

Agricultural Manual

Catalogue of Criteria Poultry Production - Peking ducks



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1 Requirements

The ITW requirements apply to the production of Peking ducks from around the 18th day of life.

1.1 Basic criteria for livestock production, hygiene, animal health

The livestock owner must meet basic criteria for welfare-friendly rearing, hygiene and animal health. The below mentioned basic criteria are determined as part of the **QS Agricultural Manual - Poultry Production** in the chapters listed below. The main emphasis of the animal welfare audit is on the monitoring of production within the livestock housing. A comprehensive document check shall only be carried out should there be signs of any deviations.

Welfare-friendly rearing, hygiene and animal health:

- 3.2.1 Monitoring and care of livestock
- 3.2.2 General farming requirements
- 3.2.3 Handling sick and injured animals
- 3.2.4 Shed Floor
- 3.2.5 Shed climate and noise
- 3.2.6 Lighting
- 3.2.8 Alarm System
- 3.3.1 Feed supply
- 3.3.2 Hygiene of feeding facilities
- 3.3.3 Handling and storage of Feed
- 3.4.1 Water supply
- 3.4.2 Hygiene of drinking facilities
- 3.6.1 Buildings and equipment
- 3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm
- 3.6.3 Handling litter and activity material
- 3.6.4 Carcass storage and pick-up
- 3.6.5 Pest monitoring and control
- 3.6.6 Cleaning and disinfection measures


If anomalies are established - in particular with regard to injuries, feather pecking or beast skin lesions - counter-measures must be determined together with the veterinarian responsible for the livestock (plan of measures including deadlines). The livestock owner must implement this plan of measures by the deadlines set and document this.

 If required, plan of measures and its implementation

1.2 Antibiotics monitoring

The livestock owner must take part in the antibiotics monitoring.

The requirements are defined in the **QS Guideline Antibiotics Monitoring Poultry Production**.

 Information letter Antibiotics monitoring; Antibiotics database

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

Livestock owners are obliged to participate in diagnostic data monitoring. The central element of the diagnostic data monitoring is the systematic collection of indicators both in livestock farming company and in the abattoir. The indicators must be suitable for identifying the need for action to improve animal welfare. The indicators are at least:

- Mortality in the livestock farming (transmitted by the livestock owner to the abattoir)
- Paddel changes (recording takes place at the abattoir)
- Number of rejected poultry and main reasons for rejection (recording takes place at the abattoir)
- Transport-related losses (recording takes place at the abattoir)

The details are laid down in the **QS guideline on diagnostic data in poultry slaughtering**. The abattoir registers these indicators in the central database. The livestock owner must document the findings from the systematic collection of indicators (e.g. changes in parameters) and the measures derived from them. The findings database can be used for this purpose. The livestock owner receives the access data from his coordinator.


In addition, Peking duck farmers are obliged to document the number of animals delivered to slaughtering for each fattening run as well as the information received from the abattoir on the slaughter weight of the marketed animals of each slaughter batch.

 Documentation for participation in diagnostic data monitoring

1.4 Daylight

Every shed must have daylight incidence, whereby the light should fall as evenly as possible into the animal area. There must be sufficient light in all buildings so that the animals can see each other and be clearly seen. They must be able to see their surroundings and to show normal activity levels. The incidence of light area must be at least 3% of the shed area.

Evidence (documentation of window area, reference area and percentage) must be available.

 Proof of daylight incidence per shed and on average for the company

1.5 Shed floors

The housing is only allowed on fixed floors, which, by their nature, can be effectively wet cleaned and disinfected. The floor in the shed must be constructed in such a way that the animals do not feel uncomfortable, suffer or get injured. The ground must include an area that allows all animals to rest at the same time. Perforated floors or grids are only permitted below the drinking troughs. Fully perforated floors are not allowed.

1.6 Organic manipulable material

A low-stimulus environment must be avoided. The shed must be divided into rest and activity areas. In addition to clean, loose and dry litter, which is re-spread daily, all animals must have access to organic manipulable material in racks or nets at all times. A suitable material would be for example hay or straw. At least one rack or one net is to be brought in for every 250 m² of usable shed space or part thereof.

1.7 Additional troughs

The animals must be provided with additional drinking troughs that allow the entire head in water at every time to be immersed. These drinking places must be available in a ratio of at least 1: 250 animals.

1.8 Breeding line

Robust and healthy breeding lines must be used. The age at slaughter must be at least 35 days.

 Shed cards, slaughter result report, documentation of breeding line

1.9 Interventions on the animal

Systematic surgical interventions on animals, such as cutting beaks or claws and cropping wings, are prohibited (exception: treatment of individual animals due to individual veterinary indications).

1.10 Shed climate check

Before the programme audit (first audit) and afterwards at least once every calendar year there must be implemented a standardised shed climate check and the result must be documented.

The shed climate check has to be implemented in accordance with the implementation instructions by external experts, which are registered at the Animal Welfare Initiative. Shed climate checks must be implemented in occupied sheds.

Persons of for instance consulting organisations or companies for shed air conditioning implement the shed climate check with a checklist with appropriate implementation instructions, after they have registered at the operating company.

The persons approved in this way for the shed climate check will be published with their contact data in the internet, so that each livestock owner is able to find an expert in its proximity.

Procedure and extent of the shed climate checks → Annex 1.

If deficiencies are found during this check, the expert must list the deficiencies specifically. Together with the experts the livestock owner has to determine corrective actions (plan of measures including deadlines). The livestock owner has to implement and document the plan of measures.

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 defects with a plan of action as well as proof that the corrective actions have been implemented in accordance with the deadline.

 Certificate for shed climate check, if applicable plan of measures and its implementation

1.11 Drinking water check

Before the programme audit (first audit) and afterwards at least once every calendar year there must be implemented a standardized drinking water check and the result must be documented. The drinking water check includes sampling and water analysis.


Sampling must occur by an external sampler in accordance with the implementation instructions. Relevant persons implement sampling with implementation instructions provided by the operating company, after they have registered at the operating company. The samples for microbiological analyses must be taken in occupied sheds.

The persons approved in this way for sampling will be published with their contact data in the internet, so that each livestock owner is able to find an expert in its proximity.

Procedure and extent of the drinking water check → Annex 2.

With excess of the orientation values the livestock owner must determine corrective actions (plan of measures including deadlines). The livestock owner must implement and document the plan of measures.

In the audit, the certificate for 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 trough), name of the sampler, date of sampling. If these details are completely included in the certificate for drinking water analysis from the laboratory, this can be used as a protocol. In addition, if applicable, the list of defects with a plan of action as well as proof that the corrective actions have been implemented in accordance with the deadline must be available.

 Certificate for drinking water check incl. sampling protocol, if applicable plan of measures and its implementation

2 Definitions and related documents

Definitions:

Locations are always considered to comprise of: Unit with one location number (e.g. after VVO-number) in conjunction with the type of production, regardless of the number of livestock housing units/sheds/barns.

Related documents:

QS Agricultural Manual - Poultry Production, as amended

QS Guideline Diagnostic Data in Poultry Slaughtering, as amended

Initiative Tierwohl programme manual, as amended

3 Annexes

3.1 Annex 1 – Shed climate check

Extent and procedure of the shed climate check

The shed climate check contains

1. Functional test of the technology

- a. Actuators and fans: damper position, direction of rotation
- b. Airflow: cross sections and cleanliness
- c. Affixing and comparison of the temperature sensors: Position, $\Delta\theta$ max. ± 2 °K
- d. Air cooling device (if applicable)
- e. Ventilation computer
 1. Required temperature (possible curve)
 2. Minimum and maximum airflow
 3. Control range
 4. Alarm values

2. Test alarm

- a. Functionality of the emergency systems: battery status, actuators and similar
- b. Forwarding of the alarm to the telephone

3. Sensory evaluation of the shed climate

If required (e.g. in case of sensory detection of deviations in pollutant gas concentration or temperature):

- Inspection of the dimensioning of the ventilation system
- Implementation of further test (fog sample, measurements of corrosive gas etc.)

4. In case of detection of defects preparation of a list of deficiencies

3.2 Annex 2 – Drinking water check

Overview of the target values for the drinking water check

Extent and procedure of the drinking water check

The drinking water check contains a physical-chemical and a microbiological analysis. At least the listed parameters contained in the following both tables have to be examined. The orientation values may not be exceeded or fall below.

a) Physical chemical analysis

When using an own well at least one sample per water source (corresponding well) has to be examined physically/chemically. If more locations (= several location numbers or several production scopes) come from a common water source, a physical chemical analysis of this well by the registered sampler is sufficient. This analysis can then be used for several locations.

When using water from the public water supply a physical/chemical analysis is not necessary.

Table 1: Assessment values for drinking water (physical chemical parameters)

Parameter	Unit	Suitable for drinking water
pH value		5-9
Degree of hardness	°dH	< 21
Iron (Fe)	(mg/l)	< 3,0
Nitrite (NO ₂ ⁻)	(mg/l)	< 30
Manganese (Mn)	(mg/l)	< 4,0

Source: following BMEL recommendations

b) Microbiological analysis

At least one drinking water analysis per shed is necessary. The sampling must be carried out on the last through respectively.

Table 2: Assessment values for drinking water (microbiological parameters)

Parameter	Unit	Suitable for drinking water
Bioburden	KbE/ml	≤ 100.000
Yeasts and moulds	KbE/ml	≤ 10.000
Escherichia coli	KbE/ml	≤ 100

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