

Guideline

# Agriculture Cattle Farming















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

# 1 Fundamentals

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

## 1.1 Scope of application

Production branch cattle farming:

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

### Registration and participation in the QS scheme

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

The list of approved coordinators is published under [www.q-s.de/en/](http://www.q-s.de/en/).

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

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

### Control on the company

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

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

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

Table 1:

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

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

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


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

## 1.2 Responsibilities

The livestock owner is responsible for ensuring

- Compliance with requirements in this guideline,
- The complete and correct documentation,
- The self-assessment,
- The adequate and timely implementation of corrective actions and
- The correct use of the QS certification mark, where appropriate.

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

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

## 2 General requirements

### 2.1 General system requirements

In terms of due diligence and in order to fulfil the obligation to provide evidence to third parties, all documents and records must be kept for at least three years, unless longer storage times are stipulated by law in individual cases.


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

A company overview containing the following information must be compiled:

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

This data must be up-to-date and complete. The coordinator must therefore be informed without delay about any changes. Furthermore, a sketch or map of the company with clear naming of all areas of the company (in particular sheds, carcass storage) and location plans for equipment (in particular feed, litter) must be provided; for externally stored equipment, a description is sufficient.

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

 Sketch or map of the company, location plan, declarations of participation, master data sheet

#### 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 and verified at least once per calendar year. All the persons (first and last name, qualification/instruction, period of employment) who are regularly entrusted with the care of the animals during the year (e.g. family members, permanent staff, temporary workers) must be listed.

 List of livestock care personnel

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


Compliance with requirements must be verified by means of a qualified self-assessment. The assessment must cover all areas of the company that are of relevance for production in the QS scheme.

The implementation of the self-assessments must be documented before the initial audit and then at least once per calendar year based on a checklist (recommendation: supporting document "Self-assessment checklist"). If nonconformities are identified, corrective actions including deadlines must be defined and documented. Existing inspection and documentation systems, which prove that the requirements are met can be used. The self-assessments can be recorded electronically or manually.

 Self-assessment checklist

### 2.1.3 Fulfilment of measures of the self-assessment

Non-conformities detected during the self-assessment must be corrected as quickly as possible. The implementation of corrective actions must be documented.

 Action plan self-assessment

### 2.1.4 Incident and crisis management


QS has developed a comprehensive crisis management system that ensures the provision of active support to scheme participants in the event of an incident or crisis. The scheme participants must inform QS and their coordinator immediately and - where a legal obligation exists - also the competent authorities about critical incidents where these are of relevance for the QS scheme.

Critical incidents are occurrences that pose or could pose a risk to humans, animals, assets or the QS scheme as a whole. These are for example the official suspension of a company in the event of an outbreak of disease, residues (e.g. harmful substances) in feed, recall actions, unauthorised access of third parties to the company's premises or negative or sensational reports related to the company in the media.

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

- nonconformities occur in the procurement of goods, in animal production or marketing that might pose a risk to food or feed safety
- preliminary proceedings are initiated due to violation of regulations regarding animal welfare or to regulations to secure feed or food safety
- media investigations critical reports in the media, or public protests are held on issues related to feed or food safety or animal welfare.


Every livestock owner must have access to a paper of incident (recommendation: QS-paper of incident) in order to pass on all of the required information to specified recipients without delay. A responsible person who can be reached in case of an incident must be nominated by the company.

 Paper of incident

### Emergency plan

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

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

 Emergency plan (see sample form - supporting document - emergency plan)

## 3 Cattle farming requirements

### 3.1 Traceability and labelling

#### 3.1.1 Operational purchases and incoming goods

The purchase of goods and services used in cattle production, as well as the purchase of livestock, must be documented (date, type, quantity, supplier). The documentation (e.g. on basis of delivery notes or invoices) makes it possible to retrace purchased livestock, goods and services at any time and be able to prove their unobjectionable quality in the event of a complaint.

This applies, among others, to:

- Livestock
- Feed and feed additives (proof of the charging number)
- Animal medication

- Cleaning agents and disinfectants
- Services (e.g. the use of mobile feed milling and mixing plant, animal transporters)

 Delivery notes, invoices, sack tags of feed

### 3.1.2 Verification of eligibility of delivery

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

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

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

- ⇒ 3.1.4 [K.O.] Origin and marketing
- ⇒ 3.2.10 Livestock transport
- ⇒ 3.3.4 [K.O.] Feed procurement
- ⇒ 3.3.8 [K.O.] Use of mobile feed milling and mixing plants.

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

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

Livestock owners must mark every animal with two ear tags (calves within seven days after birth), which are provided by the responsible authority or authorised subordinate body. If an animal loses an ear tag, the livestock owner must apply to the responsible authority for a replacement without delay and mark the animal immediately again.

Cattle may only be transported if it is properly marked.

 Delivery notes


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

Only animals from QS-certified companies that are eligible to deliver may be marketed as QS-animals (in the following QS-animals are animals, that are produced and marketed in a QS company with eligibility to deliver according to the QS scheme.

All (also bought in) cattle must be kept in a company with the eligibility to deliver into the QS scheme without interruption for at least the last six months prior to slaughtering, and fattening calves after weaning for the entire duration of the fattening process (max. age of eight months). If, in individual cases (excepting fattening calves), marketing becomes necessary before the six-month period has expired, the cattle must not be marketed as QS animals. If single fattening calves (maximum 1 % per marketing unit) are older than eight months, they may be marketed as QS animals, although not as fattening calves.

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

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

 Stock book, delivery notes, extract from QS/HIT database, if necessary food chain information


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

Each livestock owner is obliged to keep and store stock records. This includes e.g. a consigned register or the like.

The stock register can be kept manually or electronically. If kept manually, the stock register must either be bound or put together in the form of loose sheets compiled chronologically with consecutive page numbers.

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

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

 Stock register, HIT-data, loss records, delivery notes, invoices, certificates from the animal carcass disposal company, inspection findings etc.

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

## 3.2 Animal welfare farming

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

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

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

The control criteria for assessing animal health include, among others:

- Distribution of the animals over the entire usable area
- Feed and water consumption
- Animal's movements
- Frequency and type of breathing
- Condition and cleanliness of the coat
- Cleanliness of the udder
- Changes to the eye and nose openings
- Excrement properties

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

The claws of the livestock must be maintained appropriately.

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

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

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

The animals must have sufficient protection from adverse weather conditions.

Calves may not be tied up or restrained in any other way (compare **German animal welfare protection**). This does not apply if the calves are kept in groups, in which case each of them may be restrained for a maximum of one hour when feeding with milk or milk substitute. The equipment used to tie up or otherwise restrain the calves must not cause any pain or avoidable damage.

#### Calves

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

#### Specialised Fattening Calves

Animals may not be transferred to another company any later than three months prior to the scheduled slaughtering date unless it is a shed that runs under the same location number or under the same shed plant, even if it runs under a different location number.

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

If necessary, rejected, aggressive, weak, sick or injured animals must be separated as soon as possible, and treated or professionally culled in accordance with animal welfare regulations. Appropriate accommodation facilities must be available to help animals recuperate. The bays for sick and injured animals must be equipped with



dry and soft litter or pad. A veterinarian should be consulted if necessary, especially when indications of an infection of the entire stock are detected (e.g. increased losses) or an epidemic is suspected. Where necessary, the livestock owner must inform the veterinarian immediately.

### Culling

Any non-treatable animal must be stunned and culled on the company without delay to avoid unnecessary suffering in accordance with the **Regulation on the protection of animals at the time of killing (EU) N° 1099/2009** in conjunction with prevailing national regulations.

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

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

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

#### 3.2.4 Shed floor

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

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

#### Specialised Fattening Calves

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

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

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

#### Noise pollution

Noise pollution from technical facilities must be kept as low as possible in areas where animals are kept. Continuous and sudden noises should be avoided.

#### 3.2.6 Lighting

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

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

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

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

#### Calves

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

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

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

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

- 4.5 m<sup>2</sup> for calves aged up from two to eight weeks
- 6 m<sup>2</sup> for calves aged over eight weeks.

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

Table 1: Minimum floor area [m<sup>2</sup>]/animal [kg live weight] (applied to group housing)

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

### 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 for proper functioning at the required intervals based on their technical properties to ensure they are in full working order.

### 3.2.9 Emergency power supply

An emergency power supply must be present in facilities for keeping livestock in which adequate provision of feed and water for the animals is not assured in the event of a power failure. This applies in particular to facilities with self-supply water systems. Emergency generators must be checked for proper functioning at the required intervals based on their technical properties.

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

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

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

 Contractual agreement on the provision of the emergency power generator

### 3.2.10 Livestock transport

Livestock may only be transported within the QS scheme by QS-approved livestock transport companies. This can be either livestock owners with eligibility to deliver for the QS scheme (transport of the own livestock) or commercial companies for animal transport with eligibility to deliver for the QS scheme.

If livestock owners transport their own livestock (with their own or a rented vehicle), the requirements of Chapter ⇒ 3.8 Livestock transport must be fulfilled.

If a livestock owner himself orders a livestock transport, only a transporter with eligibility to deliver for QS, may be used.

 Delivery note

### 3.2.11 Transportability

Nobody is allowed to carry out or initiate a livestock transport if the animals will be injured or will be subjected to unnecessary suffering (see **Regulation for animal Transportation, Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005**; and **German Regulations for the Protection of Animals during Transport**).

Animals may only be transported if they are fit to travel and are spared from any unnecessary pain and suffering. The transportability of the animals must be checked prior to loading.

Animals are considered to be unfit for transport if illness, pathological conditions weakness or injury prevents them from entering the transport vehicle by themselves.

Injured animals and animals with physiological weakness or pathological conditions are deemed to be not transportable. This includes animals that:

- Remain lying down or can only walk with severe pain after stumbling
- Have a fractured limb or pelvis
- Have severe haemorrhaging
- General condition is cause for concern or
- Have visibly been suffering severe pain for a prolonged period.

The transport ban applies to animals that

- Cannot move without pain or assistance.
- Have large, deep wounds or prolapsed organs
- Are pregnant in an advanced stage of pregnancy (90 % or more) or gave birth less than seven days ago.
- Are newly born mammals whose umbilical wounds have not yet fully healed.

Animals can usually be considered as transportable in the following cases:

- The animals are only suffering slight injuries or are only slightly ill and transportation would not cause them any additional suffering.
- The animals are transported under veterinary supervision in order to receive/after receiving medical treatment or a diagnosis. However, transport in these circumstances is only permitted if the animals in question are not subjected to any unnecessary suffering.
- The animals have undergone to a routine veterinary surgical procedure as part of standard farming practice, whereby the wounds must have fully healed.

Animals which are due to be transported must not be given any sedatives unless this is absolutely necessary for their well-being, and it is done only be given under veterinary supervision.

If there are any doubts concerning the animal's condition for transport, a veterinarian must be consulted to confirm in writing that the animal is fit to travel.

In general calves may only be transported once their umbilical wounds have healed completely. Calves that are less than 28 days old must not be transported within Germany. Exempted from this are transports by farmers who transport their own animals in their own means of transport from their company over a maximum distance of 50 km. For transports that do not take place within Germany, calves that are less than 10 days old must not be transported unless the transport distance is less than 100 km.

### 3.2.12 Requirements on loading and unloading equipment for livestock transport

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

Suitable equipment should be used for loading and unloading animals which allows them to walk up and down the ramps without slipping and without effort. With calves, the angle of inclination must not exceed 20 degrees (36.4 %) and with fully grown cattle it must not exceed 26 degrees (48.8 %).

With platform installations, protective screens must be in place so that the animals cannot flee from the side. If the inclination of the platforms is more than 10 degrees (17.6 %), the loading device must be equipped with fixtures such as crossbars enabling safe and easy entry and exit for the animals.

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

Suitable lighting must be ensured during loading and unloading.

### 3.2.13 [K.O.] Handling livestock during loading

Any person who loads animals (includes loading and unloading) must be properly trained or qualified and must not exercise any violence when loading. They must not scare, or unnecessarily produce injure or harm to the animals. It must be ensured that the well-being of the animals is impaired as little as possible during the loading process.

It is forbidden to:

- Hit or kick animals
- Exert pressure on particularly sensitive areas of the body which causes the animal unnecessary pain or suffering.
- Hoist animals using a mechanical device which is attached to their bodies.
- Tug or pull animals by their head, ears, horns, legs, or tail.
- Use any instruments with a pointed end to guide animals.
- Tether animals by the horns or nose rings.

Guiding instruments such as sorting panels or guide paddles should only be used in a way which does not harm the animals.

The use of electrical guiding instruments must be avoided. However, they may be used on fully-grown cattle which refuse to move in any direction and they must only be used if the animals have enough space to move forwards. Only electrical shocks with a maximum duration of one second may be applied at appropriate intervals to the muscular areas on the hindquarters. This process must not be repeated if the animal does not react.

The following animals must be handled and transported separately:

- Animals of different species<sup>1</sup>
- Animals of considerably different sizes or ages<sup>1</sup>
- Sexually mature male separate from female animals<sup>1</sup>
- Animals with horns separate from animals without horns
- Rival animals
- Tied animals separate from untied animals

### 3.2.14 Dehorning of calves

Dehorning of calves without anaesthesia is only allowed for cattle under six weeks of age (if official requirement with sedation). Appropriate painkiller for alleviation of postoperative pains after dehorning of calves must be used.

The medicines prescribed by the veterinarian must be used in accordance with the prescription.

 Proof of medication, combination sheet, stock book

## 3.3 Feed and feeding

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

### Marking of feed for QS

Feed must be clearly labelled as a QS product (exception: agricultural primary products, e.g. cereals), when it originates from QS certified producers and traders. In the case of bulk deliveries, every article must be labelled as QS produce on the accompanying documents. Bagged/package goods must be labelled on the sack tag or on the accompanying documents (e.g. delivery note).

If refined or distilled fatty acids, vegetable glycerine or mixed fats and oils are procured as animal feed, they must be clearly marked as suitable for feeding purposes.

### 3.3.1 [K.O.] Feed supply

All cattle must be provided with food in sufficient quantity and quality daily. All feeds must be checked for quality before use (e.g. for moisture, stocking, mould infestation, pest infestation, metal and plastic party,

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<sup>1</sup> These conditions do not apply if the animals were reared in compatible groups and are accustomed to one another. They also do not apply if separating the animals would cause them stress, or in cases where female animals are still suckling their young.

packaging material, etc.). If quality defects are found, the feed must not be fed. The equipment must be constructed and set up in such a way that the feed contaminations and conflicts between the animals are kept to a minimum.

### Calves

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

### 3.3.2 Hygiene of feeding facilities

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

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

### 3.3.3 Feed storage

Feeds must be protected against contamination and impurities to the greatest possible extent. This applies to both purchased feed and self-produced feed.

All animal feed must be carefully stored (clean, dry, with the use of building materials and coatings which will not pose a health risk, protected from the weather). Protective measures must be taken to protect against pests, rodents, birds, wild boar and other wild animals and pets. Feed must be stored and transported safely and separately from waste, liquid and solid manure, hazardous substances, seeds, medication and chemicals. Furthermore, they must not be contaminated with packaging material, waste or similar.

Before storage, the storage facility must be cleaned and disinfected where necessary.

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

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


⇒ Annex 9.4 Exclusion list (Guideline Feed Sector)

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

#### Eligibility of delivery

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

- If feed (in bulk or packed) is procured directly from producers, these producers must be listed in the QS database as "eligible to deliver".
- If feed is procured unpacked (in bulk) via traders, they must be listed in the QS database as "eligible to deliver".
- If packaged feed is purchased via traders, the trader resp. the producer must be listed in the QS database as eligible to deliver; if the trader is listed in the QS database as eligible to deliver, there is no need for verification of the producer. If the trader is not QS-eligible to deliver, the producer of the packaged feed must be listed in the QS database as 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 listed in the QS database as eligible to deliver.
- If feed is procured from a cooperation of several livestock owners, the collaboration must be contractually established, and no feed may be marketed 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 delivery notes (collective delivery notes/documentation possible). ⇒ Criterion 3.3.7 is checked at the producer of the feed.

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


### Procurement of agricultural raw material

When purchasing and transporting agricultural primary products, there are no requirements on a QS approval for suppliers at the stage agriculture resp. feed; they can e.g. be obtained directly from the agricultural producer, agricultural trade, etc. Companies deploying those products are classified as agricultural on-farm mixers.

⇒ Chapter 3.7 Monitoring programmes

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

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

 accompanying documents of Compound Feed with location number; correction note

### 3.3.6 Feed production (on-farm mixer)

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

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

If mobile feed milling and mixing plants are used as service providers for feed production, ⇒3.3.8 [K.O] Use of mobile feed milling and mixing plants also applies.

Feeds that do not meet the QS requirements or legal regulations may not be used for feeding.

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

### Documentation of used feed

Companies which produce or mix their own feed (e.g. corn silage) by themselves or have this task completed by service providers, such as mobile milling and mixing plants, must draw up a mixing protocol or ration calculation for the various mixes, from which the components can be followed.

### Feed materials in line with the QS-list

Only feed materials listed in the “**QS-list of feed materials**” may be used, see [www.q-s.de/en/](http://www.q-s.de/en/). Products subject to a statutory feeding ban or named in the QS exclusion list may not be used for feeding in the QS scheme.

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

⇒ Annex 9.4 Exclusion list (Guideline Feed Sector)

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

 Ration calculation, list of used feed material and compound feed


### Quality control of feed

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

### Production and plant hygiene

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

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

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

### Use and documentation of additives

If additives (e.g. urea, vitamins, minerals, amino acids, trace elements and preservatives, such as propionic acid for the storage of moist cereals etc.) are used, exact dosage (neither over- nor under-dosage) and mixing must be observed. All scales and measuring instruments used must be suitable for the scale of weights or volumes to be determined and must be checked regularly for accuracy. If there are indications of insufficient or incorrect dosage, measures must be taken (e.g. after-treatment or mixing in of an un-treated feed). The producer's recommendations for the use and dosage of additives must be followed.

The use of feed additives must be documented according to HACCP principles. This concerns e.g. the use of preservatives (e.g. propionic acid for the storage of moist cereals), amino acids, vitamins and trace elements (cf. **regulations for feed hygiene (Art. 5 of Regulation (EC) 183/2005**), working aid for the use of acids, leaflets for the use of feed additives in the agricultural business of the ZDL (acids as preservatives; urea and its derivatives; amino acids)).


 Use of feed additives

### 3.3.7 Feed production in cooperation

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

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

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

 Delivery notes, invoices, contractual agreement on feed production, documentation for traceability in case of cooperation

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

If feed is milled and mixed or just mixed and mobile feed milling and mixing plants are used for this purpose, only service providers whose facilities are approved by QS may be used. This also applies to the use of external service providers in a cooperation of livestock owners for feed production.

 delivery notes

## 3.4 Drinking water

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

All cattle must always have access to a sufficient amount of water (ad libitum) of sufficient quality (Exception: calves under the age of two weeks). The watering equipment must be constructed and set up in such a way that the water contaminations and conflicts between the animals can be kept to a minimum.

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

The flow rate should be at least 20 litres/minute for trough drinkers and 10 litres/minute for bowl drinkers. It must be ensured, that the flow amount of watering is sufficiently high for animal friendly drinking.

Suitable drinking water must be used, that means drinking water, which is clean, clear and without extraneous odour.

### 3.4.2 Hygiene of drinking facilities

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

## 3.5 Animal health/medication


### 3.5.1 Care contract with farm veterinarian

Every livestock owner must have his stock attended by a veterinarian in the frame of his/her own internal controls. The relationship must be agreed upon in a written contract (see sample contract for minimum requirements, cf. [www.q-s.de/en/](http://www.q-s.de/en/)).

#### Veterinary stock care

Within the veterinary stock monitoring the animals' performance and the factors influencing it must also be taken into consideration. Veterinary care is comprised of curative as well as preventive treatment and includes monitoring and screening measures along with the assessment of slaughter findings.

The veterinarian determines preventive and therapeutic measures to a medical required extend.

 Veterinary care contract


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

The livestock owner must ensure that the agreements laid down in the veterinary care contract are complied with; aside from acute cases of disease or sickness, the veterinarian must visit the stock before the initial audit and then regularly at least once a year.

The veterinarian must document any visits he/she makes to the stock and the evidence must be kept at the company. As far as no stock-based abnormalities are found, no further actions are necessary and a simplified documentation of findings (e.g. on the invoice) is sufficient.

When a cause for action is determined by both the veterinarian and the livestock owner, an animal health and hygiene plan must be generated for each individual company. The plan must comprise the regular, scheduled, systematic and consistent application of the most up-to-date skills and knowledge from the veterinary science. If necessary, an action plan must also be elaborated outlining the individual actions to be carried out by the livestock owner and the veterinarian.

The examination findings defined in the course of the veterinarian care or curative treatment must be given to the company after each examination.

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

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

#### Procurement of medicines and vaccines

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

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

The instructions of the veterinarian must be followed when the livestock owner applies medicines. The waiting periods which the veterinarian must specify must be observed.

It must be ensured that the documentation issued by the veterinarian is completely filled in. The veterinarian is responsible for the issuing and content of the documents. The documents must be filed chronologically.

#### Application of medicines and vaccines

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

The livestock owner must chronologically document every time medication and vaccination which is administered to his animals by the veterinarian or on his own (see **German Livestock owner veterinary drug**



**detection regulation and Drug Law**) (the documents can also be held in electronic form, as long as the data cannot be modified). The following information must be recorded in writing immediately after each application:

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

If, in the case of applications lasting several days (continuous and/or contiguous), the individual administration of medication is not documented on a daily basis, they must be documented at least at the start of treatment (day 1) and on the last day of use, so that the entire period of use and the amount used per day (to the day) can be seen.


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

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

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

The cleanliness and suitability of the equipment used to administer medicines and/or vaccines must be ensured. Only flawless injection needles may be used; bent, blunt, broken and otherwise unfit needles must be replaced and disposed of immediately. Care must be taken to ensure that all ready-to-use needles are returned after use and that no needle is lost.

If a broken needle is still inside the animal, the animal in question must be permanently marked (e.g. ear tag, tattoo) to ensure that the broken needle does not enter the food chain. The abattoir must be informed accordingly via the food chain information system.

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

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

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

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

### 3.5.5 [K.O.] Identification of treated livestock

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

## 3.6 Hygiene

### 3.6.1 Buildings and equipment

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

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

### 3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm

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

Sheds and other buildings used to house animals may be entered by external personnel only if they have been approved by the livestock owner.

External persons (e.g. drivers of animal transport trucks, who leave their vehicle for loading and unloading) must be provided with adequate protective clothing (disposable or own company protective clothing).

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

- Clean work clothing
- Functioning wash-hand basin, hand cleaning agent, disposable wipes or clean towels
- If hygiene sluices have been installed, they must be regularly washed and disinfected.
- Proper waste disposal

### Specialised Fattening Calves

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

Animals must not be able to access landfills and household waste.

### 3.6.3 Handling litter, dung and feed leftovers

#### Use and storage of litter

Litter must be suitable for animals, hygienic, clean and dry. Only litter which does not appear to be infested with fungus may be used. Litter materials must be stored with care. For storage, field storages are also suitable. Contamination must be avoided.

#### Dung, litter and feed leftovers from livestock transport

All excretion, litter and feed leftovers generated during animal transport, must be properly disposed of or treated in such a way that any pathogens causing livestock epidemics are eliminated.

### 3.6.4 Carcass storage and pick up

#### Carcass storage

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

The carcass storage must be of adequate size.

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

#### Pick-up of carcasses

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

### 3.6.5 Pest monitoring and control

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

The locations of the bait boxes or pest traps must be documented in a plan. Traps and baits must be placed in a way that other animals do not have access to them. In case of infestation, the pests must be effectively and properly combated. These control measures must be verified.

 Monitoring protocols, baiting plans, if necessary control protocols

### 3.6.6 Cleaning and disinfection measures

In between the removal of the stock and its replacement with another, the vacant shed (or a closed off section of a shed) including the facilities and equipment must be cleaned and disinfected properly. All cleaning agents and disinfectants must be used and stored properly.

Livestock gathering areas, loading ramps, places for loading and unloading, bays/rooms used for housing or marketing of livestock temporarily, access routes, loading and unloading areas as well as equipment used at each of these locations must be cleaned and disinfected after every use.

## 3.7 Monitoring programmes

### Feed monitoring in on-farm mixing companies

Each company using primary products for feed or on-farm mixing companies are subject to the feed monitoring (definition agricultural on-farm mixers ⇒ Chapter 4.3). In agricultural on-farm mixing companies, samples

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

The organisation of feed monitoring, including the establishment of the inspection plan to control the feed, as well as the selection of the companies where the feed samples shall be drawn, is the responsibility of the coordinator and is also checked there. All analytical results concerning the parameters dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs and non-dioxin-like PCBs in feedingstuffs must be submitted by the livestock owner to the competent feed monitoring authority.

#### **Documentation of diagnostic data from slaughter**

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

#### **Antibiotics monitoring**

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

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

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


#### **3.7.1 Fattening calves: residue control program**

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

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

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

⇒ Annex 5.1 Residue Control Plan for Fattening Calves.

 Results of Residue Controls, Certificate

### **3.8 Livestock transport**

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

#### **3.8.1 Requirements for transporting own livestock with own vehicles**

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

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

The animals should be transported to their destination without delay.

#### **3.8.2 Requirements for the means of transportation**

Vehicles must also carry adequate loading and unloading equipment. The vehicles and dividers must be in perfect technical and hygienic condition. They must be constructed, used and maintained in such a way that injury and suffering of the animals are avoided and their safety is guaranteed. They must also be able to withstand the forces exerted by the animals. The vehicles and partitions must be in a condition which allows an effective and light cleaning and disinfection.

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

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

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

#### Walls and roof

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

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

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

#### Ventilation

An appropriate and sufficient supply of fresh air must be provided for the cattle so that the animals' needs will be met with regard to the number of animal as well as the weather conditions.

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 and its surface must be designed in such a way that as little excrement and urine as possible flows out of the container.

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

#### Livestock control

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

#### Requirements for transporting livestock over 50 km

Vehicles in which animals are transported for more than 50 km must carry a clearly visible sign indicating that they are loaded with "live animals".

### 3.8.3 [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 unrestricted space so that they can stand in their natural position and can all lie down at the same time. The space available must comply at least with the values in the following table.

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

Category	Approximate Weight [kg]	Area [m <sup>2</sup> /Animal]
Bred calves	50-55	0.30-0.40
Medium-weight calves	110	0.40-0.70
Heavy calves	200	0.70-0.95
Medium-size cattle	325	0.95-1.30

Category	Approximate Weight [kg]	Area [m <sup>2</sup> /Animal]
Fully grown cattle	550	1.30-1.60
Very large cattle	>700	>1.60

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

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

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

### Documentation

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

 Delivery documents, documentation of loading density

### 3.8.4 Cleaning and disinfection of means of transportation

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

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

#### Disinfection control book (for livestock transport to abattoir)

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

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


 Disinfection control book

### 3.8.5 Delivery documents

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

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

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

 Delivery documents

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

Cattle must not be transported for longer than eight hours.

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

Deviating from this, for transport within Germany to the abattoir, the duration of transportation must not exceed four and a half hours unless it is ensured that the outside temperature does not exceed 30 degrees at any time during the transportation. Neither of these restrictions applies if the duration of transportation is exceeded due to unforeseeable circumstances.

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

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

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

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

The feed and water must be of good quality and must be given to the animals in a way that contamination is kept to a minimum. The fact that animals initially must get used to the way of feeding and watering must be taken into account.

#### Documentation

Compliance with the duration of transport and rest times must be documented.

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

#### 3.8.7 Transport papers (for livestock transport over 50 km)

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

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

The data must always be entered before the transport starts.

- 📄 Transport papers, declaration of transport

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

All drivers and accompanying persons who carry out livestock transports over distances of more than 65 km must be appropriately trained or qualified and provide proof of their qualification. Road vehicles used to transport cattle may only be driven or accompanied by persons who can provide proof of their qualifications; persons who are on board as livestock care personnel must also be in possession of this proof.

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

- 📄 Proof of qualification for drivers/carers

## II. VLOG-Additional Module “Ohne Gentechnik”


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


### 4 Definitions

#### 4.1 Explanation of symbols

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

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

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

 This symbol means: For criteria with this symbol, the separate document **Explanations to the Guideline Agriculture Cattle Farming** contains interpretation aids and suggestions as of 01.03.2024. It is possible that since then explanations to further criteria have been added.

References to other sections of the Guideline are indicated by  $\Rightarrow$ .

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

#### 4.2 Abbreviations

HIT	Origin assurance and information system for animals
K.O.	Knock out criterion
VO	Regulation
VWVO	Livestock Transport Regulation

#### 4.3 Terms and definitions

- HACCP (Hazard analysis and critical control point)

A system which identifies, evaluates and controls risks that are significant to food safety. All individual steps of a production technique are considered and assessed in a risk-based analysis, to determine causes of potential quality deviations.

- Transportation

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

- Agricultural primary products

In terms of the context of QS, the term agricultural primary product applies to all unprocessed crops obtained on a company (e.g. cereals, rapeseed, grass), to which only a simple external preparation was applied. With regard to crops, simple external preparation means the degree of mincing (e.g. whole grains, squashed, shredded, grounded; whole plant, chopped). Also cleaning, drying, ensilaging (e.g. maize silage), packing, indirect drying and pressing are also included as preparation (e.g. hay bales).

- Agricultural On-farm mixers

On-farm mixers in the sense of QS are agricultural companies that

- grow their own agricultural primary products for their own use or buy them from other farmers or via trade and/or
- procure QS-compliant feed (components) and

- and produce feed or farm mixtures from these themselves or in cooperation with other livestock owners and use them for their own livestock.

When purchasing feed components, on-farm mixers must observe the requirements of criterion 3.3.4 [K.O.] *Feed purchase*. The feed (components) may be subjected to simple external processing, processed into feed materials, and mixed.

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

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

- Long transportation

Transportation which exceeds eight hours from the movement of the first animals in the consignment.

- Silage additives

– approved in acc. with Regulation EC 1831/2003 – are used in the production of primary products; they are added to feed to improve silage production (e.g. lactic acid bacteria). Documentation based on HACCP principles is not required.

- Animal/livestock transport

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

- QS Animals

QS-animals are animals, that are produced and marketed in a QS company with eligibility to deliver according to the QS scheme.

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

## 5 Annexes

### 5.1 Residue Control Programme for Fattening Calves

#### Implementation of the control programme

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

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

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

#### 5.1.1 Receipt reports to the coordinator

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

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

#### 5.1.2 Slaughter registration

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



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

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

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

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

The slaughter registration must contain the following information:

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

### 5.1.3 Sampling

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

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

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

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

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

### 5.1.4 Examination of samples and sample plan

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

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

The samples shall be analysed as follows:

Table 3:

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

Sample	Parameter
<b>Blood sample</b>	(C) natural hormones: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• testosterone</li> <li>• 17-β-oestradiol</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup>Specification of parameters at the estimation of the coordinator

### 5.1.5 Suspension and resumption of slaughter registration

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

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

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

## Revision information version 01.01.2024 (rev01 as of 01.03.2024)

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
3.2.4 Shed floor	<b>Deletion:</b> Specialised calf fattening: cancellation of the transitional period for old buildings	01.03.2024
4.3 Terms and Definitions	<b>Clarification:</b> Definition of on-farm mixers: on-farm mixers are allowed to produce, among other things, feed materials	01.03.2024
3.1.1 Operational purchase and incoming goods	<b>Clarification:</b> The purchase of livestock must be documented.	01.01.2024
3.2.1 [K.O.] Monitoring and care of livestock	<b>Restructuring and clarification:</b> Dead animals must be removed immediately from the livestock area during livestock control.	01.01.2024
3.2.2 [K.O.] General farming requirements	<b>Clarification:</b> Section on specialized calf production adapted with regard to the residue control program.	01.01.2024
3.2.4 Shed floor	<b>Extension:</b> The shed floor in bays for fattening calves must be provided with elastic layer in lying areas. For old buildings (sheds approved or put in use prior to 9 February 2021), this will apply as of the cut-off date of 9 February 2024.	01.01.2024
3.2.9 Emergency power supply	<b>Renaming:</b> previously criterion 3.2.9 <i>Emergency power generator</i>	01.01.2024
3.3.1 [K.O.] Feed supply	<b>Clarification:</b> <u>pest infestation</u> was added as another example of quality assessment parameters.	01.01.2024
3.4.1 [K.O.] Water supply	<b>Clarification:</b> If the troughs are large enough for several animals to drink from at the same time, a maximum of 15 animals (recommended 10 animals) can be counted per drinking place (= animal width).	01.01.2024
3.5.3 [K.O] Procurement and application of medicines and vaccines	<b>Clarification</b> of the documentation obligation for applications lasting several days (continuous and/or contiguous).	01.01.2024
3.6.3 Handling litter, dung and feed leftovers	<b>Clarification</b> by adapting the subheading: Use and storage of litter	01.01.2024

Criterion	Changes	Date of change
3.6.4 Carcass storage and pick-up	<b>Clarification:</b> Carcasses must be properly stored immediately after removal from the livestock area.	01.01.2024
3.8.2 Requirements for the means of transportation	<b>Clarification:</b> The animals must be protected against bad weather (e.g. hail, heavy rain, snow), extreme temperatures and climatic fluctuations at all times.	01.01.2024
4.3 Terms and Definitions	<b>Clarification:</b> Addition of whole-plant chopping as an example of simple external preparation of feed.	01.01.2024

Guideline  
**Agriculture**  
**Cattle Farming**

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