

Self-assessment checklist for Poultry Farming

to the Guideline Agriculture Poultry Production/Breeding Poultry

You can use this checklist to document your self-assessment and to prepare for the audit. The **self-assessment** must be carried out **at least once a calendar year** and cover all areas relevant to your company. This work aid is based on the requirements defined in the above-mentioned **guidelines**.



Additional explanations and interpretation aids can also be found in the **explanatory notes** to the **Guidelines Agriculture Poultry Production/Breeding Poultry** (applicable requirements).

This self-assessment checklist **does not replace the daily inspection of** all animals and all housing and supply facilities.

Document overview: [Here](#) you will find work aids to make documentation easier, if required.

Company data

Name of the company

Street and house number
Postcode and city

Official location number(s) (VVVO no.) and production scope(s)

Contact person, legal representative

Criterion/requirement

Remark

2 General requirements

2.1 General system requirements

2.1.1 General company data

Note: Has anything changed in the company data since the last self-assessment (e.g. change of farm manager, vet, coordinator, shed lease)?

Is a current overview of the company with the following master data available?

- Address of the company and its locations (incl. official location numbers)
- Telephone number, e-mail address
- Legal representative, contact person
- Person responsible for incident and crisis management
- Capacity/operating units
- For on-farm mixers: the type of feed used, number of animal places or feed quantity
- Number of animal places (relevant for antibiotic monitoring, among other things)

Are the following documents up to date?

- Company sketch with all relevant operating areas
- Site plan/description for externally storage locations (in particular feed, bedding material)
- Declaration of Participation and Power of Attorney

2.1.2 Incident and crisis management

Basis: In the event of an incident or a crisis, QS and the coordinator must be informed about critical incidents (e.g. via online form or paper of incident).

Is a complete and up-to-date emergency plan available at each location, including contact details?

3 Poultry production/Breeding poultry requirements

3.1 Traceability and labelling

3.1.1 Purchasing and incoming goods

Are all purchases of goods, services and animals for poultry production documented (e.g. delivery notes, invoices, bag tags for feed)?

3.1.2 Verification of eligibility of delivery

Basis: At the time of delivery/service, suppliers/service providers must be eligible to deliver for QS in the QS database.

Criterion/requirement	Remark
Is the verification of the QS eligibility of delivery known (e.g. supplier and recipient list (instructions) or check in the scheme participant search)?	
3.1.3 [K.O.] Marking and identification of livestock	
Is all livestock properly identifiable (accompanying documents, breeder flock number, official licence plates of chick and rearing turkey transport vehicle)?	
3.1.4 [K.O.] Origin and marketing	
Basis: Only livestock from QS-certified companies with eligibility of delivery may be marketed as QS-livestock. Is a copy or carbon copy of the accompanying documents or copies of accompanying documents (e.g. loading protocols, official certificates) available at the location? Is it ensured that existing waiting times for the delivery of treated animals to third parties are indicated on the accompanying documents (e.g. delivery note)?	
<u>Purchase of day-old chicks:</u> Are the purchased chicks labelled as QS animals on the accompanying documents?	
<u>Purchase of hatching eggs:</u> Are the purchased hatching eggs labelled as QS goods on the accompanying documents?	
3.1.5 [K.O.] Stock records	
Are stock records (e.g. shed cards) kept promptly for all shed compartments? Are animal losses recorded separately for dead and cauterised animals?	
3.1.6 Livestock transport	
Basis: QS livestock may only be transported by QS-eligible livestock transporters. Is animal transport regulated accordingly?	
3.2 Animal welfare farming	
3.2.1 [K.O.] Monitoring and care of livestock	
Basis: The welfare of the animals must be checked at least in the morning and evening by means of inspection rounds; immediate action must be taken in the event of any abnormalities.	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
Are dead animals removed from the livestock area as quickly as possible? Is the condition of the bedding and the functionality of the ventilation and feeding and watering facilities checked at least daily?	
<u>For poultry production - chick hatching in the barn:</u> Are non-viable chicks killed in accordance with animal welfare standards?	
<u>For poultry production - measures to improve footpad health through litter quality:</u> Are measures taken to ensure a permanently loose and dry litter?	
3.2.2 [K.O.] General farming requirements	
<i>Note: Have there been any structural changes to the housing facilities since the last self-assessment?</i> • Do the (new) farming facilities fulfil the QS requirements? • Is it ensured that the husbandry does not lead to health problems or behavioural disorders? • Are the animals protected from direct exposure to electricity (with the exception of feeding and watering equipment)? Are all systems and equipment (especially lighting, ventilation and supply systems such as drinking troughs and feeding systems) in perfect condition?	
<u>For Peking ducks:</u> Are the animals kept in accordance with the requirements without being forced to eat or plucked alive?	
<u>Bedding and materials:</u> Can animals peck and scratch in the litter and use it as an activity material? Is the litter scattered in good time? <u>Chickens:</u> Is the type of litter documented and can animals dust-bathe in it? <u>Turkeys:</u> Can the animals dust-bathe in some areas and are they provided with changeable activity material from the second week of life? <u>Peking ducks:</u> Are they re-sprinkled daily?	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
3.2.3 [K.O.] Handling sick and injured animals	
Basis: In the case of animals without a healthy impression or with behavioural abnormalities, steps must be taken to determine the cause and corrective measures must be taken. If necessary, are aggressive, weak or injured animals immediately separated, treated or killed in accordance with animal welfare requirements? Is the vet notified in the event of indications of a herd disease or suspected disease? Is the cause of the disposal clarified in the event of increased disposals (daily loss rate > 1.5%)? <u>Turkeys:</u> Are there recovery compartments with visual contact to conspecifics for animals to be separated? Basis for emergency killing: Every untreatable animal must be immediately stunned and culled in accordance with animal welfare regulations. Are all measures taken to ensure that the animals are spared any avoidable pain, stress or suffering? Are the five steps for emergency killing being followed? • Determining whether euthanasia is necessary • Proper anaesthesia with appropriate methods • Control of the anaesthesia (success of anaesthesia) • Immediate killing of the anaesthetised animal (with suitable methods) • Control of death entry Is the equipment for culling in line with animal welfare requirements available and ready for use (e.g. bolt shooting, ammunition and pliers/sharp knife if necessary)? Is it possible to provide evidence of written working instructions for stunning and culling in accordance with animal welfare requirements?	
3.2.4 [K.O.] Shed floor	
<i>Note: Have there been any structural changes to the shed floors since the last self-assessment?</i> Are the animals kept on compacted floors that can be wet-cleaned and disinfected?	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
3.2.5 Shed climate and noise	
<i>Optional: Has an (ITW) shed climate check been carried out since the last self-assessment?</i> Is the temperature adjusted depending on the livestock owner and the physiological condition of the animals? Poultry production: Are maximum levels of harmful gas concentrations being complied with? Is the noise level of technical facilities kept to a minimum and is continual and sudden noise avoided? Are ventilation systems inspected at least once a year and are the technic checks documented? Can fans in open sheds be put into operation at any time? Do ventilation systems fulfil the necessary requirements, e.g. with regard to air exchange?	
3.2.6 Lighting	
Is the lighting in the activity area appropriate for the animals (duration and intensity)? • Is artificial light flicker-free? Can the absence of flickering be verified? • Is there a 24-hour light programme with a corresponding dark period? • Is the lighting programme based on a day-night rhythm?	
Is there a veterinary indication with recommendation for the restriction of lighting?	
<u>Chickens and turkeys, breeder:</u> Are periods of darkening recorded?	
3.2.7 [K.O.] Space allowances	
Is feed and drinking water easily accessible for all animals? Can all animals move freely and behave normally? Is the available space determined on the basis of the ventilation capacity? Breeding poultry: Is a bedded area available without restriction at all times and does it cover at least one third of the usable shed area? Does the space allowance meet the QS requirements?	
3.2.8 [K.O.] Alarm system	
In the case of electrically operated ventilation: Is there a functional alarm system which reports a power failure or a failure of the ventilation system and works independently of the power grid?	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
Is the alarm system checked for functionality on a weekly basis and is the technic check documented?	
3.2.9 Emergency power supply	
Basis: Even in the event of a power failure, a sufficient supply of fresh air, feed and water must be ensured via an emergency power supply. For emergency power supply: • Is the existing emergency power supply functional? • If an emergency power generator is required: Are the necessary technical connections for the emergency power generator available? • Are emergency power generators checked weekly in a technical check and is this documented? • Are emergency power generators regularly tested under load in accordance with the specifications and are the technical checks documented? Basis: For an electrically operated ventilation system, a replacement device must be available to ensure sufficient air exchange. Is a functional back-up device available?	
3.2.10 Requirements on loading and unloading equipment for livestock transport	
Are the loading and unloading facilities/devices constructed in such a way that injuries, suffering, agitation and stress during loading are avoided or minimised and the animals can be loaded safely? Are any necessary tread surfaces non-slip?	
3.2.11 [K.O.] Handling livestock during loading	
Are the people who catch and load or unload the animals appropriately trained or qualified? Is violence, fear, injury and suffering avoided when handling the animals? Are the animals caught at an appropriate light intensity? Has the personnel to catch and load been recorded in writing? Are the signatures of these persons documented? Has the training of the crew leader been documented? <u>Chicken:</u> Are the sheds darkened during pre-destocking, is a sufficient supply of fresh air ensured and are ventilation short circuits avoided? Is stress for the animals minimised and is the supply of drinking water guaranteed until loading? Are all alarm systems activated and checked for proper functioning after completion of pre-destocking?	
3.2.12 [K.O.] Proof of competence and training	
Basis: Every livestock owner must be able to prove their competence (e.g. by completing training, acquiring expertise,	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
etc.). Livestock owners must ensure that their employees have the necessary knowledge and skills to carry out the work. Can the Livestock owner's competence be proven? Is it ensured that all persons caring for and handling the animals have up-to-date animal welfare knowledge and skills (including stunning and killing methods)? Does the livestock owner take part in specialised further training at least once a year? Can proof of participation be provided?	
3.3 Feed and feeding	
3.3.1 [K.O.] Feed supply	
Basis: All animals must be provided with a sufficient quantity and quality of feed every day. Are the quantity and feed quality sufficient? Does the equipment of the feeding facilities meet the requirements for the respective animal species? <u>Peking ducks:</u> Is the shed with the supply system divided into a resting and activity area?	
3.3.2 Hygiene of feeding facilities	
Are all facilities, containers and troughs, feed transport boxes, equipment (e.g. shovels) and vehicles clean? Are feeding systems cleaned after the use of medicines?	
3.3.3 Usage and storage of feed	
Is all feed protected against contamination and impurities? • Is animal feed stored and transported separately from waste, slurry, manure and hazardous substances, seeds, medicines and chemicals? • Are all feedstuffs stored carefully (clean, dry, using safe building materials and paints, protected from the weather)? • Is all feed protected from pests, rodents, birds and pets? • Are storage facilities cleaned before storage if necessary and are storage facilities and the stored feed checked regularly? • Is mixing avoided and are silo cells clearly labelled?	
3.3.4 [K.O.] Feed procurement	
Basis: Only feed may be purchased and used that originates from feed producers or traders authorised to supply QS or certified by recognised standards (excluding primary agricultural products). <i>Note: Have there been any changes to the feed suppliers since the last self-assessment and have they been added to the list of suppliers and recipients?</i>	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
If transporters (forwarders) are commissioned with the transport of unpackaged feed: Is it ensured that the transporter is eligible to deliver into the QS scheme?	
3.3.5 Assignment of compound feed deliveries (bulk) to location numbers	
Is the location number passed on to suppliers or producers when ordering compound feed (bulk)? Is the location number shown on the accompanying documents from the supplier? Are the correct location numbers communicated to the supplier in the event of missing or incorrect information?	
3.3.6 Feed production (on-farm mixer)	
Basis: Only feed that fulfils the QS requirements and the legal requirements may be used. Feed materials must be listed in the "QS list of feed materials". <i>Note: Has anything changed in feed production on the site since the last self-assessment (e.g. feedstuffs used)?</i> Are the facilities and equipment for feed production checked annually and maintained or repaired if necessary? Are additives used in compliance and is their use documented in accordance with HACCP principles?	
3.3.7 Feed production in cooperation	
Basis: Cooperation for feed production is only possible between QS livestock owners. The sale of manufactured feed to third parties is not permitted. <i>Note: Has anything changed in the cooperation since the last self-assessment?</i> Is there a current contractual agreement for feed production or for purchasing groups? Is the traceability documentation available for a cooperation (name and address of the supplied companies as well as the type and quantity supplied)?	
3.3.8 [K.O.] Use of service providers for feed production	
Basis: Only service providers who are QS certified may be used. <i>Note: Has a new service provider (e.g. mobile soy toasting plants, oil presses or mobile milling and mixing plants) been added since the last self-assessment?</i> Is the new service provider QS-eligible to deliver?	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
3.4 Drinking water	
3.4.1 [K.O.] Water supply	
Basis: <u>All animals</u> must have access to drinking water in sufficient quantity (ad libitum) and quality (clean, clear and without foreign odours) <u>at all times</u>. <i>Note: Has anything changed in the water supply since the last self-assessment?</i> Is the risk of overflowing drinking water minimised? Are there enough drinking troughs available? Are the drinking troughs functional? Breeding poultry: If well water is used, are annual veterinary assessments on risk-orientated examinations available?	
3.4.2 Hygiene of drinking facilities	
Are all watering systems clean and in good working condition? Are watering systems cleaned after the use of medicines?	
3.5 Animal health/medication	
3.5.1 Care contract with farm veterinarian	
<i>Note: Has anything changed since the last self-assessment (new veterinarian or similar)?</i> Is there a current veterinary care contract?	
3.5.2 [K.O.] Implementation of the stock care	
Basis: The entire livestock must be cared for by a veterinarian before the initial audit and at least in the event of acute cases of illness. Are all veterinary inspection reports and their results available? If a need for action has been identified: Is an animal health and hygiene management plan in place? <u>Turkeys:</u> Are stock visits carried out at least once a month? Is a report on the health and care status available for each flock visit? <u>Chickens and eking ducks:</u> Are flock visits carried out at least once per fattening period?	
3.5.3 [K.O.] Procurement and application of medicines and vaccines	
Are fully completed and chronologically organised receipts for the purchase of the veterinary medicinal products available?	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
Are the purchase and use of medicines and vaccines properly documented in chronological order? Are only medicinal products with active substances that are also published in the "QS active agent catalogue for poultry" used? Are all medical instruments clean and fit for purpose? Are only flawless injection needles used (never bent, blunt or unclean needles)?	
3.5.4 [K.O.] Storage of medicines and vaccines	
Are all medicines and vaccines stored in accordance with the instructions of the producer (refrigerated if necessary)? Are the medicines kept clean and inaccessible to all unauthorised persons (children, unauthorised employees, tradesmen, etc.) (e.g. locked (refrigerated) cupboard or room)? Have all preparations that have passed their expiry date been disposed of properly? Are empty containers disposed of immediately?	
3.5.5 [K.O.] Identification of treated livestock	
Basis: All treated animals must be clearly identifiable at all times (at least for the duration of the waiting period). Can treated animals be identified beyond doubt?	
3.6 Hygiene	
3.6.1 Buildings and equipment	
Basis: Effective cleaning and pest control of all buildings and facilities/equipment must be possible. Are all buildings and facilities clean and in good condition? Are outdoor facilities designed in such a way that pests, etc. are not harboured? Is plant growth adjacent to stables avoided? Are loading facilities and the outside area of poultry sheds secured in such a way that vehicles delivering or loading animals can manoeuvre and clean and disinfect effectively?	
3.6.2 Hygiene on the farm	
<i>Note: Has anything changed in the signage and/or fencing of the site since the last self-assessment?</i> - Are sheds marked at least at the farm gates and other entrances or all possible stable entrances with the sign stating "Livestock - no unauthorised access" (or similar)? - Do gates, doors and other entrances effectively prevent unauthorised persons and animals from entering? Are entrances and exits locked during quiet periods? Are clean work clothes used?	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
Is protective clothing made available to external persons? Is there a functioning hand wash basin, hand cleaning agent, disposable wipes or clean fabric towels available? Is the hygiene sluice clean? Is contact with wild animals, especially birds and rodents, effectively prevented? Are the following measures taken during stabling, loading and rehousing to protect the animals remaining in the shed from increased germ pressure? • Clean work clothes • Cleaning and disinfecting hands and shoes before loading • Access to livestock via hygiene sluices • Cleaning and disinfection of the loading equipment and transport containers used in the shed	
3.6.3 Handling litter and activity material	
Are the litter and bedding materials suitable for the animals, hygienic, clean and apparently free from fungal infestation? Are the litter and activity materials used to keep the animals clean and protected from access by wild populations? Are precautions taken with mobile bedding equipment (if used) to prevent the introduction of pathogens into the shed?	
3.6.4 Carcass storage and pick-up	
Are carcasses stored properly immediately after removal from the animal area? Are carcasses cooled until collection and are they secured against unauthorised access? Are the containers for carcass storage impermeable to water and easy to clean and disinfect? Are the cadaver storage area and containers properly cleaned and disinfected at least during the service period? Are the capacities for carcass storage sufficient? Are carcass containers for collection placed as far as possible in such a way that vehicles of disposal companies do not come near to the livestock sheds and are they cleaned and disinfected after emptying if necessary?	
3.6.5 Pest monitoring and control	
Basis: Monitoring for pest infestation must be carried out on the entire company, including the storage facilities. Are traps and baits laid out in such a way that other animals do not have access to them? In case of pest infestation: Is the infestation effectively and properly controlled and are the control measures documented?	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
3.6.6 Cleaning and disinfection measures	
Is the vacant shed, including the facilities and equipment, cleaned and disinfected properly and in a risk-orientated manner between removal and replacement? Are the executed actions documented?	
3.7 Monitoring programmes	
3.7.1 [K.O.] Salmonella monitoring (poultry production)/health monitoring programme (breeding poultry)	
Is salmonella monitoring carried out? <u>Poultry production:</u> Is every delivery of chicks/rearing animals and every fattening period included in the sampling for salmonella? <u>Breeding poultry:</u> Are the results of tests for specific salmonella and mycoplasma infections available?	
3.7.2 Salmonella monitoring: measures towards the reduction of salmonella contamination	
If salmonella is found to be positive, are suitable investigations into the cause of the salmonella entry sources and plausible measures to minimise the risk of salmonella carried out immediately? Are the measures taken in the event of a positive salmonella result documented?	
3.7.3 [K.O.] Monitoring of diagnostic data from slaughter (poultry production)/monitoring of diagnostic data (breeding poultry)	
Basis: The core of the monitoring of diagnostic data is the systematic recording of indicators at both the agricultural companies that keep animals as well as at the abattoir (for each slaughter batch). <i>Note: K.O. criterion only for Poultry Production.</i> Are at least the following indicators recorded? • Mortality in the shed • Changes in the foot pads/paddle (monitoring is performed in the abattoir) • Transport-related losses (monitoring is performed in the abattoir) • Main rejection grounds (monitoring is performed in the abattoir) Are the results of the recorded indicators and any measures derived from them documented?	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
3.8 Transport of own livestock	
Livestock owners must comply with the following requirements 3.8.1 to 3.8.7 (depending on the length of the transport) when transporting own livestock with own (or borrowed) vehicles, regardless of whether it is transported within the company, to other companies or e.g. to abattoirs.	
3.8.1 Requirements for the means of transportation	
<i>Note: Have there been any changes to the means of transport since the last self-assessment (e.g. new vehicle)?</i> Are the vehicles and transport containers as well as any (where applicable) partition walls in perfect technical condition and are they clean and hygienic? Is it ensured that the animals are not injured, neither during loading and unloading nor during the transport? Is it possible to effectively clean and disinfect the vehicles, transport containers and partitions? Are the animals on the lower level protected as far as possible from soiling with urine and faeces from animals loaded on the upper level? Can the animals not escape or fall out? Is a sufficient and appropriate supply of fresh air fully ensured? Do the animals have enough space in the transport container for adequate air circulation? Is there a sufficient light source for animal control?	
3.8.2 [K.O.] Available space during livestock transport	
Is the space available for animal transport complied with and documented?	
3.8.3 Cleaning and disinfection of means of transportation	
Basis: Vehicles used to transport livestock to abattoirs must be cleaned and disinfected before leaving locations of this kind. Is a disinfection control book(for livestock transport to abattoir) properly, separately documented for each vehicle?	
3.8.4 Delivery documents	
Do the accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes) contain information on the quantity, type of animal, proper identification of the herd/flock and location number of the sender? Is a copy or carbon copy of the accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes) available?	

Criterion/requirement	Remark
3.8.5 [K.O.] Time intervals for feeding and watering as well as duration of transportation and resting times (for livestock transport over 50 km)	
Basis: Certain time intervals must be observed for feeding and watering as well as for transport and rest periods for transports over 50 km. Are the duration of transport, resting times and animal care documented?	
3.8.6 Transport papers (for livestock transport over 50 km)	
Are transport papers with details of • Day and time when the transport started • Likely duration of the planned transport • Origin and owner of the animals • Point of dispatch • Scheduled destination • Description of animals (e.g. species, type) carried in the means of transport?	
3.8.7 [K.O.] Proof of qualification for drivers/carers (for livestock transport over 65 km)	
Is there a certificate of qualification for drivers and carers?	

Date

Signature