

AMA QUALITY SEAL GUIDELINES

CHICKEN FATTENING

Version 2027 Draft

NOTE: Changes in the text are shown in italics.

All amendments were decided upon after discussions with the participants and experts in the 'Poultry' 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

Point Definitions

➔ Addition of a new definition

Structuring elements:

Structuring elements are physical components and materials that optimise the interior of the barn for raising broiler chickens and promote animal health. Such elements include raised surfaces (at least 5% of the floor area of the barn), bales of straw (at least one bale per 100 m²) or perches (at least 2.0 m per 45 m²).

Point B 2.1. Requirements for animal care and training

➔ More frequent technical training: instead of four hours over four years, one hour annually.

In addition, the farm manager and the person(s) responsible for the care of the birds 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 raising them. Proof of participation in this training must be made available in the form of a certificate.

➔ New, stricter requirements for animal care – substitution policy.

A substitution policy must be established for continuous animal care and kept on the premises. The animal keepers named as substitutes (at least one person in addition to the farm manager) must be clearly identifiable on the farm at all times.

Name and surname, qualification or instruction (e.g. proven training by family members), period of employment or period of substitution must be documented in writing and must be accessible to both the supervising veterinarian and authorised control bodies at all times.

Point B 3.2 Feed

➔ New point on deforestation-free soy.

Additional requirements for feed containing or made from soy

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

Pastus+ certification is not necessary in the case of direct purchase from farms (e.g. silage, hay).

Feed may only originate from areas in which no deforestation has occurred since 1.1.2020. The requirement is also to be applied for the soy grown by the farmer. When purchasing soy directly from other farmers, the feed delivery note must include confirmation that it is 'deforestation-free'.

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Point B 4.2. Animal care and treatment

➔ Supplement: Practical training on emergency slaughter.

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

The supervising veterinarian must be consulted if there is any evidence a disease within the herd (e.g. in the event of increased losses) or if an outbreak is suspected. If necessary, the veterinarian must be notified by the farm without delay.

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

➔ Addition of requirements relating to access control

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Gates, doors and other means of access shall be designed so as to effectively prevent unauthorised persons from entering and animals from intruding. All entrances to and exits from the barns must be blocked if there is no attendant in the barn or in the immediate vicinity of the barn. Keys must be kept safe and protected from theft (they must not be left in the lock or left 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 stricter animal husbandry requirements

1. ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

1.1 Objective

The voluntary additional module 'Animal husbandry plus' builds on the Basic Guidelines and lays down additional requirements for animal husbandry on the farm. This enables consumers to easily identify products where improved animal welfare practices surpassing the legal requirements are implemented on farms.

1.2 Scope

The requirements apply to broiler chickens 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 specified otherwise 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 content of this module will be inspected on site each year. 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.

Controls for the 'Animal husbandry plus' module can be combined with controls for other standards, in particular with those for the AMA Quality Seal Basic Guidelines.

1.4 Special requirements

In addition to the requirements for the AMA Quality Seal 'Chicken fattening' ('Basic Guidelines'), participants in this module must also comply with the requirements listed below:

> Stocking density

A maximum of 20.5 chicks per m² of usable floor space may be housed, and the maximum stocking density of 30 kg/m² of usable floor space per housing unit for broiler chickens, as stipulated by Austrian law, must be maintained throughout the entire rearing period.

> Structuring elements:

Structuring elements must be provided for the chickens.¹

> Lighting conditions in the barn

The clear areas allowing daylight into the barn must be at least 2% of the barn floor area in existing barns and at least 3% in new buildings.²

The barn must be designed so that the light intensity 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 100 m² of housing area or part thereof, at least one suitable type of manipulable material (e.g. straw bales, pecking stones or organic material) must be provided for the broiler chickens.

> Source of the chicks

There must be full transparency at the fattening farm regarding the hatcheries and parent stock farms from which the chicks originate, such that this information is verifiable by third parties.

> Animal health monitoring

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

- Salmonella tests

¹ as soon as possible and by no later than 1 January 2028

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

- at least 1% clear area
- if the 1% clear area is not reached
 - o Farms that are being phased out and will cease production by 31 December 2029 do not require clear areas – operation may only be resumed if there is a change of farm manager and at least 2% clear area)
 - o Structural reports from experts/heritage protection assessments are required if a 1% clear area cannot be reached

- Categories for chicken farms by antibiotic classification
- Footpad scoring
- Results of the slaughter-animal and meat examination (SFU [*Schlachttier- und Fleischuntersuchung*])
- Dates of hatching, placement in the barn and departure from the barn
- Number of chicks placed in the barn
- Origin of the chicks (country)

The personal, holding and herd-related data of the listed parameters from the Poultry Health Data (PHD) from the poultry health service or equivalent organisations in other Member States shall be made available to the farms in an appropriate manner. Data from businesses where there is an urgent and obvious need for action shall be forwarded to AMA-Marketing.

1.5 Animal husbandry plus – outdoor climate

In addition to the above-mentioned requirements of this module, farms participating in 'Animal husbandry plus outdoor climate' must also implement the following criteria:

> Stocking density

A maximum of 19.5 chicks per m² of usable area may be housed, and the maximum stocking density of 29 kg/m² of usable area per housing unit for broilers must be complied with throughout the entire fattening cycle.

> Outdoor climate area

A covered outdoor climate area must be made available for the chickens. The outdoor climate area for each broiler house must cover at least 20% of the usable floor area of the house – and, for new buildings from 1 January 2028, at least 25% of the usable floor area.

The outdoor climate area must be directly adjacent to the barn area and 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 netting. The floor of the outdoor climate area must be a hard-surfaced area covered with dry, loose bedding.

Broiler chickens must have daily access to the outdoor climate area during daylight hours from the 22nd day of life at the latest. The outdoor climate area must be accessible to the animals for as much time as possible, albeit for at least 8 hours per day.

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

> Structuring elements:

The chickens must be provided with raised areas serving as structuring elements which make up at least 10% of the barn floor area. These raised areas may be counted towards the required total.

> Manipulable material

For every 150 m² of housing area or part thereof, at least two suitable types of manipulable material (e.g. straw bales, pecking stones or organic material) must be provided for the broiler chickens.

> Hardier breeds

Only chickens of hardier breeds may be fattened. The list of approved hybrid lines can be viewed at , www.amainfo.at.

1.6 Animal husbandry plus – open run/grazing

In addition to the above-mentioned requirements of the 'Animal husbandry plus outdoor climate' module, farms participating in 'Animal husbandry plus open run/grazing' must also implement the following criteria:

> Stocking density

A maximum of 18.5 chicks per m² of usable area may be housed, and the maximum stocking density of 27.5 kg/m² of usable area per housing unit for broilers must be complied with throughout the entire fattening cycle.

> Lighting conditions in the barn

The area of the barn providing natural light must be at least 3% of the barn's floor area.

> Open runs

The chickens must be provided with an open run. The open run on unpaved ground (green run) must be at least 2 m² per broiler and must be directly adjacent to the outdoor climate area.

Broiler chickens must have daily access to the open run during daylight hours from the 22nd day of life at the latest. The open run must be accessible to the animals for as much time as possible, albeit for at least 8 hours per day. Access may be restricted if there is a veterinary medical indication or in the event of adverse weather conditions.

Protective plants or technical elements must ensure that the animals use the entire open run and that the vegetation cover and turf are preserved.

> Plumage care

Chickens must be provided with suitable material for plumage care, e.g. a sand bath.