

# Explanatory notes on the Initiative Tierwohl

## Poultry - Peking ducks

### Structure

1.	Requirements .....	2
1.1	Basic criteria livestock farming, hygiene, animal health.....	2
1.3	Documentation of diagnostic data from the slaughtering: Participation in diagnostic data monitoring...	3
1.4	Daylight .....	3
1.6	Organic activity material .....	3
1.7	Additional drinkers .....	3
1.8	Shed climate check .....	4
1.11	Drinking water check.....	5

The implementation of the requirements in the Initiative Tierwohl is monitored at least twice in an unannounced audit in each year of the certificate period.

The specific requirements and thus the basis for auditing are laid down in the Poultry - Peking Ducks Criteria Catalogue of the Initiative Tierwohl and in the QS Guidelines for Poultry Farming.

# 1. Requirements

## General

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

All requirements always apply to all animals and sheds of a participating company. The company (= location) is defined by the disease-hygienic unit (e.g. in Germany according to the VVVO number) and the production scope (peking duck production). This production scope can be registered separately and independently from other production scopes (e.g. broiler production) under an official registration number (in Germany VVVO number). Within one Registration number (in Germany VVVO number) and production scope, no sub-sector can be excluded from participation.

### *Is it possible to participate with locations that contain unused shed where the criteria are then not implemented?*

Yes, but the shed must have been demonstrably shut down (supply lines for water and feed taken out of operation, ventilation system shut down, etc.).

### *Is compliance with national requirements mandatory for participation in the Initiative Tierwohl?*

Yes. If livestock owners are subject to stricter legal requirements that exceed the requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl, compliance with these requirements is checked in the audit. Fatteners must prove that they comply with the legally applicable requirements.

## 1.1 Basic criteria livestock farming, hygiene, animal health

### *What is assessed?*

It must be ensured that the husbandry of the animals complies with the law and is in line with good professional practice. During the farm inspection, the focus is on looking at the animals and the conditions in the shed; records and documents are used to support when appropriate or necessary for checking the criterion.

The requirements correspond to the currently applicable QS criteria, cf. the **Guideline Agriculture Poultry Production**.

**Important:** All requirements always apply to all animals and houses of a participating company. Companies that carry out rearing and fattening in the same shed also comply with all requirements and animal welfare criteria at all times during the rearing phase of the peking ducks.

### *How are the basic criteria assessed?*

The implementation of the individual criteria is evaluated on the basis of the evaluations "fulfilled" (A), "partially fulfilled" (C), "not fulfilled" (K.O.) and - conceivably for some basic requirements - "not applicable" (E) and documented in the audit report. The evaluation "not fulfilled" leads to withdrawal from the Initiative Tierwohl. In the case of the basic criteria, with the evaluation "partially fulfilled" corrective actions with deadlines can be agreed. The nonconformities must be corrected 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 signed out the corrective action, the location is blocked and therefore not eligible for ITW delivery and not entitled to payment. If a corrective action is not remedied (in due time), the audit will be considered as "failed" after the deadline and the company will lose its approval for ITW.

Important: If injuries (e.g. feather pecking), lameness or severe soiling have occurred in the animals, which indicate a stock problem, countermeasures (including deadlines) must be defined together with the (farm) veterinarian in charge of the stock care. These corrective actions must already have been initiated and documented at the time of the animal welfare audit.

### **1.3 Documentation of diagnostic data from the slaughtering: Participation in diagnostic data monitoring**

#### *What specifically must the poultry fatteners do and what must he pay attention to?*

The livestock owner must report the mortality of the flock for each slaughter batch to the abattoir. The mortality and the findings independently collected by the official veterinarians at the abattoir as well as the transport-related losses are collected in a central database and regularly evaluated.

Every livestock owner must be aware of the animal health based on the findings determined, either via the QS info letter which he receives quarterly from his coordinator or online via the QS diagnostic data database (Vetproof).

### **1.4 Daylight**

#### *Can light from the roof space be credited?*

Every shed must have daylight incidence, whereby the light should fall as evenly as possible into the animal area. The light incidence area must be at least 3 % of the shed floor area. The light can enter through windows as well as through light bands or translucent surfaces in the roof or ridge. The prerequisite is always that daylight actually enters directly the shed.

### **1.6 Organic activity material**

#### *What should be considered?*

The organic activity material must provide an incentive for the animals to occupy themselves with it. Hay or straw are suitable for this.

In addition to loose and dry bedding, which is re-spread daily, additional organic activity material must be offered in racks, nets **or baskets**. The organic activity material must be hay or straw or similar materials that can be plucked and picked up by the animals.

The number of activity materials provided must be sufficient in relation to the usable shed space. The employment material must be evenly distributed in the shed and easily accessible for each animal **at any time**. For this purpose, at least one rack, net **or baskets** shall be provided per 250 m<sup>2</sup> or part thereof of usable shed space.

#### *How must the activity material be offered?*

The activity material must be offered in racks, nets **or basket**. Organic material must be offered in such a way that the poultry can occupy themselves with it in a normal body posture **and feed intake**.

### **1.7 Additional drinkers**

#### *How must the additional drinkers be designed?*

The additional drinkers must be designed in such a way that the animals can dip their entire head into the water **at any time**. **To allow the ducks to immerse their entire head**, for this purpose, the water level must be sufficiently deep **of the additional drinker**.

### *How wide is a watering place?*

Additional watering places must be provided for the animals which allow the entire head to be immersed in the water **at any time**. These drinking places must be available **for a flock, which is hold together in the same group**, at a ratio of at least 1:250 animals. One drinking place can be counted as one animal width. Care must be taken to ensure that the drinking place to animal ratio is complied with even at the end of fattening when the animals are already larger.

## **1.8 Shed climate check**

### *When and how often must the shed climate checks be carried out?*

A shed climate check must be carried out before the initial audit and then once in each 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.

If a programme audit is carried out to terminate participation in the Initiative Tierwohl, the shed climate check for the current calendar year must be available for this programme audit.

Companies that terminate their participation in the Initiative Tierwohl by 31 March of a calendar year (= deregistration in the database) do not have to carry out a shed climate check for that calendar year. If participation in the calendar year continues beyond 31 March, the shed climate check must also be carried out for the current calendar year.

Shed climate checks must always be carried out in occupied sheds. Especially in the case of new sheds, the time of implementation should be chosen in such a way that the shed climate check can be carried out after the first housing, but before the time of implementation. If not all sheds are occupied at the time of implementation, the necessary checks must be carried out as soon as the animals are housed. In the audit, it must be proven that the sheds have not actually been used by the time the animals are brought in and that the checks have been commissioned in a correspondingly timely manner. If the results are not yet available, they must be submitted within a short period of time.

### *Who implements the shed climate checks?*

External experts who have registered with the operating company of the initiative. All experts approved for the shed climate check are published on a list at [www.initiative-tierwohl.de](http://www.initiative-tierwohl.de); you are free to choose from this list.

### *How many shed climate checks need to be carried out?*

As a minimum, one check per shed is required.

### *Are climate checks recognised that were implemented by experts before their registration and publication in the Initiative Tierwohl list?*

A check can only be recognised from the approval date of the respective expert. Experts must be on the list. The approval date in the list is decisive here.

### *What happens if deviations are found?*

If deviations are discovered during the shed 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. In the event of

deficiencies, a corrective actions report must be drawn up with the expert (including deadlines). Corrective actions must already have been initiated and documented for the initial audit.

#### ***What must be presented in the audit?***

In the audit, the certificate for the shed climate check (issued by an approved expert) must be shown; in addition, if applicable, the list of deficiencies with corrective actions report as well as proof that the corrective actions have been started or implemented in due time.

#### ***Does the original checklist have to be used for the shed climate check?***

It is possible to expand the original checklist, but the basic structure and form must be preserved and recognisable.

If a corrective actions report is created, deadlines must be set (either defining the time period or the date of implementation).

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

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

In the case of electrically operated ventilation systems, a functioning alarm device must be present on each company. For this purpose, e.g. either a signal horn or a signal light or a telephone dialler must be present. Which type of device (or which combination of devices) makes sense 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 in any case (e.g. also during the night hours or in remote sheds).

### **1.11 Drinking water check**

#### ***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 passes through sampling and water analysis.

If a programme audit is carried out to terminate participation in the Initiative Tierwohl, the drinking water check for the current calendar year must be available for this audit.

Companies that terminate their participation in the Initiative Tierwohl by 31 March of a calendar year (= deregister 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 31 March, the drinking water check must also be carried out for the current calendar year.

The samples for microbiological testing of the drinking water must always be taken in occupied sheds. In particular, in the case of new sheds, the implementation date should be chosen so that the drinking water check can be carried out after the first stabling but before the audit. If not all sheds are occupied by the implementation date, the necessary checks must be carried out as soon as animals are stabled. During the audit, it must be demonstrated that the sheds were actually not yet in use by the date of stabling and that the checks were commissioned in a timely manner. If the results are not yet available, they must be submitted shortly.

### ***Who implements the sampling?***

Company-external competent persons who have previously registered with the operating company. All experts approved for sampling are published on a list at [www.initiative-tierwohl.de](http://www.initiative-tierwohl.de); you are free to choose from this list.

If water from the company's own well is also used as drinking water (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 examined and the examination result clearly shows that it is an official sample. In this case, the sampler does not need to be registered with the Initiative Tierwohl.

The criteria catalogue (Annex 2) describes at which location and how many water samples must be taken. The quantity of samples as well as the respective location and date of sampling must be documented by the sampler in a protocol.

### ***Are drinking water checks carried out by samplers prior to their registration and publication of Initiative Tierwohl in the Initiative Tierwohl list recognised?***

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

### ***Can an official drinking water check be recognised (chemical-physical examination)?***

The drinking water check can be recognised with appropriate proof of an official sampling that was taken no more than 365 days before the initial audit or once per calendar year thereafter.

Note: For the exact implementation of drinking water sampling, see "Implementation instructions for drinking water sampling".

### ***What happens if deficiencies are found?***

If the analysis reveals that the assessment values are exceeded or fallen short of, a corrective actions report must be drawn up (including deadlines). These corrective actions must already have been initiated and documented for the initial audit. The aim is to provide the most suitable drinking water (= most important feedstuff!). If the values are not complied with, measures must therefore be initiated to reach the orientation values as quickly as possible. In the meantime, negative consequences for the animals must be kept as low as possible.

If the limit value for the degree of hardness (<21° dH) is not complied with, the animals must be checked by the veterinarian. If the veterinarian finds health problems or reduced water intake of the animals due to the water quality, measures must be taken to comply with the hardness level. If the veterinarian does not detect any health impairment or reduced water intake, no further action is required.

### ***Do each water source and location number (e.g. according to VVVO) need a separate investigation?***

There must be one physical chemical analysis (or several in the case of several water sources) 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, one sample per shed must be taken and analysed by the registered sampler for each location number and production scope. If several sheds belong to one location number, a sample must be taken from each shed.

***What must be presented in the audit?***

In the audit, the certificate for the drinking water analysis (issued by a laboratory) must be shown, as well as the sampling protocol of the sampler. 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 included in the laboratory's drinking water analysis certificate, it can be used as a record. In addition, the corrective actions report and proof that the corrective actions have been implemented in due time must be available.

**Gesellschaft zur Förderung des Tierwohls in der Nutztierhaltung mbH (Society for the Promotion of Animal Welfare in Farm Animal Husbandry)**

Managing directors: Dr Alexander Hinrichs, Robert Römer  
Schwertbergerstrasse 14  
53177 Bonn  
Tel +49 228 336485-0  
Fax +49 228 336485-55  
info@initiative-tierwohl.de