

Information for poultry farmers

31 July 2023

Registration for the new programme



The hot phase for the preparation of the new programme is in full swing. As of 31 July 2023, you will find the programme manual (catalogue of criteria, explanations and inspection system) and the documents for the participation of livestock owners (conditions of participation, declarations of participation and annexes) on our website in the [download area](#). Answers to many questions about the transition are summarised in a questionnaire.

Short and sharp – an overview of important changes:

- Price surcharge/animal welfare payment: To compensate for the additional costs of participation, non-binding price surcharges will be introduced for broiler and turkey fattening from 1 April 2024. The ITW committees will make a recommendation on their level. From 1 April 2024, payment will be made directly via the abattoir and no longer as an animal welfare payment via the operating company.
- Participation Duration: Analogous to QS, the participation of livestock owners will be unlimited in time in the future. The certificate period is extended by one calendar year after each successful audit. There will probably be a comprehensive revision of the criteria in 2025 (background, among other things, to plans for legally anchored requirements for turkey husbandry in Germany).
- Inspection system: One programme audit and one unannounced stock check are carried out per calendar year

Recommendation on the animal welfare price surcharge

In contrast to the 3rd programme phase, the price surcharge will be paid directly by the abattoir to the participant from 1 April 2024. In order to facilitate the changeover, the price surcharge will still be paid via the operating company in the first quarter of 2024. Therefore, coordinate the delivery of ITW animals with your marketers or abattoirs at an early time.

From 1 April 2024, the following surcharge recommendations will apply:

- 2.75 ct per kilogram live weight for broilers
- 3.25 ct per kilogram live weight for turkey hens
- 4.0 ct per kilogram live weight for turkey cocks

No recommendations for price surcharges have been agreed for Peking duck production. These are to be freely agreed between the market participants.



Requirements for livestock farming

The criteria for turkey and Peking duck production will initially remain unchanged for 2024 compared to the 2021-2023 programme. There will probably only be changes here with the revision of the criteria catalogues for 2025. Details of planned revisions are expected to be discussed from spring 2024 and communicated thereafter.

In broiler production, there are already additional requirements for 2024: If abnormalities are identified in the evaluation of the findings data and a need for action is indicated, there is an obligation to analyse and remedy the deficiency without delay. In addition, more additional activity material must be offered and a twilight phase must be implemented before the start of the dark phase and at the end of it. Details can be found in the catalogues of criteria, which will be available for download on the website from 31 July 2023.

Inspections on the company



After the first programme audit at the start, two ITW audits take place per calendar year: one programme audit and one stock check each, so that the intensive control of the animal welfare companies is maintained. If the first programme audit takes place in the second half of a calendar year, no further stock check is carried out in this calendar year - from the next calendar year onwards, the twice-yearly auditing of the companies starts.

For all basic criteria, it is possible to agree on a corrective action (C rating) in case of slight deviations. If a corrective action is agreed, the company is blocked in the database until confirmation of successful implementation by the certification body and is not entitled to receive animal welfare payment or an animal welfare price surcharge.

Registration schedule

Registration for the 2024 programme is possible from 1 September 2023. Poultry fatteners can register for the ITW continuously and at any time from this date onwards. To register, please **contact your coordinator directly** and send him a new declaration of participation together with attachments. It is essential that you also indicate the implementation date from which you will fully meet the criteria for the new programme on your company.

Joint audit for already participating companies:

If you are already participating in the 2021-2023 programme, the last confirmation audit of the old programme and the first programme audit of the new programme can be carried out simultaneously. In this way, you participate in the old programme until the end of your respective term and then start directly in the new programme. For this purpose, choose an implementation date three months before the end of your term in the old programme, if possible. If you would like to carry out the last confirmation audit separately from the programme audit, choose a implementation date after the end of your term in the old programme. In this case, however, there will be a participation gap between the old and the new programme.

