

Explanatory notes on the Initiative Tierwohl

Poultry

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The implementation of the requirements in the Initiative Tierwohl is monitored at least twice in unannounced audits (programme audit, stock check) in each year of the certificate period.

The concrete requirements and thus the basis for auditing are laid down in the *criteria catalogue for poultry fattening* of the Manual Agriculture of the Initiative Tierwohl and in the *QS Guidelines for Agriculture Poultry Production*.

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 by VVVO number) and the production scope (broiler production, turkey rearing/fattening). Each production scope can be registered separately and independently of other production scopes under an official registration number (in Germany VVVO number). Within one registration number (e. g. in Germany by VVVO number) and production scope, no sub-sector can be excluded from participation.

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

Yes, but the sheds 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 Poultry?

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.

When does the fattening phase begin in turkey production?

The fattening phase begins when the animals are moved to the fattening farm, where they remain until they are marketed.

If some of the young turkeys are moved from the rearing shed to a turkey fattening farm after the rearing phase, the fattening phase of the animals remaining in the rearing shed begins at the time of this partial relocation.

1.1 Basic criteria livestock farming, hygiene, animal health

What is evaluated?

It must be ensured that the husbandry of the animals complies with the law and is in line with good professional practice. During the company inspection, the focus is on the observation of the animals and the conditions in the shed; records and documents are consulted in a supportive manner if this is sensible or necessary to check the criterion.

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

How are the basic criteria evaluated?

The implementation of the individual basic 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, corrective actions with deadlines can be agreed upon for the evaluation "partially fulfilled". 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 release of audit report until the certification body has completed the corrective action, the location is blocked and therefore not eligible to deliver for the Initiative Tierwohl and not entitled to payment. If a corrective action is not remedied (in due time), the audit will be deemed "failed" after the deadline has expired: The company will lose its approval for the ITW.

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

What criteria must a recovery compartment for turkeys fulfil?

Every turkey owner must have a way to separate sick birds from the others. For this purpose, recovery compartments must be set up that allow the separated animals to have visual contact with conspecifics. For the Initiative Tierwohl, it is not necessary for each part of a location to have its own recovery compartment or recovery pen; a recovery compartment or recovery pen can also be used jointly for several parts of a company; this arrangement must be plausibly demonstrated in the audit. Of course, the distance and transportability of the animals must be taken into account here. All criteria (e.g. additional employment opportunities) must also be complied with in recovery pens.

The space allowance for animals separated in recovery compartments must be in compliance at all times with a maximum of 45 kg live weight per m² of usable space.

1.2 Procurement of day-old-chicks and rearing animals

What do poultry fatteners have to consider?

Day-old chicks from hatcheries or rearing turkeys for fattening from **breeding farms** may only be sourced from companies that are eligible to deliver for the QS scheme or a recognised standard at the time of delivery.

From 1 January 2026, turkey production companies may only purchase rearing turkeys for fattening from turkey rearing companies (locations) that are authorised to deliver into ITW. The eligibility of delivery must be checked in the ITW database at the time of delivery.

What do turkey rearing companies have to bear in mind?

Livestock owner with turkey rearing must have their rearing farms successfully audited by 31 December 2025 at the latest if they want to deliver ITW reared turkeys to ITW turkey fattening locations from 1 January 2026.

Are ITW-approved turkey rearing businesses only allowed to deliver to ITW turkey fatteners?

No. ITW breeding animals may also be delivered to non-participating turkey fatteners at any time. However, ITW certification of turkey rearing is also mandatory if rearing turkeys are only sporadically delivered to ITW turkey fattening farms within a year.

What do participating turkey fatteners have to take into account when operating a turkey rearing for their own fattening?

From 1 January 2025, turkey production companies with their own turkey rearing must register and have audited the turkey rearing separately with the Initiative Tierwohl. This applies regardless of whether the turkey rearing is registered separately under the same or a different location number.

1.3 Monitoring and Care of Livestock: Measures to improve foot pad health

What should be considered?

In order to protect foot pads and prevent diseases, it must be ensured that the animals have a permanently loose and dry bedding until the day they are turned out.

What to do if the litter quality is not optimal?

It can happen that the quality of the litter is not optimal (e.g. moist, encrusted, caking). In this case, measures must be initiated to minimize the possible negative effects on the animals and their foot pad health.

In such a case the livestock owner has to explain the taken measures to improve the quality of litter to the auditor in a plausible way (written overview of the taken measures or verbal explanation).

What measures can help improve the foot pad health?

With the aim of maintaining good foot pad health, the livestock owner takes measures that are individually adapted to the respective company or flock. For this purpose, livestock owners have access to relevant management recommendations for maintaining foot pad health in fattening turkeys and broilers.

1.4 Instructions for pre-destocking (only for broilers)

What should be considered?

Doors, gates and windows in the shed must be darkened against light incidence (e.g. by means of strip curtains or tunnels). Depending on the solar radiation and sun orientation, further site-specific measures are required. Covers must be fitted in such a way that a sufficient supply of fresh air remains guaranteed.

There must be a plausible, up-to-date concept that describes the implementation of the farm-specific instructions for action.

1.5 Lighting programme for sheds with artificial lighting: Twilight phases (only for broilers and fattening turkeys)

In which broiler sheds must twilight phases be offered?

Broiler owners who provide artificial light in their sheds during activity periods must provide their animals with at least 15 minutes of twilight before and after the dark period.

When must a twilight phase be offered to fattening turkeys?

Fattening turkeys kept in closed sheds must be offered a twilight phase of at least 15 minutes before and after the dark phase from the first day of the fattening phase at the latest. If fattening turkeys continue to be kept in the rearing shed after the rearing phase, the animals must also be offered twilight phases from the first day of the fattening phase. If turkey hens and turkey cocks were in the rearing shed during the rearing phase, the fattening phase of the turkey hens begins when the turkey cocks are moved to the turkey fattening shed.

What characterises closed turkey sheds?

Closed turkey sheds are characterised by their design, which includes side walls (also with windows) that, in contrast to e.g. Louisiana-style sheds, do not have any openings between the shed floor slab and the roof base (e.g. a jamb of the roof truss). Closed sheds usually have active ventilation systems to control the shed climate, as well as side doors or openings in the side walls for the animals to access outdoor areas, as well as window areas for daylight incidence.

How should the twilight phase be implemented?

The twilight phase is to be ensured with an automated lighting programme that, to end the dark phase, achieves the maximum required illuminance only after at least 15 minutes of twilight. For this purpose, the luminous intensity is continuously increased by dimming the lamps used. The same procedure applies vice versa for the required twilight phase before the dark phase begins.

What can be used to implement the twilight phase with artificial lighting?

The light sources used for lighting during activity periods must be dimmable and controlled by an automated lighting programme. It is not permissible to use non-dimmable light sources for the creation of twilight phases and to switch them off or on successively, e.g. by dividing them into different current or control circuits.

1.6 Proof of proficiency of the livestock owner: Proof of annual training of livestock owner

When and how often must the training be attended?

Livestock owners must attend a training course before the initial audit and then once in each subsequent calendar year. Further training that took place a maximum of 1 year (= 365 days) before the first programme audit can be recognized in the first programme audit.

If the first training course was completed in the previous year of the first programme audit (max. 365 days before the initial audit), a training course 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 Initiative Tierwohl, the training certificate 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 provide proof of training for this calendar year. If participation continues beyond 31 March in the calendar year, the training must also be carried out for the current calendar year.

What should be considered?

In addition to the required proof of expertise (cf. **QS Guideline Agriculture Poultry Production**), livestock owners must participate in further training measures at least once per calendar year, which impart knowledge e.g. on husbandry management, supply regimes or legal requirements. The main areas of training are listed in the Guidelines for Poultry production in the areas of knowledge and skills for expert knowledge. Confirmations of attendance at training courses must be documented with information about the technical content as proof.

For the initial audit, participation for the current calendar year must be proven.

What must be the scope of the training?

The training must demonstrably comprise at least two content-filled hours (corresponds to a half-day event). Different training offers can also be added up.

Who must participate in a training course once a year?

At least one responsible employee or the livestock owner or the main livestock caretaker of the location must always participate in a training event. This person must be designated as an animal handler (e.g. in the QS list for livestock care personnel). The certificate of attendance for the training event must be issued in the name of the livestock owner/employee. If a livestock owner/employee is responsible for several locations, the certificate can also be used for other locations.

The training of an external person (e.g. consultant) cannot be recognised, even if it is included in the list of animal caretakers. It is also not possible to split the training hours among several persons (e.g. four employees who each received 30 minutes of training).

Proof of employee knowledge

Livestock owners must ensure that all persons involved in the care or capture and loading of poultry have animal welfare knowledge and skills, including appropriate stunning and killing methods, in accordance with their duties and responsibilities.

Is it necessary to participate in training even if there is a prolonged unoccupied period?

Yes, participation in a training course is not dependent on shed occupancy. As long as the livestock owner participates in the Initiative Tierwohl and is registered in the database, he must attend a training course once per calendar year.

What does the proof of further training have to look like?

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

What content must the training include?

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

Possible contents for the training events are for example:

- Animal welfare appropriate stunning and emergency killing
- Recognising and interpreting animal signals
- Carrying out the animal observation
- Handling sick and injured animals
- Assessment for the transportability of poultry
- Feather pecking, prevention and measures in case of occurrence
- Use of activity material
- Improving hygiene management
- Structuring the enclosure environment

What does not represent training in accordance with the requirements?

The following are not taken into account

- Advice on business development (e.g. business management advice or construction advice)
- Shed tours as part of the advisory service, unless they are explicitly organised as a training measure
- Shed rounds in connection with veterinary stock control, unless they are expressly organised as a training measure
- Shed climate or drinking water checks
- Internal training for employees of the company
- Attendance at trade fairs or exhibitions
- Subscription to trade journals
- Membership in fattening circles/advisory rings

- Training courses that are not related to the registered branch of production (e.g. training on plant protection)

Who is allowed to hold training courses?

Training courses may be organised and held by all persons qualified to do so. These include, for example, coordinators, advisory organisations, veterinarians, expert advisors, etc. Approval by the Initiative Tierwohl is not required.

1.7 Participation in diagnostic data monitoring with measures in the event of abnormal findings

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).

What must the poultry fatteners do if action is required in the context of diagnostic data monitoring?

If conspicuous evaluation results in the QS info letter indicate a need for action, the livestock owner is obliged to appoint an external consultant and to clarify the causes with him without delay. Once the causes of the conspicuous evaluation results have been established, the livestock owner must draw up a corrective actions report together with the advisor, which will enable the causes identified to be eliminated or deficiencies to be rectified without delay. The time of implementation of each defined measure must be documented.

How long until a corrective actions report must be created once the need for action has been identified?

In the event of conspicuous findings, proof of consultation and a corrective actions plan must be provided within 42 days (6 weeks) of the key date calculation. The QS info letter offers a corresponding corrective actions plan for animal health advice as a working aid.

A corrective actions plan and proof of advice can also be drawn up independently of the evaluation results of the QS info letter if anomalies are detected in relevant slaughter batches. These can also be used as evidence in the audit.

What must a corrective actions plan for animal health advice at least include?

The documentation of a corrective actions plan must contain at least the following information:

- Location name (shed) and official registration number
- First name/last name of external consultant with details of the consulting company
- Date of consultation (date)
- Details (with specific reference) of cause/reason and the conspicuous findings
- Description of the need for action as plausible measure(s)
- Start of implementation of the measure(s)

Recommendation: If the quarterly monitoring of QS (see QS info letter) has identified a need for action due to conspicuous slaughter findings, the development of these findings should be considered further as part of the farm-specific animal health advice with the next slaughter result reports or QS info letter.

Who may carry out the consultations on an individual company basis?

Individual company consultations may be organised and held by all persons qualified to do so. These include, for example, advisors from the fattening circles, advisory organisations, veterinarians, feed consultants, etc. Approval by the Initiative Tierwohl is not required.

1.8 Additional activity options

What should be considered when creating additional activity opportunities?

Straw, hay or wood shavings bales in compressed form also serve as suitable activity material - also on bedding made of the same material - as long as these bales have not reached the given floor level of the bedding due to consumption.

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.

For broilers, at least one additional activity material must be provided per 100 m² or part thereof of usable floor space (sufficient for approx. 2,000 birds).

For turkeys, at least one additional activity material must be provided per 400 m² or part thereof of usable floor space.

In the audit, it is checked how much additional activity material is available to the animals in relation to the usable shed area.

Is it acceptable to offer the same bales (e.g. of straw, hay, etc.) to a group of animals at the same time as both additional activity material and as a modifiable structural element (see 1.10 Structuring the environment/raised levels)?

No. An element cannot be used simultaneously as an additional activity material and as a modifiable structural element – or vice versa – for a group of animals (see 1.10 Structuring the environment/raised levels). However, it is possible to use a certain number of bales as activity material and other bales as a raised level.

Further activity material for use against behavioural abnormalities

If behavioural abnormalities (e.g. feather pecking and/or cannibalism) occur despite the continuous use of additional activity material, further suitable activity material beyond that already offered must be offered immediately. This activity material must not have been offered to the flock prior to the time of the behavioural abnormalities observed. It must not be consumable or movable but at least pickable. However, it must be available at all times on the company for immediate use in the shed.

1.9 Bigger space allowances

What should be considered?

The space allowance for each housing group in a shed must be chosen in such a way that during the entire housing period all animals can easily reach food and drinking water, the animals can move around and perform normal behavioural patterns (e.g. dust bathing and wing flapping). Any animal wishing to

move from a confined area to an open area must always be able to do so. Ventilation capacity must be taken into account when planning space allowance.

Are additional levels allowed to increase space allowance?

Yes. The installation of an additional level to increase the space allowance is possible if this area is also fully usable in the sense of a usable shed area (cf. definition).

Definition of 'usable shed area': This refers to the usable area that is littered and accessible at all times for each flock in a shed that is kept together as a group. The area under the supply lines (troughs and drinkers) can be added to the usable shed area if these are height-adjustable and it is ensured that the area under the troughs and drinkers can be used by the animals.

How can outdoor climate areas be taken into account in the space allowance?

A littered outdoor climate area that broilers have free access to at least when they reach the stocking density limit in the shed and turkeys from the ninth week of life at the latest at any time (see permissible exceptions) can be added to the usable area at 100%.

If an outdoor area offered to the animals has to be blocked temporarily due to approved exceptions, the relevant stocking densities specified in the **QS Guidelines Agriculture Poultry Production** must not be exceeded in the fattening cycle, based on the usable shed area.

What exceptions allow access to the outdoor climate area to be restricted or closed off?

If there is a veterinary indication or if the environment is covered with snow or if the temperatures in the outdoor enclosure are very cold (several days below freezing point ($< 0^{\circ}\text{C}$)), access to the outdoor enclosure may be restricted for a certain period or closed for the period specified by the veterinarian.

What should be considered in planning and stocking density calculations for compliance with the space allowance?

Three consecutive passages must always be taken into account when planning the stocking density and calculating the space allowance.

On average of three consecutive runs, the stocking density per flock of a shed, which is kept together as a group (in kg live weight per m^2 usable shed area), must be taken into account at the time of marketing.

In the case of several marketings within one run, only the pre-destockings for themselves and the main destockings for themselves are used for comparison.

Broiler

On average over three consecutive runs, the stocking density must be 35 kg live weight per m^2 of usable shed area per flock group in a shed and must not be exceeded.

Turkey

On average over three consecutive runs, the stocking density must be 48 kg live weight per m^2 usable shed area per flock group of a shed for hens and 53 kg live weight per m^2 usable shed area per flock group of a shed for cocks and must not be exceeded.

If turkey hens or turkey cocks are temporarily kept in a shed as flock groups, the space allowance for both sexes must be planned and complied with separately - i.e. the cock passages for themselves and the hen passages for themselves. If hens and cocks are fattened alternately as flock groups in one shed, the successive passes per sex must also be considered. This also applies if the individual runs of one sex are interrupted by runs of the other sex.

The maximum stocking density (according to the **QS Guideline Agriculture Poultry Production**) may not be exceeded at any time. Such an excess - even in a single run - cannot be compensated for in the average of three runs.

Notes: *If, in exceptional cases, a second pre-destocking of the flock group takes place per company in one run before the main destocking (final destocking), this does not necessarily have to be observed, as there is rarely comparability of three consecutive runs.*

What do livestock owners need to bear in mind when they increase the usable floor space by adding raised levels?

The area that can be added by means of raised levels is limited to a maximum of 10 % of the original usable shed area. These must be littered for broilers and can also be accepted as perforated levels for turkeys. The space allowance can be increased by such raised levels if the surface that the birds can stand on and the floor level below can be used without restriction. The minimum height of the raised level must reach at least the height of the animals' backs. When using raised levels as increased space allowances, livestock owners must observe the building regulations for the relevant shed as well as official requirements. Supply lines are to be designed according to the number of animals (*c.f.* **QS Guideline Agriculture Poultry Production**).

What do fattening farmers have to prove for the first programme audit?

In the first programme audit, plausible and written evidence must be provided that the space allowance is planned in such a way that the maximum live weight per m² is not exceeded for each group of flocks with the stock available on the company. If, at the time of a follow-up audit, less than three runs have been marketed from a shed, plausible, comprehensible planning calculations must be available.

How is the increased space allowance calculated for Austrian fattening farms and what stocking densities are accepted for the Initiative Tierwohl Poultry?

Broiler

For the calculation of the stocking density for broiler, two calculations are made due to the different definition of the shed area. For the calculation by definition according to Austrian law, the available shed area as gross area per flock group is used as a reference value for live weight. This also takes into account those shed areas that are available but cannot be used, e.g. those that are not accessible to the animals below the supply lines. In addition, raised levels, **which are able to be traversed**, can be taken into account **as structural elements** with an area of max. 10 % of the available shed area into account to increase the space allowance. On average over three consecutive runs, the nationally defined upper stocking limit of 30 kg live weight per m² of shed area and flock group must not be exceeded.

For the calculation according to the requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl Poultry, only the usable and littered shed area that is actually available to the animals is used as a reference value for the live weight (cf. definition of usable shed area). The average stocking density of 35 kg live weight per m² and flock group must not be exceeded at any time during three consecutive runs.

Turkey

The stocking density is calculated according to the requirements of the Initiative Tierwohl Poultry. On average over three consecutive runs, the nationally defined maximum stocking density of 40 kg live weight per m² of usable shed area and flock group must be complied with.

1.10 Structuring the environment/raised levels

Can fixed and modifiable structural elements be combined in a shed?

Yes. All possible structural elements can be combined with each other (e.g. perches with modifiable structural elements or jump tables).

What needs to be considered if at least 5 % of the available usable area in a broiler shed cannot be set up as jump tables?

At least 5 % of the usable floor area must be equipped with raised levels. If perches are used that fall short of the minimum area of 5 %, the required area of raised levels can be supplemented with, for example, high-pressure bales or perches. This rule also applies in reverse if perches are primarily installed.

From when must raised levels be provided as structural elements for fattening turkeys?

Fattening turkeys must be able to use raised levels as structural elements from the first day of the fattening phase at the latest. The turkeys remaining in the rearing shed for fattening must be provided with raised levels (see above) from the first day of the fattening phase.

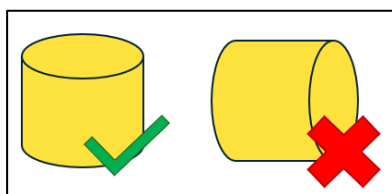
Which materials may be used as modifiable structural elements?

All good quality materials (hygienic, clean, dry, apparently free from fungal infestation) that are suitable as modifiable structural elements (e.g. straw-, hay-, grass seed straw-, wood shavings-bales) may be used.

How do high-pressure bales differ from square bales in terms of meeting the requirements for a specified number of bales per shed area?

High-pressure bales in a square format are categorised as either small high-pressure bales or large square bales based on their bale width. If the width of a bale measures 80 cm or less, then it is considered a high-pressure bale. If the bale width is over 80 cm, then it is considered a square bale. These bales come in a variety of rectangular formats. High-pressure bales are suitable for use with broilers and square/round bales with turkeys.

What requirements apply to round bales when they are used as modifiable structural elements?



If round bales are used as modifiable structural elements or to create raised levels, they must have a minimum diameter of 120 cm. The round bales must be used in an upright position (see figure opposite) so that the rounded top end can be used by the animals as a raised level. Round bales that have been laid down horizontally are not recognised as modifiable structural elements for creating raised levels.

1.11 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; 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).

1.12 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; 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
Schwertberger Str. 14
53177 Bonn
Tel +49 228 336485-0
Fax +49 228 336485-55
info@initiative-tierwohl.de