements, which are 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 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

An overview containing the following contact/master 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
- Number of animals
- On-farm mixers (relevant for feed monitoring): Type of feed used (e.g. grains, maize silage, rapeseed meal but also stale bread and bakery products), 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 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 in the relevant document.

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

 Overview with contact/master data, company sketch or 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)

2.2 Counselling

Note: Initially only relevant for pig fatteners in Germany.

Focus on Animal health

Pig fatteners whose fattening pigs show suspicious results for relevant findings in diagnostic slaughter data receive a spot audit focusing on animal health ('Animal health audit') within three months after the calculation date. This audit checks whether need for counselling identified from the data actually exists. The audit deadline is the last day before the calculation date. In justified exceptional cases, the audit deadline can be extended by one month by the certification body.

If there is still a need for counselling after the animal health audit, an initial counselling must be carried out by a QS-approved consultant within four weeks of the release of the audit. The livestock owner must select his consultant from the list of QS-approved consultants (together and in close consultation with his farm veterinarian). The farm veterinarian himself must not be selected for the counselling. However, the comprehensive involvement of the farm veterinarian in the counselling process is expressly recommended. In addition, a consultant who has already advised the location in the last 24 months may not be selected for the counselling. The counselling must be documented by the consultant using the QS counselling protocol and verified in the QS database. In justified cases, the counselling period can be extended once by four weeks by the coordinator.

Note: If the deadlines for the animal health audit and/or the mandatory counselling are not complied with, the company will be temporarily blocked.

The cut-off calculation dates take place on the following dates: 1 February, 1 May, 1 August and 1 November.

The aim of the counselling is to improve animal health on the location. Success is continuously monitored via the database. Within the "improvement period" of approximately nine months after the initial consultation (three quarters), the findings must have improved (success threshold: relevant findings better than the worst 10 % of results). In the following twelve months ("observation period"), the findings must not be abnormal again. In the following twelve months ('observation period'), the diagnostic data must not be suspicious again.

Note: If a livestock owner does **not** pass the success check and becomes suspicious again during the observation period, the eligibility of delivery will be withdrawn for at least three months. To re-enter the QS scheme, a new regular audit is required, which can be carried out after three months at the earliest.

If a livestock owner passes the success check and is suspicious again during the observation period, they will be obliged to undergo counselling again.

3 Pig production 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 delivery/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 pig production, as well as the purchase of livestock, must be documented (date, type, quantity, supplier and company of origin (location)). 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 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, livestock transport companies)

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

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

All livestock must be marked and thus identifiable. Piglets must be permanently marked with an official mark at the weaning stage at the latest.

A pig may only be moved if it is properly marked. The classification must ensure a unique assignment of the animals to the company of origin (location) and accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes).

For the delivery to an abattoir, all fattening pigs must be clearly labelled (stamp or ear tag) at the latest upon loading in order to identify the delivering company. They may therefore be transported for slaughter even after the ear tag has been lost if the farm of origin can be clearly identified.

 Accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes); for animals for slaughter food chain information (copy, e.g. standard declaration)

3.1.3 [K.O.] Origin and marketing 🔍

For piglet rearing and the production of fattening pigs, the piglets must be purchased from suppliers that are eligible to deliver for QS. The eligibility of delivery is checked in the QS database (**QS Softwareplatform**) under the scheme participant search. There, for example, eligibility of delivery can be checked by entering the location number of the company of origin.

The production of piglets, the rearing of fattening piglets and the keeping of fattening pigs (pre-fattening and final fattening) as well as the rearing of breeding animals, which are supposed to be marketed as fattening pigs after selection, must be carried out in accordance with QS requirements all the time. To do this, both the company of origin (location) and the livestock transport company must be known and authorized to deliver at the time of service. Rearing pigs, gilts, sows and young boars for breeding do not have to come from QS locations.

Only animals from QS-certified companies that are authorised to deliver may be marketed as QS animals. When animals are sold, both the sender of the animals (= livestock owner) and the recipient/customer must have a copy of the accompanying document (delivery document). The company of origin of the animals must be indicated. Existing waiting times must be indicated on accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes, food chain information) when they are handed over to third parties.

If an injection needle breaks and remains in the animal, the animal must be permanently labelled (e.g. ear tag, tattoo) to ensure that the foreign body 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), food chain information, extract QS database

3.1.4 [K.O.] Stock records 🔍

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

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

- Date of receipt or birth (if born in own company)
- Date of leaving
- Ear tag number
- Number of animals
- 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, livestock owners, 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.

In addition to the required entries in the stock register, the number of daily deaths, the number of piglet losses per litter and the number of miscarriages and stillbirths must be recorded separately (see also **Pig Production Hygiene Regulations**).

 Loss records

3.1.5 Livestock transport

Animals 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 scheme participant search. There, for example, eligibility of delivery can be checked by entering the location number of the farm of origin.

These can either be QS-eligible livestock owners (transport of own animals) or commercial livestock transport companies with QS eligibility of delivery.

The livestock owner entitled to transport his own animals within the QS scheme. If a livestock owner transports his own animals (with his own or borrowed vehicles), the requirements of $\Rightarrow$ Chapter 3.8 *Transport of own livestock* must be complied with.

 Accompanying transport documents (e.g. delivery note, transport consignment note)

3.2 Husbandry, care and handling

Transportability

Livestock may only be loaded and transported if they are fit for transportation and are spared unnecessary suffering and pain. 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. The animals' fitness for transportation must be checked before each loading.

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

People 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 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 despite being fit for transport 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 species ¹
- Animals with a considerable difference in size or age¹
- Adult breeding boars¹
- Sexually mature males and females¹
- Rival 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 practices by persons with the necessary skills, knowledge and qualifications.

The persons caring for animals must check the condition of the animals at least once a day through direct visual inspection and in case of any anomalies act immediately. Dead animals must be removed from the animal area as quickly as possible.

3.2.2 [K.O.] General farming requirements

Each sty and each other form of husbandry must be structured in such a way regarding construction, material, technical fittings, conditions and management that no avoidable physical health and behavioural damage can be

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.

inflicted. All facilities (in particular sty floors) must be such that the animals do not come more than unavoidably into contact with faeces and urine.

In the livestock area must be no items/objects that could obviously cause a risk of pollution/contamination or that risk to injure the livestock with (plastic) splinter residues in the tongue, e.g. canisters, steel cables, car tires, tubes with metal amplifications, sharp-edged plastics.

Pigs must in principle be kept in groups. The following exceptions apply:

- Sick or injured animals that are separated from the group.
- Gilt and sows in the period from one week prior to the farrowing date, during the suckling period and after weaning up until four weeks after successful service. However, the animals must be kept in groups in the period of more than four weeks after service until one week before the presumed farrowing date.
- Pigs which are persistently incompatible with other pigs or which are subject to such behaviour.
- Gilt or sows in companies with less than ten sows.
- Boars intended for breeding.

Husbandry facilities must always enable individual pigs to have visual contact with other pigs. Pigs must always be able to turn around freely during periods when group housing is compulsory. This also applies to boars kept individually.

Equipment for the illumination, ventilation and supply systems providing equipment 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.

In order to avoid the entry of foreign bodies into the food chain, no (subcutaneous) transponder implants may be inserted (e.g. for labelling of sows). Animals with implants may be still kept, but the livestock owners must provide notification of the use of implants via the food chain information process when delivering the animals for slaughtering.

Sow Production

If box sties are used, the sows must be able to stand and lie without hindrance and must also be able to stretch their heads out and stretch their legs when lying on their sides.

In the week before the expected farrowing date, gilts and sows must be provided with a sufficient amount of nest-building material (e.g. straw), provided this is compatible with the existing device for manure and urine disposal according to the state of the art. If straw is not compatible with the existing device, other materials (e.g. jute bags) must be made available to the sow.

When housed in groups, each side of the crate must be at least 2.80 m long and at least 2.40 m with groups of fewer than six pigs.

Gestation crates for group housing must be designed in such a way that the animals can activate the access device to the crates by themselves and can access or leave the crates at any time. If the crates are arranged on one side, the aisle width behind the feeding/resting pens must be at least 1.60 m wide, and 2.0 m when the crates are arranged on both sides.

Suckling Piglets

Farrowing pens must be equipped with protective fittings in order to prevent piglets from being crushed. The piglets lying area must either be covered in straw or heat-insulated and heatable, perforated floors must be covered.

Suckling piglets may only be weaned from the sows after four weeks. Suckling piglets may be weaned earlier if either the mother or the piglet is experiencing pain, suffering or injury. A suckling piglet may be weaned at three weeks old if a clean and disinfected sty can be provided for it immediately or if the piglet can be kept in a separate sty where there are no sows.

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 killed in accordance with animal welfare regulations. If necessary, the livestock owner must notify the veterinarian immediately. Accommodation for the recovery of sick and injured animals must be available or be set up immediately. These accommodations be provided with sufficient dry, soft litter or a suitable floor covering which must cover at least the needed lying area per pig (⇒ Chapter 3.2.7 [K.O.] *Space allowances*).

In particular, a veterinarian must be consulted if there are indications of a herd disease, e.g. in the case of

- Increased incidence of deaths of pigs in a shed,
- Increased incidence of runt,
- Frequent occurrence of feverish illnesses with body temperatures above 40.5 °C in a sty,
- Deaths of unexplained cause in a sty and
- If antimicrobial treatment has been unsuccessful at most twice.

Culling

Any non-treatable animal must immediately be stunned and culled on the company.

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 devices
- Control of anaesthesia (success of anaesthesia)
- Immediate killing of the anaesthetised animal (with appropriate methods)
- Control of death entry (culling success)

3.2.4 Sty floor

The sty floors in the areas where the animals move about must be stable and non-slip. All animals must have access to a dry lying area.

The lying area in sties for pigs kept in groups (except for weaned piglets) must not exceed a degree of perforation of 15 %.

The width of the beam should at least correspond to the respective slat width. The slat widths in the lounge area of the pigs may not be bigger as listed below.

Table 1: Maximum slat width [mm] in pig production

Weight	Slat Width
Suckling Piglets	11 mm
Weaning Piglets	14 mm
Rearing and Fattening Pigs	18 mm
Gilts, Sows and Boars	20 mm

If cement slat floors will be used, the edges must be deburred and the surface for suckling- and weaning piglets must be at least 5 cm, for all other pigs at least 8 cm. In case of a metal mesh floor, the wire must be sheathed and the diameter of the wire with sheath must be at least 9 mm.

3.2.5 Sty climate and noise

Sties must be heat-insulated where necessary and equipped in such a way that air circulation, dust levels, temperature, relative air humidity and concentration of gas are 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 noise must be avoided. A back-up device that ensures adequate air exchange in the event of system failure must be present in sties in which ventilation is via an electrical system.

Temperature in the sty

Husbandry facilities must be designed in a way that suitable devices can be used to reduce the heat stress at high sty air temperatures.

In the area where the pigs lie, the temperature must not fall below the temperatures listed in the following.

Table 2: Minimum temperatures [°C] in the areas where the pigs lie calculated according to the average weight of the group [live weight in kg]

Weight	Minimum Temperature with Bedding	Minimum Temperature without Bedding
Up to 10 kg	16°C	20°C
From 10 kg to 20 kg	14°C	18°C
Over 20 kg	12°C	16°C

During the first ten days after birth, the temperature in the area where the piglets lie must not fall below 30 °C.

3.2.6 Lighting

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

If pigs are kept in sties where artificial lighting is required to maintain the animals' well-being even during daylight hours, then the sty must be lit for at least eight hours a day. The lighting in the area where the animals live must have a brightness of at least 80 lux and be adjusted to a rhythm of day and night. In clearly defined lying areas, a lighting intensity of 40 lux is sufficient.

If artificial light is needed during daylight hours, there must be sufficient light in the periods when the sties are not lit to allow the pigs to orientate by themselves ("orientation light").

3.2.7 [K.O.] Space allowances

Each pig in grouphousing, at least the following minimum floor area must be available for unrestricted use.

Table 3: Minimum surface area [m²]/pig depending on the average weight of the animals [live weight in kg]

Weight	Minimum Surface Area
5 kg to 10 kg	0.15 m²
over 10 kg to 20 kg	0.20 m²
over 20 kg to 30 kg	0.35 m²
over 30 kg to 50 kg	0.50 m²
over 50 kg to 110kg	0.75 m²
over 110 kg	1.00 m²

Table 4: Minimum surface area [m²] per gilt or sow in group housing depending on group size

Minimum Surface Area	Group Size of up to 5 Animals	6 to 39 Animals	Over 40 Animals
Per Gilt	1.85 m²	1.65 m²	1.50 m²
Per Sow	2.50 m²	2.25 m²	2.05 m²

For rearing pigs, fattening pigs, sows and gilts the minimum lying surface area listed below must be available.

Table 5: Minimum lying surface area [m²]/ rearing pigs and fattening pig, gilt and sow

Weight	Lying Surface Area
Rearing pigs and fattening pigs	At least half of the minimum surface area according to table 3
Gilts	0.95 m ²
Sows	1.3 m ²

An area of at least 6 m² per animal must be provided for boars over 24 months old.

3.2.8 [K.O.] Alarm system 🔍

In sties where ventilation is provided by an electrically operated system, there must be a functioning 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 own well water.

If an emergency power generator is needed, the technical facilities must be able to connect.

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.

 Contractual agreement on the provision of the emergency power generator

3.2.10 Requirements for loading and unloading equipment for livestock transport 🔍

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

For loading and unloading livestock, suitable equipment must be used which allows the animals to walk up and down the ramps without slipping and without exerting effort. With platform installations, protective screens must be in place so that the animals cannot flee from the side.

If the loading height exceeds 50 cm or if animals are not loaded on and off individually, the loading ramp must have suitable side protections in order that animals cannot climb or jump over, stick their limbs through or injure themselves on.

3.2.11 [K.O.] Activity material 🔍

Each pig of all ages must have constant access to manipulable materials which do not pose a health risk. The pigs must be able to investigate the material, which should be able to be moved and rearranged by the pig and thus serves the exploratory behavior. The activity material must be organic and rich in fibres and be available in sufficient quantities. Activity materials must be provided at a ratio of 12:1 (animals to activity material place).

If products declared as feed are used as manipulable material, the requirements for feed must be met.

3.2.12 [K.O.] Piglet castration 🔍

Note: The castration of the piglets is only permitted with effective elimination of pain.

Suitable painkillers must be used when castrating male piglets to relief postoperative pain after castration.

 Medical records, combined record, 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 pigs must be provided with feed in sufficient quantity and quality every day. All feeds must be checked for quality before use (e.g. for moisture, stocking, mould infestation, pest infestation, metal and plastic party, packaging material, etc.). If quality defects are found or the 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 contamination and conflicts between the animals are kept to a minimum.

When feeding in group housing, it must be ensured that all animals can eat at the same time in the case of rationed feeding. In the case of free feeding (ad libitum), one feeding place must be available for a maximum of four animals. The width of the feeding place is based on the width of a pig. All accessible sides of a trough can be taken into account. Roughage feeding places can be taken into account when calculating the animal:feeding place ratio.

These regulations do not apply to on-demand feeding and feeding at the feed dispenser.

Pregnant gilts and sows must be given at least 200 g of raw fibre on a daily basis up to one week before delivery; complete feed with at least 8 % raw fibre content (dry matter) is equivalent to this.

3.3.2 Hygiene of feeding facilities

All plants, 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, where necessary, disinfected after cleaning.

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

3.3.3 Handling and storage of feed

All feed 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, wild boar and other wild animals and pets.

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

Finished feed must be stored separately from unprocessed raw materials. Undesired mixing, for example of feed 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.

For substances which may not be used as or in feed, see ⇒ Annex 9.4 Exclusion list (**Guideline Feed Sector**).

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).

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 feeds 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 (**QS Softwareplatform**) under the scheme participant search.

- 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/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 of 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 into the QS scheme. 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 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. These primary products can e.g. be obtained freely from the agricultural producer, agricultural trade, etc.. Locations that use these products are considered as on-farm mixers and must participate in feed monitoring.

⇒ 3.7 Monitoring programmes

3.3.5 Assignment of compound feed deliveries (bulk feed) 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 (e.g. delivery notes) of compound feed with location number; correction note

3.3.6 Feed production (on-farm mixer)

If feed is produced in own facilities for the own location 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 feed is 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, 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. 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 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 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, they must be precisely measured and mixed in. All scales and measuring instruments must be suitable for 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 the error 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. 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 toasting plants, oil presses or mobile feed milling and mixing plants) are used for 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 (**QS Softwareplatform**) under the scheme participant 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 pigs (from birth onwards) must always have access to a sufficient amount of water (ad libitum) of sufficient quality.

The watering facilities must be constructed and set up in such a way that water contamination and conflicts between the animals are kept to a minimum and that they are accessible.

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

For keeping pigs in groups (except suckling piglets), a drinking place must be provided for a maximum of twelve animals, separated from the feeding place.

If drinking troughs are available at the feeding place (e.g. at liquid feeders), these can only be accepted as an additional drinking trough, if there is another drinking trough located separately from the feeding place, so that water can be consumed independently of the feed.

If the drinking troughs at the feeding area are open troughs, these can only be counted if the water troughs are clearly separated from the feeding area by their design (e.g., by raised edges or bars), so that mixing of feed and drinking water is avoided as far as possible.

Water supply via liquid feeding alone is not sufficient.

The following special cases must be regarded:

- A drinking trough above the trough can be used as an exclusive drinking trough for up to twelve animals, if the feeding is rationed and the animal:feeding place ratio is 1:1.
- If troughs with an animal:feeding place ratio of 1:1 and rationed feeding are filled with clean, clear water in-between the feeding times (e.g. aqua-level-system), they can be considered as drinking points; a drinking trough spatially separated from the feeding area is not required.

Sows in individual keeping

If sows are kept individually, a trough may be used for both feed and water. In this case, it must be ensured that each sow is fed rationally and that drinking water is available immediately after feed intake and between feedings.

3.4.2 Hygiene of drinking facilities

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

After the use of medicines, all facilities, pipes, drinkers, drinking bowls etc. that have come into contact with medicinal products must be cleaned to prevent residue contamination.

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 care 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 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 and then regularly at least once per fattening cycle or at least twice a year. During these visits, the entire livestock at the location must be inspected.

The stock visits and their results must be documented by the vet, and the evidence must be kept at the location. 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 medicines and vaccines procured by the livestock owners must be correctly labelled: clear designation (product name), type of application, ingredients, expiry date, waiting period. The livestock owner must at all times be able to present completely filled-in proof for the acquisition of animal medicines. 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 filed chronologically.

Application of medicines and vaccines

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

All valid veterinary prescription must be provided for each use of prescription medicines. The livestock owner must chronologically document every use of medicines and vaccines administered by himself (or the veterinarian), see **German Livestock owner veterinary drug detection regulation** and **German Drug Law (TAMG)** (the documents can also be kept in electronic form if 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 to identify 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 instructions of the veterinarian must be followed when the livestock owner applies medicines. Prescribed medicine must be used in accordance with the prescription. The waiting periods must be observed.

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 **German Animal Vaccine Regulation**) must be present.

All medical supplies must be clean and fit for the purpose. Only flawless 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 needle is lost.

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

Sties and adjoining rooms, outdoor facilities including loading equipment, all sty 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.

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

Livestock loading areas, loading ramps, rooms for the temporary housing (e.g. for the marketing of animals), access and exit routes, places for loading and unloading and the equipment used there must be clean, and cleaned and disinfected after each continuous use.

3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm 🔍

Sty entrances must be marked with a sign stating "Access prohibited for unauthorised persons". In the case of free-range and outdoor keeping, the signs must include the following text "unauthorised feeding and trespassing prohibited" (see **German Pig Production Hygiene Regulations**).

Access points must effectively prevent the entry of unauthorised persons and animals. All stable access points must be lockable and kept close as far as possible, and must be locked during rest periods.

Sties and other housing facilities may only be entered by external persons (also for visitor traffic, e.g., tourists or camping) in consultation with the livestock owner and only with protective clothing (disposable clothing or the location's own protective clothing and disposable footwear or the location's own footwear). These must be provided by the livestock owner (e.g. for drivers of livestock transport vehicles, who leave the vehicle for loading and unloading). The protective clothing must then remain on the location.

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

- Work clothes are clean
- Functioning hand washbasin, hand cleaning agent, disposable wipes or clean towels are available
- If hygiene sluices are present, they must be clean
- Waste is disposed of properly
- Vacant stalls or spatially separated parts of a stall, including facilities and equipment, shall be cleaned and disinfected between emptying and reoccupancy, provided that the housing system allows this.

Animals must not be able to access landfills or household waste. Contact between livestock and wild animals, especially wild boars and rodents, must be effectively prevented.

Pig sty entrances and exits must be fitted with devices for cleaning and disinfecting shoes. Equipment for cleaning and disinfecting the sties, the loading equipment as well as vehicle wheels must be kept ready for use at all times.

In addition to this, the company must have fixed equipment and fittings (e.g. asphalt, concrete, pavement) for loading and unloading pigs, as well as a paved area for cleaning and disinfecting transport vehicles.

Special hygiene requirements

For fattening pig and/or rearing pig companies with capacity for more than 700 fattening and/or rearing pigs, pig-breeding companies for more than 150 sows and mixed companies for more than 100 sows (annex 3-companies) (mixed companies: seven fattening places correspond to one sow place), the following requirements apply in accordance with the **German Pig Production Hygiene Regulations**:

- Farm enclosure
The company must be secured in such a way that neither unauthorised persons nor wild boars can enter. The company must be locked during rest periods. The company must be fenced in such a way that it can only be accessed via lockable gates. Other access restrictions may also be put in place ('island solutions' for all sensitive areas, e.g. loading ramps, feed storage areas, manure storage areas).

3.6.3 Handling litter and activity material

Litter and organic activity material

Litter and organic manipulable material must be suitable for animals, hygienic, clean and visually free of fungal infestation. Litter and activity material must be stored dry and protected (e.g. weather, pest rodents) and particularly protected from wild boars. For storage, field storages are also suitable.

3.6.4 Carcass storage and pick-up

Carcass storage

Carcasses must be stored on paved areas and where possible outside the sty area. The carcass storage must be of adequate size.

For storage of dead pigs, a room or container must be used, which is secured against unauthorised access, rodent-tight as well as easy to clean and disinfect. Furthermore, it has to be secured against leakage of fluids. Carcasses may also be stored under cover hoods.

Pick-up of carcasses

If possible, the carcass storage facilities/containers for collecting carcasses should be positioned in such a way that vehicles belonging to carcass disposal companies do not come into close proximity to the livestock sties.

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 combatted. These control measures must be documented.

 Control protocols

3.6.6 Risk assessment for biosafety

Risk traffic light

From 1 July 2026, every livestock owner must prove that they have analysed their location in terms of ASF risk using the ASF risk traffic light or the ASP-Offenstall (open sty) risk traffic light ([Start page - Risikoampel Universität Vechta](#)).

Biosecurity concept

Alternatively, the risk assessment can be demonstrated using an officially recognised concept (see list in the *explanatory notes to the agriculture guideline*).

3.7 Monitoring programmes

Feed monitoring in on-farm mixing locations

Each location using primary products as feed, mix their own feed or purchases already mixed feed from a cooperation must participate in the feed monitoring (definition on-farm mixers ⇒ *Explanatory Notes*).

In agricultural on-farm livestock mixing 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.

Documentation of diagnostic data from slaughter

All locations marketing fattening pigs participate in a diagnostic data monitoring programme according to QS guidelines (**Guideline Diagnostic Data from Pig Slaughter**).

Each livestock owner receives information about the animal health indices via his coordinator: either by sending the information letter on a regular basis or by directly accessing the diagnostic data database to view his own data.

Antibiotics monitoring

All pig production companies take part in an antibiotics monitoring programme. The requirements are defined in the **Guideline Antibiotics Monitoring Pig farming**.

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

Livestock owners are committed to give any drugs only as directed by the prescribing veterinarian. 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 Salmonella monitoring

Documentation on salmonella category

In accordance with QS requirements (**Guideline Salmonella Programme**), all QS pig fattening companies must participate in a salmonella programme. The salmonella categories must be documented for the last twelve quarters. Every livestock owner needs to have knowledge of his category.

 Salmonella information letter, Salmonella Database

Measures towards the reduction of salmonella contamination

Pig production locations in salmonella category II (of the quarterly categorisation) must obtain an overview of the hygiene status of the company by identifying the sources of salmonella contamination. This must be documented. Therefor the **annex 8.3 "Checklist for Identifying Sources of Salmonella"** can be used. The documentation must be present by the next quarterly categorisation at the latest after the categorisation into category II. In the event of repeated categorisation into category II, a new check of the hygiene status and the corresponding documentation need to be done after twelve months at the latest.

 Documentation for determining salmonella entry sources in fattening pig stocks

Pig production companies in salmonella category III must (in cooperation with the veterinarian) identify sources of salmonella. For this the **QS-annex 8.3 "Checklist for determining possible sources of salmonella"** may be used. Furthermore, measures to reduce salmonella contamination must be taken: pest monitoring, cleaning and disinfection of the free bays and bacteriological examination of the environment and/or dung of salmonella, further measures may be necessary.

After the categorisation into category III, an identification of the source of entry must be documented at latest by the next quarterly categorisation; the measures must be started and documented. In the event of repeated categorisation into category III a new check and, if necessary, new measures need to be done after twelve months at the latest.

 Documentation for determining possible sources of salmonella in fattening pig stocks, documentation implementation of measures, sampling bacteriological examination

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 impaired as little as possible during the entire loading and transport process (up to unloading of the last animal). All the animal transportation vehicles must be driven in a suitable and anticipatory manner which minimizes the risk of injury. The animals should be transported to their destination without 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 the 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 the means of transportation

Vehicles must also carry adequate loading and unloading equipment. 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 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. The vehicles and partitions must allow for effective cleaning and disinfection.

If the animals are loaded one on top of the other (with steerage), 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

Walls and roof

The animals must be protected against bad weather (e.g. hail, heavy rain, snow) and extreme temperatures at all times. The vehicles must be set up in such a way that the animals cannot escape or fall out and that the animals can withstand 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

An appropriate and sufficient supply of fresh air must be provided for the pigs.

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 pigs 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. During transport sufficient light (portable as well as permanently installed) must be provided 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 have access to 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 following values.

Table 6: Group size when transporting piglets (by road)

Maximum Live Weight [kg/animal]	Maximum Number of Pigs per Group
10	120
25	50
30	35

Using a steady sty partition, the following must be kept separately:

- For fattening pigs or breeding pigs each with a live weight of up to and including 70 kg: up to 20 fattening pigs or breeding pigs
- For fattening pigs and breeding pigs each with a live weight of over 70 kg: up to 15 fattening pigs or breeding pigs
- Up to 5 sows

In the case of pigs of more than 70 kg live weight, the group size may be exceeded by up to 20 % during national transport, provided that animals are transported together which have been kept as a group at the place of dispatch for at least seven days before the start of transport. However, the loading density of pigs weighing approximately 100 kg must not exceed 235 kg/m² during transport.

In addition, the space available for pigs must be at least equal to the following values:

Table 7: Space required when transporting pigs by road

Maximum Live Weight [kg/animal]	Minimum Floor Space [m ² /animal]	Maximum Live Weight [kg/animal]	Minimum Floor Space [m ² /animal]
6	0.07	50	0.30
10	0.11	60	0.35
15	0.12	70	0.37
20	0.14	80	0.40
25	0.18	90	0.43
30	0.21	100	0.45
35	0.23	110	0.50
40	0.26	120	0.55
45	0.28	Over 120	0.70

Documentation

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 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 engines and one for the trailer) when transporting pigs to the abattoir; these books must contain the following information:

- Date of transport
- Animal species of animal 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

For delivery to the receiver (fattening farm, slaughterhouse, etc.), the delivery documents must contain the following information for identification of the animals and the transporter (= delivering livestock owner):

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

Both the sender and the customer of the livestock 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) 🔍

Pigs must not be transported longer than eight hours.

Pigs 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:

- Piglets that have not been weaned yet must be given a sufficient rest period, lasting at least one hour, if they are transported for over nine hours. It is particularly important that they are able to eat and drink in this period. Following this rest period, they can be transported for a further nine hours.
- Pigs must weigh more than 10 kg if they are not accompanied by their mothers. They can then be transported for a maximum period of 24 hours. During transport, the animals must be supplied with water at all times.
- After the fixed transport period, the animals must be unloaded, fed and watered and given a rest period of at least 24 hours. The feed and water must be of good quality.

In nonconformity with this, the duration of transportation within Germany to the abattoir may not exceed four and a half hours unless it is ensured that the outside temperature does not exceed 30 degrees at any time during transportation. Both restrictions do not apply if the duration of transportation is exceeded due to unforeseeable circumstances.

Documentation

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

 Records on the duration of transport and rest times, driver's log, documentation on livestock supply, accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes)

3.8.6 Transport papers (for livestock transport over 50 km)

The driver is required to carry documents (transport control book) in the transport vehicle that contain 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)

Drivers and attendants who are directly responsible for the welfare of animals during loading and unloading 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 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 with **[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 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 Pig Farming** contains interpretation aids and suggestions.

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

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

HIT	Origin assurance and information system for animals
K.O.	Knock out criterion
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

- 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.
- 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.
- Transportation
The entire transport process, from shipment to arrival at the destination, including unloading and housing and loading at the stopover stations.
- Transport of animals
Every movement of livestock in or with 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**.

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 (2.1.2 <i>Incident and crisis management</i>) – content retained, moved to 2.1 <i>General system requirements</i> .	01.01.2026
2.1.1 General company data	Restructuring: Requirements for incident reporting and the emergency plan moved to 2.1.1 <i>General company data</i> (previously 2.1.2 <i>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 2.1 <i>General system requirements</i> and 2.1.1 <i>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 3.1 <i>Traceability and labelling</i> (previously 3.1.2 <i>Verification of eligibility of delivery</i>).	01.01.2026
3.1.1 Purchasing, incoming goods and services	Renaming: previously '3.1.1 <i>Purchases and incoming goods</i> '.	01.01.2026
3.1.2 Verification of eligibility of delivery	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 "3.2 <i>Animal welfare-farming</i> ".	01.01.2026

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
3.2.2 [K.O.] General farming requirements	Restructuring: 'All facilities (in particular sty floors) must be such that the animals do not come more than unavoidable into contact with faeces and urine' (previously under 3.2.4 <i>Shed floors</i>). Extension: 'Each sty and each other form of husbandry must be structured in such a way regarding construction, material, technical fittings, conditions and management [...]'.	01.01.2026
3.2.3 [K.O.] Handling sick and injured animals	Clarification/extension: Accommodation for the recovery of sick and injured animals must be available or can be set up immediately.	01.01.2026
3.2.4 Sty floor	Restructuring: "All facilities (in particular sty floors) must be such that the animals do not come more than unavoidable into contact with faeces and urine' moved to 3.2.2 <i>General farming requirements</i>.	01.01.2026
3.2.5 Sty climate and noise	Restructuring: 'A back-up device that ensures adequate air exchange in the event of system failure must be present in sties in which ventilation is via an electrical system.' moved to 3.2.5 <i>Sty climate and noise</i> (previously 3.2.9 <i>Emergency power supply</i>).	01.01.2026
3. 2. 9 Emergency power supply	Postponement of requirements for replacement devices to test criterion 3.2.5 <i>Sty climate and noise</i>.	01.01.2026
3.2.11 [K.O.] Activity material	Addition: Activity material must be provided in a ratio of 12:1 to animal material.	01.01.2026
3.3.3 Handling and storage of feed	Renaming: previously 3.3.3 <i>Usage and storage of feed</i>. Deletion: „The storage facility must be cleaned and disinfected where necessary.“ 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>"	01.01.2026
3.3.4 [K.O.] Feed procurement	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	01.01.2026

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
	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>" Extension: There are no requirements regarding the eligibility of delivery of transporters/freight forwarders for the transport of packaged animal feed.	
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
3.4.1 [K.O.] Water supply	Extension: "The watering facilities must be constructed and set up in such a way that water contamination and conflicts between the animals are kept to a minimum <u>and that they are accessible.</u> "	01.01.2026
3.5.3 [K.O.] Procurement and application of medicines and vaccines	Clarification: • A clear designation (product name) is required. • A veterinary prescription must be provided for each use of prescription drugs. Deletion: The manufacturer and batch number are no longer mandatory information, and the indication is also no longer required.	01.01.2026
3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm	Addition/clarification: • Signage in the sheds • Persons not employed by the company – 'including visitors, e.g. tourists or campers' • Addition of 'disposable footwear or the location's own footwear' • 'The protective clothing must then remain on the location.'	01.01.2026
3.6.3 Handling litter and activity material	Clarification: Litter and activity material must be stored dry and protected (e.g. weather, pest	01.01.2026

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
	rodents) and particularly protected from wild boars.	
3.6.6 Risk assessment for biosafety	Extension: Requirements for an individual risk assessment based on the risk traffic light system or an officially recognised biosafety concept (six months' preparation time, inspection from 1 July 2026) are newly included.	01.01.2026
3.6.6 Special hygiene requirements	Deletion/restructuring: Criterion deleted as a test criterion, content moved to <i>3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm</i> .	01.01.2026

Guideline
Agriculture Pig Farming

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