Minimum requirements for programmes that set criteria for broiler chicken companies

	Haltungsform 1 Stall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 2 Stall + Platz haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 3 Frischluftstall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 4 Auslauf/Weide haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 5 Bio haltungsform.de
Space requirements	• max. 39 kg/m²	• max. 35 kg/m²	• max. 29 kg/m² with an outdoor climate area of at least 20% of the usable shed floor area • max. 30 kg/m² with an outdoor climate area of at least 30% of the usable shed floor area	• max. 25 kg/m²	• max. 21 kg/m²
Housing	• indoor	• indoor	• indoor housing with permanent access to outdoor climate area	• indoor housing with access to outdoor area	• indoor housing with access to outdoor area
Shed structure		• raised levels in the shed (e.g. jumping tables, perches or straw bales) • on at least 5 % of the shed floor area (corresponds, for example, to 2 m of perches per 45 m² of shed floor area or 1 high-pressure bale per 90 m² of shed floor area)	• raised levels in the shed (e.g. jumping tables, perches or straw bales) • on at least 5 % of the shed floor area (corresponds, for example, to 2 m of perches per 45 m² of shed floor area or 1 high-pressure bale per 90 m² of shed floor area)	• raised levels in the shed (e.g. jumping tables, perches or straw bales) • on at least 5 % of the shed floor area (corresponds, for example, to 2 m of perches per 45 m² of shed floor area or 1 high-pressure bale per 90 m² of shed floor area)	• perches or raised seating levels in the shed: At least 5 cm per animal for perches or 25 cm² per animal for raised levels • corresponds to approx. 1.89 m² of raised level per 90 m² of shed floor area
Enrichment	• dry litter suitable for pecking, scratching and dust bathing	• additional activity material made of changeable and consumable material such as straw, pecking stones • 1 item per 100 m² of usable shed area • **or** 1 pick object per 2,000 animals	• additional activity material made of changeable and consumable material, such as straw, pecking stones • 2 items per 150 m² of usable shed area or part thereof • **or** per 2,000 animals 3 bales of straw or hay and per 1,000 animals 2 pecking objects	• additional activity material made of changeable and consumable material, such as straw, pecking stones • 2 items per 150 m² of usable shed area or part thereof • **or** per 2,000 animals 3 bales of straw or hay and per 1,000 animals 2 pecking objects	• additional litter in the form of straw, wood shavings, sand or peat on at least 1/3 of the shed area
Breeding line	• robust and healthy breeding lines	• robust and healthy breeding lines	• robust and healthy breeding lines • slow-growing breeds from the list provided	• robust and healthy breeding lines • slow-growing breeds from the list provided	• robust and healthy breeding lines • slow-growing breeds (maximum weight gain 45 g/day) • **or** fast-growing breeds, provided the minimum slaughter age of 81 days is observed
Feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS-recognised feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS-recognised feed	• feed without genetic engineering • **or** at least 100% of feed raw materials from the EU throughout the entire fattening phase	• feed without genetic engineering • **and** at least 20 % of feed raw materials from the own farm or the EU throughout the entire fattening phase	• exclusively feed without genetic engineering • feed from organic production • at least 30 % from the own farm or the region
Animal health monitoring	1. participation in QS diagnostic data monitoring or in monitoring recognised by QS as comparable 2. participation in QS antibiotic monitoring or in a monitoring programme recognised by QS as comparable	1. participation in QS diagnostic data monitoring or in monitoring recognised by QS as comparable 2. participation in QS antibiotic monitoring or in a monitoring programme recognised by QS as comparable	1. participation in diagnostic data monitoring 2. participation in antibiotic monitoring • the following applies to both: Central recording, evaluation, benchmarking & feedback comparable to the QS system	1. participation in diagnostic data monitoring 2. participation in antibiotic monitoring • the following applies to both: Central recording, evaluation, benchmarking & feedback comparable to the QS system	
Inspection frequency	• inspection of all companies by independent certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, according to the ITW inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, according to the ITW inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, according to the ITW inspection system	• official inspection of all companies in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation or cultivation association, at least once a year
Prerequisite	Companies must be authorised to supply QS **or** a standard recognised by QS as comparable	Delivery authorisation for companies for ITW *Stall plus Platz* **or** a standard recognized by ITW as comparable	Delivery authorisation for companies for a programme registered in the Haltungsform. Even if programmes are mutually recognised, these programmes must be registered for the respective Haltungsform-level. The programme requires either delivery authorisation for ITW *Stall plus Platz* **or** a standard recognised by ITW as comparable. Alternatively, the programme defines comparable requirements and has these checked via its own audits.		Delivery authorisation for companies in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation **or** in accordance with the requirements of organic farming associations, which guarantee a higher quality standard than the EU Organic Regulation.
Additional information	These updated requirements apply **immediately** to the classification of new programmes. Existing programmes must implement the requirements **by 1 July 2026** at the latest. On March 27, 2026, the EmpCo Directive will be transposed into national law with the Drittes Gesetz zur Änderung des Gesetzes gegen den unlauteren Wettbewerb (UWG). Therefore, only those programs that fully comply with the requirements of the EmpCo Directive or the UWG will be classified as holding arrangements.				

Minimum requirements for programmes that define criteria for turkey fattening companies

	Haltungsform 1 Stall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 2 Stall + Platz haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 3 Frischluftstall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 4 Auslauf/Weide haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 5 Bio haltungsform.de
Space requirements	• max. 58 kg/m² toms • max. 52 kg/m² hens	• max. 53 kg/m² for toms • max. 48 kg/m² for hens	• max. 41 kg/m² for toms • max. 37 kg/m² for hens	• max. 31 kg/m² toms • max. 28 kg/m² hens	• max. 21 kg/m² • max. 2,500 animals per shed
Housing	• indoor	• indoor	• indoor housing with permanent access to outdoor climate area	• indoor housing with access to outdoor area	• indoor housing with access to outdoor area
Shed structure		• modifiable structural elements: 1 square/round bale per 400 m² of shed floor area • **or** non-modifiable structural elements (tables, side elements): minimum seating area of 1.85 m² in total per 400 m² of shed floor area or part thereof	• modifiable structural elements: 1 square/round bale per 400 m² of shed floor area • **or** non-modifiable structural elements (tables, side elements): minimum seating area of 1.85 m² in total per 400 m² of shed floor area or part thereof	• modifiable structural elements: 1 square/round bale per 400 m² of shed floor area • **or** non-modifiable structural elements (tables, side elements): minimum seating area of 1.85 m² in total per 400 m² of shed floor area or part thereof	• perches or raised seating levels in the shed: Min. 10 cm per animal for perches or 100 cm² per animal for raised levels • corresponds to approx. 7 m² raised seating levels per 400 m² shed floor area
Enrichment	• dry litter suitable for pecking, scratching and dust bathing	• additional activity material made of changeable and consumable material such as straw, pecking stones • at least 1 item per 400 m² of usable shed area	• additional activity material made of changeable and consumable material such as straw, pecking stones • at least 2 items per 400 m² of usable shed area, at least 2 object	• additional activity material made of changeable and consumable material such as straw, pecking stones • per 400 m² of usable shed area at least 2 items	• additional litter in the form of straw, wood shavings, sand or peat on at least 1/3 of the shed floor area
Breeding line	• robust and healthy breeding lines	• robust and healthy breeding lines	• robust and healthy breeding lines • slow-growing breeds (weight gain max. 110 g/day) • **or** fast-growing breeds, provided the minimum slaughter age of 140 days (cocks) or 100 days (hens)	• robust and healthy breeding lines • slow-growing breeds (weight gain max. 110 g/day) • **or** fast-growing breeds, provided the minimum slaughter age of 140 days (cocks) or 100 days (hens)	• robust and healthy breeding lines • slow-growing breeds (weight gain max. 110 g/day) • **or** fast-growing breeds, provided the minimum slaughter age of 140 days (cocks) or 100 days (hens)
Feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS-recognised feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS-recognised feed	• feed without genetic engineering • **or** at least 100 % of feed raw materials from the EU throughout the entire fattening phase, but at least 10 weeks prior to slaughter	• feed without genetic engineering • **and** at least 20 % of feed raw materials from the own farm or the EU throughout the entire fattening phase, but at least 10 weeks prior to slaughter	• exclusively feed without genetic engineering • feed from organic production • at least 30 % from own farm or from the region
Animal health monitoring	1. participation in QS diagnostic data monitoring or in monitoring recognised by QS as comparable 2. participation in QS antibiotic monitoring or in a monitoring programme recognised by QS as comparable	1. participation in QS diagnostic data monitoring or in monitoring recognised by QS as comparable 2. participation in QS antibiotic monitoring or in a monitoring programme recognised by QS as comparable	1. participation in diagnostic data monitoring 2. participation in antibiotic monitoring • the following applies to both: Central recording, evaluation, benchmarking & feedback comparable to the QS system	1. participation in diagnostic data monitoring 2. participation in antibiotic monitoring • the following applies to both: Centralised recording, evaluation, benchmarking and feed- back in accordance with the QA system	
Inspection frequency	• inspection of all companies by independent certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, according to the ITW inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, according to the ITW inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, according to the ITW inspection system	• inspection of all companies in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation or cultivation association, at least once a year
Prerequisite	Companies must be authorised to supply QS **or** a standard recognised by QS as comparable	Delivery authorisation for companies for ITW *Stall plus Platz* **or** a standard recognized by ITW as comparable	Delivery authorisation for companies for a programme registered in the Haltungsform. Even if programmes are mutually recognised, these programmes must be registered for the respective Haltungsform-level. The programme requires either delivery authorisation for ITW *Stall plus Platz* **or** a standard recognised by ITW as comparable. Alternatively, the programme defines comparable requirements and has these checked via its own audits.		Delivery authorisation for companies in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation **or** in accordance with the requirements of organic farming associations, which guarantee a higher quality standard than the EU Organic Regulation.
Additional information	These updated requirements apply **immediately** to the classification of new programmes. Existing programmes must implement the requirements **by 1 July 2026** at the latest. On March 27, 2026, the EmpCo Directive will be transposed into national law with the Drittes Gesetz zur Änderung des Gesetzes gegen den unlauteren Wettbewerb (UWG). Therefore, only those programs that fully comply with the requirements of the EmpCo Directive or the UWG will be classified as holding arrangements.				

Minimum requirements for programmes that define criteria for companies raising Peking ducks

	Haltungsform 1 Stall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 2 Stall + Platz haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 3 Frischluftstall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 4 Auslauf/Weide haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 5 Bio haltungsform.de
Space requirements	• max. 20 kg/m²	• max. 20 kg/m²	• max. 20 kg/m² • or 25 kg/m² barn floor area if there is permanent access to open areas	• max. 20 kg/m²	• max. 21 kg/m²
Housing	• indoor • systematic surgical procedures on animals, such as beak or claw trimming, are not permitted	• indoor; with daylight (Window or light strip min. 3 % of the floor area of the housing) • systematic surgical procedures on animals, such as beak or claw trimming, are not permitted	• open-fronted housing • **or** indoor housing with permanent access to a winter garden or open area for the entire fattening period • the open area must be at least half the size of the housing area for a housing area of 25 kg/m² • systematic surgical procedures on animals, such as beak or claw trimming, are not permitted	• indoor housing with permanent access to outdoor climate area for at least half of the animal's life • the area must be predominant- ly covered with vegetation • 2 m² of green space per animal • systematic surgical procedures on animals, such as beak or claw trimming, are not permitted	• indoor housing with access to outdoor areas for at least one third of the animal's life • the area must be predominantly covered with vegetation • minimum of 4.5 m² of outdoor space per animal • systematic surgical procedures on animals, such as beak or claw trimming, are not permitted
Enrichment	• dry litter suitable for rooting and activity	• fresh litter every day • additional organic activity material; provided in racks or nets	• fresh litter every day • additional organic activity material; provided in racks or nets	• fresh litter every day • additional organic activity material; provided in racks or nets	• at least one third of the floor area must be covered with litter material in the form of straw, wood shavings, sand or peat
Water	• nipple drinkers or other similar drinkers	• additional drinkers that allow the ducks to submerge their entire head (at least one drinker per 250 animals)	• additional drinkers that allow the ducks to submerge their entire head (at least one drinker per 250 animals)	• in addition to the drinkers: access to open water for swimming, e.g. pond, stream, lake or artificial water basin (at least one water point per 1,000 animals, at least 8 cm deep and at least 1.2 m² in size)	• in addition to the drinking troughs: access to open water for swimming, e.g. pond, stream, lake or artificial water basin (provided that weather and hygiene conditions permit)
Breeding line	• robust and healthy breeding lines	• robust and healthy breeding lines • minimum slaughter age 35 days	• robust and healthy breeding lines • minimum slaughter age 42 days	• robust and healthy breeding lines • slow-growing breeds • minimum slaughter age 49 days	• robust and healthy breeding lines • slow-growing breeds • minimum slaughter age 49 days
Feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS-recognised feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS-recognised feed	• feed without genetic engineering • **or** regional feed • minimum 70 % grain throughout the entire fattening phase	• feed without genetic engineering • minimum. 25 % from own farm or from the region • 75 % grain content in the ration throughout the entire fattening phase	• exclusively feed without genetic engineering • minimum 30 % from own farm or region • fresh, dried or silage roughage must be added to the daily ration
Animal health monitoring	1. recording of diagnostic data at the slaughterhouse (entry into the QS database) 2. expert antibiotics monitoring (enter into the QS database)	1. recording of diagnostic data at the slaughterhouse (entry into the QS database) 2. expert antibiotics monitoring (enter into the QS database)	1. recording of diagnostic data at the slaughterhouse 2. qualified antibiotic monitoring • recording in a central database comparable to the QS system	1. recording of diagnostic data at the slaughterhouse 2. qualified antibiotic monitoring • recording in a central database comparable to the QS system	
Inspection frequency[1]	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• official inspection of all companies in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation or cultivation association, at least once a year
Prerequisite	QS **or** a standard recognized by ITW as comparable	ITW or recognised as comparable *Stall plus Platz* **or** a standard recognized by ITW as comparable	Participation in a programme registered with the rearing method labelling scheme. Even if programmes are mutually recognised, these programmes must be registered for the respective Haltungsform-level. The programme requires either delivery authorisation for ITW *Stall plus Platz* **or** a standard recognised by ITW as comparable. Alternatively, the programme defines comparable requirements and has these checked via its own audits.		Certified according to EU Organic Regulation **or** in accordance with the requirements of organic farming associations, which guarantee a higher quality standard than the EU Organic Regulation.
Additional information	- The criteria apply to fattening (from the 16th day of life) - Perforated floors or slats are only permitted below the drinking troughs. [1] Applies to all programmes that are newly classified. The classification of programmes is valid for a period of 3 years. At the latest after these 3 years have expired, all programmes must meet the minimum requirements for the inspection frequency. On March 27, 2026, the EmpCo Directive will be transposed into national law with the Drittes Gesetz zur Änderung des Gesetzes gegen den unlauteren Wettbewerb (UWG). Therefore, only those programs that fully comply with the requirements of the EmpCo Directive or the UWG will be classified as holding arrangements.				

Minimum requirements for programmes that meet the criteria for rabbit fattening companies

	Haltungsform 1 Stall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 2 Stall + Platz haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 3 Frischluftstall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 4 Auslauf/Weide haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 5 Bio haltungsform.de
Space requirements	• usable floor area: 1st-4th animal: 1,500 cm^2 5th-10th animal: 1,000 cm^2 11th-24th animal: 850 cm^2 From 25th animal: 700 cm^2 • in addition, a raised level must be provided: min. 300 cm^2/animal	• usable floor area: 1st-4th animal: 1,650 cm^2 5th-10th animal: 1,100 cm^2 11th-24th animal: 935 cm^2 From 25th animal: 770 cm^2 • in addition, a raised level must be provided: at least 300 cm^2/ animal at a height of at least 27 cm • The total size of the raised level may not exceed 40% of the usable floor area.	• usable floor area: 1st–4th animal: 2100 cm^2 5th-10th animal: 1400 cm^2 11th–24th animal: 1190 cm^2 From 25th animal: 980 cm^2 • in addition, a raised level must be provided: at least 300 cm^2/ animal at a height of at leas 27 cm • The total size of the raised level may not exceed 40% of the usable floor area	• usable floor area: 1st–4th animal: 3000 cm^2 5th-10th animal: 2000 cm^2 11th–24th animal: 1700 cm^2 From the 25th animal: 1400 cm^2 • in addition, a raised level must be provided: at least 300 cm^2/animal at a height of at least 27 cm • The total size of the raised level may not exceed 40 % of the usable floor area	• usable area (without platforms): fixed housing: 2,000 cm^2 Mobile housing: 1,500 cm^2 • in addition, a raised level must be provided: at least 300 cm^2/ animal at a height of at least 27 cm • the total size of the raised level may not exceed 40 % of the usable floor area
Housing	• stable/cage housing • Minimum usable floor space: Legal minimum standard of 8000 cm^2 per housing unit	• group housing • group size min. 10 rabbits • pen open at the top, no wire floors • at least 2 consecutive hops must be possible. Therefore, one side should be at least 1.8 m long if possible • minimum 5 % daylight incidence (based on the floor area of the hutch)	• group housing with outdoor climate, e.g. conservatory, outdoor run, open front sty • group size min. 20 rabbits • pen open at the top, no wire floors • at least 2 consecutive hops must be possible. Therefore, a side should be at least 1.8 m long if possible • minimum litter area: 0.05 m^2/ animal • structured environment with feeding, resting and living areas • suitable hiding places (tubes/ caves)	• group housing with permanent access to open-air runs/fields • **or** free-range housing • group size min. 20 rabbits • pen open at the top, no wire floors • the outdoor area in facilities with permanent housing must be constructed in such a way that a sufficient number of raised platforms are distributed evenly over the minimum area • at least 50 % of the total area in a permanently available paved outdoor area • **or** pasture area: 10 kg/m^2 and 2 m^2 of green space per animal • year-round outdoor access/ pasture area: max. 3.3 kg/m^2 • for pasture/free-range farming: Covered feeding stations and nesting huts • suitable hiding places (tubes/ caves) • at least 2 consecutive hopping jumps must be possible. Therefore, one side should be at least 1.8 m long if possible	• group housing with permanent access to open-air runs/fields • **or** free-range housing • usable outdoor area per animal (without platforms): Solid housing: 2,000 cm^2 Mobile housing: 4,000 cm^2 • dry laying and resting areas, no perforated construction. • suitable hiding places (dark, tubes/caves) • elevated area (inside and outside)
Activity	• constant access to coarsely structured roughage/hay cobs • **and** suitable gnawing material e.g. soft wood/ branches	• constant access to coarsely structured roughage/hay cobs • **and** suitable gnawing material e.g. soft wood/ branches	• constant access to coarsely structured roughage/hay cobs • **and** suitable gnawing material e.g. soft wood/ branches	• constant access to coarsely structured roughage/hay cobs • **and** suitable gnawing material e.g. soft wood/ branches	• constant access to coarsely structured roughage/hay cobs if there is not enough grass available • **and** suitable gnawing material e.g. soft wood/ branches
Breeding line	• robust and healthy breeding lines	• robust and healthy breeding lines	• robust and healthy breeding lines	• robust and healthy breeding lines	• robust and healthy breeding lines that are adapted to outdoor rearing
Feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS-recognised feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS-recognised feed	• QS-approved or QS-recognised feed • feed without genetic engineering • **or** regional feed throughout the entire fattening phase	• QS-approved or QS-recognised feed (if purchased) • **or** organic/eco feed • feed without genetic engineering • at least 60% from own farm or from the region throughout the entire fattening phase	• exclusively feed without genetic engineering • feed from organic production • at least 70% from own production or the region • basic feed must make up at least 60% of the feed.
Animal health monitoring	• documented animal health monitoring must be implemented in the respective programme, which includes the recording of diagnostic data at the slaughterhouse, mortality rates and the use of antibiotics on the farm	• documented animal health monitoring must be implemented in the respective programme, which includes the recording of diagnostic data at the slaughterhouse, mortality rates and the use of antibiotics on the farm	• documented animal health monitoring must be implemented in the respective programme, which includes the recording of diagnostic data at the slaughterhouse, mortality rates and the use of antibiotics on the farm	• documented animal health monitoring must be implemented in the respective programme, which includes the recording of diagnostic data at the slaughterhouse, mortality rates and the use of antibiotics on the farm	
Inspection frequency[1]	• inspection of all companies by independent certification bodies at least every 3 years	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies at least once a year	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies at least once a year	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies at least once a year	• official inspection of all companies in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation or cultivation association, at least once a year
Mandatory programme participation	Participation in a programme registered in the Haltungsform				Certified according to the EU Organic Regulation **or** in accordance with the requirements of organic farming associations, which guarantee a higher quality standard than the EU Organic Regulation.
Additional information	- The animals must be kept under these minimum conditions for the entire period from weaning to transport to slaughter (applies to all stages). •[1]Applies to all programmes that are newly classified. The classification of programmes is valid for a period of 3 years. At the latest after these 3 years have expired, all programmes must meet the minimum requirements for the inspection frequency. On March 27, 2026, the EmpCo Directive will be transposed into national law with the Drittes Gesetz zur Änderung des Gesetzes gegen den unlauteren Wettbewerb (UWG). Therefore, only those programs that fully comply with the requirements of the EmpCo Directive or the UWG will be classified as holding arrangements.				

Minimum requirements for programmes that define criteria for pig fattening companies

	Haltungsform 1 Stall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 2 Stall + Platz haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 3 Frischluftstall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 4 Auslauf/Weide haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 5 Bio haltungsform.de
Space requirements	• minimum area per animal • 30-50 kg: 0,5 m^2 • 50-110 kg: 0,75 m^2 • over 110 kg: 1,0 m^2	• minimum area per animal • 30-50 kg: 0,563 m^2 • 50-110 kg: 0,844 m^2 • over 110 kg: 1,125 m^2	• minimum area per animal • Offenfrontstall[1]: 30-50 kg: 0,7 m^2 50–120 kg: 1,3 m^2 over 120 kg: 1.5 m • sty with permanent access to outdoor areas[2]: 30–50 kg: 0,7 m^2 50–120 kg: 1,1 m^2 over 120 kg: 1,4 m^2	• minimum area per animal[2] • 30-50 kg: 0,75 m^2, of which 0,25 m^2 is in the outdoor area • 50-120 kg: 1,5 m^2, of which 0,5 m^2 in the outdoor area • over 120 kg: 2,3 m^2, of which 0,8 m^2 is in the outdoor area	• minimum area per animal • < 110 kg: 1.3 m^2 in the shed and 1 m^2 outdoor area • > 110 kg: 1,5 m^2 in the sty and 1.2 m^2 outdoor area
Housing	• indoor	• indoor with crate structuring, at least 3 elements per crate	• indoor with outdoor climate stimuli: open-fronted sty or sty with permanent access to outdoor areas	• indoor with constant access to outdoor areas or free-range housing	• indoor with constant access to outdoor areas or free-range housing
Enrichment	• organic, raw fiber-rich activity material	• organic, raw fiber-rich activity material • additional roughage	• organic, raw fiber-rich activity material • additional straw (as litter or roughage) or comparable material	• organic, raw fiber-rich activity material • additional straw (as litter or roughage) or comparable material	• organic activity material: straw or similar substrates • digging material in the outdoor area
Feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS-recognised feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS-recognised feed	• feed without genetic engineering • **or** At least 70% of feed raw materials from the EU throughout the entire fattening phase	• feed without genetic engineering • **and** At least 20% of feed from own farm or from the EU throughout the entire fattening phase	• exclusively feed without genetic engineering • feed must come from organic production • at least 30% feed from own farm or from the region
Animal health monitoring	1. participation in QS diagnostic data monitoring or in monitoring recognised by QS as comparable 2. participation in QS antibiotic monitoring or in a monitoring programme recognised by QS as comparable	1. participation in QS diagnostic data monitoring or in monitoring recognised by QS as comparable 2. participation in QS antibiotic monitoring or in a monitoring programme recognised by QS as comparable	1. participation in a diagnostic data monitoring programme 2. participation in antibiotic monitoring antibiotics monitoring • the following applies to both: Central recording, evaluation, benchmarking and feedback in accordance with the QS system	1. participation in a diagnostic data monitoring programme 2. participation in antibiotic monitoring antibiotics monitoring • the following applies to both: Central recording, evaluation, benchmarking and feedback in accordance with the QS system	
Inspection frequency	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• inspection of all companies by independent certification bodies, according to the ITW inspection system	• inspection of all companies by independent certification bodies, according to the ITW inspection system	• inspection of all companies by independent certification bodies, according to the ITW inspection system	• inspection of all companies in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation or cultivation asso ciation, at least once a year
Prerequisite	Eligibility of delivery of the companies for QS **or** a standard recogni-zed by QS as comparable	Delivery authorisation for companies for ITW *Stall plus Platz* or a standard recognized by ITW as comparable	Delivery authorisation for companies for a programme registered in the Haltungsform. Even if programmes are mutually recognised, these pro-grammes must be registered for the respective Haltungsform-level. The programme requires either delivery authorisation for ITW *Stall plus Platz* **or** a standard recognised by ITW Sas comparable. Alternatively, the programme defines comparable requirements and has these checked via its own audits.		Delivery authorisation for companies in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation **or** in accordance with the requirements of organic farming associations, which guarantee a higher quality standard than the EU Organic Regulation.
Additional information	[1] In open-front stys, animals may be provided with a smaller unrestricted usable floor area (the same as in a sty with permanent access to outdoor areas), provided that this does not conflict with animal welfare considerations [2] The outdoor area can only be counted towards the minimum area if it is permanently available (e.g. designed in such a way that it does not have to be closed in the event of an animal disease outbreak). i**mmediately** to the classification of new programmes. Existing programmes must implement the requirements **from 1st July 2026** at the latest. On March 27, 2026, the EmpCo Directive will be transposed into national law with the Drittes Gesetz zur Änderung des Gesetzes gegen den unlauteren Wettbewerb (UWG). Therefore, only those programs that fully comply with the requirements of the EmpCo Directive or the UWG will be classified as holding arrangements.				

Minimum requirements for programmes that define criteria for dairy cow companies

Minimum requirements Haltungsform — as of March 2026

	Haltungsform 1 Stall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 2 Stall + Platz haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 3 Frischluftstall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 4 Auslauf/Weide haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 5 Bio haltungsform.de
Space requirements	• playpen with cubicles: animal to cubicle ratio 1:1	• playpen with cubicles: animal to cubicle ratio 1:1 • **or** playpen without cubicles: over 350 kg LG minimum area 4 m^2 per animal (lying and walking area)	• playpen with cubicles: animal to cubicle ratio 1:1 • **or** playpen without cubicles over 350 kg LG minimum area 5 m2/animal (lying and walking area) • **or** 1,000 m^2 grazing area/ animal	• playpen with cubicles: animal to cubicle ratio 1:1 • **or** playpen without cubicles: over 350 kg LG minimum area 6 m2/animal (lying and walking area)	• playpen with cubicles: animal to cubicle ratio 1:1 • **or** playpen without cubicles: over 350 kg LG minimum area 6 m2/animal (lying and walking area)
Housing	• indoor, preferably loose housing or combination housing	• free-range housing • **or** combination housing[1] with access to pasture (at least 120 days for 2 hours each day) or with an exercise yard or exercise pen with at least 4.5 m^2 per animal. The exercise area must consist of at least 16 m^2 of contiguous space	• playpen husbandry with an exercise yard that can be used all year round (at least 3 m^2 per animal in the exercise yard) • **or** open-front playpen • **or** Spaceboardstall • **or** playpen with pasture (at least 120 days of 6 hours each) • no tethered housing	• free-range housing with year-round access to outdoor exercise area (at least 3 m^2 per animal in the exercise yard) **and** grazing (at least 120 days of 6 hours each) • no tethering	• free-range housing **and** grazing (exercise) whenever conditions permit • no tethering*
Dehorning of calves, if practised on the farm	• < 6 weeks: by farmer; with pain relief	• < 6 weeks: by farmer; with pain relief	• < 6 weeks: by farmer; with pain relief	• dehorning only in exceptional cases • even for calves younger than 6 weeks only after anaesthesia by a vet; pain relief is required	• dehorning only in exceptional cases • even for calves younger than 6 weeks only after anaesthesia by a vet; pain relief is required
Comfort		• scratching brush in the playpen husbandry or on the exercise area in combined housing • All animals must have access to flexible, deformable lying areas • Use of litter is approved, as is use of soft surfaces (e.g., rubber mats)	• in the playpen husbandry: Scrubbing brush • All animals must have access to flexible, deformable lying areas • Use of litter is approved, as is use of soft surfaces (e.g., rubber mats)	• in the playpen husbandry: Scrubbing brush • All animals must have access to flexible, deformable lying areas • Use of litter is approved, as is use of soft surfaces (e.g., rubber mats).	
Feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS- recognised feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS- recognised feed	• feed without genetic engineering • **or** 80% of feed raw materials from the EU, and the remaining 20% must be non-GMO feed	• feed without genetic engineering • **and** 60% of feed raw materials from own farm or from the EU	• feed without genetic engineering • at least 70 % of feed from the farm or from the region • feed must come from organic production • at least 60% of the dry matter in the daily ration must be fresh, dried or silage roughage
Animal health monitoring	1. recording of diagnostic data in the abattoir (enter into the QS database) 2. expert antibiotics monitoring (enter into the QS database) • the following applies to both: mandatory for all businesses by 2026 at the latest	1. recording of diagnostic data in the abattoir (enter into the QS database) 2. expert antibiotics monitoring (enter into the QS database)	1. recording of diagnostic data in the abattoir 2. expert antibiotic monitoring • recording in a central database comparable to the QS system	1. recording of diagnostic data in the abattoir 2. expert antibiotic monitoring • recording in a central database comparable to the QS system	
Inspection frequency[2]	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• official inspection of all companies in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation or culti- vation association, at least once a year
Mandatory programme participation	QS **or** a standard recognized by ITW as comparable	ITW or recognised as comparable **or** a standard recognized by ITW as comparable	Participation in a programme registered with the rearing method labelling scheme		Certified according to EU Organic Regulation **or** in accordance with the requirements of organic farming associations that guarantee a higher quality standard than the EU Organic Regulation.
Additional information	*According to the EU Organic Regulation, combined husbandry (= seasonal tethered husbandry) is permitted in certain cases [1]Transitional solution; in the medium term, the aim is to accept tethered housing only in combination with seasonal grazing. [2]Applies to all programmes that are being reclassified. The classification of the programmes is valid for a period of 3 years. At the latest after these 3 years have expired, all programmes must meet the minimum requirements for the inspection frequency. Animals must be kept in these conditions no less than 8 months prior to slaughter. All animals covered by the respective programme must be kept under the conditions from the initial inspection onwards. The milk from these animals may only be marketed after successful initial auditing in the relevant programme. Animals that do not fall within the scope of the dairy program and are not included in a fattening program may not be labelled with the Haltungsform. These updated requirements apply immediately to the classification of new programmes. immediatelyFor existing programmes, the deadlines specified in the criteria apply. On March 27, 2026, the EmpCo Directive will be transposed into national law with the Drittes Gesetz zur Änderung des Gesetzes gegen den unlauteren Wettbewerb (UWG). Therefore, only those programs that fully comply with the requirements of the EmpCo Directive or the UWG will be classified as holding arrangements.				

Minimum requirements Haltungsform — as of March 2026

Minimum requirements for programmes that set criteria for companies with cattle fattening (young bulls/oxen, heifers, fattening calves)

	Haltungsform 1 Stall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 2 Stall + Platz haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 3 Frischluftstall haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 4 Auslauf/Weide haltungsform.de	Haltungsform 5 Bio haltungsform.de
Space requirements	• minimum area of loose housing per animal • up to 150 kg 1,5 m^2 • up to 220 kg 1.7 m^2 • up to 400 kg 1.8 m^2 • over 400 kg 2.2 m^2	• minimum area of loose housing per animal • up to 150 kg 1,5 m^2 • up to 220 kg 1.8 m^2 • up to 400 kg 2.5 m^2 • over 400 kg 3 m^2	• minimum area of loose housing per animal • up to 150 kg 1,5 m^2 • up to 220 kg 2 m^2 • up to 400 kg 3 m^2 • over 400 kg 4 m^2	• minimum area of loose housing per animal • up to 100 kg 1,5 m^2 • up to 200 kg 2.5 m^2 • up to 400 kg 4 m^2 • up to 500 kg: 5 m^2 • over 500 kg: 6 m^2	• minimum area of loose housing per animal • up to 100 kg 1.5 m^2 • up to 200 kg 2.5 m^2 • up to 350 kg 4 m^2 • over 350 kg 5 m^2, but at least 1 m^2/100 kg
Housing	• stable housing; free-range housing if possible • tethering	• free-range housing • **or** for oxen and heifers: combined housing[1] with grazing (at least 120 days of 2 hours each) or with an exercise yard or exercise pen with at least 4.5 m^2 per animal. The exercise area must consist of at least 16 m^2 of contiguous space. • for bulls: no tethered housing	• free-range housing with an exercise yard that can be used all year round (at least 3 m^2 per animal in the exercise yard) • **or** free-range housing with grazing (at least 120 days of 6 hours each) • **or** open-front playpen • **or** Spaceboardstall • no tethered housing	• Free-range housing with permanent access to outdoor runs: exercise yard (at least 3m^2/animal) • **or** pasture • no tethered housing	• Free-range housing with outdoor runs • **or** pasture • no tethering*
Dehorning of calves, if practised on the farm	• < 6 weeks: by farmer; with pain relief	• < 6 weeks: by farmer; with pain relief	• < 6 weeks: by farmer; with pain relief	• dehorning only in exceptional cases • even for calves younger than 6 weeks only after anaesthesia by a vet; pain relief is required	• dehorning only in exceptional cases • even for calves younger than 6 weeks only after anaesthesia by a vet; pain relief is required
Comfort (as of 01.07.2027)		• All animals must have access to a functional scrubbing device (at least 1/60) • accessible at all times (except pasture) • The scrubbing device must be at least 90 cm long and 30 cm wide	• All animals must have access to a functional scrubbing device (at least 1/60) • accessible at all times (except pasture) • The scrubbing device must be at least 90 cm long and 30 cm wide	• All animals must have access to a functional scrubbing device (at least 1/60) • accessible at all times (except pasture) • The scrubbing device must be at least 90 cm long and 30 cm wide • All animals must have access to flexible, deformable lying areas	
Feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS-recognised feed	• exclusively QS-approved or QS-recognised feed	• feed without genetic engineering • **or** 80% of feed raw materials from the EU, and the remaining 20% must be non-GMO feed. throughout the entire fattening phase, but at least 8 months before slaughter	• feed without genetic engineering • **and** 60% of feed raw materials from own farm or from the EU throughout the entire fattening phase, but at least 8 months before slaughter	• exclusively feed without genetic engineering • feed must come from organic production • At least 70% of feed must come from the farm itself or from the region • at least 60% of the dry matter in the daily ration must be fresh, dried or silage roughage
Animal health monitoring	1. recording of diagnostic data in the abattoir (enter into the QS database) 2. expert antibiotics monitoring (enter into the QS database) • the following applies to both: mandatory for all businesses by 2023	1. recording of diagnostic data in the abattoir (enter into the QS database) 2. expert antibiotics monitoring (enter into the QS database)	1. recording of diagnostic at the slaughterhouse 2. qualified antibiotic monitoring • recording in a central database comparable to the QS system	1. recording of diagnostic at the slaughterhouse 2. qualified antibiotic monitoring • recording in a central database comparable to the QS system	
Inspection frequency[2]	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• inspection of all companies by neutral certification bodies, in accordance with the QS inspection system	• official inspection of all companies in accordance with the EU Organic Regulation or culti- vation association, at least once a year
Prerequisite	QS **or** a standard recognized by ITW as comparable	ITW *Stall plus Platz* **or** a standard recognized by ITW as comparable	ITW *Stall plus Platz* **or** a standard recognized by ITW as comparable	ITW *Stall plus Platz* **or** a standard recognized by ITW as comparable	Certified according to EU Organic Regulation **or** in accordance with the requirements of organic farming associations that guarantee a higher quality standard than the EU Organic Regulation.
Additional information	* According to the EU Organic Regulation, combined husbandry (= seasonal tethered husbandry) is permitted in certain cases [1] Transitional solution; in the medium term, the aim is to accept tethered housing only in combination with seasonal grazing. [2] Applies to all reclassified programmes and newly classified programmes. Programme classification lasts 3 years. Before, or at the latest, at the end of these 3 years, all programmes must meet the minimum audit requirements. Animals must be kept in these conditions no less than 8 months prior to slaughter. Calves must be kept in accordance with the requirements starting from the 4th week of life. These updated requirements apply **immediately** for the classification of new programmes. For programmes that have already been classified, the deadlines specified in the guidelines apply. On March 27, 2026, the EmpCo Directive will be transposed into national law with the Drittes Gesetz zur Änderung des Gesetzes gegen den unlauteren Wettbewerb (UWG). Therefore, only those programs that fully comply with the requirements of the EmpCo Directive or the UWG will be classified as holding arrangements.				