

KAT – Verein für kontrollierte alternative Tierhaltungsformen e.V.

KAT Guide for Laying Farms

Barn, free-range and organic production

Version 2023.01



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KAT – Verein für kontrollierte alternative Tierhaltungsformen e.V.

Konrad-Zuse-Platz 5

53227 Bonn

Germany

Internet www.kat.eu

www.was-steht-auf-dem-ei.de

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Teil I: Introduction

1 Basic principles

1.1 Scope of application

This Guide has been developed for the keeping of laying hens and applies to all laying farms (including self-mixers = users of own crops). Every laying farm that wants to produce KAT goods must register with the KAT system and, after successful certification, conclude a participant contract. The establishment itself is responsible for compliance with KAT requirements and for the complete and correct documentation of self-monitoring.

With regard to the list of requirements provided in Part II, barn production is covered by Chapters 1 to 4 and 6 to 9, while free-range and organic production are covered by Chapters 1 to 9.

1.2 General establishment data

Every establishment registers independently to participate in the system and draws up an establishment overview containing the following information:

- ✓ Establishment parameters:
Name, address and contact data, KAT ID, other registration numbers (e.g. VVVO no. etc.), type of establishment
- ✓ KAT certification area:
no. of KAT henhouses with house designation and stamp number, and capacity per henhouse, producer and model no. of henhouse equipment
- ✓ Other commercial units on the premises

The master data are stored in the KAT database. The system provider KAT must be notified immediately of any changes to the master data.

→ **Online registration available at <https://anmeldung.kat.eu>**

 *Form FB-A-01: Establishment Description*

2 Legal requirements

The requirements of the German Animal Welfare Act (Tierschutzgesetz) and the minimum requirements set out in the Regulation on the marketing standards for eggs, Regulation (EC) 589/2008, Regulation (EU) 1308/2013, Directive 1999/74/EC, the German Ordinance governing Animal Welfare and Keeping of Farmed Animals (Tierschutznutztierhaltungsverordnung) including the current implementation instructions and Registration Directive 2002/4/EC in the current applicable version, as well as the strictest national requirements with regard to the keeping of laying hens and, additionally, the provisions set out in the Annex to this Guide apply accordingly.

With regard to organic production of eggs, the minimum requirements set out in Regulation (EU) 2018/848 of the European Parliament and of the Council on organic production and labelling of organic products and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/464 in the applicable version as well as the strictest national regulations governing the keeping of laying hens apply accordingly.

Amendments and updates to the production requirements also apply to the participant contract concluded.




3 General information about the KAT certification protocol

For an initial certification and/or to perform the annual certification audits, the KAT participant commissions a certification body from the list of KAT-approved certification bodies. Moreover, the system provider KAT reserves the right to carry out verification/spot audits at given intervals as an additional means of checking that the establishments are complying with the KAT criteria. These verification audits are, as a general rule, conducted unannounced. During all audits, auditors must be granted access to the operating units that are the subject of the audit. In establishments with free-range production, additional unannounced checks of the free-range area also form part of the verification and spot audits.

During the initial certification and/or the annual certification audits, the “KAT laying farms” checklist is used as the basis for checking whether the establishment can be awarded a KAT certificate. The audit will be passed and a KAT certificate may be issued if a result of at least 75% is achieved and provided that there are no K.O. assessments. The KAT certificate is valid from the date of the certification decision and expires at the end of the following calendar year. For establishments that cannot be issued with a certificate, the current certificate is automatically suspended or withdrawn. If the certificate is suspended, implementation of the corrective measures required is checked during a follow-up audit. If the establishment does not pass the follow-up audit either, the suspended certificate will immediately be withdrawn. If a certificate is withdrawn, the site must undergo a new certification process in full. A suspension of the certificate or its withdrawal will automatically result in a temporary ban on marketing under the KAT logo.

Digital images for the audit report are made during the checks. These are for documentation purposes only and are not published.

To facilitate the examination of documents, the laying hen keeper has access to a collection of forms and useful documentation information in the internal area of the KAT website at www.kat.eu.

-  *KAT Certification Protocol*
-  *KAT Laying Farms checklist*
-  *List of approved KAT certification bodies*

4 Internet portal

In order to create greater transparency, KAT offers a special service on the query page at www.was-steht-auf-dem-ei.de: By entering the number printed on the egg (stamp number), consumers can find out the name and location of the laying farm and view pictures of the henhouse and birds. The query function is also available as a smartphone app.

Further information on the KAT system can be found at www.kat.eu. Every KAT participant can register for the internal area of the website and download the documents available there (circulars, forms, member lists, etc.).

Teil II: List of requirements

1 General condition of the laying farm (henhouse, storage, packing and packaging premises, and external areas)

1.1 Physical condition of the henhouse building

The henhouse building, as well as doors and gates, are all in a good structural condition.

1.2 Physical condition of the housing equipment


The housing equipment is in a sound structural condition and good working order, and is designed to minimise any risk of injury to the birds. Feed conveyor belts and drinker systems are designed in such a way that they are easy to clean and disinfect and prevent contamination with e.g. bird droppings.

1.3 Building security, controlled access

Controlled access to the henhouse building must be guaranteed. External doors and gates to the henhouse have been designed to prevent non-authorized persons entering the premises unnoticed.

1.4 Visitor registration

Visitors and external service providers are registered upon arrival. The site keeps visitor lists. These records should be kept for at least one year and presented upon request.

 *Form FB-LB 14: Visitor List*

1.5 Sanitary facilities

The laying farm site is equipped with appropriate sanitary facilities taking into account the number of staff. In the case of small establishments, it is acceptable for sanitary facilities for the persons working on the farm to be located within the living accommodation provided that the latter is located directly at the laying farm.

Additional conditions for mobile henhouses: Sanitary facilities must be available in the egg storage/collecting area on the site.

1.6 Housing equipment with areas that lock automatically


If the Big Dutchman Natura 60/70 system is being used, the laying hen keeper must completely remove or seal the grids by no later than the end of the acclimatisation phase.

The seals must be arranged in such a way that the system can no longer lock automatically. If, in justified and documented cases, the hens are to be kept in the system, written notification including the seal numbers must be sent to the KAT Office immediately. After these measures have been completed, the system must be sealed again.

In the case of housing equipped with the Salmat HighRise 1 system, the flaps of the floor hatches must be removed by the end of the acclimatisation period at the latest so that it is no longer possible to close the access to the scratching area at any time.

Information: Since 20 June 2018, the Big Dutchman Natura 60/70 has no longer been an approved facility for new registrations, building alterations or the modernisation of existing facilities. This has similarly applied to the Salmat HighRise 1 system since 11 March 2019.

 *Procedural instruction VA-LB-01: Sealing*

 Form FB-LB 11: Shut-off_Scratching Area

2 Organisation, cleanliness and hygiene

2.1 Organisation and cleanliness of the henhouse and external areas

2.1.1 The egg collection areas and Farmpacker are clean and hygienic, and in a non-defective state.

2.1.2 Accumulated waste, dirt, excessive dust deposits, cobwebs and dead flies are removed on a regular basis or as necessary. Additionally, the Farmpacker and egg collection areas are deep cleaned at least weekly. Weekly cleaning must be documented by the establishment.

 Evidence/documentation

2.1.3 Broken eggs are collected in suitable covered containers and removed from the egg collection area on a daily basis.

2.1.4 The laying establishment has a clean and tidy appearance overall. The premises are in a non-defective, well-maintained and tidy condition.

2.2 Storage of eggs

2.2.1 Eggs are stored in a separate room away from the birds. The egg store is used exclusively for the purpose of storing unsorted eggs and is clean, in a good structural condition and free from non-food objects.

2.2.2 Immediately after laying, the eggs are kept clean, dry and free from foreign odours, as well as effectively protected against knocks, sunlight and other effects of weather.

2.2.3 The packaging material needed for the eggs is stored inside the farm building in a clean, dry place where it is protected against the effects of weather. The storage conditions prevent the packaging material from becoming contaminated by unwanted substances.

2.3 Storage of feed

2.3.1 Feed silos and storage containers are kept clean and in particular free of chemical, physical (e.g. shards of glass) and also microbial contamination (e.g. mould). The materials and coatings used for storage containers are fit for purpose and pose no risk to health. The type and frequency of cleaning are set for the individual farm.

2.3.2 Flat stores used for storing feedstuff are kept clean and dry. The storage areas are cleaned regularly and at least before every restocking of the flat store. The feed is stored separately from chemicals and other substances that are banned from animal feed. The storage areas are included in the pest control system.

2.4 Collection of eggs

2.4.1 Eggs are collected at least once per week.

2.5 Staff hygiene

2.5.1 Non-establishment persons represent a risk to hygiene. Non-establishment persons are allowed access to the henhouses and housing equipment only when absolutely necessary.

Henhouses are entered only by those wearing company-owned clothing or appropriate disposable clothing. It must be ensured that external persons are only allowed to enter the henhouse or other areas where the hens are being kept in consultation with the keeper.

- 2.5.2 A hygiene lock is compulsory in all farms. Depending on the site layout, the lock should be situated in the most logical location taking into account animal health and the prevention of disease, e.g. at the entrance to the henhouse complex. The process within the hygiene lock includes at least a change of footwear.

The following requirements apply to hygiene locks:

- Clear separation into a black and a white area: street clothes are stored in the black area, work clothing in the white area.
- The black and white areas can be separated by a wooden bench or low wall. The material must be easy to wipe down and have a smooth surface.
- The bird area must only be entered and exited via the hygiene lock.

Additional conditions for mobile henhouses:

Mobile henhouses that were procured **after 1 June 2022** must also be fitted with a hygiene lock. Hygiene locks must be retrofitted to existing mobile houses that do not currently have one **by 31 December 2024**. Until these deadlines, persons entering the bird area must at least change their footwear.

- 2.5.3 Each henhouse anteroom or hygiene lock contains at least a washbasin with running water, soap dispenser and paper towels. All persons must wash their hands before and after entering the henhouses and before and after collecting eggs. Hand disinfecting after hand washing and drying is also recommended.

Additional conditions for mobile henhouses:

Mobile henhouses that were procured after 1 June 2022 must also be fitted with handwashing facilities.

- 2.5.4 The establishment has defined appropriate hygiene rules. These rules are clearly displayed on the premises and are familiar to all staff.

3 Labelling requirement

3.1 Stamping of eggs

- 3.1.1 **[K.O.]** Stamping of the producer code (form of production/country/number) in the laying farm or in the immediate proximity of the henhouse is obligatory. The stamping device manufacturer must be noted in the audit report.

Additional conditions for mobile henhouses: If the henhouses belong to one KAT-ID and exclusively relate to one single form of production with no additional eggs being bought in from other establishments, printing directly on the premises is not necessary. In such a case, the eggs from all henhouses may be stamped at a central point on the operational site.

3.1.2 The inks used for stamping codes on the eggs must comply with the official rules. Printers must therefore only be filled with identical food-safe liquids.

 *Documentary evidence/conformity certificate with regard to egg inks*

3.1.3 The stamp is clearly visible, easy to read and at least 2 mm high.

Stamping with the producer code is not mandatory if cracked or soiled eggs cannot be labelled for technical reasons. A tolerance of 20% of eggs with illegible labelling is accepted during inspections.

3.1.4 **[K.O.]** Stamping device failure reports must be reported to KAT without delay. The corresponding evidence of repair or maintenance work must be submitted on a timely basis. Similarly, the transport packaging for the unstamped eggs must be clearly labelled with the words “Stamping device failure/unstamped eggs/stamp number” as information for the supplying packing station.

 *Form FB-LB-06: Labelling Transport Packaging (Stamping Device Failure)*

3.2 Labelling transport packaging and accompanying records

3.2.1 As a minimum, the following information must be included in the labelling on **transport packaging**:

- Name and address of the producer
- Producer code
- Number and/or weight of eggs
- Laying date or laying period
- Dispatch date

Also to be indicated on the transport packaging for class B goods.

3.2.2 As a minimum, the following information must be included on the **accompanying records** (collection slips, delivery notes):

- Name and address of the producer
- Name and address of the recipient
- Producer code
- Number of eggs – broken down by form of production, laying date or laying period
- Dispatch date

Also to be indicated on the delivery notes for class B goods. A copy of each delivery note should be retained at the laying farm, with the original being sent to the packing station.

3.2.3 The following information should be listed on the transport packaging and on the accompanying records highlighting that the goods are KAT goods:

“KAT goods” with the number of eggs and form of production

4 Requirements for housing equipment and housing conditions

4.1 Initial inspection/henhouse measurement/structural alterations

The henhouse data must be recorded during initial audits or in the case of structural changes being made to henhouses. The requirements of Chapter 4.1.1 to 4.1.8 must be evaluated accordingly when recording the henhouse data.

Note: Chapter 4.1 lists all criteria that are only to be applied in the case of initial inspections/building alterations and/or henhouse measurements. In each audit, the inspection criteria listed in Chapter 4.1 must again be checked for any changes made. If no changes have been made in the establishment, the criteria can be assessed as n.a. (not applicable) in the checklist.

4.1.1 Usable areas

The area that is available to the birds at least during the entire light phase, with the exception of nests, and areas that are at least 30 cm wide, that have headroom of at least 45 cm, that have a floor slope of no more than 14 percent, that provide the birds with a firm surface and that ensure that manure falls on the manure belt, including surfaces under feeding and drinking facilities and perches/landing perches that the laying hens can cross over or under.

- 4.1.1.1 **[K.O.]** When determining the **total usable area**, only those areas may be included that comply with the definition of “usable areas” (→ 4.1.1).

Information: Nests are not part of the usable area. If parts of the usable area or the usable henhouse floor area contain nests, the area covered by the nests must be deducted from the usable area or the usable henhouse floor area.

- 4.1.1.2 **[K.O.] System-related usable areas**, such as cover areas of egg channels, may only be counted as usable area if they provide the hens with a secure footing and are safe to step on and non-slip, i.e. directly adjacent non-perforated areas – measured from the outer edge of the manure belt – are counted subject to the following conditions:

- ✓ up to a maximum width of 20 cm,
- ✓ with a max. height difference of up to 15 cm compared with the directly adjacent perforated area,
- ✓ if it is ensured (e.g. by a slight slope in the surface towards the manure belt) that the manure lands on the belt and the difference in height is such that hens cannot get caught in the gap.

Note: If a multi-floor system includes a nest-only level, the latter is not counted towards the number of levels. The total area of the levels counted does not exceed the figure for the usable henhouse floor area.

- 4.1.1.3 **[K.O.]** In multi-floor aviary systems, the birds can use the entire space on all available levels at any time. A level is any accessible area that is counted as usable area as defined in 4.1.1. Levels may be counted as additional usable space if they are designed in such a way that no manure can fall through onto the levels beneath.

A maximum of three levels directly above each other are counted in the calculation of the usable area, with the ground floor being counted as the first level. Housing equipment such as feed conveyor belts or perches, which may be placed on a possible fourth level, can also be included in the calculation; only the usable area of the fourth level is not recognised. In aviary systems in which the area underneath the lowest level is not accessible to the birds, the lowest level is deemed to be the ground and is included in the calculation of the usable henhouse floor area, but not in the calculation of the additional usable area.

- 4.1.1.4 **[K.O.]** Each bird has access to a **scratching area** of at least 250 cm², and the total scratching area is at least one third of the usable henhouse floor area.

4.1.2 Perches

4.1.2.1 **[K.O.]** The **total length** of the perches is such that all birds can sit on them at the same time, with a minimum of 15 cm of perch space per bird in barn and free-range production and at least 18 cm per bird in organic production.

4.1.2.2 **[K.O.]** There must be a clearance height of 45 cm above the perches that the hens have to fly to. There must be a clearance height of at least 20 cm and preferably 30 cm above the perches that the hens climb up to, with the proportion of these perches not exceeding 50% of the total available perches. If perches are arranged at different heights, the diagonal distance between perches must be at least 20 cm, and preferably 30 cm.

4.1.3 Feeding and drinking facilities

4.1.3.1 **[K.O.]** If linear feeders are used for feeding, an edge length of at least 10 cm per bird should be provided; if circular feeders are used, a length of 4 cm.

4.1.3.2 **[K.O.]** If nipple or cup drinkers are used, there must be one drinker for every 10 birds. Where circular drinkers are used, an edge length of at least 1 cm per bird must be available. Drinkers must be mounted at the optimum height for the hens and be designed to prevent water loss.

Note: Cup drinkers are not circular drinkers and are treated in the same way as nipple drinkers.

4.1.4 Nests

Each hen must be able to lay its eggs undisturbed. For this reason, nests must be completely enclosed and have a functional blackout system.

4.1.4.1 **[K.O.]** Single nests (1 nest/7 hens) or group nests (120 hens/m² in barn and free-range production and 83.3 hens/m² in organic production) may be used, to which the birds have unrestricted daily access during the laying phase. Single nests must be at least 35 cm x 25 cm in size, group nests must have a minimum depth of 30 cm. The nest area is calculated from the freely accessible nest floor area that is usable without restrictions (measured on the basis of the nest floor).

4.1.5 Popholes

Popholes are provided in the number and size specified by law.

4.1.5.1 **[K.O.]** The popholes to the cold scratching area and to the free-range area are at least 35 cm high and 40 cm wide and evenly distributed along the entire length of the outside wall. They are not arranged above one another. For henhouses with different floor levels and raised popholes from a height of 30 cm upwards, suitable climbing aids are provided. The climbing aids are fitted at each pophole across the entire width of the opening.

4.1.5.2 **[K.O.]** For access to the cold scratching area, there are 2 m of popholes for every 1,000 birds in barn and free-range production and at least 2 m of popholes per 100 m² of total usable area in organic production.

There are always sufficient running metres of popholes from the henhouse to the cold-scratching area for the total number of hens in the henhouse (on the stocking date). This also applies to henhouses with popholes on either side if a cold scratching area is only available on one side.

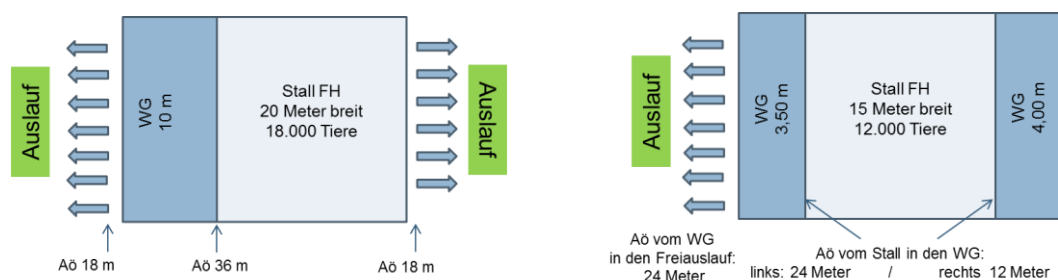


Figure 1: Sketch modelling popholes/access to henhouse & cold scratching area

- 4.1.5.3 **[K.O.]** In free-range production, there are 2 m of popholes per 1,000 birds for access to the free-range area. In organic production, the calculation of the length of the popholes refers to the total usable area required by the number of birds, with 4 m of popholes available per 100 m² total usable area (equates to 6.66 m per 1,000 birds).

Example: Given a total usable area of 500 m², there must be popholes available with a combined length of at least 20 m.

4.1.6 Light openings

With regard to henhouse buildings for laying hens that were used prior to 13 March 2002 and that do not have a sufficient number of light openings, there is the option of applying to KAT for special permission if it can be proved that it is not possible to retrofit additional light openings (e.g. submission of an expert report written by a structural engineer).

- 4.1.6.1 **[K.O.]** The availability of natural daylight is obligatory. The henhouse has light openings that correspond to at least 3% of the usable henhouse floor area. This rule also applies if the cold scratching area is counted towards the usable area. In such a case, the calculation basis for light openings includes the area of the warm henhouse as well as the cold scratching area.

The light openings guarantee an even distribution of light. Ventilation flaps and popholes are only counted as light openings if they are made of translucent materials.

- 4.1.6.2 **[K.O.]** In the case of new buildings commissioned after 1 June 2005, the room depth must not exceed 12 m if there are side windows. If the room depth exceeds 12 m, light openings are located on both sides or there are rows of light openings (e.g. row of windows in the roof) to guarantee an even distribution of light.

4.1.7 Width of henhouse

- 4.1.7.1 **[K.O.]** Henhouses must not exceed a maximum width of 15 m if popholes to the free-range area are only provided on one longitudinal side. This also applies if there is just a cold scratching area on the second side without any access to the free-range area. If the free-range area is accessible from both sides, the maximum henhouse width for new registrations/new buildings has been 30 m since 1 January 2017.

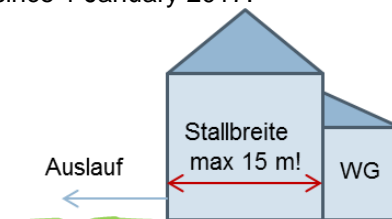


Figure 2: Sketch modelling henhouse width


4.1.8 Risk assessment for dioxins/PCBs

Dioxins and PCBs are present everywhere today. In soils, they can be detected in varying concentrations, depending on proximity to cities, former industrial sites etc. Since most of the agents are very stable, they only break down very slowly in the soil and remain there for decades.

- 4.1.8.1 In all laying farms with a free-range area, the inventory/risk assessment with regard to potential dioxin/PCB discharge risks is checked during the initial inspection in order to keep dioxin and DL-PCB levels to a minimum. The inventory is reviewed again each time the site is modified or conditions change.

Information: If the site conditions or materials/paintwork pose risks, the laying farm is advised to take egg samples for dioxin/PCB testing and to commission an expert to conduct a detailed farm analysis.

 Form FB-LB-15: Dioxin/PCB Risk Assessment

 KAT leaflet: "PCB and dioxins in eggs" including Annex 1 of leaflet: Farm analysis questionnaire

4.2 Group size/physical separation of flocks

4.2.1 **[K.O.]** All houses including cold scratching areas – as well as the free-range areas in organic production – are sectioned off in such a way that a group size of 6,000 birds in barn and free-range production and 3,000 birds in organic production is not exceeded.

Separation into 3,000-bird units is also ensured in organic production in the free-range area by means of appropriate fencing.

4.2.2 The separating elements are designed to reliably prevent any mixing of groups. Any doors in the separating elements must be kept closed.

4.3 Scratching area

The scratching area is deemed to be that part of the henhouse with a flat compacted floor, the whole of which is covered with material to be manipulated by the birds and which offers scope for dust baths.

4.3.1 **[K.O.]** Taking account of the need for an acclimatisation phase, access to the litter area/scratching area is granted **three weeks after stocking** at the latest. The date on which the birds have unrestricted access to the scratching area for the first time should be documented accordingly and/or noted on the laying list.

The following should be noted with regard to use of the scratching area:

- ✓ If an area of the henhouse is used purely as a scratching area (→ 4.1.1.4) and is not counted as either usable area or usable henhouse floor area, it is available to the birds for two thirds of the light phase.
- ✓ If the scratching area forms part of the usable area but not part of the usable henhouse floor area, it is available to the birds throughout the entire light phase.
- ✓ If the scratching area is part of the usable henhouse floor area, it must be available to the birds without restriction.

The **scratching** area is located only on the lowest level.

 Evidence/documentation Access to scratching area

4.3.2 The area is always completely covered with suitable litter. Litter refers to dry material with a loose structure (e.g. wood chips, straw cuttings, sawdust, wood shavings or sand). As soon as the litter has been used up by the birds or solid spots/plate formation can be observed due to moisture, fresh material must be added or the litter replaced. The floor must be solid and such that it can be hygienically cleaned easily and thoroughly.

4.3.3 **[K.O.]** External scratching areas: cold scratching areas or scratching areas not located within the henhouse that are directly connected to the house and can be reached easily and without restrictions by all birds, with roofing and compacted soil, may be recognised as scratching areas if the hens can access them in accordance with the requirements listed under Chapter 4.3.1. If there are different floor levels between the henhouse and the scratching area, appropriate climbing aids must be installed from a height of 30 cm according to Chapter 4.1.5.1. The climbing aids are provided at each pophole across the full width of the opening.

4.4 Live electrical wires

4.4.1 **[K.O.]** Laying hens may not be directly exposed to electricity anywhere in the area in which they are kept within the housing equipment.

- 4.4.2 The area in which the laying hens are kept within the housing equipment does not contain any other installations that act like electricity wires if simply connected to a source of electricity. If wires are used as deflectors above feed and drinker lines, no isolators may be used to attach them.

4.5 Perches

- 4.5.1 **[K.O.]** At least 50% of the perches are installed at varying heights. A perch is classed as being elevated if positioned at least 25 cm above the closest level.

- 4.5.2 Integrated perches are positioned at a height of at least 2 cm above the level into which they have been integrated.

- 4.5.3 They must consist of non-slip material and be designed so that they do not harm the health of the foot pads. To ensure a physiological resting position for the birds, their toes must be able to grip around the perch and secure a hold. The whole surface of the foot pads should be able to rest on the perch.

For this reason, only perches that meet the following requirements are permitted: Perches with a round or oval cross-section must have a circumference of 100 mm or a diameter of 32 mm. In the case of mushroom-shaped perches, the segment between the highest and the lowest point of the perch gripped by the bird's feet must be at least 63 mm long (see schematic drawing). Square perches must have rounded edges and a tread width of at least 25 mm.

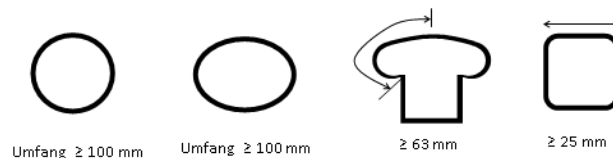


Figure 3: Examples of perches

- 4.5.4 The perches must be easily accessible for the birds and not placed above the litter area/scratching area.

4.6 Nests


- 4.6.1 **[K.O.]** The nest floor is made of soft and malleable material and has a minimum height of 0.5 cm. Wire mesh – even with plastic coating – is not permitted.

- 4.6.2 All nests are completely enclosed and have a functional ventilation system.

4.7 Light conditions

- 4.7.1 **[K.O.]** The incidence of natural daylight is obligatory unless there is a written certificate of exemption (→ 4.1.6).

- 4.7.2 **[K.O.]** Direct sunlight should be avoided. A permanent blackout of the light openings (e.g. using paint, covering with coloured films) or the use of monochromatic light is only permitted in exceptional cases on veterinary grounds (which must be confirmed in writing).


 Evidence of veterinary grounds

- 4.7.3 If artificial lighting is used, an even distribution of light across the birds' activity area in the henhouse must be guaranteed. The nest areas are darkened.

Information: Buildings must be lit so that the birds can see each other and the person who feeds and looks after them. As a rule of thumb for sufficient light intensity, a

person can read a newspaper at this light intensity (after an appropriate acclimatisation period) without straining their eyes.

- 4.7.4 The light phase should be at least 8 and no more than 16 hours/day. There must be an uninterrupted dark phase of at least eight hours. The dark phase should always be preceded by a dusk phase. The light programme should be documented.

 Evidence of light programme

4.8 Henhouse environment

- 4.8.1 A henhouse environment (ventilation system, ambient temperature) corresponding to animal health requirements, the hen stocking rate and the age of the hens must be guaranteed in the henhouse area. The temperature in the henhouse is regularly checked and documented.

 Evidence/documentation

4.9 Emergency power supply

- 4.9.1 For establishments with more than 6,000 birds in the case of barn production and more than 8,000 birds per henhouse in the case of free-range and organic production, there is a suitable emergency power supply guaranteeing that all birds can be cared for even in the event of a power outage. It is not permitted to have only one emergency power supply to cover several, physically separate locations. Alternatives to an emergency power supply may be accepted if it can be proven that they will also guarantee the supply of power needed to look after the birds.

The emergency power supply is regularly tested to ensure it works properly (at least every six months). These function tests are documented.

 Form FB-LB-18: Emergency power supply test runs

5 Free-range criteria

In addition to the housing conditions in Chapter 4, the following outdoor criteria must be met for laying hens in free-range and organic housing systems.

5.1 Cold scratching area (conservatory)

The cold scratching area is a part of the henhouse that is protected from the elements, has a floor plate impermeable to liquids, is not subject to the climate control of the henhouse, is permeable to light and air, is physically separated from the henhouse building by a solid wall, is directly accessible to the laying hens and contains litter material.

Information: For new applications and new buildings, a cold scratching area (conservatory) with a size of 50% of the minimum usable floor space required based on the henhouse capacity has been obligatory for free-range production since 1 June 2006 and in organic production since 1 August 2010.

KAT laying farms that have been system participants with existing free-range production since 2007 and that already have a cold scratching area are – irrespective of the size of the cold scratching area – are allowed to continue to operate on the same basis.

Laying farms with organic production that were part of the KAT system before 1 August 2010 without an attached conservatory are also protected.

- 5.1.1 **[K.O.]** Laying farms with access to a free-range area have a cold scratching area (conservatory) with a size of 50% of the minimum usable floor space required for the henhouse capacity. For henhouses built after 1 April 2019, compliance with at least 1 m² for up to 36 birds in free-range production and at least 1 m² for up to 24 birds in organic production is required.

Additional conditions for mobile henhouses:

No obligatory conservatory/cold scratching area for mobile henhouses. However, in the event of an official instruction for poultry to be confined to the henhouse, a conservatory/cold scratching area must be provided in accordance with the requirements in Chapter 5.1.1.

With regard to mobile henhouses procured after 1 June 2022, a conservatory in accordance with the KAT conditions under Chapter 5.1.1 is permanently available.

- 5.1.2 The cold scratching area (conservatory) is at least 2 m high and has a wind-breaking net with perforations that ensure permanent light and air permeability. The height of the wind-breaking net is at least 70% of the height of the external wall of the cold-scratching area (i.e. a minimum of 1.40 m). Installations that have the same features as a wind-breaking net are also permitted. The cold scratching area is not subject to the climate control system installed for the henhouse and has a roof. It is separated from the warm henhouse by a solid wall and is designed in such a way that wild birds cannot gain access.

Additional conditions for mobile henhouses:

A cold scratching area is a part of the housing equipment that is separate from the warm henhouse but directly adjacent to it with direct access for the birds. At least one outer wall of the cold scratching area is permeable to light and air. A levelled water-impermeable floor slab is not required for mobile henhouses. The height of the conservatory at the henhouse wall is at least 2 m. This can be lowered to a maximum height of 45 cm up to the outer wall of the conservatory.

Note: Scratching areas under the mobile henhouse are acceptable but are not counted as a conservatory. With regard to mobile henhouses, the conservatory does not count towards the stocking rate.

- 5.1.3 **[K.O.]** As inside the henhouse, the separation of flocks is obligatory in the cold scratching area.

- 5.1.4 **[K.O.]** Under the following conditions, the cold scratching area can be counted as usable area or as part of the usable henhouse floor area:

- The cold scratching area may be counted as usable area as long as the sum of the additional usable area and the size of the cold scratching area does not exceed the usable henhouse floor area. The cold scratching area must be available to the birds during the entire light phase.
- If the usable henhouse floor area is already occupied with 18 birds/m², the cold scratching area with a maximum of 9 birds/m² can only be counted as usable henhouse floor area if it is available to the birds without restriction at all times.

Additionally installed areas or housing equipment in the cold scratching area do not form part of the usable area. Only equipment in the interior of the henhouse is taken into account.

Note: This does not apply to mobile henhouses.

5.2 Additional, roofed outdoor area

An additional, roofed outdoor area is a part of a building intended for poultry, insulated in a way that it does not have an outdoor climate and that is fully accessible 24 hours a day (Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/464).

An additional, roofed outdoor area is only required in the KAT system if it is to be counted as part of the usable area with max. 6 birds per m².

Note: Chapter 5.2 applies solely to organic laying farms.

- 5.2.1 A certificate has been issued by the competent authority confirming that the laying henhouse has an additional, roofed outdoor area as defined in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/464 and/or that the conservatory may be classed as an additional, roofed outdoor area.
- 5.2.2 Measures are in place to ensure that the additional, roofed outdoor area is available to the birds 24 hours a day and that the flaps on the popholes from the henhouse to the additional, roofed outdoor area have been removed or sealed open.
- 5.2.3 Measures are in place to ensure that the additional, roofed outdoor area is only closed for the purposes of stocking and destocking. This is clearly documented.
- 5.2.4 For accessing the additional, roofed outdoor area, there is a minimum length of 2 metres of popholes per 100m² of minimum henhouse area.
- 5.2.5 For accessing the outdoor area from the additional, roofed outdoor area, there is a minimum of 4 metres of popholes per 100m² of minimum henhouse area.
- 5.2.6 If the popholes are not at ground level, climbing aids have been positioned at each pophole across the full breadth of the latter.

5.3 Popholes

- 5.3.1 **[K.O.]** The birds must have unrestricted access to both the cold scratching area and the free-range area. If, for example, rows of nests or similar installations restrict unhindered access to the cold scratching area or the free-range area for some of the birds, at least 2 m/1,000 hens must be provided for the passages or crossings.

If there are narrow areas in the free-range area or obstacles within it (e.g. streams, ditches or paths), bridges, tunnels or similar crossings designed to provide access to further parts of the free-range area are permitted. The access points/crossings must be accepted by the birds and not restrict the use of the popholes. For these passages or crossings, at least 2 m/1,000 birds are required, based on the number of birds using such areas.

- 5.3.2 **[K.O.]** The henhouse keeper provides the required number of popholes for the hens (→ 4.1.5).


The number of unclosed popholes is in line with the amount required based on the number of birds. The popholes function properly. If climbing aids are necessary, these are provided at each pophole across the full width of the opening.

5.4 Free-range areas

The free-range area must be in the direct proximity of the henhouse and directly accessible to the birds.

- 5.4.1 A surveyor's report clearly showing the size of the free-range area and the maximum distances to the henhouse building must be submitted.

Information: Also accepted are reports created in Germany, e.g. via the geoportals of the federal states or the corresponding portals in EU neighbouring countries (e.g. in the Netherlands: Nationaal Georegister) in accordance with the above criteria.

 *List of the surface areas*

- 5.4.2 **[K.O.]** Based on the number of stocked birds, the birds have a free-range area of at least 4 m²/bird at their disposal. The free-range area must be no further than 350 m from the closest pophole.

Additional conditions for mobile henhouses:


If mobile henhouses are regularly moved to another pasture, the birds have at least 2.5 m²/bird available in each occupied enclosure at all times. It is a prerequisite that the birds have a total of at least 10 m²/bird at their disposal with equal access to the total area during one cycle.

Information: For free-range production, the maximum distance of 350 m is basically the radius to the nearest pophole. However, parts of free-range areas that lie within this maximum distance may still be excluded from the calculation of the total area if the birds have to take such detours on their way to these areas that they are in fact not accessible for them.

- 5.4.3 **[K.O.]** The free-range areas are designed in such a way that they can be used as evenly as possible by the laying hens. Trees, shrubs and hedges should be maintained in such a way that the hens can slip under the entire shrubbery. There must be no scorch marks, dripping oil marks or the like in the free-range area. The parking of machinery is not allowed and slurry must not be spread on the ground.

Most of the free-range area is covered with vegetation and is not used for other purposes, apart from as orchard, forest or meadow, provided that this has the relevant official approval.

*Information: The legal provisions of the Regulation (EC) No 589/2008 on Marketing Standards for Eggs, Annex 2 apply accordingly.
If the free-range area is used for another purpose in addition to the keeping of laying hens, this requires KAT's written approval.*


 Evidence of official licence

- 5.4.4 **[K.O.]** From a distance of more than 150 m to the next pophole, at least 4 shelters per hectare should be evenly distributed over the entire free-range area

The free-range area should be surrounded by a wire mesh fence or mobile pasture fence. If this is not possible, the boundaries of the free-range areas should be marked out using clearly visible boundary posts. The boundary posts in the fence may not be impregnated or coated with tar/waste oil or other hazardous materials. In the case of organic production, the free-range area in addition is divided into units of 3,000 birds, analogous to the henhouse units. This subdivision of the free-range area effectively prevents any mixing of the groups.

- 5.4.5 **[K.O.]** The free-range area must be made available to the birds as soon as possible after stocking but no later than 21 days after the start of laying and daily from 10 am at the latest until sunset. The period of use of the free-range area must be documented on a daily basis. The reasons must also be noted in the event that access to the free-range area could not be granted (veterinary grounds).

Outdoor logs must be kept on file for at least one year.

 Form FB-LB-12: Outdoor log

- 5.4.6 **[K.O.]** A restriction of access to the free-range area due to an animal health order by the responsible official veterinarian and exceptional conditions are exceptions according to which eggs may continue to be marketed as “free-range eggs” for a maximum period of 16 weeks. After this period, the eggs may only be labelled and sold only as “barn eggs”.

 Documentary evidence of housing order/Form FB-LB 20: Housing Order

- 5.4.7 If access to the free-range area is restricted due to exceptional conditions, the conditions for confinement of poultry to the henhouse should be documented by printing out the notification from the German Meteorological Service. In the case of snow and flooding, proof is provided in the form of photo documentation.

Information: The 16-week period also applies to exceptional conditions: this includes flooding or extreme weather conditions for which the German Meteorological Service has published a severe weather warning at a municipal level of at least level 2. This will also apply in the event of flooding or the accumulation of snow that is more than 15 cm deep.

 Documentary evidence

5.5 Minimum dimensions of free-range areas

- 5.5.1 **[K.O.]** The minimum width of the corridor at the wall of the henhouse leading to the free-range area – regardless of whether there is another building opposite – is at least as wide as the total length of the popholes provided in the wall in question.

Note: The “total length of the popholes provided in the wall in question” always refers to the total length of the popholes provided in the henhouse building, even if that building is divided into several individual houses.

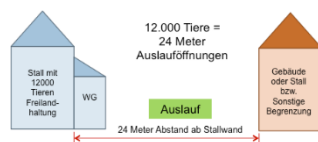


Figure 4: Example of corridor/minimum dimensions of free-range area

5.6 Moving mobile henhouses

- 5.6.1 Mobile henhouse must be moved at least 4 times per year. This must be documented.

 Evidence/documentation

Mobile henhouses that do not have an integrated floor plate must be moved to sealed surfaces or laid out with appropriate rubber mats in case of persistently bad weather conditions (winter/snow/persistent rain or similar). Regulations on emission protection and environmental protection must be taken into account accordingly.



Note: Mobile henhouses that, due to their size or design, cannot be moved with the minimum frequency required in Chapter 5.5.1 cease to be classed as mobile and are treated like permanent structures. This also cancels any entitlement to the special rules governing mobile henhouses.

6 Animal health

According to Section 4, paras. 2 and 3 of the German Ordinance governing Animal Welfare and Keeping of Farmed Animals (Tierschutznutztierhaltungsverordnung), measures must be in place to ensure that the condition of the birds is checked at least once a day in the form of a direct inspection by a person responsible for feeding and looking after the birds, and that any dead birds are removed and, if necessary, immediate measures are taken in relation to the treatment, segregation in suitable enclosures with dry and soft bedding or underlay, or culling of sick or injured birds, and that a veterinary surgeon is consulted.

In accordance with Section 11 of the German Animal Welfare Act (Tierschutzgesetz), any person who keeps animals commercially must carry out in-house self-monitoring to ensure that the requirements of Section 2 are observed. In particular, for the purposes of assessing


compliance with the requirements of Section 2, appropriate animal-related characteristics (animal welfare indicators) must be surveyed and evaluated.

-  German Ordinance governing Animal Welfare and Keeping of Farmed Animals (Tierschutznutztierhaltungsverordnung) of 29 January 2021
-  German Animal Welfare Act (Tierschutzgesetz) of 19 June 2020

6.1 System for flock assessments

- 6.1.1 The farm has an appropriate system in place for assessing flocks based on animal-related characteristics. On the basis of this documentation, the establishment introduces and documents appropriate measures if significant problems are identified within the flock.

Information: As of 1 January 2022, the KAT tool for assessing flocks is to be used. Use of the KAT tool or a similar tool is voluntary in 2022. As of 1 January 2023, it will be mandatory to use the KAT tool or a comparable tool in terms of content for all KAT laying farms.

-  Form FB-LB 17: Flock Inventory Sheet/Animal Health

KAT tool / assessment cards

6.2 Stock inspections by the farm veterinary surgeon

- 6.2.1 During every stock inspection by the veterinary surgeon, the general condition of the flock, as well as any abnormal features and changes in the birds, are checked and documented. The veterinary surgeon investigates any unexplained incidents (e.g. elevated mortality rate). Measures taken to avoid a re-occurrence should be documented.

-  Evidence/documentation

7 Prevention of animal diseases

The “Animal health/disease prevention” criterion includes an examination of the records kept on the purchase and whereabouts of drugs as well as their storage in the farm, and on disinfection and pest control measures.

7.1 Care by a veterinary surgeon

- 7.1.1 There is an agreement/contract in place on the regular care of the flock by a veterinary surgeon, who is to be consulted accordingly in case of any abnormalities or diseases in relation to the hens.

- 7.1.2 The farm manager is also obliged to keep a stock record of the use of any drugs, in addition to the application and dispensing records, with responsibility for this being held by the farm manager. With regard to the administration of drugs, at least the following information should be documented:

- ✓ Name of the drug and the quantity administered
- ✓ Drug batch number
- ✓ Date administered
- ✓ Waiting period in days
- ✓ Name of person who administered the drug
- ✓ Number of veterinary drug treatment record
- ✓ Evidence/documentation

7.1.3 If medicines are administered by the keeper of the birds, the supervising veterinary surgeon has provided a detailed set of treatment instructions including information about the waiting time and drug treatment record. The keeper documents the administration of any drugs in accordance with the terms of Chapter 7.1.2.

 Evidence/documentation

7.1.4 In addition to the documentation pursuant to Chapter 7.1.2, organic establishments maintain a record of all worm treatments throughout the laying period with details of waiting periods (treatment duration plus 48 hours).

7.2 Establishment hygiene

7.2.1 Pest control

In poultry houses special attention shall be paid to the prevention of pests (rats, mice, insects etc.). All henhouses and production facilities must be protected against infiltration or contamination by domestic animals, other farmed animals and birds so that transmission or the introduction of pathogens can be eliminated as far as possible.

7.2.1.1 The establishment has a suitable pest control system in place. The frequency of pest control measures is dependent on the type of pest and extent of the infestation. Pest control measures may be taken by the farm itself if the manager can demonstrate an appropriate level of specialist expertise and provided that the documentation requirements (→ 7.2.1.2) are met. With regard to agriculture, proof of expertise as defined in the Crop Protection Expert Knowledge Ordinance is sufficient.

In the event of an external service provider carrying out pest control measures, the provider meets the documentation requirements (→ 7.2.1.2).

7.2.1.2 The minimum documentation requirements are as follows:

- Bait plan with numbered pest detectors
- List of all biocides used
- Safety datasheets for all biocides used
- Defined inspection intervals (toxic baits at least weekly)
- Documentation of infestation checks (trend analysis)


 Form FB-LB-03: Pest control baiting schedule

 Evidence/documentation

7.2.2 Cleaning and disinfection

7.2.2.1 **[K.O.]** After every destocking, the henhouse and the feed silos are cleaned thoroughly, and all parts of the housing equipment with which the birds come into contact are also disinfected. This includes disinfection of the drinker lines. There is documentary evidence of this.




7.2.2.2 Only disinfectants included in the list in the KAT database are used. Establishments with organic production must also exclusively use disinfectants in accordance with the currently valid inputs list for organic agriculture in Germany. The relevant certificates and safety datasheets are available for all disinfection agents used.

 Inputs list for organic agriculture (published by Research Institute of Organic Agriculture (FiBL))

 Evidence/documentation

- 7.2.2.3 The name of the disinfectant used and details of the producer are entered in the KAT database.
- 7.2.2.4 The establishment has an appropriate system for proving that its cleaning and disinfection measures have been effective.

Note: A procedure that can be used is described in procedural instruction VA-LB 3. Within 24 months, at least one henhouse must be checked for the effectiveness of cleaning and disinfection before a new stocking of hens.

-  *Form FB-LB-07: Documentation of Cleaning and Disinfection*
-  *Procedural instruction VA-LB-03: Disinfection Inspection*
-  *Evidence/documentation*

- 7.2.2.5 If a single henhouse contains several compartments, different age groups may only be housed in the same building if the compartment has been sufficiently cleaned and disinfected in advance without posing any hazard to the health of the birds or to the housing equipment in the other compartments that are still occupied.

7.2.3 Storage of manure

- 7.2.3.1 Manure is temporarily stored in a separate area that is not accessible to the hens and that is fitted with a fixed plate. The manure must also not be stored in a closed-off area next to or on the free-range area.

7.2.4 Storage of dead birds

- 7.2.4.1 Birds that have died must be removed from the henhouse as quickly as possible (daily). The carcasses are stored separately from other waste and are protected from weather conditions in refrigerated carcass boxes. Measures are also in place to ensure that stored carcasses cannot be accessed by any unauthorised persons.

8 In-company self-monitoring


8.1 Establishment data collection

- 8.1.1 Each laying farm (farm manager) draws up an establishment description.
The data in the establishment description match the master data in the KAT database. Any change to the master data must be reported to the KAT Office.

 *Form FB-A-01: Establishment Description*

- 8.1.2 **[K.O.]** The certification area is to be described in the establishment description. Any changes to the certification area must be reported in advance to the KAT Office without delay.

- 8.1.3 An overview of the henhouse information (henhouse size, number of sections, stocking rate, number of hens) should be drawn up and kept on file.

 *Form FB-LB-05: Henhouse Overview*

8.2 Stocking rate

The maximum stocking density for laying hens in barn and free-range production is 9 hens/m² usable area and in organic production a maximum of 6 hens/m² usable area. If cockerels are also being housed, they count towards the maximum number of birds permitted.

In the case of multi-floor systems, the stocking density may not exceed a total of 18 birds/m² in barn and free-range production and 12 hens/m² of the usable henhouse floor area in organic production.

- 8.2.1 **[K.O.]** The laying farm has an up-to-date official licence that lists all forms of production and stamp numbers at the site. Establishments engaged in organic production must also have a valid conformity certificate from an organic inspection body.

 Evidence of official licence/Conformity certificate

- 8.2.2 **[K.O.]** The maximum number of hens to be housed in the respective henhouses is the number specified in the official licence.

- 8.2.3 **[K.O.]** After KAT (certification body and KAT auditors) has surveyed the henhouse building, the KAT henhouse capacity will apply as of the next stocking. Only the number of hens determined according to the KAT henhouse capacity limit may then be housed.

Note: The KAT henhouse capacity may not be higher than the limiting factor specified in the henhouse data.

The **limiting factor** always results from the parameter that is least available in the housing equipment. The minimum values are listed in the following table:

Tab. 1: Parameters of limiting factors

Parameter	Barn/free-range production	Organic production
Usable area	9 hens/m ²	6 hens/m ²
Usable henhouse floor area	Max. 18 hens/m ²	Max. 12 hens/m ²
Nests	1 nest per 7 birds Group nest: 120 hens/m ²	1 nest per 7 birds Group nest: 83.3 hens/m ²
Perches	15 cm/bird	18 cm/bird
Feeders	Linear feeder: 10 cm/bird Circular feeder: 4 cm/bird	Linear feeder: 10 cm/bird Circular feeder: 4 cm/bird
Drinkers	10 birds/drinker Circular drinker: 1 cm/bird	10 birds/drinker Circular drinker: 1 cm/bird
Popholes	2 m/1,000 birds	2 m/100 m ² total usable area if the popholes lead from the henhouse into the conservatory; 4 m/100 m ² total usable area if the popholes lead from the henhouse into the free-range area
Free-range area	4 m ² /bird	4 m ² /bird

8.3 Stocking and destocking

Stocking and destocking must always be carried out in compliance with Section 1 of the German Animal Welfare Act (Tierschutzgesetz). The lighting should be reduced or dimmed

altogether during destocking in order to calm the birds down; the incidence of light should be observed when the doors are opened or closed.

8.3.1 **[K.O.]** The stocking of all KAT laying hen flocks is recorded in the KAT database per henhouse. The stocking reports are entered in the KAT database no later than 21 days after stocking.

8.3.2 [K.O.] The destocking of all KAT laying hen flocks is recorded in the KAT database per henhouse for the respective recipient. The destocking reports are entered in the KAT database no later than 21 days after destocking has been completed.

8.3.3 For every stocking of laying hens with a hatch date of 1 January 2022, the batch number from the livestock report can be used to prove that the associated male chicks were either reared in accordance with KAT rules or selected using an InOvo-sexing method.

Note: If the stocking was recorded in the KAT database using the new bird report system, this is sufficient documentary evidence. If the stocking was entered in the KAT database using the old reporting method, a certificate from KAT is required as documentary evidence.


8.3.4 It is possible to prove for every stocking of laying hen flocks that was entered in the KAT database using the old reporting method that the laying hen flock in question was hatched before 1 January 2022.

8.3.5 **[K.O.]** No hens at the site have had their beaks trimmed.

In the event, however, of there being a stamp number referring to a henhouse with beak-trimmed hens,

- ✓ the goods reports for these stamp numbers must be entered in the KAT database as **non-KAT goods**
- ✓ and the farm must have a KAT certificate in which the stamp number concerned is excluded from certification.

Information: With effect from 1 September 2018, no eggs from laying hens with treated beaks may be marketed within the KAT system.


 *Documentary evidence of Rearing Delivery Note*

8.3.6 **[K.O.]** Since 1 January 2022, KAT laying farms only procure pullets from KAT-certified rearing farms. The laying farm holds a copy of the rearing farm's KAT certificate.

8.3.7 A handover record is on file for all stocking operations.

 *Form FB-JA-01: Handover Record for Stocking of Pullets*

8.3.8 The persons involved in stocking and destocking can provide the requisite proof of their expertise. If external service providers (professional catchers) are used for the destocking process, the foreman must have a recognised qualification. The laying farm has the appropriate documentation on file. This similarly applies to stocking and destocking by the laying farm itself. The supervisor has a recognised qualification and the workers used are trained internally at least once per year.

 *Proof of expertise/form FB-LB 19: Stocking/Destocking Documentation*


8.4 Obligation to inform KAT

8.4.1 **[K.O.]** All legally notifiable events (e.g. positive salmonella tests – Sal. Enteritidis and Sal. Typhimurium – or dioxins/dl-PCBs or ndl-PCBs detected, housing orders, avian flu etc.) must be reported simultaneously to both the competent authority and the KAT Office.

 *Evidence/documentation*

8.4.2 If flocks are sent into a laying break (moult) at the site, the data for the laying break are correctly entered in the KAT database.


8.4.3 If the laying farm has an official licence for two forms of production, it documents at which times it engages in free-range or barn production, for example. The data on the change between the production forms in the KAT database correspond to the laying lists/delivery notes on the farm.

 Evidence/documentation

8.5 Crisis management

8.5.1 Emergency plans with clearly defined responsibilities (telephone numbers) are in place in the event of an emergency or critical situation. These contain all of the key contact data (e.g. veterinary surgeon, veterinary authority, suppliers/buyers, KAT).

Information: The KAT Crisis Management Guide for Member Establishments contains the most important information for critical situations and recommended approaches to different situations.

 Form FB-A-02: Emergency Plan

 KAT Crisis Management Guide for Member Establishments

8.6 Flock documentation

8.6.1 **[K.O.]** Every day, the establishment records the total number of eggs laid according to the henhouse and form of production.

 Evidence/documentation

8.6.2 The farm documents the current number of hens on a daily basis, broken down by age group, henhouse and form of production. The resulting loss ratio (in %) is calculated at least weekly.

 Evidence/documentation

8.6.3 At least once per week, the establishment documents laying performance broken down by henhouse and stamp number.

 Evidence/documentation

8.6.4 A recording system is used to determine the feed and water consumption per bird. Consumption is documented daily.

 Evidence/documentation

8.7 Analysis

8.7.1 After stocking, KAT laying farms carry out the first salmonella analysis between the 22nd and 26th week of life of the birds, and then have further salmonella samples (boot swabs) tested regularly at 15-week intervals. The analysis results are reported and stored in the KAT database.


Information: The establishment can carry out three analyses per year itself; in addition, one of the establishment's epidemiological units is subject to an official analysis.

 Documentary evidence of salmonella analysis

8.7.2 The results of the salmonella analyses are available for each separate henhouse (no pooled samples!). In the event of positive results, the requirements in chapter 8.4.1 must be observed.

8.7.3 In the case of laying farms housing >15,000 birds, a documented dioxin/dl-PCB and ndl-PCB analysis of the eggs (pooled sample) must be carried out by an accredited laboratory at least once per laying period and per site.

In the case of laying farms housing <15,000 birds, a documented dioxin/dl-PCB and ndl-PCB analysis of the eggs (pooled sample) must be carried out by an accredited laboratory for all of the henhouses at the site every four years.

 *Documentary evidence of dioxin/dl-PCB and ndl-PCB analysis*


8.7.4 Drinking water quality is reviewed once per site and per calendar year by means of a microbiological quality test carried out by an accredited laboratory. The sample for analysis is drawn directly from the drinker lines in the henhouse.

The analyses include the required parameters as shown below:

Tab. 2: Drinking water analysis parameters

Parameter	Unit/basis	Insignificant
E.coli	in 1 ml	< 1 cfu
Coliforms	in 1 ml	< 1 cfu
Aerobic total bacteria count at 20 °C	in 1 ml	< 10,000 cfu
Aerobic total bacteria count at 37°C	in 1 ml	< 1,000 cfu

Source: *BMEL "Hygienische Qualität von Tränkewasser" [Hygienic quality of drinking water], July 2019*

 *Documentary evidence of drinking water analysis*

8.8 Origin and procurement of feed

8.8.1 Feedstuff supplier






8.8.1.1 **[K.O.]** Laying hen feedstuff is purchased exclusively from a KAT-approved feedstuff supplier or the establishment is a self-mixer and/or uses its own crops to produce its own feed (→ 8.8.3).

8.8.2 30% organic feed from the surrounding region

8.8.2.1 In accordance with the provisions of EU Regulation 889/2008, each feed-consuming establishment (keeper of laying hens) is obliged to procure 30% of its feed per calendar year from the surrounding region.

8.8.3 Self-mixers/users of own crops



Self-mixers are establishments that produce mixed feed (laying hen all-in-one feed) for their own needs up to a maximum total annual amount of 5000 t. Users of own crops are establishments that produce finished feed based on feedstuff supplements produced by a mixed feed factory, regardless of whether the crop used by the establishment is grown in-house or bought in. Responsibility for the ingredients used as well as for the proper production of the feed mixes rests with the farmer.

- 8.8.3.1 As a minimum measure, a sensory incoming goods inspection is performed before raw materials are accepted for storage. Corresponding records are kept for all inspections and measures carried out.
 Evidence/documentation
- 8.8.3.2 Measures are in place to ensure that the raw materials stored on site are stored properly in accordance with product requirements and that any negative impact on or contamination of the raw materials during storage is excluded.
- 8.8.3.3 **[K.O.]** Reference samples are available from all raw material batches (incl. feedstuff supplements) used for the production of feedstuff, regardless of whether these were bought in or produced in-house. The reference samples are kept for a minimum period of 6 months.
 Evidence/documentation
- 8.8.3.4 Documentary evidence is available for all bought-in ingredients and includes at least the product name, quantity and seller.
 Evidence/documentation
- 8.8.3.5 **[K.O.]** All raw materials and additives used for the production of feed are stored in the KAT database.
 Procedural instruction VA-LB 06: Database instructions for laying farms
- 8.8.3.6 **[K.O.]** Measures are in place to ensure that any feedstuff supplements used are procured exclusively via a KAT-approved feed plant.
- 8.8.3.7 **[K.O.]** Self-mixers and users of own crops both carry out an annual analysis of the finished feed, encompassing as a minimum the parameters listed in Table 3 below.
 Evidence/documentation

Tab. 3: Finished feed analysis parameters

Parameter	Number of tests
Dioxin and dl-PCB/ndl-PCB*	1
Salmonella	1
Heavy metals	1
GMO (only for organic feed)	1
Pesticides	1

* The dioxin analysis may be dispensed with if only the farm's own grain is used without drying processes and if feedstuff supplements are only obtained from KAT-approved feed plants.

- 8.8.3.8 **[K.O.]** The finished feed recipes of self-mixers are based on ration calculations, which are created by qualified persons/companies. The production of finished feed based on feedstuff supplements is traceable and based solely on the mixing instructions provided.
 Evidence/documentation
- 8.8.3.9 The production process of the finished feed is documented comprehensibly. In the case of self-mixers and the use of mobile milling and mixing equipment, a mixing protocol is also available for each batch in accordance with the mixing protocol for mobile milling and mixing equipment form
 Form FB-LB-13: Mixing Protocol for Mobile Milling and Mixing Equipment

9 Database/goods flows

All establishment and henhouse data, as well as all stages relevant to the production, marketing and processing of the eggs, must be documented in the KAT database. Each process stage reports the outgoing goods to the next stage in order to establish a plausible and comprehensible traceability system for the flow of goods.

9.1 Goods reports entered in the database


9.1.1 **[K.O.]** Reports on the movement of goods in the process chain (egg quantities) must be entered in detail in the online database <https://datenbank.kat.eu> by midnight on Sunday of the following week, as specified (reporting period Monday to Sunday).


The establishment will be provided with access data for the KAT database from the KAT Office after successful certification. Each establishment is responsible for the confidential treatment of access data and, correspondingly, for the content of all entered data.


Laying farms report all produced egg quantities to the respective buyer. The full data for eggs laid is entered in the database.

Information: The farm may authorise the receiving packing station to enter the goods in the KAT database. The transfer of the goods declaration to the packing station must be approved by the laying farm so that no omissions occur and the data protection requirements are observed.

If the packing station enters the good reports, direct sales (e.g. in farm shops, weekly markets, etc.) cannot be recorded. These must be entered by the laying farm itself.

 Procedural instruction VA-A-02: KAT manual for entering goods reports in the KAT database

 Procedural instruction VA-LB-11: Quick guide for entering livestock reports in the KAT database

 Form FB-LB-01: Application for entry of goods reports in the database


9.1.2 The goods reports are entered separately in accordance with stamp number and form of production.

9.1.3 **[K.O.]** In the case of organic establishments that have carried out worm treatments during the laying period, measures are in place to ensure that the eggs produced during the treatment and subsequent waiting period are not recorded in the KAT database as organic eggs (see Chapter 7.1.4).

9.1.4 Measures are in place to ensure that all eggs produced during the entire laying break are recorded in the database as **non-KAT** goods.

Information: The laying break begins on the day on which it is introduced through the henhouse management and ends once full compliance with all of the KAT requirements has been restored.

9.1.5 The feed quantities purchased by the farm are reported to the database every 2 weeks as required (feedstuff supplier, quantity and delivery date).

 Procedural instruction VA-LB-06: Database instructions for laying farms

9.2 Goods flows

There is no longer a clear and documented separation of the flow of goods if there are two different form of production in one henhouse and the eggs are collected via an egg belt in the hen area, unless the breeds of hens for barn and free-range production produce eggs of different colours.

- 9.2.1 **[K.O.]** KAT laying farms that operate henhouses with different forms of production on the same site ensure that the eggs are never mixed up.

Teil III: Annex

1 Signs and symbols

[K.O.] Knock-out criteria



References to applicable documents



Required documents/documents for submission*

* The required documents and documents for submission must be in an appropriate form. The KAT forms can be used as a guide and reference in this regard. They are not binding, however.

2 Abbreviations

DL & ndl-PCB	Dioxin-like and non-dioxin-like P oly C hlorinated B iphenyls
Mjr	Major
LW	Week of life
n.a.	Not applicable
VVVO	German Livestock Movement Ordinance (Viehverkehrsordnung)
ID	Identification number
ZüA	Additional, roofed outdoor area (Zusätzlich überdachter Auslauf)

3 Definition of terms

Tab. 4: Definition of terms

Term	Definition/explanation
Rearing farm	Establishment in which pullets and/or cockerels from laying hybrid breeds are reared commercially.
Producer code	Unique identification number based on implementation of Directive 2002/4/EC at national level.
Total usable area	Total of all usable areas within a henhouse including the additional usable area and the usable henhouse floor area.
Group/compartment	An area of the henhouse not separated by a solid wall in which a maximum of 6,000 laying hens are kept and that does not constitute a self-contained unit in terms of all functions and housing equipment.
Housing equipment	Technical equipment (e.g. henhouse, perches, feeders etc.) required for the long-term housing of birds.
Flock	A certain number of hens of the same age kept together in one henhouse.
Laying farm	A local, economic and epidemiological unit comprising one or several henhouses for the production of eggs.

Term	Definition/explanation
Start of laying	The start of laying of a flock is at the latest when a laying performance of 50% is achieved on three consecutive days.
Laying break	Moulting of a flock
Laying period	Period from the start of laying until the flock is destocked.
Usable henhouse floor area	The portion of the floor area of the part of the building in which the housing equipment is located and that the birds can use at any time and without any restrictions, minus nesting areas and areas under henhouse equipment that the laying hens cannot cross over or under.
Henhouse	Part of the laying farm or part of the building in which hens or flocks are kept.
Epidemiological unit	All birds of the same species that are housed together or looked after together.
Henhouse floor area	The area of the premises in which the housing equipment is located.
Aviary	Housing system comprising several levels equipped with perches, and feeding and drinking systems, and nests, in order to make better use of the available space. The surface area of an aviary level is counted towards the additional usable area provided that it matches the definition of “usable area”.
Additional usable area	All surface areas within an aviary, including system-related usable areas (in accordance with 4.1.1.2) that match the definition of “usable area”.

4 Applicable documents

The documents can be downloaded from the internal area of the KAT website www.kat.eu.

Applicable documents (in the currently valid version) include:

KAT documents

- ✓ KAT Certification Protocol
- ✓ Checklist for laying farms
- ✓ Forms and procedural instructions
- ✓ KAT Crisis Management Guide for Member Establishments
- ✓ List of KAT-approved certification bodies
- ✓ Dioxin and PCB contamination of chicken eggs: questionnaire
- ✓ Leaflet for laying hen keepers: PCB and dioxin in eggs including Annex

Laws, regulations and ordinances, most recent versions

- ✓ Regulation (EC) 589/2008
- ✓ Regulation (EU) 1308/2013
- ✓ Directive 1999/74/EC
- ✓ Directive 2002/4/EC
- ✓ Regulation (EU) 2018/848
- ✓ German Ordinance governing Animal Welfare and Keeping of Farmed Animals (Tierschutznutztierhaltungsverordnung) including implementation instructions
- ✓ German Animal Welfare Act (Tierschutzgesetz)
- ✓ Ordinance on the Marketing of Eggs
- ✓ German Laying Farm Register Act
- ✓ German Poultry Salmonella Ordinance