Implementation instructions for DRINKING WATER CHECK

Initiative Tierwohl Poultry

The following requirements must be observed by the sampler (e.g. attending veterinarian or consultants; no own sampling by livestock owner), so that the sample for drinking water will be removed appropriately and the sample result will not be distorted. A proper sampling is condition for a compelling examination result.
Please note: The drinking water sample within the Initiative Tierwohl is only allowed to be drawn by registered sampler (cf. **www.initiative-tierwohl.de**).

➔ *Note on quantity of drinking water checks:*
Before the first audit and then once in each following calendar year.

1. Sample vessel

a. Physical-chemical sample

For the physical-chemical analysis only cleaned plastic- or glass bottles shall be used. Mineral water bottles have to be rinsed out several times with the examining water.
Unsuitable are lemonade- or juice bottles or rather jam- or preserving jars.
Please inquire at your laboratory, how big the sample or the sample vessel has to be (e.g. 0,5 or 0,7 or 1 liter etc.; brimful).

➔ *Notes on water source:*
In the physical-chemical analysis there is to differentiate:
When using water from the public water supply there is no analysis necessary.
When using an own well, at least one sample per water source (corresponding well) has to be examined physically-chemically. If more locations (= several location numbers or several production scopes) come from a common water source, one physical-chemical analysis of this well is sufficient. This analysis can then be used for several locations.

If water from the own well will also be used as drinking water (use for human and animal), the official drinking water monitoring can be drawn for the drinking water check as well, as long as the prescribed parameter have been examined and on the examination result it becomes clear, that it is an official sample. In this case the sampler must not be registered at the Initiative Tierwohl.
The evidences may be dated to a maximum of one year (365 days to the implementation date) before the programme audit (first audit); subsequently an analysis per calendar year has to be proven (you can find more information in the explanation of the manual Catalogue of Criteria).

b. Microbiological Analysis

For the microbiological analysis the vessels have to be clean and sterile. Sterile bottles are usually available at laboratories and pharmacies. Alternatively, glass bottles including lid can be boiled.
Please inquire at your laboratory, how big the sample or the sample vessel has to be (e.g. 0,5 or 0,7 or 1 liter etc.; 5/6 filled).

➔ *Notes on water source:*
For microbiological analysis, water from both private wells and the public drinking water supply must be collected for each shed (by location number) in accordance with the sampling protocol.

2. Water absorption

At first, open and close sampling point several times completely in order to rinse out dirt particles.

➔ *Notes for water absorption:*

Sampling points

Water samples for microbiological testing should be taken from the drinking line in a stocked shed. Sampling must be performed at the end of each drinking line. In the case of a looped system, the sample may be taken at any point along the loop.

Water pressure

When preparing for water sampling, take any existing pressure reducers into account and open them if necessary.

3. Disinfection of the sampling point

a. Physical-chemical sample

Disinfection is not necessary.

b. Microbiological analysis

Before sampling the outlet opening has to be disinfected. This can be done using a suitable disinfectant (e.g. from a spray bottle).

4. Sampling

a. Physical-chemical sample

Before sampling, the water should be allowed to run freely for about 3 minutes, but for at least one minute. The sampling vessel should then be rinsed out with the tested water several times. The bottle should be filled to the brim. When filling, the vessel should be hold inclined in order to avoid air introduction. Bailed samples should be taken below the water surface.

b. Microbiological analysis

Before sampling the water should flow freely for approximately 3 minutes, but for at least one minute. The sterile sampling vessel should not be filled completely brimful (approx. 5/6).
The extraction should occur under sterile conditions (clean hands or disposable gloves). Only remove the lid recently before the filling and hold it down during the filling; inner surfaces of vessel and lid must not be touched with hands, close vessel with the lid as soon as possible.

5. Marking of the samples and protocol

The sample vessel must be marked clearly and distinctively and must be relatable (e.g. consecutive number, date, name and address, location number and designation of the shed (microbiological analysis in several sheds)).
In addition, in the sampling protocol has to be documented following information: Name, address, location number of the company, sampling point (Location of the tap or, for example, the drinking nipples/watering trough); name of the sampler, date of the extraction.

6. Transport/Dispatch to laboratory

The samples should be cool, dark (protected against solar radiation) and immediately (preferably within 24 hours) send by the sampler to a laboratory chosen by the livestock owner. With the dispatch a clear procurement has to occur, on which parameters the sample has to be examined (analysis order; normally there are purchase orders at the laboratories).

➔ *Notes on analysis of the samples:*
The drinking water analysis can be commissioned in each qualified laboratory. An approval of the laboratories is currently not necessary.
Please do not send the samples to the business office of the Initiative Tierwohl.

7. Notes on set points

The aim is to provide best suitable drinking water (as most important feed!). If the orientation values will not be observed, measures have to be initiated, so that the values will be achieved as quickly as possible. If overruns or shortfalls of the values will be determined in the analysis, an action plan for troubleshooting has to be established (including deadlines). In the meantime, any negative effects on the animals must be kept to a minimum.

The results themselves do not have an influence on the participation of the Initiative Tierwohl.

The corrective measures have to be initiated and documented at the time of the first audit (if applicable not concluded).

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