

Manual Agriculture

Criteria catalogue Poultry – broilers, turkeys



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Foreword

In the Initiative Tierwohl, companies and associations from the agricultural, meat and food retail sectors have joined forces to promote animal-friendly and sustainable meat production.

They want to continue offering consumers poultry of outstanding quality and great variety in the future, while at the same time making animal welfare even more central to their activities.

To this end, the initiators, with the involvement of industry, science and interest groups, have developed a comprehensive system to promote animal welfare at the agricultural production level of livestock owners and have defined scientifically based, measurable and verifiable requirements for livestock farming. Livestock owners who decide to participate in the Initiative Tierwohl for Poultry will implement these requirements. Independent, accredited certification bodies regularly check compliance with the requirements.

The Initiative Tierwohl for Poultry is continuously being developed by its bodies.

1 General requirements

1.1 Basic criteria livestock farming, hygiene, animal health

The livestock owner must ensure compliance with basic criteria for animal welfare, hygiene and animal health and keep the animals in accordance with the law. The basic criteria listed below are specified in **the QS Guideline for Agriculture Poultry Production** in the chapters listed. The animal welfare audit focuses on the inspection of production in the shed. A comprehensive document inspection is only carried out if there are indications of nonconformities.

Animal welfare, 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

Notes

If abnormalities are detected, particularly with regard to injuries, feather pecking or breast skin changes, corrective actions (action plan including deadlines) must be determined in consultation with the veterinarian responsible for stock care. The livestock owner must implement the action plan in a timely manner and document it.

 *Action plan and its implementation, if applicable*

In order to ensure identity, farms with turkey rearing must meet the relevant ITW criteria of the "Stall plus Platz" programme. This applies both to farms with combined turkey rearing and fattening and to turkey rearing farms that do not engage in turkey production.

1.2 Origin and marketing: *Procurement of day-old chicks and rearing poultry*

Broilers and turkeys

All day-old chicks and hatching eggs must be sourced from hatcheries authorised to supply QS.

Turkeys

Young turkeys must be sourced from ITW-approved farms of origin.

The verification of the eligibility of delivery for the purchase of young turkeys or the marketing of fattening turkeys is carried out exclusively via the ITW database.



Stock book, barn cards, delivery notes from the hatchery, QS/ITW database

1.3 Monitoring and care of livestock: measures to improve foot pad health

Broilers and turkeys

Suitable measures must be taken to ensure that the litter remains loose and dry until the day of destocking.

1.4 Handling livestock during loading: Handling instructions for pre-destocking (only for broilers)

Broiler

To prevent daylight incidence, doors, gates and windows of the shed must be darkened during loading, for example by means of light filters, tunnels, blackout sheets or strip curtains. An adequate supply of fresh air must be ensured. When opening the loading gates, short circuits in ventilation should be avoided as far as possible.

Suitable measures, such as partitions and catch lights, should be used to minimise stress for both the animals being removed and those remaining in the shed.

Drinking water must be available to all animals in sufficient quantity and quality until immediately before loading begins.

Loading gates must be closed immediately after pre-destocking has been completed. After pre-destocking, additional bedding must be added if necessary. All alarm devices must be reactivated and checked to ensure they are in working order.



Records of the farm-specific concept for implementing the instructions

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

Broiler

In sheds with artificial lighting, an uninterrupted dark phase of at least six hours must be implemented, with a twilight phase of at least 15 minutes before and after. This must be ensured by an appropriate lighting programme.

Fattening turkeys

In closed sheds with artificial lighting, a continuous dark period of at least six hours must be implemented from the first day of the fattening phase, with a twilight period of at least 15 minutes before and after. This must be ensured by an appropriate lighting programme.

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

Broilers and turkeys

Every livestock owner must participate in relevant, subject-specific training measures at least once per calendar year. Appropriate evidence of this must be provided. The evidence must be available for the first time at the initial audit.



Proof of training measures, e.g. confirmation of participation in specialist lectures

1.7 Documentation of diagnostic data from slaughter: Participation in diagnostic data monitoring with measures in the event of abnormal findings

Participation in diagnostic data monitoring is mandatory. The core of diagnostic data monitoring is the systematic collection of indicators both on the livestock farm and at the abattoir. The details are specified in **the QS guidelines on Diagnostic Data in Poultry Slaughtering**. The indicators are at least:

- Mortality in the shed (reported by the livestock owner to the abattoir)
- Footpad lesions (collection at the abattoir)
- Number of rejected animals (main reasons for rejection, collection at the abattoir)
- Transport-related losses (collection occurs at the abattoir)

The abattoir registers these indicators in the QS central diagnostic database. The livestock owner must document the findings and the measures derived from them.

Note: The livestock owner receives the access data for the QS central diagnostic database from their coordinator.

Measures to be taken in the event of abnormalities in diagnostic data monitoring

If a conspicuous evaluation result indicates a need for action, individual advice from external experts (e.g. fattening consultants, veterinarians, feed consultants, etc.) must be sought immediately after notification (see QS information letter). The individual farm consultation must be aimed at identifying and eliminating the causes of the findings. The deficiencies identified in the consultation must be documented and remedied by plausible measures. The *action plan for animal health consultation* and its implementation must be documented.



Records of participation in diagnostic data monitoring, documentation of the abattoir's diagnostic data, results of the collected indicators, evidence of advice given when action is required, evidence of identified deficiencies and action plan (see QS info letter with diagnostic data)

1.8 Structuring the housing environment/raised levels

Broilers and fattening turkeys

Raised levels must be provided to structure the housing environment. Fixed or movable structural elements can be used for this purpose. The height of the elements must be such that the raised levels are accessible to the animals at all times.

Fixed structural elements (e.g. jumping tables, perches) must be available to the animals at all times until 24 hours before each planned destocking.

As soon as changeable structural elements such as high-pressure or square bales are broken down/used up, new bales or unchangeable structural elements must be provided. Bales may be cut open for processing 48 hours before the planned final removal from the housing.

If, for example, high-pressure or square bales are provided as raised elements to structure the housing environment, they may not be used at the same time as additional activity material within the meaning of criteria *2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 Additional enrichment opportunities*.

Broiler

Broilers must be provided with raised levels from the time of housing, with a total area of at least 5% of the usable shed floor area available to them.

For each shed, records and calculations must indicate the proportion of raised levels.

Alternatively or in addition, from the eighth day of life at the latest, raised levels must be provided either as unchangeable structural elements in the form of perches (at least 2.0 m per 45 m²) or as a high-pressure bale as a changeable structural element per 90 m² of usable shed floor area.

From the 10th day before the planned final removal from the housing, used structural elements no longer need to be replaced.



Information (records, calculations) regarding unchangeable structural elements

Fattening turkeys

From the time of transfer to the fattening house, one square/round bale per 400 m² of usable shed floor area must be provided as a changeable structural element.

If necessary, these must be replaced for the last time in the 16th week of life.

As an alternative or supplement to square/round bales, unchangeable structural elements such as tables or side elements can be offered as raised levels. In this case, the areas must have a minimum seating area of 1.85 m² in total for every 400 m² of usable shed floor area.

For each shed, records and calculations must indicate the proportion of raised levels.



Information (records, calculations) regarding unchangeable structural elements

1.9 Shed climate check

Broilers and turkeys

Before the first programme audit and at least once per calendar year thereafter, a standardised barn climate check must be carried out using a checklist and the results documented.

The barn climate check must be carried out by external experts registered with the Initiative Tierwohl in accordance with the implementation guidelines. The persons who have been approved and their contact details are published on the Initiative Tierwohl website at so that every livestock owner can find an expert in their area.

The shed climate checks must be carried out in occupied sheds.

Procedure and scope of the shed climate check → Annex 1.

If deficiencies are identified during the checks, the expert must list them in detail. The livestock owner must work with the expert to define corrective actions (action plan including deadlines). The livestock owner must implement the action plan within the specified time frame and document this.

The shed climate checklist issued by an approved expert must be presented during the audit. In addition, the list of deficiencies with the action plan and the timely implementation of the corrective actions must be verified, if necessary.



Certificate for the shed climate check, action plan and its implementation, if applicable

1.10 Drinking water check

Broilers and turkeys

Before the first programme audit and at least once per calendar year thereafter, a standardised drinking water check must be carried out and the results documented. This consists of sampling and water analysis. Samples for microbiological testing must be taken from occupied sheds.

Sampling must be carried out by an external sampler registered with the Initiative Tierwohl in accordance with the implementation instructions. The persons who have been approved are published with their contact details on the Initiative Tierwohl website so that every livestock owner can find an expert in their area.

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

If the guideline values are exceeded, the livestock owner must define corrective actions (action plan including deadlines). The livestock owner must implement the action plan within the specified time frame and document this.

The laboratories' analysis results must be presented during the audit. The same applies to the sampler's sampling protocol. 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 line/drinking trough)
- Name of the sampler
- Date of sampling.

If this information is contained in full in the laboratories' analysis results, these can be used as sole evidence. In addition, the action plan for rectifying the deficiencies and proof that the corrective actions have been implemented on time must also be available.



Certificate for drinking water check, including sampling protocol, action plan (if applicable) and its implementation

2 Additional requirements for *Stall plus Platz*

The Initiative Tierwohl *Stall plus Platz* is classified in **Haltungsform level 2**. The following criteria apply to all companies participating in the Initiative Tierwohl. Compliance with the general requirements (Chapter 1) is required **in addition** to compliance with the basic requirements.

2.1 Additional activity options

Broilers and turkeys

In addition to loose, dry litter in which the animals can peck, scratch and dust bathe in some areas, other changeable, consumable materials must be provided continuously no later than the beginning of the second week of life at the latest. The changeable materials must encourage the animals to engage with them, at least by pecking.

The same element may not be counted as both activity material and a changeable structural element at the same time (see *1.8 Structuring the housing environment/raised levels*).

Suitable materials include straw/hay in racks/baskets/bales, other bedding materials such as straw granulate/wood shavings in bales, or other materials such as pecking stones.

The enrichment materials must be designed and installed in such a way that they do not pose an increased risk of injury to the animals.

Broiler

For broilers, at least one pecking element or activity material per 100 m² of usable area (sufficient for approx. 2,000 animals) must be provided, which is counted as space allowance.

Turkeys

For turkeys, at least one pecking element or activity material must be provided per 400 m² of usable area, which is counted as space allowance.

Activity material for behavioural abnormalities

If behavioural abnormalities occur (e.g. feather pecking and cannibalism), additional activity materials beyond the usual additional activity materials must be provided. These must not have been made available to the flock prior to the occurrence of the behavioural abnormalities. The activity materials are freely selectable and must be kept on the farm at all times.

It should be noted that these materials are not identical to the enrichment materials already in use (litter and additional enrichment options) or structural elements (see *1.8 Structuring the housing environment/raised levels*).

2.2 Bigger space allowance

The livestock owner must plan the space allowance for each shed, taking into account the ventilation capacity, in such a way that all animals can easily reach feed and drinking water throughout the entire rearing period and that the animals can move around and engage in normal behaviour patterns (e.g. dust bathing and wing flapping). Any animal that wishes to move from a confined area to an open area must be able to do so at any time.

If, due to legal requirements at home and abroad, a higher or identical space allowance must be provided on an individual company basis, these requirements also apply within the framework of *the Initiative Tierwohl for Poultry*. The stocking densities required for compliance with the initiative, as determined for each participating company, must not be exceeded.

Broilers and turkeys

Compliance with the following requirements must be demonstrated for three consecutive cycles per shed on the basis of live weights (for slaughter poultry: live weight determined at slaughter). The upper limits for live weight per m² of usable shed area specified in ***the QS Guideline for Poultry Farming*** must not be exceeded at any time, even in individual cycles.

Broiler

Livestock owners must demonstrably plan and ensure compliance with stocking densities in such a way that 35.0 kg live weight per m² of usable shed area is not exceeded on average over three consecutive cycles.

Littered raised levels (see *1.8 Structuring of the housing environment/raised levels*), which allow the animals to pass underneath at any time in the interior of the shed, may be taken into account as additional usable shed area for the calculation of space allowance up to a maximum of 10% of the usable shed floor area.

In this case, livestock owners must document the additional usable shed area created with records and calculations.

Turkeys

Livestock owners must demonstrably plan and ensure compliance with stocking densities in such a way that the average live weight per square metre of usable shed area does not exceed 48.0 kg for hens and 53.0 kg for cocks over three consecutive cycles.

Raised levels (see *1.8 Structuring of the housing environment/raised levels*), which are freely accessible to the animals from the start of the fattening phase and can be passed under at any time, may be taken into account as additional usable shed area for the calculation of space allowance up to a maximum of 10% of the usable shed floor area.

In this case, livestock owners must document the additional usable shed area created with records and calculations.



Slaughter results reports, goods accompanying documents, information (records, area calculations) on usable shed areas, shed maps, planned calculations for stocking density, measures to manage the space allowance for existing stocks

3 Additional requirements for *Frischlufstall*

The Initiative Tierwohl *for Frischlufstall* is classified as **Haltungsform level 3**. The following criteria apply to all companies participating in the Initiative Tierwohl. Compliance with the general requirements (Chapter 1) is required **in addition** to compliance with the Initiative Tierwohl criteria.

3.1 Additional activity options

Broilers and turkeys

In addition to loose, dry litter in which the animals can peck, scratch and dust bathe in some areas, other changeable, consumable materials must be provided continuously no later than the beginning of the second week of life at the latest. The changeable materials must encourage the animals to engage with them, at least by pecking.

The same element may not be counted as both activity material and a changeable structural element at the same time (see *1.8 Structuring the housing environment/raised levels*).

Suitable materials include straw/hay in racks/baskets/bales, other bedding materials such as straw granulate/wood shavings in bales, or other materials such as pecking stones.

The enrichment materials must be designed and installed in such a way that they do not pose an increased risk of injury to the animals.

Broiler

At least two pecking elements or enrichment materials must be provided per 150 m² of usable area (sufficient for approx. 1,000 animals), which is counted as space allowance.

Fattening turkeys

From the start of the fattening phase, or otherwise no later than the start of the 11th week of life, additional activity material must be provided so that a total of at least two pecking elements or activity materials per 400 m² of usable area are provided, which is counted as space allowance.

Activity material for behavioural abnormalities

If behavioural abnormalities occur (e.g. feather pecking and cannibalism), additional activity materials beyond the usual additional activity materials must be provided. These must not have been made available to the flock prior to the occurrence of the behavioural abnormalities. The activity materials may be freely selected and must be kept on the farm at all times.

It should be noted that these materials must not be identical to the enrichment materials already in use (litter and additional enrichment options) or structural elements (see *1.8 Structuring the housing environment/raised levels*).

3.2 Bigger space allowance

Broilers and fattening turkeys

The livestock owner must plan the space allowance for each shed, taking into account the ventilation capacity, in such a way that all animals can easily reach feed and drinking water throughout the entire rearing period and that the animals can move around and engage in normal behaviour patterns (e.g. dust bathing and wing flapping). Any animal that wishes to move from a confined area to an open area must be able to do so at any time.

If, due to legal requirements at home or abroad, a higher or identical space allowance must be provided on an individual company basis, these requirements also apply within the framework of the Initiative Tierwohl for Poultry. The stocking densities required for compliance with the initiative, as determined for each participating company, must not be exceeded.

The following requirements must be met and must be verifiable for three consecutive runs per shed based on live weights (for slaughter poultry: live weight recorded at slaughter):

Broiler

Shed with outdoor climate area* of at least 20% of the usable shed floor area

Livestock owners must demonstrably plan and ensure compliance with stocking densities in such a way that 29.0 kg live weight per m² of usable shed area is not exceeded on average over three consecutive cycles.

(* according to criterion **3.3 Specific husbandry requirements**)

One pre-destocking is permitted per cycle.

Littered raised levels (see *1.8 Structuring of the housing environment/raised levels*), which allow the animals to pass underneath at any time in the interior of the shed, may be taken into account as additional usable shed area for the calculation of the space allowance up to a maximum of 10% of the usable shed floor area.

In this case, livestock owners must document the additional usable shed area created with records and calculations.

Shed with an outdoor climate area* of at least 30% of the usable shed floor area

Livestock owners must demonstrably plan and ensure compliance with stocking densities in such a way that 30.0 kg live weight per m² of usable shed area is not exceeded on average over three consecutive cycles.

(* according to criterion **3.3 Specific husbandry requirements**)

One pre-destocking is permitted per cycle.

Littered, raised levels (see *1.8 Structuring of the housing environment/raised levels*) that allow the animals to pass underneath at any time in the interior of the shed, may be taken into account as additional usable shed area for the calculation of the space allowance up to a maximum of 10% of the usable shed floor area.

In this case, livestock owners must document the additional usable shed area created with records and calculations.

Fattening turkeys

Livestock owners must demonstrably plan and ensure compliance with stocking densities in such a way that the upper limit of 37.0 kg live weight per m² of usable shed area for hens and 41.0 kg live weight per m² of usable shed area for cocks is not exceeded on average over three consecutive cycles.

Additional usable area in the outdoor climate area* can be counted as a space allowance up to a maximum of 30% of the shed floor area if it is available to the animals at all times (day and night) without restriction.

(* according to criterion **3.3 Specific husbandry requirements**)

Raised levels (see *1.8 Structuring of the housing environment/raised levels*) that are freely accessible to the animals from the start of the fattening phase and can be passed underneath at any time may be included as additional usable area for calculating the space allowance, up to a maximum of 10% of the usable shed floor area

of the housing.

In this case, livestock owners must document the additional usable area created with records and calculations.



Slaughter results reports, goods accompanying documents, information (records, area calculations) on usable shed areas and additional usable areas, shed maps, planned calculations of stocking density, measures to control the space allowance for existing stocks

3.3 Specific housing requirements/outdoor climate area

Broilers and fattening turkeys

Outdoor climate areas designated as buildings must be constructed in a permanent state and located either inside or outside the shed. These must provide the animals with a covered, paved and wind-protected section, some of which has light and air-permeable side walls. External side walls must be designed such that the degree of perforation ensures a permanent light and air permeability of at least 50%.

The area of an outdoor climate area must have an additional minimum usable area of 20% in relation to the floor area of the shed, which is taken into account as an area when calculating the available space.

Outdoor areas are also recognized as outdoor climate areas if they meet the requirements 4.3 Access to outdoor area and also provide an additional minimum usable area of 20% relative to the shed's floor area.

For each outdoor climate area, records and calculations of the required opening area must be available for the implementation of the requirements specific to the farm.



Records and calculations of the implementation of the outdoor climate area specific to the farm

Broiler

Outdoor climate areas must be located on the long side of the shed and must be accessible to the animals at least during the day no later than the 22nd day of life at the latest.

The opening and closing of the outdoor climate area must be documented.

There must be a sufficient number of exit openings, arranged as evenly as possible and designed in such a way that the animals have unhindered access to the outdoor climate area.



Documentation of access times to outdoor climate areas

Fattening turkeys

Outdoor climate areas must be located either on the long side of the shed or on its gable end and must be accessible to the animals at least during the day from the beginning of the 11th week of life at the latest.

The opening and closing of the outdoor climate area must be documented.

There must be a sufficient number of exit openings, arranged as evenly as possible and designed in such a way that the animals have unhindered access to the outdoor climate area. The total areas of the openings (total width) must be at least 5% of the length of the inner side of the shed or the gable end.



Documentation of access times to outdoor climate area

Note: Additional usable areas of the outdoor climate area (max. 30% of the shed floor area) that are counted as a space allowance must be available to the animals at all times (day and night) without restriction.

3.4 Breeding lines

Broilers and fattening turkeys

All animals must come from robust and healthy breeding lines.

Broiler

Only slow-growing breeding lines that are published on the list (see explanations) may be housed.

Fattening turkeys

Either slow-growing breeding lines (average weight gain of 110 g/day) **or** fast-growing hybrids may be used, provided that there is compliance with the minimum slaughter age of 140 days (cocks) or 100 days (hens).

3.5 Feeding

Broilers and fattening turkeys

Either

During the entire fattening phase no feed may be used, that is subject to labeling requirements under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003. This must be provided

- a) for own feed cultivation through proof of cultivation, or
- b) for purchased feed, through the feed manufacturer's certification (e.g., according to VLOG).

Or

100% of the feed raw materials used must have been grown and processed in the member states of the EU-27. This excludes feed additives (vitamins, amino acids, etc.), premixes and mineral feeds. The origin must be verified.

Both GMO-free feed and EU feed materials must always be used consistently throughout the entire fattening phase.

 shipping documents (e.g. delivery notes for feed), certifications (e.g. VLOG), feed rations, documentation of own production, certificates from the supplier/database records confirming the origin of the feed

Broiler

The feed must be used from the day of stocking.

Fattening turkeys

The feed must be used throughout the entire fattening phase at least 10 weeks prior to slaughter. If the fattening phase is less than 10 weeks, proof must be provided that the feed was administered for at least 10 weeks prior to slaughter.

4 Additional requirements for *Auslauf*

The Initiative Tierwohl *Auslauf* is classified as **Haltungsform level 4**. The following criteria apply to all participants in the Initiative Tierwohl. Compliance with the general requirements (Chapter 1) as well as the additional requirements *3.3 Specific farming requirements/outdoor climate zone* are required.

4.1 Additional activity options

Broilers and turkeys

In addition to loose, dry litter in which the animals can peck, scratch and dust bathe in some areas, other changeable, consumable materials must be provided on a permanent basis no later than the beginning of the second week of life at the latest. The changeable materials must encourage the animals to engage with them, at least by pecking.

The same element may not be counted as both activity material and a changeable structural element at the same time (see *1.8 Structuring the housing environment/raised levels*).

Suitable materials include straw/hay in racks/baskets/bales, other bedding materials such as straw granulate/wood shavings in bales, or other materials such as pecking stones.

The enrichment materials must be designed and installed in such a way that they do not pose an increased risk of injury to the animals.

Broiler

At least two pecking elements or enrichment materials must be provided per 150 m² of usable area (sufficient for approx. 1,000 animals), which is counted as space allowance.

Fattening turkeys

From the start of the fattening phase, or otherwise at the latest from the start of the 11th week of life, additional activity material must be provided so that a total of at least two pecking elements or activity materials per 400 m² of usable area are provided, which is counted as space allowance.

Activity material for behavioural abnormalities

If behavioural abnormalities occur (e.g. feather pecking and cannibalism), additional activity materials beyond the usual additional activity materials must be provided. These must not have been made available to the flock prior to the occurrence of the behavioural abnormalities. The activity materials are freely selectable and must be kept on the farm at all times.

It should be noted that these materials are not identical to the enrichment materials already in use (litter and additional enrichment options) or structural elements (see *1.8 Structuring the housing environment/raised levels*).

4.2 Bigger space allowance

Broilers and fattening turkeys

The livestock owner must plan the space allowance for each shed, taking into account the ventilation capacity, in such a way that all animals can easily reach feed and drinking water throughout the entire rearing period and that the animals can move around and engage in normal behaviour patterns (e.g. dust bathing and wing flapping). Any animal that wishes to move from a confined area to an open area must be able to do so at any time.

If, due to legal requirements at home or abroad, a higher or identical space allowance must be provided on an individual company basis, these requirements also apply within the framework of the Initiative Tierwohl for Poultry. The stocking densities required for compliance with the initiative, as determined for each participating company, must not be exceeded.

The following requirements must be met and must be verifiable for three consecutive runs per shed based on live weights (for slaughter poultry: live weight recorded at slaughter):

Broiler

Livestock owners must demonstrably plan and ensure compliance with stocking densities in such a way that 25.0 kg live weight per m² of usable shed area is not exceeded on average over three consecutive cycles.

One pre-destocking unit is permitted per cycle.

Littered raised levels (see *1.8 Structuring of the housing environment/raised levels*), which allow the animals to pass underneath at any time in the interior of the shed, can be taken into account as additional usable shed area for the calculation of space allowance up to a maximum of 10% of the usable shed floor area.

In this case, livestock owners must document the additional usable shed area created with records and calculations.

Fattening turkeys

Livestock owners must demonstrably plan and ensure compliance with stocking densities in such a way that the average live weight of hens does not exceed 28.0 kg per m² of usable shed area and the average live weight of turkeys does not exceed 31.0 kg per m² of usable shed area over three consecutive cycles.

Additional usable area in the outdoor climate area can be counted as space allowance up to a maximum of 30% of the shed floor area if it is available to the animals without restriction at all times (day and night) no later than the beginning of the 11th week of life at the latest.

Raised levels (see *1.8 Structuring of the housing environment/raised levels*) that are available to the animals without restriction from the start of the fattening phase and can be passed under at any time may be taken into account as additional usable shed area for calculating the space allowance up to a maximum of 10% of the usable shed floor area.

In this case, livestock owners must document the additional usable area created with records and calculations.



Slaughter results reports, goods accompanying documents, information (records, area calculations) on usable shed areas and additional usable areas, shed maps, planned calculations of stocking density, measures to control the space allowance for existing stocks

4.3 Access to outdoor areas

Broilers and fattening turkeys

All animals must have free access to a predominantly vegetated area during the day. The outdoor area must offer shelter that is easily accessible at all times through defined structural elements.

Outdoor areas must provide an additional minimum usable area of 20% of the total floor area of the shed, which is taken into account as an area when calculating the available space.

Outdoor access times must be documented.



Proof of outdoor access times

Broiler

All animals must be provided with at least 2.0 m² of contiguous outdoor area either from the age of 22 days or for at least one third of their lifetime.

There must be a sufficient number of exit openings, arranged as evenly as possible, and designed so that the animals have unhindered access to the outdoor area.

Fattening turkeys

All animals must be provided with at least 4.0 m² of contiguous outdoor area for exercise from the beginning of the 11th week of life.

There must be a sufficient number of exit openings, arranged as evenly as possible, and designed so that the animals have unhindered access to the outdoor area. The total areas of the openings (total width) must be at least 5% of the length of the inner side of the shed or the gable end.

4.4 Breeding lines

Broilers and fattening turkeys

All animals must come from robust and healthy breeding lines.

broiler

Only slow-growing breeding lines that are published on the list (see explanations) may be housed.

Fattening turkeys

Either slow-growing lines (average weight gain of 110 g/day) **or** fast-growing hybrids may be used, provided that compliance is ensured with the minimum slaughter age of 140 days (cocks) or 100 days (hens).

4.5 Feeding

Broilers and fattening turkeys

During the entire fattening phase no feed may be used, that is subject to labeling requirements under Regulation (EC) No. 1829/2003. This must be provided

- a) for own feed cultivation through proof of cultivation, or
- b) for purchased feed, through the feed manufacturer's certification (e.g., according to VLOG).

In addition, at least 20% of the feed raw materials must be grown by the livestock owner themselves or have been grown and processed in the member states of the EU-27. This does not apply to feed additives (vitamins, amino acids, etc.), premixes and mineral feeds. The origin must be verified.

Both GMO-free feed and feed ingredients consisting of at least 20% from the farm's own crops or from the EU must be used consistently throughout the entire fattening phase.



shipping documents (e.g. delivery notes for feed), certifications (e.g. VLOG), proof of cultivation, feed rations, documentation of own production, certificates from the supplier/database records confirming the origin of the feed

Broiler

The feed must be used from the day of placement.

Fattening turkeys

The feed must be used throughout the entire fattening phase at least 10 weeks prior to slaughter. If the fattening phase is less than 10 weeks, proof must be provided that the feed was administered for at least 10 weeks prior to slaughter.

5 Definitions and related documents

Definition

The location is always taken into account: unit with an official registration number as the location number (e.g. in Germany according to the location number) in combination with the production scope, regardless of the number of sheds.

related documents:

QS Guideline for Poultry Farming, currently valid version

QS explanations of the guideline for poultry farming, currently valid version

QS guideline for diagnostic data in poultry slaughtering, currently valid version

Initiative Tierwohl programme manual, latest version

6 Annexes

6.1 Annex 1 – Barn climate check

Scope and procedure of the barn climate check

The barn climate check comprises

1. Functional testing of the technology

- a. Actuators and fans: damper position, direction of rotation
- b. Air flow: cross-sections and cleanliness
- c. Installation and calibration of temperature sensors: position, $\Delta\theta$ max. ± 2 °K
- d. Air cooling device (if available)
- e. Ventilation computer
 - 1. Target temperature (curve if applicable)
 - 2. Minimum and maximum air flow rate
 - 3. Control range
 - 4. Alarm values

2. Test alarm

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

3. Sensory testing of the shed climate

If necessary (e.g. if sensory detection of nonconformities in harmful gas concentration or temperature):

- Check the dimensions of the ventilation system
- Carrying out further tests (smoke test, harmful gas measurements, etc.)

4. If defects are found, create a list of defects

6.2 Annex 2 – Drinking water check

Overview of target values for the drinking water check

Scope and procedure of the drinking water check

The drinking water check comprises a physical-chemical and a microbiological examination. At least the parameters listed in the following two tables must be examined. The guideline values must not be exceeded or fallen short of.

a) Physical-chemical examination

If you use your own well, at least one sample per water source (respective well) must be physically and chemically tested. If several locations (= several location numbers or several production scopes) are supplied from a common water source, a physical and chemical analysis of this well by the registered sampler is sufficient. This analysis can then be used for several locations.

No physical-chemical analysis is necessary when using water from the public water supply.

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

Parameter	Unit	Suitable for drinking water
pH		5-9
Hardness	°dH	< 21
Iron (Fe)	(mg/l)	< 3.0
Nitrate (NO ₃ ⁻)	(mg/l)	< 200
Manganese (Mn)	(mg/l)	< 4.0

Source: based on BMLEH guidelines for the assessment of the hygienic quality of drinking water under feed law, as of July 19, 2019 (selection), as well as the LUFA NRW assessment values for drinking water

b) Microbiological testing

At least one drinking water test is required per shed. Sampling is performed from the drinking line. Water must be taken at the end of each branch. In the case of a ring line, the sample can be taken at any point in the ring line.

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

Parameter	Unit	Suitable for drinking water
Colony count (at 37 °C)	CFU/ml	≤ 1,000
Colony count (at 20 °C)	CFU/ml	≤ 10,000
Escherichia coli	CFU/ml	≤ 100

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