

Explanatory notes Initiative Tierwohl

Calf production

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General information

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

A location (= company) is defined by its location number (e.g. in Germany, by its location number) and, where applicable, its shed ID, as well as the production scope. Within a single location number, sub-areas (defined as shed IDs) with different shed IDs may be registered. The prerequisite is that uniform husbandry conditions apply within a single shed or building (under one roof). All sheds must be certified to at least QS standard under the location number.

How exactly is the shed ID defined? Is it possible to have two different shed IDs within a single building?

To register a shed, uniform husbandry conditions must apply within that building ('under one roof'). Exception: If areas within a building are structurally and permanently separated from one another, only part of the building may be assigned a shed ID and thus participate in the ITW. The key factor is the clear separation of the housing areas.

This separation must be clear and verifiable to third parties at all times from the site plan and the farm layout diagram, and will be verified during the audit. During the first audit following the allocation of the shed ID, the auditor must include a site plan in the audit report. Detailed stock records, which are comprehensible to third parties, must be maintained for each part of the farm assigned to a shed ID. The plans must clearly indicate which areas are participants in the ITW and which are not.

What needs to be taken into account if parts of a site participate under a single shed ID?

If selected sheds at a site participate in the ITW, records at the livestock farm (e.g. shed-specific records of the livestock population, shed chart, site plan/farm layout) must clearly and verifiably indicate which shed is a participant in the ITW. This is also checked and documented during the audit.

All animals must be kept in accordance with the requirements throughout the entire production phase.

The traceability of animals from the specified sheds must be ensured by means of unique animal identification.

How should regionally stricter husbandry requirements be dealt with?

As with QS, the legal, nationwide requirements are taken as a basis.

How long must the animals be kept in an ITW company as a minimum?

Fattening calves after weaning from their mother or, in the case of milk-fed calves, after leaving the farm where they were born, and in the case of rosé-fed calves, after leaving the farm where they were reared, must be kept continuously until slaughter (max. eight months of age) under ITW conditions.

If individual fattening calves (maximum 1% per marketing unit) are older than eight months, they may be marketed as ITW animals, but not as fattening calves.

When can animals be marketed as ITW animals?

As soon as the passed programme audit has been released in the animal welfare database, the company is entitled to supply. All animals that were already on the company at the time of the programme audit become ITW animals once the end of the audit has been released and may be marketed as such. All fattening calves that are

only housed/purchased after the programme audit must, after weaning from their mother or, in the case of milk veal, after purchase from the farm of birth, and in the case of rosé veal, after purchase from the rearing farm, be kept continuously until slaughter for their entire lifetime in a company authorized to supply ITW (on their own farm and, if applicable, also on the supplying company).

Which animals can be marketed as ITW animals via production scope 1002 Calf production?

Specialised calf production for the production of meat in accordance with the marketing regulations for veal falls under production scope *1002 calf production*. This means that fattened calves up to eight months of age can be marketed as ITW animals if the company participates in the ITW with calf production.

Do all animals have to be delivered to an ITW abattoir?

No. Animals from ITW companies can be marketed freely. However, compensation under the ITW is only possible if the animals are marketed to an abattoir participating in the ITW.

Important: ITW livestock owners and abattoirs (or recipients) make bilateral agreements on the supply of ITW cattle and delivery conditions. There is no payment claim against the operating company, nor is the operating company liable for the payment of the price surcharge by the abattoirs and its actual amount.

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 animals and the conditions in the shed are inspected; records and documents are only checked if there are indications of nonconformities.

The requirements correspond to the QS requirements, see the Agriculture Cattle Farming guideline.

Important: All requirements always apply to all animals and sheds of a participating company. The company is defined by disease hygiene unit (VVVO number) and production scope (cattle production, calf production, dairy farming). Each production scope can be registered separately and independently of other production scopes under a location number.

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 - conceivably for some requirements - "not applicable" (E) and documented in the audit report. An evaluation of "not fulfilled" does not necessarily lead to withdrawal from the Initiative Tierwohl. Corrective actions (=C evaluation) with deadlines can be agreed for the basic criteria. 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: The location is not eligible for payment from the time of the release of audit report until the certification body has issued the corrective actions.

What criteria must a recovery crate fulfil?

With the exception of scrubbing devices, all criteria must always be complied with in recovery crates.

Are animals allowed to be tied up in the recovery crate?

No, sick and injured animals may not be tethered in the recovery crate - except for individual veterinary indications.

2 ITW criteria

2.1 Participation in the QS antibiotics monitoring programme

What must be observed?

Antibiotic data is collected for all ITW cattle. This is done via the QS antibiotics monitoring programme. Livestock owners must observe two points:

Firstly: report the average number of animal places to the coordinator and report which veterinary practice is being worked with.

Secondly, agreement with the veterinary practice that the antibiotic prescriptions will be entered into the central QS database by the veterinarian. The monitoring process then continues automatically for the cattle farmers; they only need to take action if there are any changes to the information listed under "Firstly". More detailed information can be obtained from the respective coordinator or can be found in the guidelines on antibiotics monitoring in cattle farming.

The monitoring system is being continuously developed. In future, there will be cross-farm evaluations and farm comparisons that will be fed back to livestock owners so that they can ensure the health of their animals in the best possible way.

2.2 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 recorded in a central database and analysed regularly. Cattle farmers therefore automatically participate in this monitoring and do not need to take any action. More detailed information can be obtained from the respective coordinator or can be found in the guideline Diagnostic Data Monitoring Cattle Slaughter.

The monitoring system is being continuously developed. In the future, there will be cross-farm analyses and farm comparisons that will be fed back to livestock owners so that they can ensure animal health in the best possible way.

What happens if all animals are delivered to abattoirs that do not participate in the ITW or the QS scheme and therefore no slaughter findings data is collected?

All ITW abattoirs must also participate in the QS scheme and therefore take part in the slaughter findings data programme for cattle. If the animals of a company participating in the ITW Cattle are delivered exclusively to non-ITW and therefore non-QS abattoirs, the collection of abattoir data is not mandatory. If the livestock owner is unable to provide slaughter findings data as a result, this is not devalued at the end of the audit. In this case, however, the animals cannot be marketed as ITW animals and the livestock owner is not entitled to payment of the ITW price surcharge.

2.3 Further training measures

When and how often must I take part in a training programme?

Before the initial audit and then once in each subsequent calendar year, a further training programme must be attended.

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

If ITW participation is to be terminated (prematurely), a final confirmation audit must be carried out. Proof of further training for the current calendar year must already be available for this confirmation audit.

Companies that end their participation in the ITW by 31 March of a calendar year (expiry of the participation period or deregistration in the database) do not have to participate in any further training measures for this calendar year. If the term in the calendar year extends beyond 31 March, proof of further training must also be provided for the current calendar year.

Who must take part in a training programme once a year?

At least one responsible employee or the livestock owner of the location must always take part in a training event. This person must be designated as an animal carer. The certificate of attendance for the training event 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 further training of a person external to the company (e.g. consultant) cannot be recognised. It is also not possible to split the hours of further training between several people (e.g. 4 employees who have each received 30 minutes of further training).

What form must the proof of participation in the training programme take?

A personalised confirmation of participation must be submitted as proof for each event (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 that the duration of the event be stated. If the duration of the further training measure is not stated on the confirmation of participation, the minimum duration of two hours must be proven by other means (e.g. via a programme overview, invitation or similar).

What scope must the continuing education programme have?

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

What content must the training programme include?

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

These include (non-exhaustive list):

- Specialist events
- E-learning, webinars
- Training specifically agreed with the technical advisor or veterinarian (e.g. on emergency killing)

Possible contents for further training events are

- Animal welfare-compliant emergency killing

- Recognising and interpreting animal signals
- Carrying out animal observation
- Handling sick and injured animals
- Assessing the suitability of cattle for transport and slaughter
- Improving hygiene management

What does not constitute a required further training measure?

The following are not taken into account

- Advice on farm development (e.g. business management advice or construction advice)
- Shed tours as part of the advisory service, unless they are expressly organised as a further training measure
- Shed tours in connection with veterinary herd inspections, unless they are expressly organised as further training measures
- Internal training courses for company employees
- Attendance at trade fairs or exhibitions
- Subscription to trade journals
- Membership of producer/advisory organisations
- Further training measures that are not related to your own branch of production

Who may organise and carry out further training measures?

Further training measures may be organised and carried out by all qualified persons. This includes coordinators, advisory organisations, veterinarians, consultants, etc. Approval from the Initiative Tierwohl is not required.

2.4 Special husbandry requirements

Shed climate

To what extent must all windows and air inlets always be open?

The air conditions in the entire shed must be appropriate for the animals. Windows and air inlets must be open, except in adverse weather conditions. However, it is crucial that an optimum climate is created in the barn. If ventilation systems are designed in such a way that windows or air inlets must be (temporarily) closed to ensure an optimal climate in the barn, this is possible.

Light

What should the lighting duration be based on?

Calves must be provided with at least 80 lux of light for at least ten hours a day. The lighting must be adapted to the daily rhythm and distributed as evenly as possible.

2.5 Increased space allowance

How is the space calculated?

This is the area that can be used by the animals without restriction, i.e. the area in which the animals can move freely (= walk, lie and stand) (internal dimensions of the crate). When calculating the net pen area, the area under housing equipment such as drinkers, partitions, feed fences and the feed table etc. is not taken into account. The area under scrubbing devices can only be taken into account if it can be used by the animals without restriction. The space allowance is specified in the criteria catalogue.

Important: the increased space allowance must be complied with for each animal group and at all times (even during marketing bottlenecks).

Do upstands and steps count when calculating the area?

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

Do cubicles count in the area calculation?

The freely available area within cubicles, i.e. the area on which the animals can lie down as well as stand and walk, is included in the area calculation. The area below the cubicle partitions and the space only available when lying down (e.g. in the front area of the cubicles) must be deducted.

What must be submitted at the end of audit?

An operating plan must be available showing the available net pen area per group of animals kept together and the maximum possible number of animals.

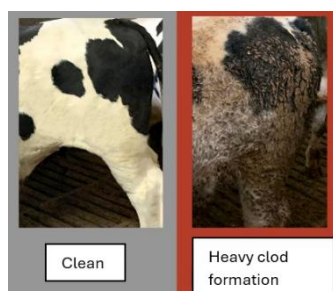
If littered areas are offered, must all animals be able to lie in the littered area at the same time?

No. The requirements that all animals must be able to lie down at the same time refer to the entire net pen area. If some of the crates are littered, the space allowance does not have to be greater than in a litterless pen.

2.6 Cleanliness of the animals

How is it assessed whether an animal is clean?

The following hygiene score is used as the basis of valuation. All fattening calves on the company are considered when assessing this criterion.



Source: Source: Kontrollgemeinschaft Deutsches Kalbfleisch e.V., modified according to DLG leaflet 281 "The animal in view - dairy cows"

It should be noted that there are different degrees of soiling between "clean" and "heavy clod formation". The "clean" condition should always be the goal for all animals. A situation in which a maximum of 10 % of all animals are heavily soiled is acceptable for the ITW (see figure "Heavy clod formation").

What happens if animals are heavily clodded?

If animals are categorised as very soiled at the end of the audit or show heavy clod formation, the livestock owner must ensure that the animals become clean again and no longer soil in the future. It is recommended that an action plan is drawn up in which both the measures and their implementation are documented.

At the end of the audit, a maximum of 10 % of animals with heavy clod formation is tolerated.

2.7 Scrubbing devices

What are suitable scrubbing devices?

The scrubbing devices must allow the animals to scrub on the sides of the body (head, neck, rump and flanks) and/or on the back and head in a manner typical of the species. The surfaces of the scrubbing devices must have an uneven profile. Scrubbing/scratching brushes such as stationary brushes and rotating oscillating brushes are suitable for this purpose, as are rubber scratching mats or chequer plates. The scrubbing devices must not pose a risk of injury.

All scrubbing devices must be sufficiently large.

The scrubbing area of vertically mounted scrubbing devices must be at least 45 cm long and 15 cm wide (please note: the width does not correspond to the circumference).

In addition to vertical scrubbing devices, horizontally designed annexes on which the animals can rub their backs and heads are also suitable, as are combinations of vertical and horizontal annexes. No specific dimensions are specified for such scrubbing devices, but species-typical scrubbing must be possible.

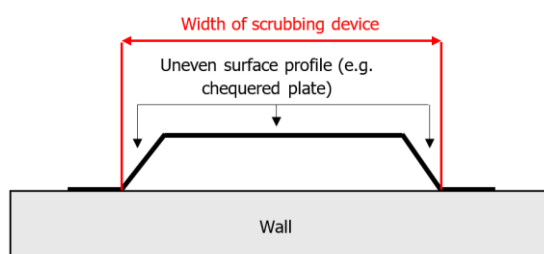
How must the scrubbing devices be installed?

The scrubbing devices must be freely accessible to all animals. They must be installed in such a way that all animals (of all sizes) can reach the scrubbing devices and can scrub on the sides of their bodies (see above) and/or on their backs and heads. The scrubbing devices must therefore protrude into the crate or stand out clearly from the walls in such a way that the animals can scrub themselves in a species-typical manner and not just selectively on the widest parts of their bodies. If chequer plates are mounted flat on the wall of the pen or if they are only minimally raised from the wall (e.g. by a screw, nut or similar), species-typical rubbing is not sufficiently possible.

How is the size of vertical scrubbing devices measured?

The size of scrubbing devices is always measured in the actual scrubbing area of the structures. In calf production, vertical scrubbing devices must be at least 45 cm long (= high) and 15 cm wide. The areas taken into account in the measurement are outlined below for some examples. This is **not** a complete list of approved scrubbing devices, but only an exemplary list of different measurement methods.

Example: Scrubbing devices made of folded or curved chequer plate:



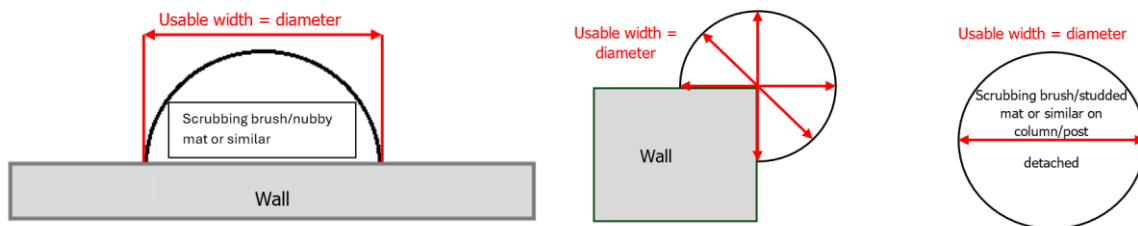
The length and width are measured in each case in the area where the animals can rub themselves in a manner typical of the species. The parts of the chequer plate that lie flat against the wall are not counted. The area that stands out clearly from the wall is measured. The adjacent image shows how the width (view from above) is measured. It is not the circumference of the profile that is relevant here, but the width (area labelled as usable scrubbing surface in the

adjacent image). The measuring method can also be applied to scrubbing devices with curved sheet metal and to measuring the length.

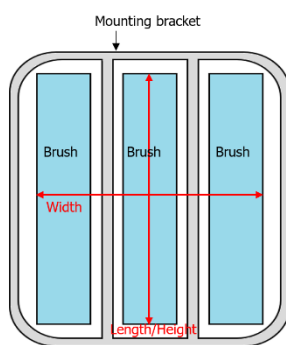
Example: Round scrubbing devices on the wall or free-standing

For round scrubbing devices, the width corresponds to the diameter of the scrubbing device. This applies regardless of whether the brushes are mounted on the wall, "over the corner" or free-standing or on a pillar or post. In

the case of brush constructions, the length of the bristles counts, but it must be noted that the width of the scrubbing devices may be reduced as the brushes wear. Such wear and tear must be factored into the durability of brushes. Free-standing scrubbing devices can be counted as two scrubbing devices if they can be used by two animals simultaneously and independently of each other from two sides. The following pictures show examples of how the width of various round scrubbing devices is measured.



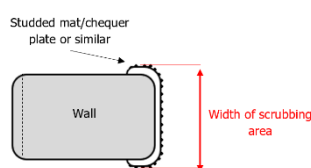
Example: Constructions with several brush elements



If scrubbing devices consisting of several brush elements are combined, the contiguous scrubbing area is measured. Small gaps between individual brush elements do not have to be taken into account as long as it is clearly a continuous construction. The picture opposite shows an example of how the scrubbing area of such constructions is measured.

If several individual brushes are mounted separately in a crate, their scrubbing area cannot be added together.

Example: Scrubbing devices on door jambs/wall openings/passages



If scrubbing devices (e.g. made of chequer plate or studded mats) are fitted to doorposts, wall openings, passageways or similar, the width (including the scrubbing device) is measured as shown in the adjacent image (view from above).

From when must scrubbing devices be provided?

Scrubbing devices must be offered throughout the company from the implementation date.

When must worn scrubbing devices be repaired or replaced?

Scrubbing devices must allow species-typical scrubbing (see above) throughout the entire fattening period. Before new animals are housed, it must therefore be checked whether the existing scrubbing devices are in a condition that allows them to be used for a (further) entire fattening period. If it is foreseeable that the scrubbing devices will not be able to allow species-typical scrubbing for another fattening period, they must be replaced before the fattening period begins.

What happens if the scrubbing devices lose their functionality during fattening?

If a scrubbing device is no longer functional, it must be replaced as soon as it is safe to do so. If the stalled animals are still young enough to be replaced in the occupied crates, the scrubbing devices must be replaced immediately. If it is no longer possible to safely enter the crates (e.g. for animals that are already older than approx. six months), the scrubbing device must be replaced after the animals have been destocked and in any case before the crate is reoccupied.

The date of failure and of replacement or repair of the scrubbing devices must be documented in all cases.

2.8 Intensified veterinary stock care

What is the maximum period of time that may have elapsed since the last herd visit before the programme audit?

Stock visits that took place no more than 1 year (= 365 days) ago at the time of the audit can be recognised in the programme audit.

When and how often must an inventory visit be carried out?

An inventory visit must be carried out once before the initial audit (maximum 365 days before the first programme audit) and then regularly at least twice in each calendar year. If the first inventory visit was carried out in the previous year of the initial audit, further inventory visits must be carried out for the calendar year of the initial audit (see below for details). It is recommended that stock visits be carried out approximately once every six months.

The following points should be noted at the start of participation:

- If the initial audit is released **by 30 June** of a calendar year, evidence of **two inventory visits** must be provided for the calendar year of the initial audit
- If the initial audit is released **after 30 June** of a calendar year, only **one inventory visit** must be documented for the calendar year

If participation in the ITW is terminated (= end of term or deregistration in the database), the following regulations apply:

- If participation in the ITW is terminated **by 31 March** of a calendar year, **no inventory visit** must be verified for this calendar year
- If participation is terminated **between 1 April and 30 June**, at least **one inventory visit** must be documented in the last confirmation audit for this calendar year.
- If participation is terminated **after 30 June** of a calendar year, **two stock visits** must be documented in the last confirmation audit for this calendar year.

Can a veterinary stock visit for QS also be used for the ITW?

A veterinary stock visit for QS can only be used for the criterion Intensified veterinary stock care of ITW under certain conditions. For this purpose, the herd visit must also fulfil the requirements of the ITW. This means that special attention must have been paid to the care of the animals during the herd visit and this must be noted accordingly in the visit log.

If the documentation for the last "QS herd visit" does not include the care of the animals or if only simplified documentation (e.g. "no special findings") is available, this is not sufficient.

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