

AMA QUALITY SEAL GUIDELINES

‘TURKEY REARING’

Version 2027 Draft

NOTE: Changes in the text are shown in italics.

All amendments were agreed following discussions with participants and experts on the ‘Poultry Meat’ expert panel of AMA-Marketing GesmbH.

Comments on the amendments are always presented in the following way and are not part of the Guidelines:

➔ Note XYZ

Section: Definitions

➔ Addition of a new definition.

Structural elements:

Structural elements are physical components and materials that optimise the interior of the house for rearing broiler turkeys and support animal health. Such elements include, for example, raised platforms (e.g. jumping platforms or side elements covering at least 5 per cent of the house floor area) or straw bales (at least one square or round bale per 400 m²).

Point B 2.1. Requirements for animal care and training

➔ More frequent professional training sessions, rather than four hours every four years – one hour per year.

In addition, the site manager and the person(s) responsible for supervision must attend a training session lasting at least one hour on a regular basis, but at least once a year, covering topics relating to poultry and its rearing. Proof of participation in this training must be made available in the form of a certificate.

➔ New, higher standards for animal care – arrangements for cover staff.

A stand-in arrangement must be drawn up to ensure continuous animal care and displayed on the premises. The names of the animal carers designated to act as stand-ins (at least one person in addition to the farm manager) must be clearly displayed on the farm at all times. First name and surname, qualifications or training (e.g. documented training provided by family members), period of employment or period of cover must be documented in writing and be available for inspection at all times by both the supervising veterinary surgeon and authorised inspection bodies.

Point B 2.7. Prohibited interventions

➔ Inclusion of new criteria (prohibited practices) that contribute to more species-appropriate animal husbandry (e.g. the beak, as an important sensory organ, is essential for more natural behaviour).

The following is prohibited

- The clipping of beaks, wattles and wings
- The use of devices that restrict movement, where these prevent physiological processes; for example, the fitting of aids that prevent the beak from closing;
- the trimming of the innermost toe joint ('toe trimming')

Section B 3.2 Animal feed

➔ New section on deforestation-free soya.

Requirements for animal feed containing or consisting of soya

Only soy from certified deforestation-free production may be used under the AMA Quality Seal programme. The purchase of feed labelled as 'fit for the pastus+ AMA Quality Seal' ensures the use of deforestation-free feed. Only deforestation-free soy may be used in feed labelled with the 'pastus+ AMA Quality Seal'.

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Purchase of feed from farmers

No pastus+ certification is required for direct purchases from agricultural holdings (e.g. cereals, maize, soya).

Feed must come exclusively from land where no deforestation has taken place since 1 January 2020. This requirement must also be met for home-grown soya. When purchasing soya directly from other farmers, confirmation that it is 'deforestation-free' is required on the feed delivery note.

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Point B 4.2. Animal care and treatment

➔ Supplement: Practical training in emergency euthanasia.

The information sheet 'Emergency slaughter of broiler chickens' must be signed by the farm manager and the supervising vet and kept on the farm. This confirms that theoretical and practical training on emergency culling has been carried out. If there are any changes to the carer(s), the information sheet must be reviewed and completed again with the supervising vet.

The attending veterinary surgeon must be consulted if there are indications of an existing disease (e.g. in the event of increased mortality) or if an outbreak is suspected. If necessary, the veterinary surgeon must be notified by the farm without delay.

Point B 6.4. Animal protection, access control and company-issued protective clothing

➔ Extension to include requirements for access control.

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Gates, doors and other access points must be designed to prevent unauthorised access and the entry of animals effectively. All entrances and exits to the stables must be locked when no carer is present in the stable or in the immediate vicinity of the stable. Keys must be kept safe and protected against theft (do not leave them in the lock or store them where they can be easily found).

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Point C: Two new criteria for the AMA 'Animal Husbandry Plus' quality mark

➔ New voluntary modules with higher standards for animal husbandry.



1. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY PLUS

1.1 Objective

The voluntary supplementary module 'Animal Husbandry Plus' builds on the basic guidelines and sets out additional requirements for animal husbandry on agricultural holdings. This enables consumers to easily identify products where improved animal welfare practices, going beyond the legal requirements, are implemented on farms.

1.2 Scope

The requirements apply to broiler turkeys throughout the entire rearing period up to slaughter. When purchasing chicks, the requirements must be complied with from the date of purchase until slaughter, unless otherwise specified for individual requirements. In addition, the animal welfare regulations must be met for all farm animals kept on the farm.

1.3 Special control and monitoring system

The basis for controlling compliance with the specifications of the 'Animal husbandry plus' module is the control system pursuant to Chapter A 4 of the AMA Quality Seal Basic Guidelines. The contents of this module are checked on-site annually. The independent controls under the 'Animal husbandry plus' module are carried out, just like the controls under the Basic Guidelines, by independent, accredited, external control bodies. In the event of non-compliance, corrective measures shall be demanded in the same way as for controls under the Basic Guidelines.

The controls are based on the checklist and the catalogue of sanctions for the 'Animal husbandry plus' module.

Inspections of the voluntary 'Animal Husbandry Plus' module may be combined with inspections under other standards, in particular those under the AMA Quality Mark Basic Guidelines.

1.4 Special requirements

Participants in this module must comply with the requirements listed below, in addition to the requirements of the AMA Quality Seal 'Turkey Rearing' guideline ('Basic Guideline'):

> Stocking density

The maximum stocking density for broiler turkeys, which is set by law in Austria at 40 kg/m² of usable floor area per housing unit, must be maintained throughout the entire rearing period.

> Structural elements

Structure-providing elements must be made available to broiler turkeys.¹

> Daylight in the barn

The area of glazing providing daylight in the barn must be at least 2 per cent of the barn floor area in existing barns and at least 3 per cent in new buildings.²

¹ as soon as possible, by 1 January 2029 at the latest

The barn must be designed so that the illuminance in the area where the animals are kept is at least 20 lux (daylight and artificial light). The artificial light source must be high-frequency and flicker-free.

> Manipulable material

For every 400 m² of housing area or part thereof, at least one suitable enrichment item made of changeable and consumable material (e.g. straw bales, pecking stones, suitable organic material, fresh straw as additional bedding) must be provided for broiler turkeys.

> Origin of the chicks

Fattening operations must ensure full transparency regarding the hatcheries and parent stock farms of the chicks, which must be verifiable by third parties.

> Complete beak closure

Only 'beak-treated' broiler turkeys with a fully closed beak (where the upper and lower beaks are the same length) may be used.

> Animal health monitoring/management

Active participation in an animal health monitoring scheme is compulsory. The animal health monitoring programme must include the following:

- Salmonella testing
- Categories by antibiotic classification
- Breast Blister Assessment
- Results of the ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection (SFU)
- Hatching, entry and exit dates
- Number of chicks placed in the house
- Origin of chicks (country)

The data relating to individuals, holdings and flocks for the parameters listed, taken from the Poultry Health Data (PHD) provided by the Poultry Health Service or equivalent organisations in other Member States, must be made available to the holdings in an appropriate manner. Data from holdings where there is an urgent and obvious need for action shall be forwarded to AMA-Marketing.

1.5 Animal Husbandry Plus – Outdoor Climate

² Transitional and tolerance provisions for existing buildings constructed before 2008 that do not meet the 2% open area requirement:

- at least 1% open space (from 1 January 2028 at the latest)
- If 1% open area is not achieved
 - o farms phasing out production, which will cease production by 31 December 2029, do not require open areas – re-entry only permitted in the event of a change of farm manager and with at least 2% open area)
 - o Structural reports from experts/heritage protection assessments are required if a 1% open area cannot be achieved

Farms participating in the 'Animal Husbandry Plus – Outdoor Climate' scheme must meet the following criteria in addition to the requirements of the 'Animal Husbandry Plus' module listed above:

> Stocking density

The maximum stocking density of 37 kg/m² for hens and 38.5 kg/m² for cocks, based on usable floor area per housing unit for broiler turkeys, must be maintained throughout the entire breeding period.

> Outdoor climate area

Broiler turkeys must be provided with a covered outdoor area. The outdoor exercise area at each rearing house must cover an area of at least 25 per cent of the usable floor area of the rearing house.

The outdoor exercise area is directly adjacent to the housing unit and is at least 1.5 m high, covered, open to the outside air and natural light on at least one long side, and enclosed by windbreak nets or metal or plastic mesh. The floor of the outdoor exercise area is a solid, level surface and is covered with dry, loose bedding.

The outdoor exercise area must be available to broiler turkeys from the 43rd day at the latest. Day of life, the outdoor climate area must be accessible daily during daylight hours. The outdoor enclosure must be accessible to the animals for as much time as possible, but for at least 8 hours a day.

Access may be restricted where there is a veterinary indication or in the event of adverse weather conditions.

> Structural elements

Broiler turkeys must be provided with raised areas, constituting at least 10 per cent of the house floor area, to serve as structural elements. The raised areas may be counted towards this requirement.

> Daylight in the barn

The areas providing daylight in the barn must account for at least 3 per cent of the barn's floor area.

> Manipulable material

For every 400 m² of housing area or part thereof, at least two suitable enrichment materials made of changeable and consumable materials (e.g. straw bales, pecking stones, suitable organic material, fresh straw as additional bedding) must be provided for broiler turkeys.

> Breeding lines

Broiler turkeys may be reared either by ensuring a maximum weight gain of 110 g per day or by ensuring a minimum slaughter age of 100 days (hens) or 140 days (cocks).

> Feeding

Grit (e.g. gastroliths, shell grit) must be made available to broiler turkeys from the 9th day onwards. Week of life.

1.6 Animal husbandry plus – outdoor access/grazing

Farms participating in the 'Animal Husbandry Plus – Outdoor Access/Grazing' scheme must, in addition to the requirements of the 'Animal Husbandry Plus – Outdoor Environment' module listed above, meet the following criteria:

> Stocking density

The maximum stocking density of 35 kg/m² of usable floor area per housing unit for broiler turkeys must be maintained throughout the entire fattening cycle.

> Open runs

Broiler turkeys must be provided with an outdoor run. The outdoor run on unpaved ground (green run) must be at least 10 m² per broiler turkey and must be directly adjacent to the outdoor climate area.

Broiler turkeys must be granted access to the outdoor run by the 43rd day at the latest. Day of life, they have access to outdoor runs every day during daylight hours. The outdoor run must be accessible to the animals for as much time as possible, but for at least 8 hours a day.

Access may be restricted where there is a veterinary indication or in the event of adverse weather conditions.

Protective vegetation or technical features must ensure that the animals make use of the entire outdoor run area and that the vegetation cover and turf are preserved.