

Message 001

Communication from the Commission - TRIS/(2026) 1963

Directive (EU) 2015/1535

Notification: 2026/0383/AT

Notification of a draft text from a Member State

Notification – Notification – Notifizierung – Нотификация – Oznámení – Notifikation – Γνωστοποίηση – Notificación – Teavitamine – Ilmoitus – Obavijest – Bejelentés – Notifica – Pranešimas – Paziņojums – Notifika – Kennisgeving – Zawiadomienie – Notificação – Notificare – Oznámenie – Obvestilo – Anmälan – Fógra a thabhairt

Does not open the delays - N'ouvre pas de délai - Kein Fristbeginn - Не се предвижда период на прекъсване - Nezahajuje prodlení - Fristerne indledes ikke - Καμμία έναρξη προθεσμίας - No abre el plazo - Viivituste perioodi ei avata - Määräaika ei ala tästä - Ne otvara razdoblje kašnjenja - Nem nyitja meg a késésekét - Non fa decorrere la mora - Atidėjimai nepradedami - Atlikšanas laikposms nesākas - Ma jiftaħx il-perijodi ta' dewmien - Geen termijnbegin - Nie otwiera opóźnień - Não inicia o prazo - Nu deschide perioadele de stagnare - Nezačína oneskorenia - Ne uvaja zamud - Inleder ingen frist - Ní osclaíonn sé na moilleanna

MSG: 20261963.EN

1. MSG 001 IND 2026 0383 AT EN 17-07-2026 AT NOTIF

2. Austria

3A. Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft, Energie und Tourismus

Abteilung II/8

A-1010 Wien, Stubenring 1

Telefon +43-1/711100-805433

E-Mail: not9834@bmwet.gv.at

3B. Bundesministerium für Land- und Forstwirtschaft, Klima- und Umweltschutz, Regionen und Wasserwirtschaft

Abteilung I 1

A-1010 Wien, Stubenring 1

Telefon +43-1/711100-602144

E-Mail: notifikationen2@bmluk.gv.at

4. 2026/0383/AT - C00A - AGRICULTURE, FISHING AND FOODSTUFFS

5. AMA Quality Seal Guidelines for Chicken Farming – amendment

6. Primary products and foodstuffs

7.

8. The AMA Quality Seal Guidelines for chicken farming are amended as follows:

- More frequent compulsory professional training sessions for those responsible for looking after the animals, and the establishment of regulations for stand-in workers when the former are unable to do so.
- Exclusive use of soy products not cultivated on deforested land
- Certificate of completion of the theoretical and practical training on emergency slaughter, as set out in the information sheet 'Emergency slaughter of broiler chickens'.
- Requirements for access to animal housing in order to prevent unauthorised persons from entering and other animals from breaking in.
- Optional supplementary module 'Animal Husbandry Plus' with additional requirements for animal husbandry:
 - Annual inspection of the requirements set out in the module.
 - Requirements for population density in animal housing: A maximum of 20.5 chicks may be housed per square metre of usable floor space, and the maximum density in animal housing of 30 kg per square metre of usable floor space per housing unit for broiler chickens, as stipulated by Austrian law, must be maintained throughout the entire rearing period.
 - Elements that provide structure for the chickens shall be made available.
 - There must be natural light covering at least 2 per cent of the housing floor area.
 - For every 100 m² of housing floor space or part thereof, at least one suitable manipulable item (such as straw bales, pecking stones or organic material) must be provided.
 - Compulsory participation in an animal health monitoring scheme.
- Optional supplementary module 'Animal Husbandry plus outdoor climate', which builds on the 'Animal Husbandry plus' supplementary module and sets out additional requirements for animal husbandry:
 - Requirements for population density in animal housing: A maximum of 18.5 chicks may be housed per m² of usable area, and the maximum housing density of 27.5 kg/m² of usable area per housing unit for broiler chickens must be maintained throughout the entire rearing period.
 - A covered outdoor-climate area comprising at least 20 per cent of the floor area of the housing.
 - Raised areas occupying at least 10 per cent of the floor area of the housing unit must also be provided for the chickens as structural elements.
 - At least two suitable manipulable materials (e.g. straw bales, pecking stones or organic material) must be provided for each 150 m² of housing area or part thereof.
 - More vigorous breeds.
- Optional additional module, 'Animal husbandry plus – outdoor area / pasture', which builds on the additional module 'Animal husbandry plus outdoor climate' and includes additional requirements for animal husbandry:
 - Requirements for population density in animal housing: A maximum of 18.5 chicks may be housed per m² of usable area, and the maximum housing density of 27.5 kg/m² of usable area per housing unit for broiler chickens must be maintained throughout the entire rearing period.
 - Natural light covering at least 3 per cent of the usable floor area of the animal housing.
 - Outdoor area on unpaved soil (green outdoor area) of at least 2 m²/broiler chicken.
 - Suitable materials for plumage care (such as a sand bath) must be made available to the chickens.

9. The AMA Quality Seal Guidelines for chicken farming also set out the legal requirements. This serves as information for the stakeholders in the Guidelines. Moreover, compliance with these requirements is verified and thus ensured through inspections pursuant to the AMA Quality Seal Guidelines.

Reasons for amending the AMA Quality Seal Guidelines for Chicken Farming:

- Further increase in product quality..
- Improvements in food safety.
- Consumers have increasingly high expectations for animal welfare in animal husbandry. In particular, the optional additional modules are intended to meet consumers' expectations in this regard and to make it easier for them to identify products where animal welfare standards exceeding the minimum legal requirements have been met in production.
- The purpose of the optional module 'Animal husbandry plus outdoor area/pasture' is to make use of the leeway for national rules granted to Member States in Article 10 of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/343.

9a. The AMA Quality Seal Guidelines for Chicken Farming set out the requirements for production, while at the same time defining the quality characteristics of the products. Compliance with the requirements is monitored by

- Self-monitoring by manufacturers and licence holders,
- Accredited control bodies and
- System controls by AMA Marketing as the operator of the quality seal system.

By establishing rules for the production that go beyond the statutory requirements and by monitoring compliance with these rules, it is ensured that the products meet the quality standards required and those expected by consumers.

The additional modules incorporate higher animal welfare standards and thus reflect consumers' increasingly high expectations regarding animal welfare in animal husbandry.

Farm products produced in accordance with the AMA Quality Seal Guidelines are labelled with the AMA Quality Seal, so that consumers can recognise easily that they were produced that way.

9b. The AMA Quality Seal Guidelines are open to producers from all Member States and all producers may participate in the AMA Quality Seal System. The notified draft therefore does not lead to any restriction on the internal market.

The existing statutory provisions are not sufficient to meet the demand from producers and consumers for high-quality products, as they offer solely a basic standard of quality. On the one hand, products with higher quality are sought after by consumers and the Quality Seal system satisfies this demand. On the other hand, higher quality products also enable a higher price and contribute to a higher income for producers.

Consumers' expectations regarding quality – and animal welfare standards in particular – are also shifting towards ever higher standards. These changes in consumer expectations must be reflected by amending the AMA Quality Mark Guidelines for Chicken Framing.

It is a voluntary system; participation in the AMA Quality Seal is not mandatory.

9c. There is no excessive burden. Participation in the AMA Quality Seal is voluntary. Inspections are carried

out on a risk-based basis, usually once a year.

10. Reference to the basic texts: Basic texts have been forwarded under a previous notification:
2018/0493/A

11. No

12.

13. No

14. No

15. No

16.

TBT aspects: No

SPS aspects: No

European Commission

Contact point Directive (EU) 2015/1535

email: grow-dir2015-1535-central@ec.europa.eu