

Explanatory notes Initiative Tierwohl

Pig production

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Note: *The Explanatory notes Initiative Tierwohl Pig production are written in German and translated into English. In case of discrepancies between the translation and the German version, the German original is valid.*

General information

Is it possible to participate with only part of a company or location?

All requirements always apply to all animals and sties of a participating company. The company (= location) is defined by the authorities as an epidemic hygiene unit (e.g. in Germany according to VVVO number) and production scope (pig production, piglet rearing, sow production). Each production scope can be registered separately and independently of other production scopes under an official registration number (VVVO number in Germany). Within a registration number (VVVO number in Germany) and production scope, no sub-sector can be excluded from participation.

Is it possible to participate with sties that contain unused compartments in which the criteria are then not implemented?

Yes, but the compartments must have been demonstrably shut down (no water, no drinkers, etc.).

Do the criteria also have to be met in the selection pen (for collecting slaughter pigs for transport) if the animals are only there for about ½ day?

No, but the legal requirements for pig farming must be met. Crate structuring elements do not have to be offered.

How must regionally stricter husbandry requirements be dealt with?

As with QS, the statutory, nationally applicable requirements are taken as a basis.

Can ITW animals be marketed within a production scope?

Yes, in principle, ITW livestock owners may market their animals freely. If the animals are marketed within a production scope - e.g. from pig fattener to pig fattener - a distinction must be made between the following cases:

Regular cooperation between several locations

If several locations regularly work together (e.g. division of a pig production into two different locations for pre-fattening and finishing), these locations form a producer community. For this purpose, the livestock owners involved register together via their coordinator using the declaration of participation for producer communities, then participate together as one company and are audited together. The company that passes the animals on to the next stage of the chain - e.g. from the final fattening stage to an ITW abattoir - acts as the main location, with all partners acting as sub-locations. The pro rata passing on of the ITW price surcharge within the producer community is regulated among the livestock owners involved.

Occasional livestock sales

If livestock is marketed occasionally/out of sequence to other livestock owners within the same production scope, this does not constitute a producer community. The pro rata passing on of the price surcharge to the previous livestock owner must be regulated between the livestock owners.

If the animals are marketed outside the ITW (to a non-ITW abattoir), there is no entitlement to an ITW price surcharge. *(Note: Pig fatteners receive a price surcharge on the market price from participating abattoirs. To this end, pig fatteners and recipients/abattoirs enter into bilateral agreements on the delivery of ITW fattening pigs, the amount of the price surcharge and other delivery conditions. There is no claim for payment against the operating company. The operating company is also not liable for the payment of the price surcharge by the abattoirs and its actual amount).*

1 Requirements

1.1 Basic criteria livestock farming, hygiene, animal health

What is assessed?

It must be ensured that the animals are kept in compliance with the law and in accordance with good professional practice. During the farm tour, the focus is on observing the animals and the conditions in the sty; records and documents are consulted for support if this makes sense or is necessary to check the criterion.

The requirements correspond to the QS requirements, see Guideline Agriculture Pig farming.

How are the basic criteria assessed?

The implementation of the individual criteria is assessed on the basis of the evaluations "fulfilled" (A), "partially fulfilled" (C), "not fulfilled" (K.O. criterion) and - for some basic requirements - "not applicable" (E) and documented in the audit report. An evaluation of "not fulfilled" leads to withdrawal from the Initiative Tierwohl. In the case of the basic criteria, corrective actions with deadlines can be agreed upon in the case of the evaluation "partially fulfilled". Nonconformities must be rectified immediately by the livestock owner, which is why a correspondingly short deadline must be set for the implementation of the measures.

Please note: From the time of the release of audit report until the certification body has issued the corrective actions, the location is not eligible for payment. If a corrective action is not corrected within the deadline, the audit will be considered "failed" after the deadline has expired and the company will lose its approval for the ITW.

What criteria must a recovery crate meet?

In principle, all criteria must always be complied with, even in recovery crates. This also applies to the provision of 12.5% more space and roughage. Crate structuring elements do not have to be offered in recovery crates, but the requirements for recovery crates must be met. These include a soft surface or litter in the lying area and visual contact (e.g. via a contact grids) with other pigs for pigs kept individually. It must also be ensured that the animals can easily reach food and water. To this end, both should be offered close to the floor and the water supply from an open area to facilitate accessibility for the animals. The exception for crate structuring elements only applies to recovery crates and only during the period of occupancy with sick and injured animals. These crates should then also be entered as such in the sty plan. In crates that are (also) occupied by healthy animals, crate structuring must be implemented.

If the soft pad is offered over straw litter in recovery crates, no additional roughage needs to be offered - provided the litter is of feed quality. In this case, additional activity material is not required also.

How big does the soft pad in the recovery crate need to be?

The crates for sick and injured animals must be equipped with a soft pad (e.g. litter or soft rubber mat), which must cover the lying area per pig. This is based on the QS requirements for the size of the lying area (see QS Guideline Agriculture Pig Farming), not the increased space allowance due to ITW participation. In addition, it is crucial that all animals in the recovery crate can lie on the soft surface at the same time.

1.2 Participation in antibiotics monitoring

What needs to be considered?

Every livestock owner must be aware of the therapy index, either via an information letter, which they receive quarterly from their coordinator, or online via the antibiotics database.

1.3 Participation in the indexed slaughter findings data programme

What exactly does the livestock owner have to do here?

The findings collected independently by the official veterinarians at the abattoir are collected in a central database and evaluated regularly. Every livestock owner must be aware of the animal health index, either via the information letter they receive quarterly from their coordinator or online via the slaughter findings database.

1.4 Sty climate check

What is the maximum period of time that may have passed since the last sty climate check for the first programme audit?

Sty climate checks that were carried out no more than 1 year (= 365 days) ago at the time of the audit can be recognized in the first programme audit.

Sty climate checks must always be carried out in occupied sties. For new sties in particular, the implementation date must be chosen so that the sty climate check can be carried out after the first animals are housed but before the implementation date. If not all sties or compartments are occupied at the implementation date, the necessary checks must be carried out as soon as the animals are housed. Proof must be provided at the end of the audit that the sties/compartments have not actually been used by the housing date and that the checks were ordered promptly. If no results are yet available, these must be submitted at short notice.

When and how often must the sty climate checks be carried out?

A sty climate check must be carried out before the initial audit and then once in each subsequent calendar year. If the first check was carried out in the previous year of the first programme audit (max. 365 days before the initial audit), a check must also be carried out for the calendar year of the first programme audit. The result must be documented. The only exceptions to the sty climate check are free-range husbandry and sties in which no technology (no ventilation system, no heating, no control system for gravity ventilation, etc.) is installed.

If a programme audit is carried out at the end of participation in the Initiative Tierwohl, the sty climate check for the current calendar year must be available for this audit.

Companies that end their participation in the ITW by March 31 of a calendar year (= **deregister in the database**) do not have to carry out a sty climate check for that calendar year. If participation in the calendar year continues beyond March 31, the sty climate check must also be carried out for the current calendar year. The date of deregistration in the animal welfare database is decisive for the end of participation.

Who carries out the sty climate checks?

External experts who have previously undergone training and registered with the operating company of the initiative. All experts approved for the sty climate check pig are published on a list at www.initiative-tierwohl.de; they can be freely selected from this list.

How many sty climate checks need to be carried out?

The **minimum scope** of the sty climate checks to be carried out is generally as follows:

- At least **one check per sty** and at the same time
 - With one compartment per sty → **one check per sty**
 - For two to eight compartments per sty with the same ventilation technology → At least **two checks per sty**
 - For more than eight compartments per sty with the same ventilation technology → at least **three checks per sty**
- If an individual compartment has a different ventilation system, an additional check must be carried out for this compartment. If several compartments are equipped with different ventilation technology, the key described above is used for each sty and ventilation technology.

Example: At a location with two sties, each with six compartments with the same ventilation technology, two checks must be carried out per sty - i.e. four checks in total.

For conspicuous sty compartments that are detected in the visual inspection of all sty areas/compartments with sensory testing, a sty climate check must be carried out in any case, even if this means that more checks than the minimum scope specified must be carried out.

If there are several locations (= several location numbers) within a sty shell, identically equipped sty compartments can be added together and then checked according to the above key.

For compartments or areas that are only occupied for a very short time (a few days) and are otherwise empty (e.g. outsourced recovery crates in otherwise unoccupied buildings or similar), a climate check does not need to be carried out.

Are climate checks recognized that were carried out by experts before they were registered and published in the ITW list?

A check can only be recognized from the approval date of the respective expert. Experts must be on the list. The date on the list is decisive here. The first sty climate check must be available on the implementation date or by the initial audit at the latest.

How exactly does the sty climate check work?

The expert has a detailed description of this with a corresponding checklist. The focus is on the sensory test with an assessment of the sty air and observer of the animal behavior. A functional test of the ventilation system (actuators, temperature sensors, etc.) is then carried out on a random and risk-based basis (i.e. in all cases where the sensory test has revealed anomalies). The alarm system is also checked.

What happens if defects are found?

If nonconformities are discovered during the climate check, they must be listed and, if necessary, further measurements and a review of the dimensioning of the ventilation system must be carried out. An action plan must then be drawn up with the technical expert to rectify the faults (including deadlines). These corrective actions must already be initiated and documented for the initial audit.

What must be submitted at the end of audit?

The certificate for the sty climate check (issued by an approved expert) must be shown at the end of the audit; in addition, the list of deficiencies with an action plan and proof that the corrective actions have been implemented on time.

Does the original checklist have to be used for the sty climate check?

It is possible to expand the original checklist, but the basic structure and form must be retained and recognizable. If an action plan is drawn up, deadlines must be set (either defining the time period or the date of implementation).

Note: For the exact implementation of the sty climate check (e.g. sample distribution), see "Implementation instructions for the sty climate check".

What type of alarm system must be present on a company?

For electrically operated ventilation systems, each company must have a functioning alarm device. For example, either a signal horn or a signal light or a telephone dialer must be present. Which type of device (or which combination of devices) is appropriate for a company must be decided on a case-by-case basis. It is crucial that a power failure or failure of the ventilation system is noticed immediately by a responsible person in all cases (e.g. even during the night or in remote sties).

1.5 Drinking water check

What is the maximum period that may have passed since the last drinking water check for the first programme audit?

Drinking water checks that were carried out no more than 1 year (= 365 days) ago at the time of the audit can be recognized in the first programme audit.

The samples for microbiological testing must always be taken in occupied sties. For new sties in particular, the implementation date should be chosen accordingly so that the drinking water check can be carried out after the first housing but before the implementation date. If the sties are not yet fully occupied at the beginning, the following must be observed: If the number of animals increases after the implementation date in such a way that further samples must be taken according to the sampling key, these must be arranged immediately. At the end of the audit, it must then be proven (e.g. by means of a stock book) that the number of samples corresponds to the number of animals in the sty.

When and how often must the drinking water checks be carried out?

A drinking water check must be carried out before the initial audit and then once in each subsequent calendar year. If the first check was carried out in the previous year of the first programme audit (max. 365 days before the initial audit), a check must also be carried out for the calendar year of the first programme audit. The drinking water check consists of sampling and water analysis.

If a programme audit is carried out at the end of participation in the ITW, the drinking water check for the current calendar year must be available for this audit.

Companies that terminate their participation in the ITW by March 31 of a calendar year (= **deregistration in the database**) do not have to carry out a drinking water check for that calendar year. If participation in the calendar year continues beyond March 31, the drinking water check must also be carried out for the current calendar year. The date of deregistration in the animal welfare database is decisive for the end of participation.

Who carries out the sampling?

External experts who have previously registered with the operating company. All experts approved for sampling (pigs) are published on a list at www.initiative-tierwohl.de; they can be freely selected from this list.

The catalog of criteria (Annex 2) describes where and how many water samples must be taken. The sampler must document the quantity of samples as well as the respective location and date of sampling in a protocol.

Are drinking water checks recognized that were carried out by samplers before their registration and publication in the ITW list?

A check can only be recognized from the approval date of the respective sampler. Samplers must be on the list. The date in the list is decisive here. The first sampling including the analysis result must be available at the implementation date or at the latest at the time of the initial audit.

Can official drinking water monitoring also be used as a drinking water check (chemical-physical analysis)?

If water from your own wells is also used as drinking water for humans (i.e. used for humans and animals), the official drinking water monitoring can also be used for the physical-chemical drinking water check, provided that the specified parameters have been tested and the test result clearly shows that it is an official sample. In this case, the sampler does not need to be registered with the ITW.

How exactly does the drinking water analysis work?

The drinking water analysis can be commissioned from any qualified laboratories. Approval of laboratories is currently not required.

The catalog of criteria (Annex 2) describes the parameters for which the drinking water must be tested.

A microbial test is necessary both for water from the public drinking water network and when using your own water (e.g. via a well). The physical-chemical test can be omitted for water from the public drinking water network.

How are samples for microbiological testing taken from open pool drinking troughs?

The water samples must always be taken at the last drinkers of a spout. In the case of a ring main, the sample can be taken at any point in the ring main. Before sampling, the outlet opening and, if necessary, the basin must be sterilized. This can be done by thorough scouring or using a suitable disinfectant (e.g. from a spray bottle). Drinking basins and bowls must be emptied before disinfection.

Before sampling, the water should run freely for approx. 3 minutes. Sampling is then carried out at open drinkers either directly from the outlet opening, from the basin itself or the overflowing water is collected. The sterile sampling vessel should not be filled to the brim (approx. 5/6ths). Sampling should be carried out under sterile conditions (clean hands or disposable gloves). The lid should only be removed immediately before filling and held down during filling. The inner surfaces of the container and lid should not be touched with the hands and the container should be closed with the lid as quickly as possible.

If sterile sampling at the open drinker is not possible due to the design and there is no nipple drinker that can be sampled as an alternative (e.g. only open drinkers available or branch line with open drinker as the last drinker of the branch), the microbiological sample can also be taken through an additional valve just before the drinker opening in exceptional cases. Sampling at the beginning of the line or a tap outside the animals' living area is not permitted.

What happens if defects are discovered?

If the analysis reveals that the values exceed or fall below the assessment values, an action plan must be drawn up to correct the errors (including deadlines). These corrective actions must already have been initiated and documented by the time of the initial audit. The aim is to provide the most suitable drinking water (= most important

feed!). If the values are not complied with, measures must be initiated to achieve the orientation values as quickly as possible. In the meantime, negative consequences for the animals must be kept to a minimum.

If the analysis value for **sulphate** is between 500 and 1600 mg/l, it is recommended that a health check is carried out. Only from a limit value of over 1600 mg SO₄ /l must a health check be carried out by a veterinarian to check whether the animals' health is impaired. If health damage attributable to the water quality is confirmed, the livestock owner must initiate further measures to ensure compliance with the limit value. If the examination does not reveal any abnormal findings, no further measures need to be taken.

If the **pH** limit values (5 to 9) are not complied with, the animals must be checked by a veterinarian. If the veterinarian detects health impairments or reduced water intake in the animals that can be attributed to the water quality, measures must be taken to ensure compliance with the pH value. If the vet finds no health impairment or reduced water intake, no further action is required.

Temperature deviations in the microbial analysis of +/- 2K are acceptable (20 - 22 °C or 36 - 37 °C).

Does each water source and each location number (= registration number, e.g. according to location number) need its own investigation?

A physical-chemical analysis (or several if there are several water sources) must be available for each location number and production scope. If several locations (= several location numbers or several production scopes) are fed from a common water source, one physical-chemical analysis is sufficient.

This does not apply to microbiological testing: here, samples must be taken and analyzed by the registered sampler in accordance with the sample key for each location number and production scope. The sample size must include one sample for up to 1,500 fattening places and an additional sample for each additional 5,000 places or part thereof. This means that one sample must be taken for the first 1,500 fattening places, a second sample for the 1,501st to 6,500th fattening place and so on.

If several sties belong to one location number, it is recommended to distribute the samples representatively among the different sties or buildings.

What must be submitted at the end of audit?

The certificate for the drinking water analysis (issued by a laboratory) must be shown at the end of the audit, as must the sampler's sampling protocol. The following information must be documented in the sampling protocol: Name, address, location number of the company, sampling point (location of the tap or drinking nipple/drinking basin), name of the sampler, date of sampling. If this information is contained in full in the certificate for drinking water analysis from the laboratory, this can be used as a protocol. In addition, the action plan for remedying defects and proof that the corrective actions were implemented on time must be available.

1.6 Training

When and how often must the training be attended?

Training must be attended before the initial audit and then once in each subsequent calendar year. Training that took place no more than 1 year (= 365 days) prior to the first programme audit can be recognized in the first programme audit.

If the first training was completed in the previous year of the first programme audit (max. 365 days before the initial audit), a training must also be attended in the calendar year of the first programme audit.

If a programme audit is carried out to terminate participation in the ITW, the proof of training for the current calendar year must be available for this audit. Companies that end their participation in the ITW by March 31 of a calendar year (= **deregister in the database**) do not have to provide proof of training for this calendar year. If participation in the calendar year continues beyond March 31, the training must also be completed for the current calendar year. The date of deregistration in the animal welfare database is decisive for the end of participation.

Do I have to take part in training even if there is a prolonged unoccupied period?

Yes, participation in training is not dependent on occupancy of the sty. As long as a livestock owner participates in the ITW and is registered in the database, the requirements must be implemented and complied with. This also includes attending training once per calendar year.

Who has to take part in a training once a year?

At least one responsible employee or livestock owner of the location must attend a training once a year. This person must be designated as livestock care personnel (e.g. in the QS list of livestock care personnel). The certificate of attendance for the training must be issued in the name of the livestock owner/employee. If a livestock owner/employee looks after several locations, the certificate can also be used for other locations.

The training of a person external to the company (e.g. consultant) cannot be recognized, even if they are included in the list of livestock care personnel. It is also not possible to split the training hours between several people (e.g. 4 employees who each received 30 minutes of training).

What must the proof of training look like?

A personalized confirmation of participation must be submitted as proof for each training (personalized for the person responsible for livestock farming). In addition to the name of the participant, the contents of the event must be documented on the proof of training; it is recommended that the duration of the training is stated. The duration of the training of two hours can also be proven in another way (e.g. via a programme overview, invitation or similar).

How long must the training be?

The training must demonstrably comprise at least two hours of content (equivalent to a half-day event). Different trainings can also be added together.

What content must the training include?

The content must be directly related to animal welfare and animal protection. This can include topics on management, husbandry, animal health, feeding and climate control in relation to animal welfare.

These include (non-finalised list):

- Specialist events
- E-learning, webinars
- Training specially agreed with the specialist consultant or veterinarian
- Working groups

Possible contents for the training events are:

- Animal-friendly culling
- Recognizing and interpreting animal signals
- Carrying out the animal observation
- Dealing with sick and injured animals

- Assessment of the transportability and slaughterability of pigs
- Tail biting, prevention and measures in case of occurrence
- Use of roughage
- Improvement of hygiene management
- Crate structuring
- Alternatives to anesthesia-free piglet castration

What does not constitute training that meets the requirements?

The following are not considered:

- Advice on business development (e.g. business management advice or construction advice)
- Sty tours as part of the advisory service, unless they are expressly organized as a training measure
- Sty tours in connection with veterinary herd inspections, unless they are expressly organized as training measures
- Sty climate or drinking water checks
- Internal training for company employees
- Visiting trade fairs or exhibitions
- Subscription to trade journals
- Membership of producer/advisory boards
- Training that is not related to your own production sector (e.g. training on the castration of piglets with isoflurane in a fattening company)

Who is allowed to hold training courses?

Training may be organized and held by all persons qualified to do so. This includes, for example, coordinators, advisory organizations, veterinarians, consultants, etc. Approval from the ITW is not required.

1.7 Daylight

Which sties require 3 % light-permeable area?

According to the Animal Welfare Livestock Farming Ordinance, sties that were put into use after August 4, 2006, must be equipped with daylight-permeable areas that correspond to at least 3% of the compartment floor area. Exceptions are provided for in the law for sties,

- in which 3 % translucent area cannot be achieved for reasons of construction technology and design, or
- which are to be installed in existing buildings, insofar as illumination of the area where the pigs are kept by natural light cannot be achieved or can only be achieved with disproportionate effort for reasons of structural engineering and design or for reasons of building law and artificial lighting corresponding as far as possible to natural light is ensured.

This means that in all sties, the average light-permeable area of the company (location number) must be at least 1.5 % of the compartment floor area. In sties that were put into use after August 4, 2006 (also applies to conversions), the average light-permeable area of the company (location number) must be at least 3 % of the compartment floor area. If this is not the case, the sties are considered a legally recognized exception.

A company plan showing window sizes, compartment and stall dimensions and the percentage of daylight areas must be available in all companies.

What are translucent surfaces?

This includes glass panes, Plexiglas (e.g. multi-wall sheets), glass blocks, frosted glass windows, skylights in the roof, etc. Ventilation shafts can also be taken into account, provided there are no flaps or similar in the shaft that could close off the area.

Window frames, glazing bars, joints in glass blocks, rotor blades in ventilation shafts, etc. are not included in the translucent area. In the case of perforated sheets and similar materials, only the respective perforated portion can be counted as translucent area. Windbreak nets in front of openings do not have to be deducted. The translucent surface can be installed in the walls as well as in the ceiling. The openings of doorway vents can also be considered, provided that they are transparent at all times and are not closed.

The light intensity is not evaluated. Accordingly, the required amount of light of 80 lux (see basic criteria) does not have to be achieved by daylight alone. A minimum distance to neighboring buildings is not defined, but daylight must actually be allowed through.

Only the translucent surface itself is considered. The scattering width of the incident light is not decisive.

How is indirect light evaluated?

The light can be transmitted via a maximum of one intermediate space (example: from a supply corridor with an external window area into the actual compartment; from a compartment with an external window area into the compartment behind it). Daylight is not considered for a further room (in a second cascade) behind it.

(Cellar) light wells also count as indirect light: Here, the area of the (cellar) well opening counts as a translucent surface and the window as the first cascade. Accordingly, (basement) light wells can only be considered if the window leads directly into the compartment.

A window with direct incidence of light can be used for several rooms behind it, provided they are only considered in the first cascade. This means that an external window in the central corridor can be used for several compartments with windows in the compartment doors, for example. The window area in the outer wall must be at least equal to the total window area required in the first cascade.

How are window areas assessed if heating pipes, feeding systems or similar run in front of the window or window recess?

A decision must be made on a case-by-case basis. If part of the window area is covered, e.g. by the sty equipment, the smaller light area must be considered.



Example: If there is a distance between a heating pipe running in front of the window and the window recess so that light can also pass above and flow past the pipe, the entire area can be considered. If the window recess is reduced in size by a pipe - as in the adjacent picture - the reduced recess size and no longer the window itself counts as the light area.

How is the size of the translucent surface calculated?

On average, the company must have at least 3 % light-permeable area in relation to the compartment floor areas, provided they were put into operation after 4 August 2006, and are not considered a legally recognized

exception. For individual compartments, the value may be reduced by a maximum of 20% (= 2.4 % light-permeable area).

For sties that were put into operation before 4 August 2006 or are regarded as a legally recognized exception, at least 1.5 % light-permeable area must be present. For individual compartments, the value may be reduced by a maximum of 20 % (= 1.2 % light-permeable area).

In the case of indirect light, the corresponding diffusers must be present in the intermediate and outer walls or ceilings. However, translucent surfaces do not have to be exactly opposite each other; they can be offset. Compensation is possible across sties under one location number and production scope. Compensation is not possible across production scopes or across location numbers.

In the case of indirect light via a central corridor with a width of up to 2.5 m, only the compartment floor area counts when calculating the required translucent area (in the outer and inner walls respectively). The length of the central aisle is not included in the calculation. If indirect light via a central corridor or an anteroom that is wider than 2.5 m is to be considered, its floor area must also be included in the calculation of the light-transmitting area of the outer wall. This also applies to trailing roofs, halls in front or other annexes.

The light-transmitting area must be calculated for each compartment. It is not sufficient to calculate an average of the daily light areas of the compartments. The decisive factor is the sum of the allowable compartment daylight areas divided by the sty floor area. This is defined as the sum of all compartment floor areas; central corridors or vestibules do not count, even if they are wider than 2.5 m. The compartment floor area, in turn, is calculated from the internal dimensions of the compartment (excluding projections), i.e. the crates and supply aisles.

Example of a sty that requires 1.5 % light-permeable area: Compartment A (with a floor area of 100 m²) has no external wall, but only receives daylight via a neighboring compartment B (with a floor area of 50 m²). In this case, the partition wall from compartment A to B must have a translucent area of 1.5 m² and compartment B in the outer wall must have a translucent area of 2.25 m² (the total compartment area is therefore added together).

The chargeable translucent areas must not be blocked at any time (e.g. by machinery or straw bales) or be largely overgrown. However, shading of light-permeable areas to prevent intense direct sunlight is possible (e.g. frosted glass). Openings may only be closed (e.g. in the case of outlets, ventilation openings) using translucent (transparent) material if the area is to be considered.

In the case of outdoor hutches (e.g. free-range housing), 3 % daylight must be complied with in the hutches (or 1.5 % if put into operation before 4 August 2006 or legally recognized exception); in the case of hutches or crates in the sty, the value must be complied with in the sty but not in the hutches themselves. If the animals are allowed free-range areas, the daylight area in the sty must still be complied with (no compensation for insufficient light-permeable area due to the free-range area).

Can light from angled adjoining rooms be considered?

If an anteroom or central corridor is fed with a daylight area from rooms branching off to the side or angled rooms, this area cannot be considered for a downstream compartment. In this case, the second cascade is reached and can therefore not be considered.

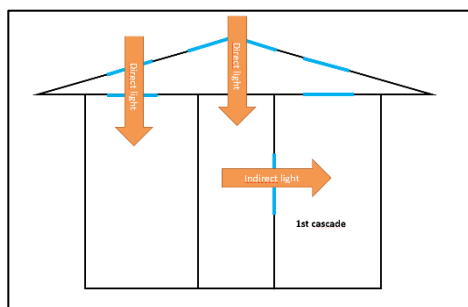
What must be submitted at the end of audit?

An operating plan must be available on which the window sizes, the compartment and sty dimensions and the percentage daylight areas are clearly shown.

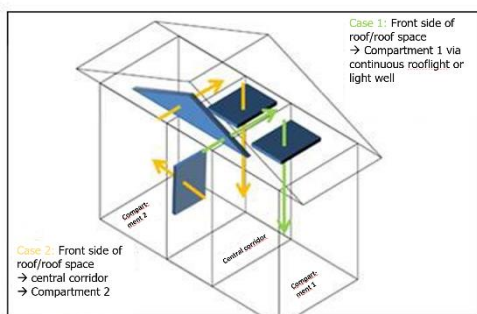
How is light from the attic evaluated?

A roof space with one or more false ceiling(s) can be counted for daylight incidence at a ratio of 1:1 (i.e. as direct light) if the roof and the false ceiling(s) are each fitted with appropriate translucent panels. The height of the roof space is not considered. The position of the light surfaces is decisive, so that an individual decision may be necessary.

Example: The light enters from above via light panels in the roof



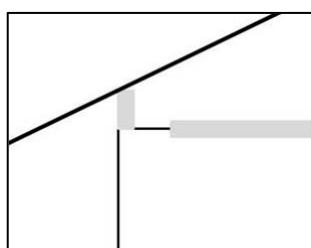
If direct incidence of light from above is made possible via a light panel, the light for the rooms below can be considered as direct incidence of light. In this case, indirect light can also be transmitted via the central corridor.



Example: The light falls into the roof space via the front side (gable front)

Light that enters the central corridor via the roof space from translucent gable fronts or from strip lighting in the roof and from there into the compartment is considered. Both cases in the adjacent diagram can be considered for the criterion *Daylight*. The following applies: In case 1, the light can be counted as direct light; in case 2, the 1st cascade is reached.

It may be necessary to decide on a case-by-case basis, as it depends on the lighting surfaces and their location.



Example: There is a strip light in the roof space directly under the roof overhang

In this example, the light entering through the light strip can be counted as indirect light for the adjacent compartments in the first cascade. It is not possible to redirect the light via the central corridor and then into the compartments.

In an open sty, is it sufficient to fit a spacer to the flaps to prevent the flaps from closing?

Yes, if the spacer is firmly screwed in place so that 3% or 1.5% translucent area is guaranteed at all times.

Can daylight luminaires compensate for a lack of daylight incidence?

No, every compartment needs (at least indirect) daylight incidence. Lighting systems that artificially generate the daylight spectrum cannot compensate for a lack of translucent surfaces.

Do clearly demarcated lounging areas have to be equipped with surfaces that allow daylight through?

No. Clearly defined lying areas may be darkened – these areas do not have to be equipped with 1.5 % or 3 % translucent surfaces. However, the lying areas themselves still count as part of the compartment floor area and must be considered when calculating the daylight for the individual compartments and the entire sty.

1.8 12.5 % more space allowance

How is the space calculated?

This refers to the area that can be used by the animals without restriction, i.e. the area in which the animals can move freely (internal dimensions of the crate). To calculate the net crate area, the area under troughs, feeders, scrubbing trees, partitions, watering bowls, etc. is not considered.

The space allowance is specified in the catalog of criteria. It is based on the legally prescribed area for the respective weight group (in relation to the average weight of the group) in Germany. The space allowance per animal may not be rounded.

Regrouping during fattening is possible, so that a crate can be occupied by more animals at the start of fattening than at the end.

Important: the larger space allowance must be complied with for every crate and at all times (even during marketing bottlenecks).

Do upstands and steps count when calculating the area?

Upstands, e.g. in front of troughs, and steps, e.g. between the straw and slatted areas, are included in the area calculation.

How do raised levels, such as "animal balconies", which are intended for animals to stay on, count when calculating the area?

Raised levels do not count as unrestricted usable space. This means that they cannot be considered when calculating the space allowance. The area below the raised levels may only be counted if it can be used without restriction. The area below the ramp does not have to be deducted from the unrestricted usable area of the crate.

How is the area underneath sty equipment considered when calculating the area?

The area underneath straw racks, hanging roughage dispensers, sloping scrubbing options etc. and within a call feeding system can be considered, provided the animals can use this area without restriction. Droppings slots on the walls can also be considered. The area under raised troughs and under deflectors on the trough is not considered as net available space.

What must be submitted at the end of audit?

There must be an operating plan showing the available net bay area.

1.9 Roughage

What is roughage?

Roughage is feed that is rich in crude fiber and structure. It must be edible, chewable, inspectable, moveable and workable. This includes (non-finalised list):

- Straw and hay in long, short and pellet form
- Silage (maize silage, grass silage, cob silage)
- Dry chips
- Alfalfa, alfalfa pellets
- Pea, sunflower and soy hulls
- Pomace, spent grains
- Cereal bran (also cereal husk bran)
- Grain husking
- Green meal cobs
- Straw press molds, straw/molasses press molds
- Miscanthus
- Peat (feed material)
- Employment (roughage) feed (here: with crude fiber content from 20 % in relation to dry matter)
- etc.

CCM, extraction meal, grain, grain meal, semolina bran, grain maize, wood, hemp ropes, jute sacks, natural rubber (e.g. teething roll), molasses blocks or mineral lickstones (non-finalised list) are not recognized as roughage.

Is switching between different types of roughage allowed?

Yes, different types of roughage may also be offered within a company or sty.

How can roughage be presented?

In addition to the legally required activity material, the animals must be given access to roughage.

The form of administration is variable: via racks, separate troughs or automatic feeders, on the floor. (*Note: there is no general approval of specific products or designs*).

The width or diameter of the container or rack is measured at the animals' head height.

The roughage must be offered in addition (= separately) to the actual feed so that the animals can choose freely. The requirements for feed hygiene must always be complied with.

Racks and feed dispensers may also be placed above the actual feeding trough if the roughage can then be eaten separately above the trough rather than from it. This applies regardless of the feeding system.

Even when feeding on slatted floors, it must be ensured that the animals can also pick up the roughage. For pellets or similar, a floor slab may be required.

How much roughage must be offered?

With all forms of presentation, it must be ensured that all animals - both the largest and the smallest - can reach the roughage and thus eat it. To this end, the roughage must be offered in such a way that all animals can easily access it, i.e. roughly between the floor and head height. It is possible to offer the feed above the animals' head height as long as they can stretch out their heads to eat it. If the animals have to climb or make greater efforts to eat roughage, this form of presentation is not suitable.

What quantities of roughage must be offered?

There are no fixed quantity specifications. However, it must be possible to ingest a quantity that can actually have a dietary effect in the gastrointestinal tract of the animals. Depending on the feed used, approximately 50 g per animal per day can be used as a guide. A quantity calculation or documentation is not necessary. It is also

not necessary to prove that the animals eat exactly 50 g of roughage per day - but they must have the opportunity to consume an appropriate amount of roughage. To ensure that roughage is always an incentive, it can be fed at intervals by taking short breaks. It must be ensured that it is available for the majority of the day (i.e. more than 12 out of 24 hours), day and night and especially during the animals' activity periods. The supply of roughage must be plausibly recognizable.

The list of criteria specifies for how many animals which feeding system of which size must be available. When selecting the feeding system and substrate, care must be taken to ensure that a sufficient amount of feed can be provided per day for the actual number of animals.

How can it be checked whether a roughage feeding system enables sufficient feed intake?

It is sensible and necessary to regularly check - both by the livestock owner and in an audit - whether a roughage system allows sufficient feed intake. In principle, the animals must be able to reach and eat the roughage easily and without major effort.

If the roughage is removed by the pigs directly from the roughage system (e.g. troughs, racks, holders), it must be ensured that the openings of the roughage system are large enough so that - depending on the animal size and the roughage used - a sufficient amount can be removed. Features for this are e.g.:

- When providing long straw, hay or silage: The openings are large enough so that several stalks always protrude from the roughage system, which the animals can take into their mouths and pull out, or large enough so that the animals can reach into the opening with their snouts.
- When presenting pressing cylinders: The openings are so large that the animals can reach into the opening with their snouts and bite off pieces of the pressing.

If the roughage is dispensed from a roughage feeding system, e.g. automatically at certain time intervals or after activation by the animals, it must be ensured that an appropriate amount of roughage is dispensed for the number of animals throughout the day.

To check whether a roughage system provides sufficient quantities of feed, the following approximate calculation can be made: Roughage consumption (amount of self-produced roughage used (e.g. straw/hay/silage bales) or amount of purchased roughage (e.g. press cylinders, straw bales, hay cobs) in relation to the number of animals fed.

If the roughage consumption in several animal groups or in the entire company and over a longer period of time deviates significantly from the orientation value, the roughage system may not be suitable or not set appropriately. There is a need for action here because the ITW criterion is not met.

How can I tell if a roughage feeding system is not suitable for roughage supply?

Roughage feeding systems are not suitable for roughage supply in the sense of the ITW if, among other things, the pigs cannot consume a dietarily effective amount of roughage. If the roughage is not consumed by the animals throughout the company and/or over a longer period of time, or only in very small quantities, the scheme or the roughage itself is not suitable or has not been adjusted correctly.

Signs of this are e.g.:

- One press cylinder is sufficient for several weeks in group housing
- A thick layer of dust forms on the roughage as, for example, racks do not need to be refilled
- On pellet machines, individual pellets are only dispensed after repeated operation

- Although the roughage is dosed out, it is not consumed by the animals (e.g. not tasty enough or of inferior quality)
- Long straw or similar materials are offered in racks with very narrow grid spacing or very small openings
- Openings to the roughage are so small that the animals may occupy themselves with the roughage, but cannot eat it
- The lower part of a rack narrows so that the roughage does not slide down on its own

What should you do if you notice that the animals are eating very little or no roughage?

If the roughage is not eaten or only eaten to a very small extent in several groups of animals or throughout the company and over a longer period of time (e.g. several weeks), there is a need for action because the ITW requirements are not met. In this case, both the feed quality, the selected roughage and the form of administration must be checked. Depending on the situation, it may be necessary to change the roughage or the delivery system.

Are pressed cylinders (e.g. made of straw) in tubes suitable as a form of delivery for roughage?

In principle, such a roughage presentation is conceivable (also for the presentation of activity material). It is crucial that all points of the criterion (especially the intake of a dietary effective amount etc.) are complied with.

When using press cylinders in pipes, it must be ensured in particular that the cylinders can slide down at any time. If the press cylinders are to be used as roughage and not just as activity material, they must be offered in such a way that the animals can actually eat them. If this is not the case, the scheme is not suitable for feeding roughage. It must be plausibly recognizable in the audit that the animals can consume a dietary effective amount of roughage and that the scheme used is not designed for significantly lower consumption.

One press cylinder is sufficient for a maximum of 20 animals.

Are pressed cylinders (e.g. made of straw) in troughs suitable for roughage?



With this dosage form, the distance between the rods is important.

If the pellets can be nibbled and consumed accordingly, then the variant is acceptable as roughage. If the animals occupy themselves with the pellet due to the small distance between the sticks, but cannot eat enough of it, the material can be considered activity material, but does not meet the requirements of the roughage criterion.

It should be noted that the full width of the rack is not recognized here, but only the width of the pellet, if it is loaded as shown in the picture.

Are free-hanging press cylinders (e.g. made of straw) suitable as a form of delivery for roughage?

In principle, such a roughage presentation is conceivable (also for the presentation of activity material). The decisive factor is that all points of the criterion (available for the majority of the day, possibility of ingesting a dietary effective amount, etc.) are complied with.

One press cylinder is sufficient for a maximum of 20 animals.

Are racks with adjustable openings or very narrow bar spacing suitable for roughage?

Care must be taken to ensure that the openings are large enough for the roughage offered and that the animals can remove a dietetically effective amount of roughage. Such racks may not be suitable for long straw, hay and silage in particular (depending on the size of the openings/spacing of the bars).

Do free-hanging roughage dispensers always have to be fitted with a base plate?

Such roughage dispensers (e.g. free-hanging pellet dispensers) do not necessarily have to be fitted with a base plate. Whether this makes sense must be decided on site - depending on the material used: if the animals can eat directly from the pellet in the pipe, a base plate is not necessary. However, if there is a risk of the roughage falling through the slats, a base plate is recommended so that the animals can pick up feed.

Is roughage feeding also possible via dry feed and liquid feeding systems?

Roughage must be offered in addition to and separately from the actual feed. Accordingly, dry feed or liquid feeding systems can only be used for roughage feeding, if it is ensured that the feeders, troughs etc. are used separately and exclusively for the roughage and not for the actual feeding. In the case of additional, separate liquid feeding systems for pure roughage feeding, the addition of smaller amounts of water may be possible to improve the flowability of the roughage.

The following special case of rationed feeding must be observed:

Troughs used for rationed feeding with a 1:1 animal/feeding place ratio can be used to present roughage between feeding times, if it is ensured that the roughage is offered for the majority of the day and separately - i.e. separately from the actual feed. The feeding times for the normal feed must be correspondingly short and the troughs must be clean and empty after feeding (feeding methods such as sensor troughs with ad libitum feeding are therefore ruled out). An appropriately hygienic presentation must be ensured for both the feeding of normal feed and roughage.

What trough width counts when feeding over a pipe?



If the pipe extends into a trough and the roughage is distributed in the trough (e.g. pellets), the width of the trough counts in accordance with the table (in the case shown, racks, troughs, wall-mounted, open side walls) in the catalog of criteria. If the feed is not distributed in the trough (e.g. press cylinders), the width of the trough cannot be considered.

How many animals does a 125 cm trough hold?

Depending on the type of object, i.e. the design of the trough or rack, the number of animals that can be fed at one object varies (see table in the catalog of criteria). It should be noted that the maximum number for the calculation always refers to a maximum of 100 cm. Even if the object is longer than 100 cm, no more animals may be considered for roughage than for an object of 100 cm. If more animals are to be fed, an additional object must be offered.

Example of a wall-mounted trough with closed side walls and 125 cm width for fattening pigs from 60 kg: maximum 55 animals. If 80 animals are to be fed, a second trough 30 to 40 cm wide is required.

The same calculation applies to straw bales: here too, 100 cm width or diameter determine the maximum number of animals.

How many animals fit on one roughage dispenser if it only has single openings?

The catalog of criteria specifies how many animals a particular feeding system is sufficient for. The specifications for the various racks, troughs and objects are calculated in such a way that the animals have access to the roughage on all open sides. If the accessible area is reduced by the fact that there are only single/few openings in the trough, rack or container, this may reduce the number of animals that can be provided with an object.

As a rule of thumb, if there are only a few openings (large enough for feed intake), a maximum of 20 animals can be counted per feeding place. The accessibility of the feeding places (distance to pen corners, sty equipment, other openings, etc.) must be considered.

What distance must a roughage dispenser be from pen corners or other feed dispensers?

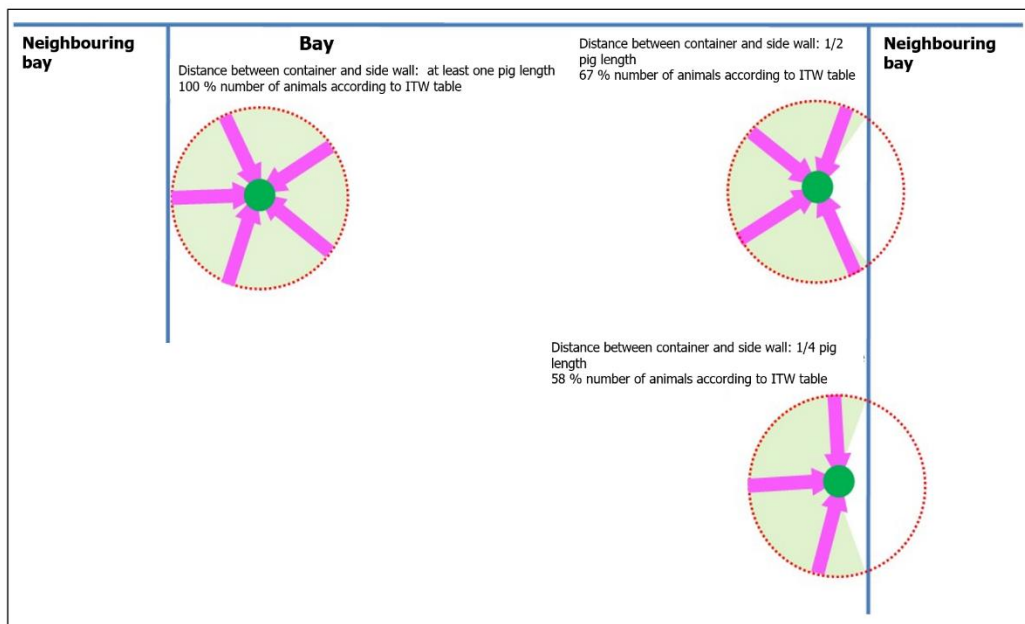
The catalog of criteria specifies how many animals a particular feeding system is sufficient for. The specifications for the various racks, troughs and objects are calculated in such a way that the animals have access to the roughage on all open sides. If access to the feed dispenser is restricted, for example because it is

- in a corner or
- next to another automatic feeder or
- for free-standing versions close to a wall

the container is proportionally sufficient for fewer animals. The following applies: In the case of feed dispensers that are accessible from several sides, approximately one pig length of distance must be maintained from pen corners or walls or other furnishings, so that the feed dispenser can be fully counted. In the case of feed dispensers that are only accessible from the front, the distance to the side walls and other sty equipment must be such that at least one pig can stand there without difficulty. It is also important to consider whether access to neighboring supply facilities (e.g. automatic feeders, etc.) is restricted.

For how many animals is a free-standing feeder placed near a crate wall sufficient?

The catalog of criteria specifies for how many animals which feeding system of which size must be available. The specifications for free-standing or suspended containers are calculated in such a way that the animals can stand freely around the container - with their heads facing the container. If a feed dispenser is located close to a wall or in a corner, then the container is proportionally sufficient for fewer animals. The following image shows examples of the calculation of animal numbers for different positions of such a container. Such accessibility restrictions must also be considered for other forms of roughage dispensers.

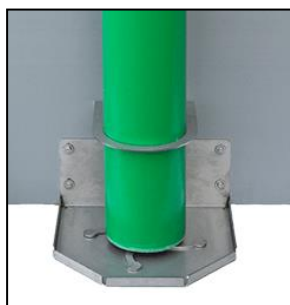


If a feed dispenser hangs on a pipe at approx. 20-30 cm distance from the crate wall and near a corner, as shown in the adjacent picture, the container is proportionally sufficient for fewer animals than indicated in the table.



A special case are round containers like the one shown in the adjacent picture, which are built into the crate wall and from which the feed is dispensed into a trough or bowl or onto the floor.

Such feed dispensers are not classified as round containers, but as wall-mounted troughs with open side walls (column b) in the table in the list of criteria) and can - considering the distances to crate walls, corners and other sty equipment - be counted with the corresponding number of animals. The number of animals can be considered separately for both sides of the pen wall.



Feed dispensers that use a pipe to fill wall-mounted troughs or collecting trays with open side walls are also classified in column b of the table in the list of criteria - taking into account the distances to pen walls, corners and other sty equipment.

How is feeder that stands freely in the crates but is only accessible from one side classified?

Feeders that are only accessible from one side - even if they are not mounted on the wall but placed freely in the crate - are not classified as free-standing but as wall-mounted (column a "Racks, troughs, wall-mounted, closed side walls"). Only objects that offer feeding areas for the animals at both the front and rear are classified as "free-standing with closed side walls".

What area is considered for ground feeding?

If roughage is offered on the floor, the area on which the feed is **distributed** always counts for the calculation of the maximum possible number of animals. The size of any existing floor plate or the area on which the animals distribute the feed is not relevant for the calculation.

It should also be noted that, in contrast to feeding in the middle of the crate, floor feeding that is dosed directly at the crate wall can be classified in column b) in the table [in the catalog of criteria](#) (see criterion 1.9 *Roughage*) – taking into account the distances to crate walls, corners and other sty equipment.

Can the criteria of roughage and legal activity material be combined?

The roughage must be offered in addition to the legally required activity material.

They must always be different materials and must be given separately from each other. An offer in a trough or rack is recognized if the two materials are separated from each other (e.g. board inside the rack) and access is possible for several animals at the same time. It is not possible to offer roughage and activity material on the same chain.

Can straw pellets be given as roughage and straw as activity material at the same time?

Straw and straw pellets, which also consist exclusively of straw, are considered the same feed and are not accepted. A combination with other straw feeds such as molasses straw pellets (compound feed) is possible.

Can the roughage also be counted as activity material?

No, roughage cannot be used as activity material at the same time. These must be different materials and they must be given separately from each other.

Different types of a material (e.g. wheat and barley straw; spruce and oak etc.) count as one material. Rapeseed or maize straw are classified as different materials from cereal straw.

Do littered sties have to offer additional roughage?

Companies with littered sties do not have to offer additional roughage as long as the litter is of feed quality. This means that the litter must be in a very good hygienic condition, at least in areas that cover a sufficient area for the animals to feed on the floor and must not be contaminated with feces or urine because it can be eaten. If it cannot be ensured that the litter is of feed quality in at least these areas, i.e. that it complies with the Feed

Hygiene Ordinance, a separate presentation (e.g. via a rack) is necessary. The same material as the litter or a different roughage can be used.

Does a company that uses straw bedding as a lying area need additional activity material or roughage?

Yes. If straw litter or other litter is used to create a lying area (see crate structuring), the litter (if of appropriate quality) can also be counted as either roughage or activity material. Simultaneous crediting as a lying area for crate structuring, activity material and roughage is not possible and at least one other material must be offered. If less than the required lying area is littered or the litter is not used for the implementation of the crate structuring criterion, the litter can be used either as floor feeding roughage or as legal activity material if it is in a correspondingly hygienic condition. Even then, the provision of another material - either as activity material or as roughage - is therefore necessary.

Can the roughage also be offered on raised levels?

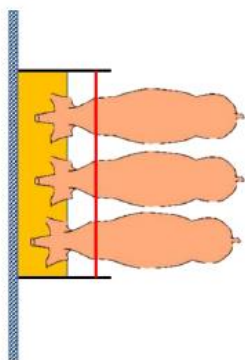
Yes, roughage may also be offered on raised levels for ITW.

What needs to be considered when purchasing roughage?

- All feed must always meet the QS requirements.
- In the case of mixed or processed feed materials, manufacturers and traders must be eligible to supply QS (due to certification). This also applies to straw pellets that are pressed with molasses, for example.
- If the products are Agricultural primary products (see definition in the QS guideline Agriculture Pig farming) (hay, straw, silage or similar; pressed straw that has only been pressed with water and under pressure), these may be produced or purchased without special requirements.
- Livestock owners who combine the feed materials into a complete ration (i.e. all those who do not only purchase complete feed) are considered on farm mixers by QS. They must participate in feed monitoring (organized via the QS coordinator).
- Primary feed is therefore exempt from the certification requirement, but not from consideration in feed monitoring.
- Drying companies, which carry out direct drying, are subject to QS certification.

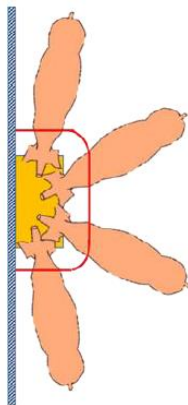
What are the basic patterns of roughage and employment facilities?

- a) Racks and troughs with walls, closed side walls



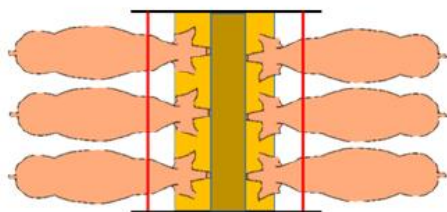
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- b) Racks* and troughs are wall-mounted, open side walls (also roughage dispenser in the partition wall)
(*in the case of racks, it must be checked in each individual case to what extent the narrow sides are actually accessible to the activity material for the pigs due to the structural design and installation height)



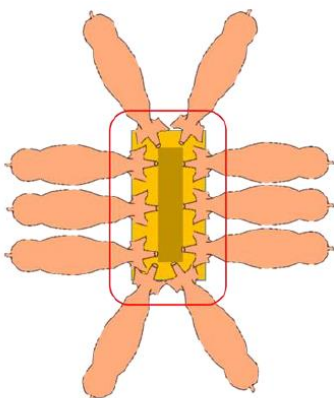
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- c) Racks and troughs free-standing or hanging, closed side walls



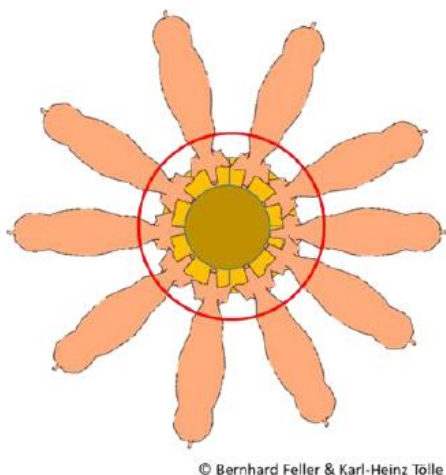
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- d) Racks and troughs free-standing or hanging, open side walls

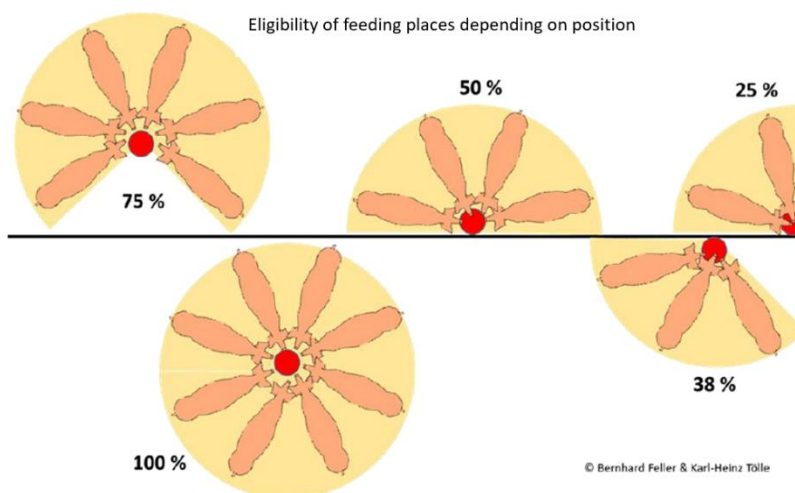


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- e) Free-standing or hanging round containers or selective floor feeding



- f) Restricting the accessibility of roughage and employment facilities



1.10 Crate structuring

Do the same crate structuring elements have to be implemented throughout the company?

No. All animals must be offered at least three of the defined crate structuring elements in each crate. The elements can be chosen freely. Different elements may be selected in different crates.

Can individual crate structuring elements be used for multiple structuring options?

If a crate structuring element can fulfill several functions without blocking each other, dual use is possible.

The following combinations are possible:

- With an appropriate design, the area below a raised level can also be used as a microclimate area and/or for different lighting conditions.
- If the walls of a microclimate area are accessible to the pigs on both sides, they can also be used as partition walls if designed accordingly.

- A microclimate area created by a lid or box can also be used for different lighting conditions.
- If there is a permanently available exercise area, the outside walls of the sty or hutches can also be used as partition walls, provided they are within the animal area and can therefore be accessed from both sides.
- The outdoor area can also be used for different lighting conditions if there is a permanently available exercise area.

The following combinations are **not** possible (incomplete list):

- Scrubbing devices cannot be used for roughage or activity material at the same time if the scrubbing and eating/activity functions block each other.

Contact grids

What does contact mean?

Contact grids must allow at least three pigs from one group to have direct contact with fattening pigs from another group at the same time. This means that the pigs must be able to see, hear, smell and touch each other. However, the contact grids must not pose any risk of injury. The distance between the grids is not specified.

Where should the contact grids be placed?

There are no specifications. However, when placing the grids, it should be considered that pigs prefer to defecate on contact grids. Placement above the trough, for example, is therefore not recommended to avoid soiling in the trough and unnecessary fights between the pigs.

At what height must contact grids be offered?

The animals must be able to contact the neighboring group in a normal, standing posture during all fattening phases. This means that the contact grids must be designed at least up to the pigs' head height in such a way that all animals can contact pigs in another crate at any time.

Does the opening of the contact grids have to reach the floor?

No. The decisive factor is that all animals - even the smallest ones - can contact pigs from another crate in a normal, standing position during each fattening phase.

Can the contact grids also be divided into two sections?

Yes, dividing the contact grids into two sections is permitted. The decisive factor is that each individual section must be at least 33 cm wide and the total width must be at least 99 cm. The division of the sections must also ensure that a total of at least three pigs can stand in front of the contact grids at the same time in each crate.

Can sty furnishings be attached to contact grids?

Yes, it is generally permitted to attach stall furnishings such as activity material, rags, scrubbing devices or drinkers to contact grids, provided that the specified conditions for contact (seeing, hearing, smelling, touching) are still met. In particular, attaching drinkers to or next to contact grids can additionally support the structuring of the manure area.

Depending on the size and design of the objects, it must be considered whether the contact grids are blocked and can therefore no longer be (partially) counted.

Can grids on mash feeders be counted as contact grids?

No, contact grids on mash feeders cannot be counted. In principle, the attachment of contact grids to the trough is not recommended anyway, as pigs prefer to defecate on contact grids and the grids are intended to structure this area. In addition, pigs are usually fed ad libitum (and with a 4:1 ratio of animal to feeding space) at mash feeders. This means that the feeders are occupied by eating animals for the majority of the day, so that contact with pigs from another group and the creation of a manure area is blocked. The design of the feeders – usually with grid sections that are less than 33 cm wide – also prevents them from being counted as contact grids.

Does the neighboring crate on the other side of the contact grids have to be permanently occupied by pigs?

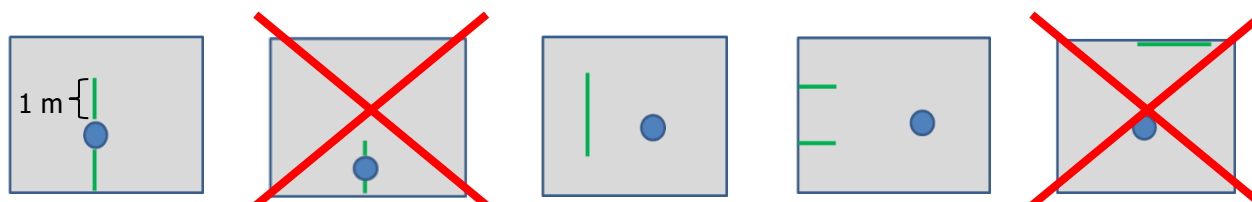
The neighboring crate must normally be occupied by pigs in order to fulfill the function of the contact grids. However, temporary unoccupied pens are possible in individual crates - e.g. due to the provision of separation or recovery crates or when selling off fattening pigs. If neighboring crates are permanently unoccupied, so that there is basically no possibility of contact with pigs from another group, another crate structuring element must be offered for the affected pens.

Partition walls

What needs to be considered when offering partition walls?

A (closed) partition (at least back height) must be installed in each crate, which is accessible from both sides. Each partition must be at least 1 m long. There must be at least 1 m of partition walls per group of 20 animals or part thereof.

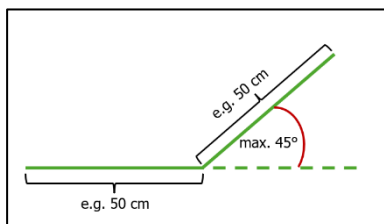
Example: possible or not possible (crossed out) variants (green partition wall, blue feeding system) in a crate for 40 animals:



The outer walls of crates are not considered. Walls of cubicles that are accessible from both sides can be considered. If outdoor areas are offered that are permanently available, the outer walls of sties or hutches can also be counted as walls for crate structuring if they are located within the animal area and can therefore be accessed from both sides.

Partition walls can also be arranged at an angle or in a T-shape, provided that each section is at least 1 m long. Partition walls of sorting gates also count, provided they are also closed and at least 1 m long.

May partition walls of one meter in length be angled?



The question here is whether the sections of the angled partition wall can be regarded as one continuous wall. Under certain conditions, such a structure is possible (see adjacent diagram). It must be ensured that the wall can still be accessed from both sides and that there are no bottlenecks. If the partition wall is angled by a maximum of 45°, the sections are regarded as one continuous partition wall.

How can partition walls be subdivided?

At least 1 m of partition wall must be provided for each group of 20 animals or part thereof. If several meters of partition wall are required, the required total length can be offered in several parts, whereby each partition wall must be at least 1 m long. It is also possible to offer partitions longer than 1 m, provided it is ensured that the required total length is offered. For example, two partition walls, each 1.5 m long, can be offered for a crate with 60 animals.

What is meant by different functional areas?

Partition walls must separate different functional areas from each other. For example, the separation of feeding and watering areas, activity and resting areas or the separation of individual cubicles within a larger resting area etc. is conceivable. Sty furnishings (e.g. scrubbing devices, drinkers or activity material) can be attached to the partition walls to control the functional areas – even on both sides. It is important that the visual protection is maintained by the partition walls.

What is the minimum distance between two partition walls or one partition wall and the crate wall?

No minimum distance is specified between two partition walls or between a partition wall and the crate wall. However, it must be ensured that there is no risk of injury from the housing equipment. The partitions should offer the animals opportunities to retreat and prevent fights between the animals. Therefore, the passageways must be at least wide enough to allow pigs to walk side by side or past each other and avoid each other, lie down and turn around.

Can walls with an integrated trough be used as partition walls?

Partition walls must be closed at least up to the height of the animals' backs and be accessible to the animals in a crate from both sides. If troughs are integrated into the partition walls, these walls can only be used for crate structuring if they are still opaque and thus offer privacy and retreat options for the animals.

Raised levels

What is the minimum size of raised levels?

No fixed minimum size is specified for the raised levels. However, the raised levels (and ramps) must be large enough to allow the animals to avoid each other, i.e. at least two pigs must be able to walk past each other unhindered. The animals must also be able to turn around easily on the level (and ramps).

How can raised levels and ramps be secured against animals falling down?

It must be ensured that the animals cannot fall off the ramps and raised levels. Grids, railings or side walls on the ramp and raised levels can be used for this purpose. Like any sty floor, raised levels and ramps must be non-slip and sure-footed.

How high do raised levels need to be?

If the area below the level is to continue to count towards the space allowance, raised levels must be high enough so that the area below can still be used by the pigs without restriction. This means that the animals must be able to stand, walk and lie underneath.

An area within the crates that is delimited by steps is not recognized as raised levels.

Microclimate area

How should a microclimate area be designed?

The microclimate area must be used to create different temperature ranges within the crates. This can be achieved with fixed lids or crate systems, for example. Depending on the animals' needs, the lid can be partially or fully raised. The microclimate area can also be created using a radiant heater, for example, whose radiation area verifiably heats the required area (depending on the animals' needs).

The microclimate area must cover an area of at least 0.3 m² per fattening pig. The temperature difference to the remaining sty is not specified.

Can the microclimate area be larger than 0.3 m² per fattening pig?

Yes, the decisive factor is that the microclimate area must demonstrably cover at least 0.3 m² per fattening pig. However, the microclimate area must not extend over the entire crate, as separate, different temperature zones must be created within the crate.

Can "cool pads" be used as crate structuring elements?

Whether cool pads can be used as crate structuring elements depends on the implementation. If the cool pads are used to create a demarcated, cooled area with at least 0.3 m³ per fattening pig within the crates, this is conceivable for the implementation of a microclimate area. If, on the other hand, the entire room is cooled (or heated), this does not contribute to crate structuring and therefore cannot be counted towards this.

Lighting conditions

Are there requirements for the minimum size of the area with different lighting conditions?

No. However, the basic idea of crate structuring must be decisive when designing areas with different lighting conditions. In addition, the requirements of the QS basic criterion lighting must still be observed. A sensible design of different lighting conditions within a crate is, for example, darkening the lying area and/or brighter lighting in the manure area.

How long do the different lighting conditions have to be offered?

The different lighting conditions must be provided for at least eight consecutive hours a day. The different lighting conditions must be offered during artificial lighting times and otherwise in accordance with the natural daily rhythm.

How can different lighting conditions be created?

Different lighting conditions can be created by using different light intensities, for example. This can be achieved, for example, by reducing the lighting or darkening the lying area, creating darker lighting conditions in a microclimate area using a crate or lid, or by providing a free-range area. It is important that the lighting conditions are clearly different from normal lighting and are provided in a clearly defined area - e.g. using partitions, lids, crates,

covers on light sources or spotlights in certain areas. Minimal distinctions - e.g. between warm and cool white light or light with different frequencies that are not clearly visible to the naked eye - are not acceptable.

Can different lighting conditions also be implemented by offering different colored light?

No. As the effect of different light colors on pigs is currently not scientifically proven, offering differently colored illuminated areas is currently not a possible implementation for this crate structuring elements.

Which lighting must not be used for the different lighting conditions?

Lighting that is unsuitable for pigs must not be used to create different lighting conditions. This includes, for example, the use of strongly flickering or flashing light. If a livestock owner notices that an area is no longer being used by the pigs due to the selected lighting conditions or that the animals are restless or negatively affected, the implementation of the requirements must be changed immediately.

Is a window enough to create different lighting conditions?

No. Even if the light directly behind the window is somewhat brighter than, for example, in a sty area further away from the window, a window alone is not sufficient to create different lighting conditions within a crate. Firstly, the different lighting conditions must be offered for at least 8 consecutive hours a day throughout the year, and secondly in a clearly delineated area. They must also contribute to the structuring of the crates. This is not usually the case with purely natural light alone.

Scrubbing devices

What is meant by scrubbing devices?

A scrubbing device must be installed in each crate and must be freely accessible. There must be one scrubbing device per group of 50 animals or part thereof. The scrubbing device must be installed at an angle of 40 to 60° (from the floor or wall) and must protrude into the crate so that the pigs can also rub their backs. The scrubbing device can be mounted on the floor or on the wall. Brush systems on which the animals can also rub their sides and backs (regardless of the angle) are also possible.

Which mounting height should be selected for the scrubbing devices?

It must be ensured that the scrubbing devices can be used by all animals (of any size).

What material must the scrubbing devices be made of?

The scrubbing devices must have a rough surface (example: roughened wood, checker plate, brushes, roughened recycled plastic). It must be ensured that the material does not pose a risk of injury (e.g. from splinters).

Open drinkers

What does drinking from an open area mean?

It is crucial that drinking water is offered in and taken from open bowl or basin drinkers. The drinkers can be equipped with aqua-level systems, nipples or other filling mechanisms. The animals must be able to drink clean, uncontaminated drinking water without any foreign odors from the open area.

How many drinkers must be available?

At least one open drinker must be installed in each crate. Open drinkers must be available at a ratio of 1:24; from the 25th animal in a group, a second open drinker must be provided, etc. The width of the drinking place is based on the width of the feeding place.

Open drinkers are not included in the legally required number of drinkers and must therefore be offered in addition - even if the legally required drinkers are already open drinkers.

Do open drinkers in feeders count?

Open basin drinkers in (mash) feeders are considered if the water basin is clearly separated from the feeding area due to the design (e.g. 2 to 3 cm high upstand or bar) and another drinker is spatially separated from the feeding area so that water can be taken up independently of the feed.



An automatic feeder like the one shown here can be used for four watering places, for example, if the feed and water are separated and there is sufficient space in the crates.

Can watering systems in or above a trough be recognized?

Drinking systems in the feed trough are not recognized. However, troughs that are used for rationed feeding with a 1:1 feeding place ratio and that are filled with clean, unclouded water between feeding times immediately after feed intake (e.g. via aqua-level systems) cannot be considered as drinking points for drinking from the open area.

Open drinkers above a trough (above the trough) can be considered, provided that this drinker can be used by all animals, even the smallest ones, and there is another open or non-open drinker away from the feeding place.

Can a nipple drinker be accepted by adding bowls?

A case-by-case assessment is necessary here. If the animals continue to drink from the normal nipple and not from the open area, the criterion is not fulfilled. A drip tray for dripping water is not accepted.

How many drinking places does a free-standing round drinker offer?

Free-standing round drinkers that are accessible to the animals from all sides can be recognized for as many drinking places as animals can drink unhindered and simultaneously from the drinker (e.g. with a diameter of approx. 40 cm approx. four drinking places).

Soft lying area

How much litter must be provided in a littered lying area?

If the lying area is littered, sufficient material must be provided so that the area is littered over the entire surface. Full coverage means that even if the litter is distributed inhomogeneously, the total amount would be sufficient to cover the lying area. Minimum bedding is not sufficient.

Does a company that offers a littered lying area need additional roughage and/or activity material?

If the lying area is littered with litter suitable for roughage (e.g. straw, excess hay, etc.), this can also be counted as either roughage or activity material (if the feed quality is appropriate) (see question "Does a company that uses straw litter as a lying area require additional activity material or roughage?" under 1.9 Roughage). At least one other material must therefore be offered.

Can more than the required minimum area be littered?

Yes, more than the required minimum area and also the entire crate may be littered.

Other elements

What is meant by other elements for crate structuring?

In addition to the eight measures mentioned above, further crate structuring elements are conceivable. As part of the ITW, livestock owners can select further options defined in the list of criteria under "Other elements".

Measures that are not defined in the list of criteria are not recognized for the ITW. Further elements can be included in the list of criteria after review by the operating company. There is no general approval of schemes.

Cooling facilities

How can selective cooling facilities be created?

Cooling facilities are technical devices such as pig showers that allow the pigs to cool down over water. The cooling facilities can be designed in different ways. For example, the animals can shower or moisten themselves with water by triggering the system themselves (e.g. a buzzer). Automatic control of "water pulses" via timers, separate control units, coupling with a climate computer, etc. are also possible.

The use of soaking systems is only possible if they have been specially converted for this purpose (conversion of the nozzles) and can be controlled accordingly.

Is the amount of water for cooling facilities specified?

No, the amount of water is not predetermined and can vary depending on the dosing method (jet, droplets, water mist). The decisive factor is that the animals have an effective cooling option at their disposal. In the case of automatically controlled variants (i.e. no self-triggering by the pigs), the intervals and water quantities must be selected so that the floor under the dosing system always remains moist (even on warm days). Covering the floor under the cooling facility is recommended so that moisture is retained for longer.

Particular care must be taken to ensure that the humidity is not too high, especially in schemes that use water nebulization.

Do the selective cooling facilities have to be offered all year round?

Yes, selective cooling facilities - like all other structural elements - must be offered throughout the year. Depending on the animals' needs, the control of the cooling facilities can be adjusted, e.g. by increasing or reducing the water dosage in summer and decreasing or reducing the dosage in winter. In principle, however, the cooling facilities must be available to the animals at all times and throughout the year and the floor under the dosing system must always remain moist.

Different floor designs

What needs to be considered with the different floor designs?

With the different floor designs, care must be taken to ensure that the requirements for sty floors (see QS Guideline Agriculture Pigs) continue to be met. In addition, the different floor types must be clearly distinguishable from each other.

Outdoor area

What is an outdoor area?

Outdoor areas are defined as areas outside the sty that the pigs can enter and leave independently, thus enabling each animal to perceive external weather influences and environmental impressions.

Does roughage have to be offered if an outdoor area is provided?

Yes, in the ITW the roughage criterion must also be implemented if the animals are offered an outdoor area.

How large does an outdoor area need to be so that no further crate structuring elements need to be offered?

The space of the outdoor area must be at least 0.2 m² per animal and at least 4 m² in total. The side walls of the outdoor area must each be at least 2 m long to ensure that the animals can avoid each other and turn around unhindered at all times.

Can an outdoor area that does not meet the required minimum size or dimensions be counted?

No. However, it is possible to include the outdoor area, e.g. to create different lighting conditions.

For what reasons can access to an outdoor area be reduced?

The time during which the animals have access to the outdoor area may be reduced for the necessary duration of cleaning or for a short time if this is absolutely necessary in individual cases for reasons of animal welfare. Animal welfare reasons may include, for example, protection from extreme weather (heat, hail, prolonged frost). If access to the outdoor area is restricted, this must be documented, stating the duration of the restriction and the respective reason.

A complete blocking of the outdoor area is only permitted in two exceptional cases: firstly, an official blocking, e.g. due to an acute epidemic, and secondly, the existence of a veterinary order prohibiting the use of the outdoor area for a certain period of time due to an illness. Both cases must be documented with details of the reason and duration and evidence must be provided (official order, veterinary certificate).

Can the outdoor area be added to the unrestricted usable area?

Yes, as long as the outdoor area is accessible at all times, it can be added to the unrestricted usable area. However, it must be ensured that the animals have sufficient space even if the outdoor area is restricted - e.g. in the event of an epidemic, veterinary orders or for animal welfare reasons. Therefore, even without an outdoor area, at least the space allowance according to the QS Guideline Agriculture Pigs must be complied with in the sty.

1.11 Purchase of ITW piglets

To whom does the criterion apply and what must be present at the end of audit?

The criterion is only checked in the audit for pig fatteners who exclusively purchase ITW piglets (identity as of birth) - the respective status is stored in the database by the coordinator, whereby the period retrospectively up to the last complete audit is decisive for the audit.

A list of all piglet suppliers must be available at the end of the audit. If the piglets are purchased from a livestock trader, the piglet rearing companies must also be listed. In addition, delivery notes for the piglet purchases and the stock book. At the end of the audit, random checks are carried out on the basis of the documents to

determine whether the information on identity status was correct and whether the piglet suppliers were authorized to deliver at the time of delivery.

Does the list of piglet suppliers have to be available as a separate document when purchasing piglets?

No. The decisive factor is that information on all piglet deliveries and suppliers is available in the audit for all fatteners for whom the criterion of the purchase of ITW piglets is relevant - even if the piglets are purchased via a trader. The suppliers can be documented via a specially maintained list (with assignment to the respective delivery) – other documentation options, e.g. via the stock book, delivery notes or similar, are also possible. It is important that it can be plausibly demonstrated at any time at the end of the audit from which piglet rearers the respective piglet deliveries originate.

Does a fattener lose its "identity as of birth" status if it purchases piglets from a piglet rearing company that is temporarily closed to ITW?

Yes, only those fatteners who exclusively purchase ITW piglets from piglet rearing companies authorized to supply ITW are considered "identity as of birth". If piglets are purchased from an ITW company that has temporarily lost its eligibility of delivery, the fattening farmer loses this status. He must register this with his coordinator within 14 days. The status "identity as of birth" can be regained 3.5 months after the last purchase date of the non-ITW piglets.

How can a pig fattener check whether the piglet suppliers are ITW participants?

The public search function can be used to check whether a location currently has eligibility of delivery for the ITW using the location number of a company (<https://datenbank.initiative-tierwohl.de/QSTierwohl/start/do>). The production scope eligible for delivery ("2008 piglet rearing") is also displayed here.

Do only ITW piglets have to be housed by 1 April 2025 if the status "identity as of birth" is specified?

Yes, if the status "identity as of birth" is specified on 1 April 2025, the higher recommended price applies to livestock owners directly from this date. Accordingly, it must be ensured that there are already only ITW piglets in the herd at this time. This means that only ITW piglets must have been purchased since around mid-December 2024. The piglet purchase is checked accordingly in the audit.

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