Inspection System for Cattle Production and Dairy Cattle Programs

Status: Final – June 2, 2026

1. Auditing of Agricultural Businesses

For agricultural businesses participating in programmes classified by Haltungsform, the following minimum inspection system will apply starting **January 1**, **2028**:

- **two programme audits** within three years (notice period: max. 1 week)
    - if applicable, a final programme audit at the end of participation (no more than three months before deregistration or withdrawal from the programme)
- **two stock checks** within three years
    - If participation in a calendar year lasts for fewer than at least six consecutive months, no stock check is scheduled for that calendar year.

1.1 Programme Audits

As part of a programme audit it is verified whether a company meets the technical, organisational and content-related requirements for participation. It serves as the basis for certification. The certification body shall document in the audit report to what extent the initiative criteria are being implemented. To ensure the identity of relevant goods flows, plausibility checks of the quantity reports or animal stock movements are carried out for at least three deliveries per completed quarter since the last programme audit. For this purpose, a plausibility check is carried out in the shed and the reporting forms (sow production and piglet rearing), slaughter invoices (pig and cattle production), slaughter reports (poultry fattening) and supporting documents for animals leaving the farm (tur key rearing) were compared with the exact animal numbers and delivery data from the stock book, delivery notes, sow/fattening planner, stable cards, Hi-Tier database, etc. The result of the plausibility check must be stated in the audit report and has no influence on the audit result. To terminate a location's participation, a programme audit shall be conducted within three months before or two weeks after the termination of the participation for final verification. It has to be ensured that the final programme audit is con ducted while the location is keeping livestock to an extent that the relevant processes can be comprehensively and representatively assessed at the time of the audit (e.g. termination of business or transfer of an enterprise). In the case of turkey farms that combine both fattening and rearing, a final programme audit must ensure that fattening animals are inspected on site in all cases. If the final programme audit is not conducted accordingly, the operating company decides about further measures (e.g. sanction procedure/contractual penalty).

1.2 Stock Checks

In addition to the programme audits, completely unannounced stock checks are conducted on agricultural businesses. These stock checks focus in particular on verifying animal-related requirements. The auditor may conduct a thorough review of other requirements if any irregularities are identified. Stock checks must be conducted at least three months apart from other audits. If a stock check is failed, the program operator will decide on further measures (e.g., loss of eligibility of delivery, initiation of a sanction procedure, or imposition of a contractual penalty).

In addition, the respective program operator must define requirements for auditors, framework conditions for conducting and evaluating audits, and requirements for certification bodies, which should be comparable to the inspection system of the Initiative Tierwohl.

2. Additional Auditing Requirements for Programs for Cattle Production

Additional stock checks for cattle production:

- 10% additional stock checks annually (based on all participants in the respective programme for cattle production).
  Existing data from monitoring programmes (including diagnostic data and antibiotic use) should be used for risk-based prioritization; companies showing concerning trends should be given priority in this process.
  After two years, based on the findings, an open-ended review will be conducted to determine whether this system will be maintained for cattle production.

3. Additional Auditing Requirements for Programs for Dairy Cattle Farming

Additional stock checks for dairy farmers:

- Participation in Q-Check or a comparable scheme: 10% additional stock checks annually (based on all dairy farmers participating in the respective programme who are enrolled in Q-Check).
  The respective program operator must select companies for the additional annual stock checks on a risk-based basis, using the findings from Q-Check or the comparable scheme.

- Without participation in Q-Check or a comparable scheme: 15% additional stock checks annually (based on all dairy farmers who are participants in the respective programme who do not participate in Q-Check or a comparable scheme).