



Inspection System - Animal Welfare

Programme period 2018 - 2020

Pig

Poultry

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1 Fundamentals

As part of the animal welfare initiative "Initiative Tierwohl" companies and associations from agriculture, the meat industry and grocery retail have together made it their objective to promote more humane and more sustainable meat production. Also, in the future they want to offer consumers pork and poultry of exceptional quality and great variety whilst at the same time focussing even more on animal welfare as the foundation of their business.

The companies and associations participating in the animal welfare initiative **Initiative Tierwohl** have developed a comprehensive programme together with participants from the economy, science and other stakeholders to promote animal welfare at agricultural livestock production level and to this end have defined scientifically-based, measurable and verifiable requirements for livestock production. Compliance with these livestock production requirements is monitored by independent certification bodies. They conduct independent checks in accordance with the programme manual and this Inspection System in particular.

This animal welfare initiative is supported and funded by the **Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Tierwohls in der Nutztierhaltung mbH** [Company for the Promotion of Animal Welfare in Livestock Production Ltd.] - hereinafter referred to as the "**sponsoring company**". The company **QS Qualität und Sicherheit GmbH** [QS Quality and Safety Ltd.] - hereinafter referred to as "**QS**") has been commissioned by the sponsoring company to safeguard the rights and obligations arising from the basic agreement on neutral control activities concluded between the certification body and the sponsoring company. On the basis of this, QS shall exclusively be responsible for the implementation of the regulations detailed in this document on behalf of the sponsoring company.

1.1 Scope

Details of the following requirements and rules are provided in this Inspection System information:

- Requirements for certification bodies
- Requirements for auditors
- Training and information events
- Rules for independent monitoring

These requirements may be updated at any time at the sole responsibility of the sponsoring company.

2 Requirements for certification bodies

Scheme participants are monitored by independent certification bodies that have been approved by the sponsoring company subsequent to appropriate checks. On licensing approval the certification body and the sponsoring company sign a basic agreement on neutral control activities as part of the animal welfare initiative **Initiative Tierwohl**. Compliance with the requirements detailed below are prerequisites for the approval of certification bodies.

2.1 Approval of a certification body

2.1.1 Accreditation

The certification body must have experience of conducting certifications in the field of agricultural livestock production. They must already be accredited for a scope in the field of agricultural livestock production in accordance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065. Within the framework of the approval process the sponsoring company shall decide whether the evidence of accreditation provided by the certification body can be recognised.

A direct accreditation in accordance with DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065 for the scope of "Animal Welfare" is currently not required. Nevertheless, the certification body undertakes to take the guidelines of the aforementioned standards into consideration within the framework of its activities for the animal welfare initiative **Initiative Tierwohl**.

2.1.2 Independence and objectivity

The certification body shall guarantee to conduct audits independently and objectively. In order to avoid conflicts of interest, the certification body and the auditors commissioned:

- May not conduct audits for any company with which they have a contractual relationship that would be an obstacle to conducting an independent and objective inspection. The conducting of a preliminary audit to check whether the company qualifies for certification may only be conducted once in the period prior to the implementation date stipulated by the operation on the occasion of initial licensing approval.
- May not perform audits for companies for which it is currently providing consultancy, training, supervisory or administrative services or has done so within the past 24 months.
- May not maintain any affiliations under company law or staff interrelationships with standards bodies if it can be assumed that these affiliations and interrelationships jeopardise or may jeopardise the independence of the certifying body along with the objectivity of the certification.
- May not perform any coordinator functions parallel to its work for the animal welfare initiative **Initiative Tierwohl**.
- May only use check-lists provided by the sponsoring company for the purpose of conducting animal welfare audits. The use of different check-lists shall be with the proviso that the prior consent of the sponsoring company is obtained.

Upon request, proof is to be provided to the sponsoring company in which manner compliance with the aforementioned guidelines is guaranteed. Disregard of the aforementioned principles may result in extraordinary termination of the basic agreement.

2.1.3 Organization and responsibilities

The certification body shall appoint a senior person and a deputy vis-a-vis the sponsoring company to act as the responsible contact for all activities within the framework of the animal welfare initiative. At the same time the certification body shall apply to the sponsoring company for the authorisation of at least one auditor and one releasing person for one of the following levels of licensing:

- Animal welfare for pigs
- Animal welfare poultry

2.1.4 The 4-eyes principle and release of audit reports in the database

The certification body must ensure, that the decision regarding certification and the release of audit reports is reached by at least one qualified person (releasing person) who did not conduct the conformity assessment (4-eyes principle). The approval as a releasing person shall be given by the sponsoring company.

⇒ 3.4 Requirements for releasing persons

After a certification decision has been made, the audit report is to be released in the database. The certification body shall internally create the technical prerequisites to ensure problem-free data capture in the sponsoring company's database.

⇒ 5.5.1 Certification process

2.1.5 Crisis management

The certification body must immediately inform the sponsoring company with regard to critical events, as well as the competent authorities - if there is a legal obligation to do so. Furthermore, the certification body is obligated to support

the sponsoring company in establishing the facts of the crisis. To this end the certification body must ensure that it gains access to the operation premises and access to all requisite documents belonging to the participating operation.

The certification body has to establish an own documented crisis management, which should be verified regularly (e.g. emergency phone numbers to ensure reachability, flow charts).

The certification body shall nominate a crisis officer vis-a-vis the sponsoring company (including telephone contact details) who shall also be reachable outside of business hours.

2.1.6 Handling of documents

The certification body is obligated to document the conduct and the results of audits in a detailed and complete manner in order to allow access to these at all times. The records must be kept in accordance with the legal retention periods for the purpose of due diligence and burden of proof.

The records shall be handled in such a manner that the confidentiality of the processes described therein and data protection are guaranteed at all times.

2.1.7 Customer satisfaction analysis, management of complaints and objections

The certification body must determine the quality of its work by means of customer satisfaction analyses.

In accordance with the complaints procedure required by DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065, the certification body must have a documented procedure to handle complaints and objections. If an animal welfare audit has been assessed with "failed" the participating company can raise a well-founded complaint or a well-founded objection against the certification body with regard to the certification decision within 10 days after being informed by the sponsoring company about the failure. The certification body has to ensure that complaints and objections are finally processed within 30 days after their receipt at the certification body.

The certification body informs the sponsoring company immediately and in written form about the receipt as well as about its final decision if a complaint or objection procedure is raised. In case of a complaint or objection, the certification body must at least be able to provide the documentation of the measures introduced and the evidence of their implementation towards the sponsoring company.

2.1.8 Access authority and right to inspect documents

The sponsoring company reserves the right to dispatch commissioned persons/organisations to check compliance with the certification requirements and rules. The certification body is obliged to grant the sponsoring company or the persons/organisations commissioned by the same access to all documents relating to its activities within the framework of the animal welfare initiative *Initiative Tierwohl*.

The sponsoring company or persons/organisations commissioned by the same, may verify the work of the certification body for the animal welfare initiative at any time within the scope of additional or witness audits. The certification body must ensure that a witness audit can be conducted in every business/operation to be audited.

2.1.9 Carrying out witness audits

The qualification of auditors must be reviewed by the certification body on the basis of annual **witnessing of animal welfare audits**. These audits have to be witnessed by qualified persons (usually responsible certification body employees) who shall ensure that the conducting of the audit is assessed objectively. The conduct of respective witness audits has to be documented and the results have to be forwarded to the sponsoring company periodically, at intervals of no more than six months.

Additionally, the certification body shall ensure that every approved auditor is accompanied as part of a witness audit at least every two years by an auditor authorised by the sponsoring company. For organisational coordination the certification body shall contact the sponsoring company on its own initiative. The costs for conducting the witness audit shall be borne by the certification body and these shall be invoiced by the sponsoring company.

2.2 Maintenance of certification body approval

In order to maintain certification body approval status, the following points are to be met:

- Evidence of at least twenty (20) audits per year and per stage of approval.
- The certification body must have at least one approved releasing person per stage of approval.
- The certification body shall have at least one approved auditor per stage of approval.
- One official from the certification body shall attend at least one of the information events conducted by the sponsoring company per year.

2.3 Withdrawal of certification body approval

Certification body approval shall be withdrawn in cases of improper work, infringements of the programme manual or the requirements of the inspection system or lack of cooperation with the sponsoring company.

Infringements against the basic agreement on neutral control activities as part of the animal welfare initiative **Initiative Tierwohl** shall result in sanctions and the possible exclusion of the certification body. Both in the event of ordinary or extraordinary termination, and in the case of a formal warning, the sponsoring company has the right to notify all scheme participants who have concluded contracts with the certification body within the framework of the animal welfare initiative of said termination or warning.

3 Requirements for auditors and releasing persons

Auditors and releasing persons are approved by the sponsoring company after appropriate verification/examination. Auditors check the compliance with animal welfare criteria on site, which means that their work is of especially great importance. Which prerequisites have to be met for approval as an auditor or releasing person is explained in the following chapters.

Consent for the collection and storage of personal data is required for approval in the animal welfare initiative.

3.1 Approval of an auditor

An auditor is a qualified expert for the level at which he is approved. In addition, there are additional rules and defined auditing principles to be adhered to in accordance with DIN EN ISO 19011.

The certification bodies are obligated to ensure that auditors have appropriate professional qualifications and that they only deploy auditors in line with their approval, professional qualification and knowledge or skills.

Compliance with the requirements detailed in the following constitutes the prerequisites for approval. The sponsoring company reserves the right to check the suitability of the auditor in a personal interview or by means of additional witness audits.

3.1.1 Qualification

The auditor shall demonstrate specialist knowledge and skills in the context of the standards DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065 and DIN EN ISO 19011. Fundamentally, the following are required:

- Profound product and process knowledge in agricultural livestock production/farming
- In-depth knowledge of agricultural and animal protection legislation
- Command of auditing techniques

Proof of attainment of one of the following professional qualifications is required.

- Graduate of Agricultural Sciences (German Diplom/Master/Bachelor)
- Graduate of Agricultural Engineering, certified farmer, agricultural economist
- Master of agriculture
- Veterinarian

In each case with documented knowledge of agricultural

- pig production for approval stage animal welfare – pig
- poultry production for approval stage animal welfare - poultry

In addition to professional qualifications, proof of at least two year's working experience in livestock production is required.

In exceptional circumstances a qualification other than those listed above may also be recognised after evaluation by the sponsoring company. Auditing experience alone is not considered to be sufficient technical/professional qualification.

3.1.2 Auditor course

New approval as an auditor is only possible if auditor training of at least three days duration can be evidenced. Topics such as the Fundamentals of Quality Management, DIN EN ISO 9001:2008, DIN EN ISO 19011 and DIN EN ISO/IEC 17065, Communication and Auditing Techniques should have covered in the course. It is the responsibility of the certification body to verify applicants' specialist knowledge and skills.

3.1.3 Internal training by the certification body

Prior to approval as auditor evidence of participation in an internal training measure by the certification body must be provided. The contents of the internal training in particular are the regulations contained in the programme manual and in this inspection system. In addition, there shall be an introduction to the database and the compilation of audit reports.

The furnishing of proof of participation in an internal training measure to the sponsoring company is a prerequisite for the registration of the auditor in a training event offered by the sponsoring company.

⇒ Chapter 3.1.5 Training by the sponsoring company

3.1.4 Audit experience

Proof of sector-specific audit experience must be provided when applying for approval as an auditor. For each respective stage of approval applied for, the sponsoring company requires proof of at least 40 independently conducted audits at livestock farms for pig or poultry production in the last 24 months.

The sponsoring company shall decide with regard to acceptance of the audits submitted.

3.1.5 Training by the sponsoring company

For each stage of approval applied for, the auditor must attend a training event held by the sponsoring company and pass a test prior to approval. A test is considered passed if at least 85% of the possible number of points is achieved.

Since as part of the animal welfare initiative, audits requirements are also reviewed that are the subject of checks as part of the QS scheme (basic requirements), it is necessary that auditors also receive training with regard to these. If there is no available auditor approval for the corresponding stage of approval within the QS scheme (Agriculture - Pig and/or Agriculture - Poultry) it shall also be necessary - in addition to participating in a training measure conducted by the sponsoring company - to provide proof of successful participation in a corresponding stage-specific QS training measure (including test).

⇒ Chapter 4 on Training and Information Events

3.1.6 Witness audit by the sponsoring company

After the requirements listed under 3.1.1 to 3.1.5 have been met and prior to approval can be awarded by the sponsoring company, at least one independent animal welfare audit is to be conducted but accompanied by auditors commissioned by the sponsoring company. For organisational coordination of the witness audit the certification body shall contact the sponsoring company on its own initiative. The costs for conducting the witness audit shall be borne by the certification body and these shall be invoiced by the sponsoring company.

3.2 Maintenance of auditor approval

3.2.1 Proof of minimum number of audits and witness audits

In order to maintain approval, proof of 40 animal welfare audits in the last 24 months is required for the respective approval stage (record date is the 30th June of every year). This shall not apply if the auditor is approved for less than 24 months according to the record date.

In addition, the qualification of auditors must be reviewed by the certification body on the basis of annual witness audits.

⇒ Chapter 2.1.9 Carrying out witness audits

3.2.2 Annual subject-specific auditor training by the sponsoring company

Every auditor must attend in one training event about the animal welfare initiative according to his approval annually.

This training event is conducted by the sponsoring company.

If there is no available auditor approval for the corresponding stage of approval within the QS scheme (Agriculture - Pig and/or Agriculture - Poultry) it shall also be necessary - in addition to participating in a training measure conducted by the sponsoring company - to provide proof of successful participation in a corresponding stage-specific QS training measure.

⇒ Chapter 4 Training and Information Events

3.2.3 Evidence of internal training by the certification body

To maintain approval proof is required of annual participation in at least one internal training measure about the animal welfare initiative provided by the certification body. If an auditor has approval with various certification bodies authorised by the sponsoring company, the certification body shall ensure through suitable proof that the auditor possibly participated in an appropriate training measure at another certification body.

In the annual internal training the subjects to be covered should - amongst other things - include current topics and relevant innovations regarding the animal welfare initiative and the normative documents.

3.3 Withdrawal of auditor approval

The sponsoring company can withdraw the approval of an auditor, if the requirements for maintenance of auditor approval, described in chapter 3.2, are not fulfilled. Notwithstanding this, the sponsoring company may also temporarily suspend or permanently cancel an auditor's approval for objective reasons.

Furthermore, auditors can be obligated to attend supplementary training measures as soon as there is an indication for insufficient qualifications. In addition, the sponsoring company may determine that further measures have to be implemented (such as witness, parallel or special audits). Any costs that may arise here are to be borne by the certification body.

The rules of sanction procedure and sanction committee procedure are applicable in accordance with the Basic agreement on Neutral Control Activities in the Animal Welfare Initiative "Initiative Tierwohl".

⇒ Rules of sanction procedure and sanction committee

⇒ Chapter 6 Measures under the scheme integrity system

3.4 Requirements for releasing persons

Releasing persons decide about the release of audit reports and the respective certification.

⇒ 2.1.4 The 4-eyes principle and release of audit reports in the database

3.4.1 Qualification

The approval as releasing person requires:

- Senior position within the certification body
- Proof of a university degree (Master/Bachelor/German Diplom)
- Sound knowledge of quality management, as well as of the relevant standards and legal regulations

In exceptional circumstances, the sponsoring company may recognize a qualification other than those mentioned above after evaluation.

3.4.2 Experience in audit releases

Proof of sector-specific experience in the release of audit reports for livestock farms for pig or poultry production must be provided when applying for approval as a releasing person. For each respective stage of approval applied for, the sponsoring company requires proof of at least 40 released audit reports at livestock farms for pig or poultry production in the last 24 months.

3.4.3 Internal training by the certification body

Evidence of participation in an internal training measure by the certification body must be provided prior to approval as releasing person. The contents of the internal training in particular are the regulations contained in the programme manual and in this inspection system. In addition, there shall be an introduction to the database.

The furnishing of proof of participation in an internal training measure to the sponsoring company is a prerequisite for the registration of the releasing person in a training event offered by the sponsoring company.

3.4.4 Training by the sponsoring company

Prior to approval, each releasing person must attend a training event held by the sponsoring company and pass a test for each stage of approval applied for. A test is considered passed if at least 60% of the possible number of points is achieved.

If there is no available approval as releasing person for the corresponding stage of approval within the QS scheme (Agriculture - Pig and/or Agriculture - Poultry) it shall also be necessary - in addition to participating in a training measure conducted by the sponsoring company - to provide proof of successful participation in a corresponding stage-specific QS training measure (including test).

⇒ Chapter 4 on Training and Information Events

3.5 Maintenance of the approval as releasing person

3.5.1 Proof of minimum number of audit releases

In order to maintain approval, proof of 40 releases of animal welfare audits within the last 24 months is required for the respective approval stage (record date is the 30th June of every year). This shall not apply if the releasing person is approved for less than 24 months according to the record date.

3.5.2 Annual subject-specific training by the sponsoring company

Every releasing person has to participate in training events conducted by the certification body and the sponsoring company according to the stages of approval annually. The internal training by the certification body shall contain current topics and relevant information regarding the animal welfare initiative and its normative documents.

3.5.3 Conduct of witness audits

Each releasing person has to witness at least 5 animal welfare audits per year and stage of approval, in case there is no simultaneous approval as auditor for the corresponding stage.

4 Training and information events

4.1 Training events

Training and information events are run by the certification body (internal) and the sponsoring company (external). Successful participation in these training measures is compulsory for both auditors and releasing persons alike. It is a prerequisite for approval and/or for maintaining approval status. Proof of participation is to be provided to the sponsoring company on request.

The certification body shall qualify auditors and releasing persons for their work within the animal welfare initiative both prior to their approval by the sponsoring company as well as thereafter by means of annual internal training measures.

The training events conducted by the sponsoring company shall be devoted to specialist content and the associated harmonisation with regard to conducting or releasing audits. In the case of failure to attend training, the auditor or releasing person shall also forfeit their approval.

⇒ Chapter 3.1.5 Training by the sponsoring company

⇒ Chapter 3.2.2 Annual discipline-specific auditor training by the sponsoring company

4.2 Information events

In addition, the sponsoring company shall also conduct information events with officials from the certification bodies. These serve the purpose of mutual further development, supervision and exchange of experience. Participation in these events is compulsory for the certification body.

5 Rules for independent inspection

5.1 Participation of agricultural farms

Livestock producers participate in the animal welfare initiative via an agricultural coordinator.

By registering, livestock producers - should they be admitted - commit to implement all initiative criteria for which they have been registered from the implementation date stated in the registration and until the end of the certificate validity.

5.2 Audits

A certification body approved by the sponsoring company and appointed by the coordinator shall monitor implementation of the criteria by means of audits. The coordinator and certification body shall conclude a written agreement in this regard. The certification body is recommended to publish the costs of audits. A list of certification bodies with animal welfare initiative approval is published on the sponsoring company's homepage.

The auditing of agricultural farm within the framework of the animal welfare initiative **Initiative Tierwohl** shall be on an unannounced basis. In order to ensure that a suitable person is available to provide information during the programme and the confirmation audit it will be possible, to inform the business operation ahead of time. At the very earliest, the notification may be made 24 hours (one working day) beforehand.

The relevant coordinator may only be informed simultaneously of the pending, unannounced audit. Combined audits involving other standards are possible provided that all parts of the combined audit are conducted on an unannounced basis.

The time between two audits (programme and confirmation audit) within a single certification cycle must be at least two months.

Programme and Confirmation audits at a single location may be conducted a maximum of three consecutive times by the same auditor. The count of the consecutive number of audits shall not be interrupted by other audits being conducted. If programme and confirmation audits (see below) are conducted according to chapter 5.2.2 and 5.5.3 on the same day, the number of audits already conducted shall only increase by one audit.

If an audit is not conducted by its due date or is not entered and released in the sponsoring company's database on time, the operation's payment entitlement shall be suspended. The sponsoring company shall decide with regard to the course of further action on application by the certification body.

5.2.1 Auditing of agricultural farms (Animal welfare audits)

Check-lists prescribed by the sponsoring company shall be used in all animal welfare audits. The audit results shall be documented in an audit report and entered and released in the sponsoring company's database by the certification body.

Programme audit

As part of a programme audit it is verified whether an operation meets the technical, organisational and content-related requirements for participation. It serves as a basis for certification.

The certification body shall document in the audit report to what extent the initiative criteria are being implemented.

A programme audit shall be conducted:

- After being admitted to the initiative by the sponsoring company.
- From the point in time by which the livestock producer has stipulated that the animal welfare criteria shall be implemented.
- To obtain a new certification (follow-on certification) within the animal welfare initiative **Initiative Tierwohl**.
- Given a change to the animal welfare criteria to be certified (only animal welfare - pigs, see 5.2.2).

The programme audit of a location has to be conducted and released in the database of the animal welfare initiative within two months after being admitted by the sponsoring company and after the implementation date has been reached. The two-month time limit starts with the date, when both conditions are met.

If the audit is not conducted within the two-month period, the participation of an operation in the animal welfare initiative will be suspended.

Confirmation audit

As part of a confirmation audit the check-list points determined with the registration of the operation are monitored by the certification body. No deviation from the criteria established in the programme audit and to be met by the operation is possible/permitted.

The implementation of the documented and certified criteria shall be monitored at least once every year during the validity of the certificate (every 12 months from the releasing date of the initial audit) by means of an unannounced confirmation audit.

Within the last two months prior to the end of certificate validity the ultimate confirmation audit is conducted for final verification of the payment entitlement. In this case, the confirmation audit may be conducted at the same time or within a maximum of one day of a repeated programme audit to obtain follow-on certification.

Should a location's participation end before the expiry of the certificate validity, a confirmation audit shall be conducted within two months before or two weeks after the termination, to finally verify the entitlement to payments. It has to be ensured that the final confirmation audit is conducted while the location is keeping livestock (e.g. termination of business or transfer of an enterprise). If the final confirmation audit is not conducted accordingly, the sponsoring company decides about further measures. The last coordinator allocated to the location shall ensure that this confirmation audit is conducted. The criteria determined by the livestock producer and monitored by the certification body shall be implemented until the confirmation audit has finally been conducted.

5.2.2 Amendment of the check-list points to be monitored in the scope "Animal welfare - pigs"

Deletions, amendments or additions may only be made in the scope "Animal welfare - pigs" and only in exceptional circumstances, at the earliest however, upon expiry of one year of the certification term. In such a case the certification body shall, at the request of the livestock producer and with the agreement of the sponsoring company, promptly conduct a new programme audit thereby documenting the measures implemented by the livestock producer. On the basis of the release date of this programme audit a new certification term commences.

⇒ 5.5.3 Validity of certification

Only after the new programme audit has been conducted and the audit report has been released in the database

- do the new criteria become relevant for determining the animal welfare subsidy,
- may the implementation of the criteria previously documented and certified (in the last programme audit) be ceased.

Criteria may not be deleted or amended without the involvement of the certification body and the previous consent of the sponsoring company. Amendments in any case require monitoring within the framework of a repeated programme audit so that they can be taken into account in the animal welfare initiative ***Initiative Tierwohl***.

For the final verification of a payment entitlement, a confirmation audit shall be conducted by the certification body. In this case, the confirmation audit may be conducted at the same time or within a maximum of two months of a repeated programme audit to inspect the amended check-list points. In order to realize a contemporaneous audit conduct, the coordinator can apply for an amendment of the check-list points to be monitored, after the respective programme audit has been entered and released for at least 10 months.

5.2.3 Procedure on participant rejection of an unannounced audit

If a participant refuses the conduct of an audit, the certification body decides whether the refusal is justified. The decision has to be documented and explained to the sponsoring company on request.

In case of an unjustified refusal the certification body must save the audit on the animal welfare database together with a General-K.O. comment. Given an unjustified refusal, the participant has to be informed immediately in writing of the possible consequences of an unjustified refusal (possible loss of payment entitlement, repayment of animal welfare payments, sanction proceedings). Upon request, proof that the appropriate information has been sent must be shown to the sponsoring company.

5.3 Conducting of audits

The content basis for an audit is formed by the rules and requirements, which are defined in the programme manual as amended and selected specifically for each location. This inspection system in conjunction with the appropriate check-lists is to be taken into account in particular. The check-lists for conducting animal welfare audits can be downloaded from the sponsoring company database. Admission of the location to the animal welfare initiative by the sponsoring company is the prerequisite for conducting an animal welfare audit.

5.3.1 Audit preparation

The organisational preparation of an audit includes in particular:

- Verification of the location's master data in the sponsoring company database (to match in audit).
- Knowledge of the company-specific criteria selected and results of previous audits if required.
- Review of the check-lists and other forms for accuracy and completeness and checking the functionality of inspection equipment.

5.3.2 On-site audits

For conducting an on-site audit, it has to be ensured that livestock is being kept at the respective location at the time of the audit.

An on-site audit includes the following sub-sections:

- Introductory discussion in which the procedure, categorisation of evaluations and the audit schedule are explained.
- Recording and assessment of the implementation of the selected criteria in operational practice.
- Document checking
- Identification of errors and deviations
- Documentation of evaluations and deviations in the audit report.
- If necessary agreements on corrective actions
- Concluding meeting in which the evaluations and the preliminary result are discussed with the contact in the operation.

Single documents, which cannot be presented during the document checking, can be submitted by the livestock producer immediately after the audit (max. three days) towards the auditor or certification body, without a devaluation in the audit report. Condition for this procedure is, that the livestock owner can plausibly explain towards the auditor, that the respective documents are existing and only currently not available (e.g. documents cannot be found). It is not possible to hand in later documents for such criteria, which are determined as K.O. criteria within the QS scheme.

5.4 Audit report

The audit report contains information on the operation, the audited scope as well as evaluations of the inspected requirements and the preliminary audit result. **It must be prepared by the auditor or an employee of the certification body.** The audit report is to be signed by the contact person from the audited operation upon conclusion of the audit. A copy of the signed audit report shall remain within the audited operation.

Should amendments be necessary following checking of the report by the certification body, the certification body shall inform the operation of this immediately and in writing.

Prior to entering the audit report at the latest, the certification body /the auditor shall check in the sponsoring company database whether the operation's master data required for the audit report have been entered correctly. If the master data are correct, the audit report shall be entered into the database and released. Otherwise, the certification body shall contact the responsible coordinator for further clarification.

5.4.1 Evaluations

The implementation of the individual criteria shall be evaluated using the grades "fulfilled" (A), "not fulfilled" (K.O.) and - for some basic requirements possible - „not applicable" (E) and documented in the audit report. For some basic requirements it is possible, to agree upon the implementation of corrective actions with deadlines (see chapter 5.4.2). Detailed descriptions of the facts are to be noted in the audit report and substantiated with suitable evidence (e.g. photos, copies) regarding all criteria that are "not fulfilled" (K.O. evaluation) or for which corrective actions need to be implemented. The evidence is to be stored together with the audit report on the sponsoring company database.

For all criteria marked with an asterisk (*) a detailed description of the facts shall be noted in the audit report in all cases (i.e. even if criteria are "fulfilled").

Should the audit be abandoned or refused by the operation, a general K.O. shall be issued. The location has to be informed immediately in writing about the possible consequences of unjustified abandonment or refusal by handing over an explanatory written notice. Basically, an audit is not to be terminated prematurely by the auditor (e.g. in case of an early K.O. evaluation during the audit).

5.4.2 Corrective actions

Corrective actions can **only** be determined for some of the **basic requirements and only if no criterion is evaluated with „not fulfilled"**. For this purpose, the audited company has to suggest respective corrective actions to the auditor with reasonable deadlines.

⇒ Explanations for the Animal Welfare Initiative

All corrective actions have to be **implemented by the participating company without delay** and to be proven towards the certification body. Therefore, the deadline for the implementation of the corrective actions has to be kept as short as possible.

The implementation of corrective actions has to be checked by the certification body. Audit reports containing corrective actions have to be entered and released in the database **within two working days**.

The determination of corrective actions comprises the following steps:

- Determination of causes
- Rectification of causes
- Suitable measures to prevent a recurrence of the problems (preventive measures)
- Documentation of the implemented measures

Blocking of locations/suspension from animal welfare payment

If corrective actions have been agreed upon in an audit, the location will be blocked by the release of the audit report. Furthermore, the payment entitlement is withdrawn. The location will get unblocked and regain its payment entitlement as soon as the certification body confirms the implementation of the agreed corrective actions in the database of the sponsoring company by entering the status "corrected".

If the implementation of corrective actions is not conducted appropriately and on time, it also has to be administrated due to the certification body in the database of the sponsoring company accordingly and the granted certification needs

to be withdrawn. The sponsoring company is immediately informed regarding this issue by the certification body and decides about further measures (e.g. permanent withdrawal of payment entitlement, repayment of animal welfare payments).

The 4-eyes principle has to be applied when modifying the status of corrective actions by the certification body.

5.4.3 Audit result

The preliminary audit result is to be given immediately to the contact person at the participating operation by handing over a copy of the audit report.

The audit has been **passed** if all of the criteria have been evaluated as "fulfilled".

The audit has been **passed with reservation** if no criterion has been evaluated as "not fulfilled" and for at least one basic requirement, where this is permitted, a corrective action has been agreed upon. As soon as all corrective actions of an audit report in the database of the Animal Welfare Initiative have been marked as "corrected", the status of the audit report changes into "passed". If instead a corrective action has been marked as "not corrected", the audit will be "failed".

The audit is **failed** if at least one criteria has been evaluated as "not fulfilled" or if a general K.O. has been assigned.

Audits, which are failed or passed with reservation have to be entered and released by the certification body in the database of the sponsoring company **within two working days**. The sponsoring company shall decide whether further measures are to be taken, in case of a failed audit (e.g. permanent withdrawal of payment entitlement, repayment of animal welfare payments, implementation of a sanction procedure).

Livestock producers who fail to implement the criteria documented and certified in the programme audit are obligated to return the certificate to the certification body immediately.

The sponsoring company and the body responsible for standards for certified quality assurance shall exchange information relevant to achieving the objectives of this initiative. This applies in particular with regard to information concerning animal welfare violations established in relation to participating livestock producers. The participating livestock producers expressly give their consent to this regulation by their participation in the animal welfare initiative.

⇒ Agricultural manual - participating conditions

5.5 Granting, maintenance and withdrawal of certification

5.5.1 Certification process

The certification body is responsible for the granting, maintenance and withdrawal of certification.

Decisions regarding certification shall be made at the latest four weeks after the audit has been conducted. Within this time limit the certification body shall have entered and released the audit in the sponsoring company database. Otherwise the audit shall lapse. The sponsoring company shall decide with regard to any further action.

5.5.2 Issue of certificates

On the basis of a successful certification process, the certification body may issue a certificate to livestock producers. The certificate is valid for three years (animal welfare - pigs) or two years (animal welfare - poultry) from the programme audit release date. The audit date, certification decision date and the expiry of certificate validity shall be noted on all certificates. When issuing certificates, the certification body shall generally ensure that the information contained in the certificate agrees with the data stored in the sponsoring company database. Design and content of the certificate must comply with the specifications of the sample certificates.

⇒ Annex 7.3 Sample certificates and confirmations

Certificates do not allow a conclusion about payment entitlements (animal welfare subsidy) or the approval of an operation for the animal welfare initiative. Considering the payment entitlements and the approval of an operation, only the information within the database of the sponsoring company is binding.

5.5.3 Validity of certification

The validity of certification commences on the date of the certification decision. The beginning of the validity of certification in the animal welfare initiative is determined by the date, when the programme audit was released in the database of the sponsoring company. The certification validity is calculated using the programme audit release date plus a determined time interval of three years but will not exceed 30th June 2021.

A certification validity of three years or until 30th June 2021 is effective also in the case, that a programme audit has been conducted because of amendments of the check-list points to be monitored (see chapter 5.2.2).

In case of a repeated programme audit to obtain follow-up certification the new certification period is calculated from the end of the previous certification provided the repeated programme audit is conducted two months prior to the expiry of the present certification at the earliest.

5.5.4 Withdrawal of certification

Certification shall be withdrawn given:

- Serious violations of the programme manual.
- Exclusion of the company/operation.
- Termination of the agreement between the certification body and the sponsoring company.
- Termination of the agreement between the coordinator and the sponsoring company.
- Termination of the declaration of participation and authority between the coordinator and the participating operation.
- Change of certification body by participating operation or coordinator.

The certification body and the sponsoring company shall inform each other with regard to exclusion, termination or certification withdrawal.

5.5.5 Decision regarding maintenance of certification

Given changes of ownership, structure or staff within the responsible management of the operation or given other changes relevant to certification, the certification body decides about the conduct of an additional confirmation audit for the purpose of maintaining certification.

Livestock producers are obligated to inform immediately the certification body responsible for the operation as well as the responsible coordinator with regard to any significant operational changes that may jeopardise the maintenance of certification. If requisite information is not passed on by the livestock producer, entitlement to payments may be forfeited by the livestock producer. Any animal welfare payments already received since the last audit may have to be repaid.

⇒ Agricultural manual - participating conditions

5.5.6 Change of certification body

In the event of a change of certification body by the coordinator, the outgoing certification body is obligated to pass on directly to the newly selected certification body all existing documents required for the transfer of certifications. The newly selected certification body is obligated to check, within a period of two weeks of the coordinator having chosen

the new certification body in the sponsoring company database, whether certification can be maintained solely on the basis of a document check or whether there is a need to conduct a confirmation audit. The decision regarding said check is to be documented in the sponsoring company database. Should the certification body decide to assume the certification solely on the basis of a document check, a renewed confirmation audit is to be performed within two weeks of this decision and entered and released in the database. If the confirmation audit is not conducted by this due date the operation's payment entitlement shall be suspended.

6 Measures under the scheme integrity system

In order to check the functionality of all measures in the programme manual and the inspection system, audit measures shall be initiated by the sponsoring company for the purpose of checking the audit quality of certification bodies, as well as criteria compliance on the part of participating companies/farms. These control measures serve to check the status quo whilst at the same time aiding continuous development and optimisation of processes within the animal welfare initiative *Initiative Tierwohl*. Amongst others, the following measures (integrity checks) shall be carried out.

6.1 Random sample audits

Compliance with animal welfare criteria shall be checked using random sample audits. The sponsoring company shall generally ask the certification body commissioned by the coordinator to conduct programme audits to conduct the random sample audits as well. A random sample audit may not be conducted by the same auditor that performed the last regular or confirmation audit in the same operation.

Random sample audits shall be conducted unannounced. In order to ensure that a suitable person is in attendance to provide information during the audit the business can be informed 24 hours ahead of the planned audit time with regard to the conducting of a random sample audit. Other than in the case of a "failed" result, they have no bearing on certification term or the payment entitlement on the part of the participating operation. If as part of a random sample audit a criterion is evaluated as "not fulfilled", the sponsoring company shall decide whether further measures are to be taken (e.g. withdrawal of payment entitlements).

6.2 Stock checks

Completely unannounced audits, so called „stock checks“, are taking place in addition to the unannounced confirmation audits. During a stock check especially those criteria are examined, which are directly related to the livestock farming or which have been chosen as elective criteria by the livestock owner. The auditor may also examine further criteria in case of any detected conspicuities.

Stock checks should be conducted with a timely distance of at least one month regarding to programme and confirmation audits.

If a stock check is evaluated as "failed", the sponsoring company shall decide whether further measures are to be taken (e.g. withdrawal of payment entitlements).

6.3 Audits of special purpose

In suspicious cases or in case of imminent danger the sponsoring company shall immediately commission audits of special purpose in the participating farms. Generally, these audits are conducted on a completely unannounced basis.

Audits of special purpose will be conducted regularly (about once a year) at marketers and middlemen who produce, trade or store poultry products with the label of the Animal Welfare Initiative to review the flows of goods that are relevant to assure identity. Audits of special purpose at marketers and middlemen usually will be conducted announced.

If an audit of special purpose is failed, the sponsoring company shall decide whether further measures are to be taken (e.g. withdrawal of payment entitlements).

6.4 Parallel audits

Parallel audits serve to check the audit results established in the previous audit. They are generally conducted a maximum of four weeks after the previous audit.

They are conducted unannounced. In order to ensure that a suitable person is available to provide information during the audit the business can be informed 24 hours ahead of the planned audit time with regard to the conducting of a random sample audit. Other than in the case of a "failed" result, they have no bearing on certification term or the payment entitlement on the part of the participating operation. If as part of a parallel audit a criterion is evaluated as "not fulfilled", the sponsoring company shall decide whether further measures are to be taken (e.g. withdrawal of payment entitlements).

6.5 Office audits

The sponsoring company shall conduct office audits using its own staff or externally commissioned assessors within the certification bodies.

Within the framework of the office audit checks shall be conducted as to whether the specifications contained in the programme manual and/or in the inspection system are being correctly and uniformly implemented by the certification bodies.

6.6 Accompaniment of audits (witnessing of audits)

Audits conducted on behalf of the animal welfare initiative *Initiative Tierwohl* may be accompanied/witnessed by the sponsoring company or by persons authorised by the same.

6.7 Monitoring of audit reports

Audit reports submitted by the certification bodies shall be checked for completeness and correctness by the sponsoring company. The aim of this is to prevent incorrect and implausible input of data and to harmonise the implementation of the requirements by certification bodies and auditors.

The certification body shall be obliged to make every effort to promptly resolve any existing ambiguities and if required correct the audit report.

7 Annexes

7.1 Registration sheet for auditors

7.2 Registration sheet for releasing persons (audit reviewers)

7.3 Registration sheet for certification bodies

7.4 Sample certificate

7.5 Proof of minimum number of audits - Form

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