

Requirements catalogue meat industry

Conditions of participation for slaughtering/deboning companies, meat wholesalers, marketers and processing companies

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1 Introduction

In the Initiative Tierwohl (hereinafter "ITW" for short), companies and associations from agriculture, the meat industry and food retailing have jointly set themselves the goal of promoting more animal-friendly and sustainable meat production. In the future, they want to continue to offer poultry, pork and beef in excellent quality and great variety, but at the same time make animal welfare even more the basis of their actions. To this end, a comprehensive programme to promote animal welfare on farms has been developed with business, science and stakeholders.

This catalogue of requirements represents the Initiative Tierwohl's conditions of participation for slaughtering/deboning companies, meat wholesalers, marketers and processing companies, which are primarily aimed at quality assurance officers, animal welfare officers, live animal buyers and production staff.

2 Conditions of participation

2.1 Participant, participation

Access to the Initiative Tierwohl is open to all companies. Companies participating in a certified quality assurance system (e.g. QS) can take part. Quality assurance systems of other standard owners recognised by QS Qualität und Sicherheit GmbH can be confirmed by the operating company's bodies as a comparable standard for the respective type of animal.

2.2 Application and registration

Companies that decide to participate in the Initiative Tierwohl can register using the registration form or contact the head office directly by e-mail. Subsequently a participation agreement is concluded with the operating company. The costs incurred in this connection are borne by the companies themselves.

The Initiative Tierwohl participation agreement imposes the following obligations on companies, among others:

On 15 April (Q3 + Q4) and 15 October (Q1 + Q2) of each year, the companies must report to the neutral external service provider commissioned by the operating company (currently: arvato Financial Solutions) the quantities of identified pork, poultry and/or beef as well as articles made from these (meat preparations and meat products) purchased from the participating suppliers and delivered to participating recipients, differentiated according to the respective suppliers and recipients.

2.3 Abattoirs

2.3.1 Verification of eligibility

Abattoirs approved for the Initiative Tierwohl must check for each delivery of animals for slaughter whether the respective livestock owner is eligible to deliver in the Initiative Tierwohl system.

Please note that for delivered

- Slaughter pigs the production scope 2001,
- Chicken the production scope 3001,
- Turkeys the production scope 3004
- Cattle production scopes 1001, 1002, 1008 and 1016

must be selected. Only for slaughter animals delivered under one of these production scopes may the slaughter quantity be reported to the neutral external service provider commissioned by the operating company (currently: arvato Financial Solutions).

The abattoirs undertake to pay the price premium defined in the ITW to the supplying companies for animals accepted for slaughter as ITW animals. This also applies to slaughter cows from ITW-recognised programmes and standards whose meat (trade class category "cow meat") is to be marketed as ITW meat. The ITW price premium is shown separately as a price component in the settlements and is determined by the bodies in the ITW.

The abattoirs undertake to take appropriate account of the additional costs incurred by the calf fattening farms when accepting ITW fattened calves. The ITW price premium for ITW veal calves for fattening is not fixed uniformly. It is to be freely agreed between the market participants.

The poultry slaughterhouses undertake to make corresponding payments to the operating company to compensate the additional expenditure of the participating poultry farmers. The amount of the payments into an animal welfare account of the operating company depends on the amount of ITW slaughter poultry purchased and on the additional effort determined by the ITW bodies for the implementation of the ITW requirements in chicken and turkey production.

2.3.2 Reporting of slaughtered animals

The abattoirs must report the slaughter quantities (for pigs: number of animals; for cattle: number of animals subdivided according to species; for poultry: kilograms of live weight) delivered for slaughter by the participating livestock owners to the neutral external service provider commissioned by the operating company (currently: arvato Financial Solutions) on a quarterly basis. Only animals fit for human consumption are to be taken into account for these reports. Animals unfit for slaughter, dead in transport or rejected in the post-mortem inspection are not to be reported. Quantity reporting is carried out via appropriate access by the abattoirs to the database, which is operated by the neutral external service provider commissioned by the operating company. The details are published on the homepage of the Initiative Tierwohl in the download area.

2.3.3 Diagnostic data collection

The collection and reporting of diagnostic data is mandatory for abattoirs participating in the Initiative Tierwohl. The *guideline slaughtering/deboning* in connection with the *guideline diagnostic data in pig slaughtering* (only available in german) or the *guideline diagnostic data in poultry slaughtering* or the *guideline diagnostic data in cattle slaughtering* (only available in german) of QS Qualität und Sicherheit GmbH, in the respective valid version, shall apply.

3 Requirements for slaughtering/deboning companies, meat wholesalers, marketers and processing companies

3.1 Control and verification obligation

Deboning companies and meat wholesalers (hereinafter referred to as *intermediaries*), marketers and slaughtering and processing companies must pass an annual neutral inspection by a certification body approved by the Initiative Tierwohl. Within the framework of this inspection, the requirements of chapter 3.2 Identity for poultry, pork and beef are checked. The inspection is carried out on the basis of the "Checklist for marketers, intermediaries, abattoirs and processing companies". The commissioning of the audits is done by the companies themselves.

3.2 Identity for poultry, pork and beef

A prerequisite for the marketing of meat, meat preparations and meat products with the Initiative Tierwohl seal is that the meat comes from animals kept by certified livestock owners who were approved in the Initiative Tierwohl at the time the animals were delivered to the abattoir. All companies involved in marketing are obliged to give an assurance on the supply of ITW goods only to those companies participating in the ITW.

With the delivery of the goods, the participating companies will only give an assurance of compliance with the ITW-specific animal welfare criteria to the companies participating in the ITW. ITW goods may only be marketed to recipients not participating in the ITW as conventional goods without an assurance of specific animal welfare criteria.

If goods produced with partly the same animal welfare criteria are to be marketed to companies that do not participate in the ITW, the marketer must ensure that the verification of animal welfare requirements on the livestock farming companies takes place within the framework of independent audits and not as part of the ITW inspection system.

Poultry

Since 2018, it has been possible to market fresh and frozen, as well as seasoned and marinated, chicken and turkey meat as an identified good.

Since August 2021, all items from ITW peking ducks can also be marketed as identified goods.

Pork

Since 1 July 2021, natural pork including promotional products in the assortments ham articles, neck articles, chop articles, shoulder articles (including minced pork, fresh sausage) and belly articles can be marketed as identified goods.

In addition, from 1 July 2021, meat products can also be marketed as identified goods. For this purpose, the requirements for the production of identified meat products must be complied with (see *information sheet on the labelling of processed food products*).

Beef

From 1 May 2022, meat from animals originating from participating cattle, calf production or dairy farms can be labelled as identified goods with the Initiative Tierwohl seal in accordance with the styleguide product labelling.

3.2.1 Labelling of identified goods

Meat and meat products that are marketed as identified goods must be clearly labelled at the time of outgoing goods. In addition, the goods must be clearly labelled as identified goods on the delivery note. It must be possible to establish a clear link between the shipping documents and the identified goods.

When using the ITW labelling in combination with the "Haltungsform" labelling, a clear reference between "Haltungsform 2" and the ITW label must be considered. The reference can be made either directly via labelling on the goods (e.g. HF2 ITW) or via a defined coding (with link to the specification).

The labelling system must be documented and must be comprehensible to third parties. ITW products can in principle also be used as QS products, provided that corresponding regulations have been defined in the company and a clear reference to the supplier of the ITW/QS products can be established.

In the business customer relationship applies:

Identified ITW goods with appropriate labelling or goods marketed with the assurance of compliance with ITW-specific animal welfare criteria may only be sold to companies that participate in the ITW.

The following applies to the production of end consumer packaging:

Goods labelled as identified goods may only be marketed to recipients who participate in the Initiative Tierwohl. When marketing identified goods in end consumer packaging, the goods must be labelled in accordance with the requirements of the respectively valid styleguide product labelling.

3.2.2 Goods separation

A comprehensible system for the separation of identified and non-identified goods must be implemented in the company. Clear labelling and (batch) separation of identified and non-identified goods must be guaranteed throughout the entire company at all stages of production.

3.2.3 Traceability system

The labelling and registration system introduced in the company must at all times enable a clear identification of the identified goods and traceability of the goods using an example from production or outgoing goods. It must be possible for third parties to trace which products were delivered as identified goods, from whom these goods were purchased and to whom these products were sold. A customer list of all recipients of ITW goods must be available.

3.2.4 Verification of approval

If goods are to be accepted as ITW goods, it must be checked in the [Animal Welfare database](#) whether the company (location) is approved for the corresponding animal species in the ITW at the time of delivery (for livestock owners with correct production scope and VVVO No.). Only then may the goods be accepted as such. Each location in the meat sector (slaughtering/deboning, processing, intermediaries) must be registered with the Initiative Tierwohl so that an eligibility of delivery can be granted in the ITW scheme.

When delivering identified goods (carcasses, meat and meat products), it must be ensured that the customer also has an approval in the Initiative Tierwohl for the corresponding animal species. The approvals must be checked in the Animal Welfare database.

- Approved intermediaries and marketers
- Approved abattoirs (pig, poultry and cattle)

- Approved processing companies
- Participants from food retailing and gastronomy

You will find a list of the currently approved participants in the food retail and gastronomy sectors in the download area on the homepage of the Initiative Tierwohl.

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