

Requirements Catalogue Pet food

Conditions of participation for Transport service providers and storage (raw materials for pet food), processing plants (raw materials for pet food), pet food plants, private labellers, wholesaler and broker (pet food)

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1 Introduction

In the Initiative Tierwohl (ITW), companies and associations from agriculture, the meat industry and food retail have joined forces to promote more animal-friendly and sustainable meat production. In future, they want to continue offering poultry and pork (including by-products from these animal species for the production of pet food) of outstanding quality and in a wide variety, while at the same time placing animal welfare even more firmly at the heart of their activities. To this end, a comprehensive programme to promote animal welfare on farms has been developed in collaboration with industry, science and interest groups.

A prerequisite for marketing pet food with the seal is that the meat and animal by-products originate from animals that were kept by certified animal keepers who were approved by the Initiative Tierwohl at the time the animals were delivered to the abattoir. All companies involved in marketing are obliged to provide a guarantee regarding the delivery of ITW raw materials (as defined in Chapter 3.1.1 Requirements for raw materials for ITW pet food and chews) and ITW semi-finished or finished products only to those companies that participate in the ITW. Upon delivery of the goods, the participating companies will only provide a guarantee of compliance with the ITW-specific animal welfare criteria to companies that participate in the ITW. Corresponding ITW raw materials and ITW semi-finished or finished products may only be marketed to customers who do not participate in the ITW as conventional goods without a guarantee of specific animal welfare criteria.

2 Terms and conditions of participation

2.1 Participants, participation

This catalogue of requirements sets out the conditions of participation for transport service providers and storage (raw materials for pet food), processing plants (raw materials for pet food), pet food plants, private labellers, wholesaler and broker (pet food) participating in the Initiative Tierwohl (Animal Welfare Initiative, hereafter ITW) for the labelling of pet food with the ITW seal. Participation in the ITW system for pet food is based on certification in accordance with the requirements of the QS system. Quality assurance systems recognised by the ITW from other standardisation bodies may be confirmed by the committees of the sponsoring organisation as a comparable standard for the respective animal species and level. Access to the Initiative Tierwohl is open to all companies.

The catalogue of requirements covers the following process chain for the production of pet food as well as the storage and trade of pet food:

Transport and storage: Within the meaning of the catalogue of requirements, these are companies involved in the storage and transport of Category 3 raw materials.

Processing plant: A plant or facility for the processing of animal by-products in accordance with Article 24(1)(a) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009, in which animal by-products are processed. Within the meaning of the list of requirements, this includes companies that extract animal fats and proteins from relevant animal species, separate meat or carry out similar processes for the utilisation of meat and by-products in the production chain of pet food and are not classified as pet food businesses.

Pet food plant: A business or facility for the production of pet food or meat extracts for flavour enhancement in accordance with Article 24(1)(e) of Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009.

Private labelling: Any company that sells pet food under its own brand name or company name as ITW goods manufactured by another company is engaged in private labelling. The private labeller may have the pet food

manufactured by another company (contract manufacturer) according to its requirements or take delivery of the goods from the manufacturer without its own requirements and distribute them under its own name. Both the manufacturer and the client (private labeller) are required to participate.

Wholesale: Companies that store packaged and unpackaged pet food in designated business premises. They carry out commercial activities by selecting their suppliers themselves or on behalf of others and purchasing goods for the purpose of resale. The following processes are also permitted within the scope of their activities: primary packaging, order picking (including transport packaging for end consumer products), repalletising, turning (turning inside out), freezing and thawing.

Broker: Companies that carry out trading activities, act as distributors for manufacturing companies or are listed as distributors of goods. Brokers may be the owners of the goods without actually possessing them or coming into contact with them. They may organise logistics activities in their own name or through service providers.

Table 1: Overview of production types

Type of Company (stage)	Production scope ITW	Explanations
Transport (raw material pet food)	501	Complies with production type 501 in the QS system
Storage (raw material pet food)	505	corresponds to production type 505 in the QS system
Processing plant (raw material pet food)	510	corresponds to production type 510 in the QS system
Pet food plant	515	Complies with production type 515 in the QS system
Wholesale (pet food)	520	Complies with production type 520 in the QS system
Private labelling (pet food)	525	corresponds to production type 525 in the QS system
Broker (pet food)	530	Complies with production type 530 in the QS system

2.2 Registration

Companies that decide to participate in the Initiative Tierwohl can register using the registration form available in the download area of the Initiative Tierwohl website or by contacting the initiative's office directly by email. A participation declaration will then be concluded with the sponsoring organisation. The costs incurred in this context shall be borne by the companies themselves.

The participation declaration for the Initiative Tierwohl imposes the following obligations on companies, among others:

Obligation to report quantities

The participation declaration with the Initiative Tierwohl includes the obligation to report quantities: To this end, companies must report the quantities of pork, poultry and/or beef purchased from participating suppliers and delivered to participating customers to the neutral external service provider commissioned by the operating agency by 15 April (Q3 + Q4) and 15 October (Q1 + Q2) of each year, the neutral external service provider commissioned by the sponsoring organisation of the quantities of pork, poultry and/or beef as well as animal by-products (including animal fats and proteins) from these animal species and pet food products made from them that they

have purchased from participating suppliers and delivered to participating customers, broken down by the respective suppliers and customers.

Control and verification obligation

Participating companies must undergo an annual independent inspection by a certification body approved by the Initiative Tierwohl. This inspection verifies compliance with the requirements of this catalogue of requirements. The inspection is carried out on the basis of the "Checkliste Heimtierfutter" (Initiative Tierwohl Animal Welfare Catalogue of Requirements for Pet Food). The companies themselves are responsible for commissioning the audits.

3 Requirements for transport service providers and storage, processing plants, pet food plants, private labellers, wholesaler and broker of ITW pet food

3.1 Product and process requirements

3.1.1 Requirements for raw materials for ITW pet food and chews

The production of ITW pet food is subject to special requirements regarding the use of raw meat materials.

ITW raw materials are sourced exclusively from abattoirs and processing plants participating in the ITW system, or from intermediaries or processing plants that slaughter and/or cut up pigs, turkeys, chickens, ducks or cattle. A distinction is made between so-called "ITW goods" (food) and "raw materials from ITW sources". Both raw materials are permitted for the production of ITW pet food.

ITW goods (food)

Meat fit for human consumption and/or animal by-products from pigs, turkeys, chickens, ducks and cattle that have been produced and/or marketed in accordance with the requirements of the QS or ITW system in an authorised establishment.

Raw materials from ITW sources

Raw materials suitable for human consumption from ITW-approved establishments that do not meet the specific ITW requirements for food. This includes, for example, mechanically separated meat, pig spinal cord, poultry offal cooled with spin chillers, and meat and/or animal by-products not suitable for human consumption (CAT 3), including proteins and/or fats derived therefrom from pigs, turkeys, chickens, ducks and cattle. These raw materials meet the legal requirements for raw materials for pet food and chews made from animal by-products or derived products and the specific requirements for raw material selection in accordance with Regulation (EU) No. 142/2011.

Negative list

The following raw materials are not permitted for the production of ITW pet food and chews made from animal by-products or derived products:

- Category 1 material
- Category 2 material
- Kitchen and catering waste
- Centrifuge or separator sludge from milk processing, which has been produced during the production of products intended for human consumption
- Wool
- Day-old chicks killed for commercial reasons

3.2 Identity of raw materials from poultry, pigs and cattle

3.2.1 Labelling of identical goods

The following requirements apply to the labelling of ITW raw materials (as defined in Chapter 3.1.1):

For ITW goods (i.e. food produced or marketed in accordance with the requirements of the ITW system) and raw materials of ITW origin (i.e. raw materials suitable for human consumption but which do not meet the specific ITW requirements for foodstuffs or animal by-products which have been produced and/or marketed in an ITW-approved establishment) a clearly differentiated labelling system must be established in the establishment to avoid confusion.

Raw materials for designated goods must be labelled accordingly when they leave the premises. In addition, the goods must be clearly marked as designated goods on the delivery note. It must be possible to establish a clear link between the accompanying documents and the designated goods.

The following applies to business customers:

Identical ITW goods with the appropriate labelling or goods marketed with the assurance of compliance with the ITW-specific animal welfare criteria may only be sold to companies that participate in the ITW.

The following applies to the manufacture of end consumer packaging:

Goods labelled as such may only be marketed to customers who participate in the Initiative Tierwohl. When marketing identical goods in end consumer packaging, the goods must be labelled in accordance with the specifications of the applicable brand manual.

Scheme participants are entitled to use the ITW seal if they have been granted permission to do so by a contract with the ITW (participation agreement).

Scheme participants may only supply ITW goods that are labelled as such to resellers as ITW goods and designate them as such in the accompanying documents if the reseller is also an ITW scheme participant.

3.2.2 Marketing of end consumer packaging with the ITW seal

If pet food is to be advertised with the ITW seal, the following rules apply:

- The advertised proportions of meat and animal by-products (including animal fats and proteins) from the ITW animal species (pork, chicken, duck and/or turkey) specified in the claim are ITW products. This rule also applies to the use of raw materials from cattle as ITW products.

- Promotion of claim articles based on the "FEDIAF Code of Good Practice for the Labelling of Pet Food" and in conjunction with the information sheet on the labelling of pet food in the Initiative Tierwohl.
 - The ITW seal complies with the requirements of the brand manual of the Initiative Tierwohl for pet food labelling.
 - The seal is not used in a misleading manner
- ⇒ Information sheet on the labelling of pet food in the Initiative Tierwohl
- ⇒ Brand manual of the Initiative Tierwohl Pet food labelling
- ⇒ FEDIAF Code for the Good Labelling of Pet Food at <https://europeanPet food.org> or via the German Pet Supplies Industry Association (IVH) at <https://www.ivh-online.de>

3.2.3 Separation and identification of identical and non-identical goods

A traceable system for separating, labelling and batch separating identical and non-identical goods must be in place within the company and guaranteed throughout the entire operation across all production stages. If no ITW goods are yet available in the company, the procedure for separating goods must be set out in an appropriate manner.

Participating companies are also permitted to manufacture non-ITW pet food. Any confusion between ITW goods and non-ITW goods must be avoided. All employees who work with the products must work in such a way as to ensure that no confusion arises.

Examples of product separation and process control for ITW and non-ITW products

Transport: ITW and non-ITW may be transported on the same truck, provided that batch separation and the internal labelling system are observed.

Storage: ITW and non-ITW may be stored together provided that ITW products are clearly labelled.

Production: Mixers, freezers, etc. do not need to be completely cleaned between batches, but the non-ITW batch must be "cleared out as thoroughly as technologically possible".

 System for separating identical goods and non-identical goods

3.3 Traceability system

3.3.1 Traceability of identical goods

The labelling and registration system introduced in the company must enable the unique identification of the same goods and the traceability of the goods at any time using an example from production or goods issue. It must be possible for third parties to trace which products were delivered as identical goods, from whom these goods were purchased and to whom these products were sold. A customer list of all purchasers of ITW goods must be available.

Products in which ITW goods are known to be used but are not labelled as ITW goods must also be taken into account for traceability checks.

3.3.2 Quantity comparison

There must be a plausible relationship between the quantity of ITW goods purchased and the quantity of ITW pet food produced or stored. The relevant data and documents must be available and processed in a traceable manner in the internal system, taking into account:

- Quantity recording in goods receipt documents (e.g. delivery notes, goods receipt inspection)
- Quantity recording in goods issue documents (e.g. delivery notes)
- Quantity recording in stock levels (internal and external storage locations)
- Assignment of article master data for raw materials and end products (e.g. specifications)
- Specified tolerances (waste, loss)
- Defined units of measure (for plausible assignment)
- Out-sourced processes (freezing, thawing, repackaging processes, etc.)

 Goods receipt documents and goods issue documents as well as goods quantities in the cold store/freezer

3.4 Verification of approval

3.4.1 Compliance with the supply chain

If goods are to be accepted as ITW goods, the [Initiative Tierwohl database](#) must be checked to ensure that the farm (location) is approved in the ITW for the relevant animal species and production scope at the time of delivery. Only then may the goods be accepted as such. Every location in the pet food sector (slaughtering/deboning and processing for ITW raw meat materials, transport service providers and storage (raw materials for pet food), processing plants (raw materials for pet food), pet food plants as well as private labeller, wholesaler and broker (pet food)) must be registered with the Initiative Tierwohl and contractually bound so that authorisation of delivery can be granted in the ITW system.

When delivering the aforementioned goods (carcasses, meat and animal by-products (including animal fats and proteins), it must be ensured that the customer also has approval from the Initiative Tierwohl for the relevant animal species. The approvals must be checked in the Initiative Tierwohl database.

- Approved transport service providers and storage (raw materials for pet food), processing plants (raw materials for pet food), pet food plants, private labeller, wholesaler and broker (pet food)
- Approved abattoirs
- Approved processing plants
- Approved intermediaries

The currently approved participants for the retail stage on pet food can be found in the list *of food retail and catering participants* in the download area on the Initiative Tierwohl website.

3.4.2 Outsourced processes

If products are to be labelled with the ITW seal in accordance with the Initiative Tierwohl pet food labelling brand manual, companies in which outsourced (partial) processes of production; storage of ITW-relevant raw materials (in the sense of meat and animal by-products as well as follow-up products such as animal proteins and fats) and/or trade/distribution that are commissioned by the participating company must participate in the ITW system.

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