

"Laying Farms" checklist for the 2019.01 Guide

valid from: 1 april 2019

(replaces version 2018.02)

M = Major

No.	KO	Criterion	Result					
			A	B	C	D	M	n.a.
1		General condition of the laying farm (Henhouse, storage, packing and packaging premises, and external areas)						
1.1		The henhouse building, as well as doors and gates, are in a good structural condition.						
1.2		The rearing equipment is in a sound structural condition and good working order and is designed to minimise any injury to the animals. Conveyor belts and drinking-trough systems are arranged in such a way that they are easy to clean and disinfect and prevent contamination with excrement.						
1.3		External doors and gates are designed to prevent the unnoticed entry of non-authorised persons.						
1.4		Visitors and external service providers are registered on entry and their access is monitored accordingly.						
1.5		The establishment provides sanitary facilities that are appropriate for the number of staff with regard to size and equipment.						
1.6		If the establishment has its own lockable rearing equipment, this is sealed in accordance with requirements in order to prevent automatic locking of the facility. The seal numbers are documented.						
2		Organisation/cleanliness/hygiene						
2.1		Organisation and cleanliness						
2.1.1		The egg collection areas and farmpacker are kept clean and hygienic in a non-defective state.						
2.1.2		Accumulated waste, dirt, excessive dust deposits, cobwebs or dead flies is removed on a regular basis or as necessary. The farmpacker and the egg collection areas are cleaned thoroughly at least once per week and documented.						
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 production 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 animals. 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 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 are kept clean and, in particular, free from contamination, such as mould, and are made from suitable materials; cleaning intervals are established on a farm-by-farm basis.						
2.3.2		Flat stores used for storing feedstuff are kept clean and dry. It is stored separately from chemicals and other substances that are banned from animal feed. The storage areas are integrated in the pest control system.						

No.	KO	Criterion	Result					
2.4		Collection of eggs						
2.4.1		Eggs are collected at least once per week.						
2.5		Staff hygiene						
2.5.1		Henhouses may be entered only by persons wearing company-owned clothing or suitable disposable clothing.						
2.5.2		A hygiene lock is in place in compliance with the Guide. It is only possible to enter/exit the animal area through the hygiene lock.						
2.5.3		There is a washbasin with flowing water, soap and disposable towels.						
2.5.4		The establishment has defined appropriate rules governing hygiene and the handling of the birds. These rules are displayed prominently within the establishment and all employees are familiar with them.						
3		Labelling requirement						
3.1		Stamping of the eggs						
3.1.1	K.O.	There is a stamper (egg stamper) on the laying farm for stamping the eggs in the immediate proximity of the henhouse.						
3.1.2		Only suitable and authorised egg inks may be used. There is documentary evidence of this.						
3.1.3		Stamping meets the requirements of the marketing standards: the stamp is clearly visible, easily legible and at least 2 mm high.						
3.1.4	K.O.	If there is a stamping device failure, this is reported immediately to the KAT Office using the relevant form. There is documentary evidence of this. Unstamped eggs are clearly identified on-site using the stamping device failure form.						
3.2		Labelling transport packaging and accompanying records						
3.2.1		The transport packaging contains at least the following information: name and address of the producer, producer code, number of eggs, laying day or laying period, date of dispatch.						
3.2.2		Accompanying records/collection slips include at least the following information: name and address of the producer, name and address of the recipient, producer code, number of eggs (broken down by forms of rearing, laying day or period) and date of dispatch.						
3.2.3		KAT labelling on the transport packaging and the accompanying records/collection slips						
4		Requirements of rearing facilities and rearing conditions						
4.1		Initial inspection/henhouse measurement/structural alterations <i>Note: item 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 under item 4.1 must again be checked for any changes made. If no changes have been made in the establishment, the criteria can be assessed with n.a. (not applicable).</i>						
4.1.1		Usable areas						
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" in accordance with item 4.1.1 of the Guide.						
4.1.1.2	K.O.	When calculating additional system-related usable areas, the requirements of these areas must be fulfilled in accordance with the Guide.						
4.1.1.3	K.O.	A maximum of three levels, one directly above another, is recognised to calculate the usable aviary areas, with the ground being the first level. The total area of the levels calculated does not exceed the value of the usable henhouse floor area. All levels included in the calculation meet the criteria specified in the Guide.						
4.1.1.4	K.O.	The animals have access to a scratching area of at least 250 cm ² and the entire scratching area is at least one third of the usable henhouse floor area.						

No.	KO	Criterion	Result					
4.1.2		Perches						
4.1.2.1	K.O.	In barn and free-range rearing, the total length of all perches included in the calculation is at least 15 cm per animal and, in organic rearing, at least 18 cm per animal.						
4.1.2.2	K.O.	The minimum distances between all perches included in the calculation are maintained.						
4.1.3		Feeding and drinking facilities						
4.1.3.1	K.O.	If longitudinal troughs are used, an edge length of at least 10 cm/animal is provided; if round troughs are used, a length of at least 4 cm/animal is provided.						
4.1.3.2	K.O.	If nipple or cup drinkers are used, there must be one drinker for 10 animals. With round troughs, an edge length of at least 1 cm per animal is to be provided.						
4.1.4		Nests						
4.1.4.1	K.O.	The required nest area is available for the authorised number of animals in the henhouse.						
4.1.5		Openings						
4.1.5.1	K.O.	The openings 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. The openings are on flat ground and may not be mounted above one another. With raised openings from a height of 30 cm, suitable entry and exit aids are provided.						
4.1.5.2	K.O.	For access to the cold-scratching area , in conventional rearing, there are 2 m openings per 1,000 animals and, in organic rearing, 4 m openings per 1,000 animals (at stocking date). There are sufficient running metres of openings from the henhouse to the cold-scratching area for the total number of animals.						
4.1.5.3	K.O.	In <u>freerange rearing</u> , there are 2 m openings per 1,000 animals for access to the free-range area . In <u>organic rearing</u> , the calculation of the length of the openings refers to the total usable area required by the number of animals, with 4 metres of openings per 100 m² total usable area.						
4.1.6		Light openings						
4.1.6.1	K.O.	The henhouse building has light openings that correspond to at least 3 % of the usable henhouse floor area and that are evenly distributed. If the conservatory is calculated as being part of the usable henhouse floor area, the calculation basis for the light openings is the area of both the warm henhouse and the cold-scratching area.						
4.1.6.2	K.O.	If the room depth exceeds 12 metres, light openings are located on both sides or there are rows of windows in the roof.						
4.1.7		Minimum henhouse widths						
4.1.7.1	K.O.	If the outdoor area is accessible from one side, the maximum henhouse width is 15 m. If the outdoor area is accessible from both sides, the maximum henhouse width is 30 metres (for new registrations/new buildings from 1 January 2017).						
4.1.8		Risk assessment for dioxin/PCB						
4.1.8.1		There is a risk assessment for dioxin/PCB for the establishment that covers, as a minimum, the content of the form "Risk assessment survey for dioxin" form.						

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4.2		Group size/spatial separation of flocks						
4.2.1	K.O.	All <u>henhouses incl. conservatories</u> are sectioned off so as not to exceed a group size of 6,000 animals in barn and free-range rearing. In the case of organic rearing, henhouse units separated by non-transparent materials with max. 3,000 animals in the henhouse and cold-scratching area are ensured. Separation into 3,000 units is also ensured in the outdoor area via fencing.						
4.2.2		The separations must be designed to reliably prevent the mixing of groups. Any doors in the separations must be kept closed.						
4.3		Scratching area						
4.3.1	K.O.	Three weeks after stocking at the latest, the animals have access to the entire scratching area during the specified usage period. There is documentary evidence of this. The scratching surface is located on the bottom level.						
4.3.2		The area is always completely covered with suitable litter. Litter in the cold scratching area is dry with a loose structure and there must be no discernible accumulation of excrement.						
4.3.3	K.O.	Cold scratching areas (e.g. conservatories) that are not located inside the henhouse are directly connected to the animal area and the animals are ensured free access to this area. From an opening height of 30 cm, suitable entry/exit aids must be installed.						
4.4		Live electrical wires						
4.4.1	K.O.	Laying hens must not be exposed to live electrical wires in any part of the facility they occupy.						
4.4.2		No other wires may be located in the area of the facility occupied by the laying hens that can be easily connected to a power source and thus achieve the effect of electrical wires. If wires are used as deflectors above feed and drinker lines, isolators must not be used to attach these wires.						
4.5		Perches						
4.5.1	K.O.	50% of perches are installed at varying heights. Perches are deemed to be raised if installed at a height of at least 25cm above the ground.						
4.5.2		Integrated perches are at least 2 cm high.						
4.5.3		The perches offer a secure footing and comply with the forms and cross-sections defined in the Guide.						
4.5.4		No perches may be installed above the litter area/scratching area.						
4.6		Nests						
4.6.1	K.O.	The nest material is soft, deformable and at least 0.5 cm high.						
4.7		Light conditions						
4.7.1	K.O.	The incidence of natural daylight is obligatory unless there is a written certificate of exemption. In this case, daylight lamps (full-spectrum lamps that radiate UV light) are used.						
4.7.2	K.O.	The light openings are designed in such a way as to prevent direct sunlight. A permanent blackout of the light openings by means of paint, covering with coloured films or the use of monochromatic light is only permitted in exceptional cases on sound veterinary grounds. There is documentary evidence of this.						
4.7.3		There is uniform lighting of sufficient intensity inside the henhouse in the activity area of the birds. The nest areas are darkened.						
4.7.4		The lighting regime is documented and this contains details of the duration of the light, dark and dusk phases.						
4.8		Henhouse environment						
4.8.1		A henhouse environment that is appropriate to animal health, the hen stocking rate and hen age is ensured. The henhouse temperatures are documented.						

No.	KO	Criterion	Result					
4.9		Emergency power supply						
4.9.1		When rearing more than 6,000 animals in barn rearing and more than 8,000 animals in free-range/organic rearing, an emergency power supply is available on-site that ensures the simultaneous supply of all henhouses belonging to the operating site. The emergency power unit is tested at regular intervals (at least half-yearly) and, if necessary, serviced. There is documentary evidence of this.						
5		Free-range criteria						
5.1		Cold-scratching area (conservatory)						
5.1.1	K.O.	A cold scratching area (conservatory) with a size of 50% of the minimum henhouse floor area based on the henhouse capacity is available (i.e. at least 1 m ² for every 36 birds in the case of free-range production and at least 1 m ² for every 24 birds for organic egg production)						
5.1.2		The cold-scratching area is at least 2 m high (henhouse wall) and has a wind-breaking net with perforations that ensure permanent light and air permeability and that is at least 70% of the height of the external wall. It has an outdoor climate, roofing and is designed in such a way that wild birds cannot gain access. The cold-scratching area has an outdoor climate, a roof and a fixed wall separating it from the warm area. It is designed in such a way that wild birds cannot gain access.						
5.1.3	K.O.	As inside the henhouse, the separation of flocks is obligatory in the conservatory.						
5.1.4	K.O.	If the conservatory is part of the usable area, the animals have access to it during the entire daylight period. If the conservatory is part of the usable henhouse floor area, the animals have unlimited access to it. There is no rearing equipment or other installations in the conservatory that restrict space or usability.						
5.2		Openings						
5.2.1	K.O.	The animals have unrestricted access to both the conservatory and the free-range area. If parts of the outdoor area are only accessible via bridges or tunnels (narrow places in the outdoor area), these are available with 2 m/1,000 animals (based on the number of animals using these areas) and they are accepted by the animals.						
5.2.2	K.O.	The number of openings required for the number of animals are available and open. All openings function correctly.						
5.3.		Outdoor areas						
5.3.1		A list of the surface areas of the lots that shows the size of the outdoor area and the maximum distances to the henhouse building is available.						
5.3.2	K.O.	The outdoor area that is at a maximum distance of 350 m from the henhouse is sufficient for the number of animals stocked.						
5.3.3	K.O.	Most of the outdoor 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. There is documentary evidence of this. There are no burn marks, dripping oil marks or slurry in the outdoor area, and the parking of machinery is not allowed.						

No.	KO	Criterion	Result					
5.3.4	K.O.	From a distance of more than 150 m to the next opening, there are at least 4 shelter opportunities per hectare. The available outdoor area is completely fenced in or marked with clearly visible boundary posts. The boundary posts and/or fence may not be impregnated or coated with tar/waste oil or other hazardous materials. In addition, with organic rearing, the outdoor area must be divided into 3,000-hen units.						
5.3.5	K.O.	The hens have unrestricted access to the outdoor area as soon as possible, however, by the 24th week of life at the latest, from 10 a.m. at the latest until sunset. The period of use of the outdoor area (outdoor log) is documented accordingly.						
5.3.6	K.O.	In the event of animal health orders (confinement of poultry to their henhouses), eggs can only be marketed as free-range eggs for a maximum period of 16 weeks.						
5.4		Minimum distances between outdoor areas						
5.4.1	K.O.	The minimum width of the corridor on the wall of the henhouse to the outdoor area is the total length of the openings in the relevant wall.						
5.5		Moving mobile henhouses						
5.5.1		Mobile henhouses must be moved at least four times per year, and this can be plausibly demonstrated. Mobile henhouses without an integrated floorplate must be moved on to sealed surfaces during prolonged periods of poor weather conditions (during winter/snow/heavy rain or similar) or be positioned on rubber matting.						
6		Animal health						
6.1		There is a documentation system for assessing flocks and this is based on animal-related characteristics. On the basis of this documentation, the establishment takes suitable measures if significant problems are identified within the flock.						
6.2		During every stock visit of the veterinary surgeon, the general condition of the flock, as well as any abnormal features and changes in the animals, are checked and documented.						
7		Zoonosis prevention						
7.1		Supervision by a veterinary surgeon						
7.1.1		An agreement exists with a veterinary surgeon regarding the monitoring of stock.						
7.1.2		If medicines are administered, at least the following information must be documented: name and amount of medicines administered, batch number of the medicines, date of administering, waiting time in days, name of the person who administered the medicines, number of the veterinary release record.						
7.1.3		If medicines are administered by the keeper of the animals, a detailed treatment instruction is available that provides information about the waiting time and release record by the supervising veterinary surgeon. The keeper of the animals documents usage of the medicines in accordance with the requirements listed under item 7.1.3.						
7.2		Establishment hygiene						
7.2.1		Pest control						
7.2.1.1		The establishment has a suitable pest control system. If the establishment performs the pest control itself, the relevant person has a certificate of competence, or there is a contract with an external service provider.						

No.	KO	Criterion	Result					
7.2.1.2		The minimum requirements for documentation are observed.						
7.2.2		Cleaning/disinfection						
7.2.2.1	K.O.	After destocking, the henhouse and the feed silos must be cleaned thoroughly and all rearing equipment with which the animals come into contact is also disinfected. This includes disinfection of the drinker lines.						
7.2.2.2		Only those disinfection agents that are suitable for the intended purpose are used. In addition, for establishments with organic rearing, only disinfection agents with active ingredients listed in Annex 7 Regulation 889/2008 are used. Documentary evidence and safety data sheets are available for all disinfectants used (name, manufacturer, licence number).						
7.2.2.3		The name and manufacturer of the disinfection agent are recorded in the KAT database.						
7.2.2.4		The establishment has an appropriate system in place enabling it to prove that the cleaning and disinfection measures carried out were effective.						
7.2.2.5		If animals of different age groups are stocked in a henhouse building with several pens, the pen is cleaned and disinfected without posing any hazard to animal health or to the rearing equipment in the other pens that are still occupied.						
7.2.3		Storage of excrement						
7.2.3.1		Excrement is stored in a separate area that is not accessible to the animals and that provides solid-based storage.						
7.2.4		Storage of dead animals						
7.2.4.1		Animals that have died are removed from the henhouse daily and stored in refrigerated carcase boxes. The carcass transfer is separate from other waste and protected from the weather and is not accessible to unauthorized persons.						
8		In-company self-monitoring						
8.1		Establishment data collection						
8.1.1		An up-to-date establishment description is available. The information in the establishment description form is identical to the information in the KAT database. The KAT Office is notified of any changes to the establishment data. The establishment has documentary evidence of this.						
8.1.2	K.O.	The description of the certification area is up to date. The KAT Office was notified <u>in advance</u> of changes to the certification area. The establishment has documentary evidence of this.						
8.1.3		There is an overview with the henhouse information in accordance with the "Henhouse overview" form.						
8.2		Stocking rate						
8.2.1	K.O.	The establishment has an up-to-date official approval that lists all forms of rearing and stamp numbers at the site. Establishments with organic rearing also have a valid conformity certificate issued by an organic inspection agency.						
8.2.2	K.O.	The number of hens stocked does not exceed the officially authorised number of hens.						
8.2.3	K.O.	After measurement of the henhouse by KAT (certification body and KAT auditors), from the next stocking, the KAT henhouse capacity is binding. The maximum number of hens that can be stocked is specified by the KAT henhouse capacity.						

No.	KO	Criterion	Result					
8.3		Stocking and destocking						
8.3.1		Written documentation (delivery notes and/or invoices) is available that contains information about the stocking date, the age of the hens on delivery and the exact number of animals delivered.						
8.3.2	K.O.	Measures are in place to guarantee that there are no hens with treated beaks. If, however, a stamp number refers to a henhouse with hens with treated beaks, the goods reports for this stamp number are always recorded in the KAT database as “non-KAT goods” and the farm holds a KAT certificate according to which the stamp number concerned is excluded from certification						
8.3.3	K.O.	The young hens stocked are from KAT-registered rearing farms. The KAT registration number is noted on the delivery note.						
8.3.4		The breeder provides confirmation that the laying hens became accustomed to their subsequent form of rearing when chicks.						
8.3.5		For the stocked flock, both the vaccination certificates and the most recent salmonella analysis performed in the rearing farm are available.						
8.3.6		The personnel responsible for carrying out the stocking and destocking work have a relevant certificate of competence, regardless of whether they are from the laying farm itself or work for an external service provider.						
8.4		Duty to inform KAT						
8.4.1	K.O.	Both the responsible authority and the KAT Office were informed at the same time about all events that are reportable by law (e.g. salmonella [enteritidis and typhimorium]/dioxins, avian influenza, etc.). The establishment has documentary evidence of this.						
8.4.2	K.O.	The stocking data of the current flock are entered in the KAT database.						
8.4.3		The KAT ID of the rearing establishments is entered in the database for the relevant hen flock/stocking.						
8.4.4		When a flock moults, the relevant data are entered in the database.						
8.4.5		If the laying farm has official approval for two forms of rearing, it documents at which times it engages in free-range or barn rearing. The data of the change between the rearing forms in the KAT database correspond with the laying list / delivery notes at the farm.						
8.5		Crisis management						
8.5.1		In accordance with requirements, there is a documented procedure detailing what to do in the event of a crisis.						
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 rearing.						
8.6.2		Every day, the establishment records the current hen stock, including weekly loss rate in percentage, according to henhouse and form of rearing.						
8.6.3		At least once per week, the establishment documents the laying performance according to henhouse and stamp number.						
8.6.4		A recording system can be used to determine the feed and water consumption per animal. Consumption is documented daily.						
8.7		Analyses						
8.7.1		The first salmonella test is performed from the age of 22 to 26 weeks. Further salmonella samples are taken at regular 15-week intervals. The results of the analysis are recorded in the KAT database						

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8.7.2		The results of salmonella analyses are presented for each separate henhouse (no pool samples!).						
8.7.3		Sufficient test results are available for dioxin/DL-PCB and NDL-PCBs (at least once per laying period).						
8.7.4		The quality of the drinking water must be tested once per laying period by an accredited laboratory using microbiological quality tests. Sampling takes place directly at the drinking line in the barn!						
8.8		Feedstuff						
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 or user of own crop and produces its feed itself. In this case, the establishment also meets the requirements of inspection criteria 8.8.3.1 to 8.8.3.8.						
8.8.2		20% organic feed from the surrounding region						
8.8.2.1		With organic production, the establishment can provide documentary evidence that 20% of the agrarian components of the feed comes from the surrounding region.						
8.8.3		User of own crop						
8.8.3.1		At least a sensory incoming goods inspection is performed each time before raw materials are stored. There is documentary evidence of this.						
8.8.3.2		The raw materials stored on-site are stored in accordance with product requirements and a negative impact on and 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 period of at least 6 months.						
8.8.3.4		Documentary evidence is available for all bought-in components and contains at least the product name, quantity and seller.						
8.8.3.5	K.O.	All raw materials and additives used for the production of feed are stored in the KAT database.						
8.8.3.6	K.O.	Any feedstuff supplements used are procured exclusively via a KAT-certified feedstuff manufacturer.						
8.8.3.7	K.O.	Each year, an analysis is performed of the finished feed containing at least the parameters listed in the Guide.						
8.8.3.8		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 to the mixing instructions provided.						
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.						
9		Database/plausibility checks						
9.1		Goods entered in the database						
9.1.1	K.O.	Reports on the movement of goods are entered weekly, by Wednesday midnight of the following week at the latest (period: from monday to sunday). Reports are entered in outgoing goods for all eggs produced in the laying farm.						
9.1.2		The goods reports are entered separately in accordance with stamp number and form of rearing.						
9.1.3		In accordance with requirements, feed quantities bought in by the establishment are reported every two weeks (feedstuff supplier, quantity and delivery date).						

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9.2		Plausibility and goods flows						
9.2.1	K.O.	The plausibility of delivery notes and laying lists in the database reports is ensured. A plausibility check performed over a 4-week period does not reveal any deviation.						
9.2.2	K.O.	If there are different forms of rearing on one site, there is a clear and documented separation of the flow of goods.						