

Berlin, 31.08.2018

*Courtesy translation*

## **QM-Milch: Feed-safety declarations to end as of 31 December 2019**

*Summary: QM-Milch e.V. has taken the decision to end the use of feed-safety declarations (Unbedenklichkeitsbescheinigung<sup>1</sup>) as of 31 December 2019. From 1 January 2020, these declarations will cease to be valid and may no longer be used. As of this date, all feed companies and distributors supplying feed to QM-Milch-certified farmers will be required to participate in certified quality-assurance schemes (QS, GMP+), or other standards recognised by these schemes.*

### **1. Information for feed companies – participation in certified quality-assurance scheme to become mandatory**

Feed-safety declarations will no longer be accepted as of 1 January 2020. From this date, feed companies (producers and distributors, private labellers) may only supply feed under the QM-Milch quality-management system if they participate in a certified quality-assurance scheme such as QS, GMP+, or comply with other equivalent standards recognised by these schemes. Feed companies wishing to become approved suppliers of feed to QM-Milch-certified dairy farmers will be required to register and confirm that they accept the terms of the Feed Agreement (*Futtermittelvereinbarung*).

→ **QS-certified feed companies** can register to be listed as approved QM-Milch suppliers via the QS platform. When individual details are entered for each site, a box must be ticked to confirm acceptance of the Feed Agreement terms. Companies can register at <https://www.q-s.de/softwareplattform>.

Companies that comply with other standards recognised by QS can also register to become an approved QM-Milch supplier using this procedure.

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<sup>1</sup> Annex to the "Feed Agreement Governing the Use of Feed in Milk Production", hereinafter "Feed Agreement"

→ **GMP+-certified companies** wishing to become approved QM-Milch suppliers require additional certification under the QM-Milch Country Note. For further details, see:

<http://www.gmpplus.org/de/certification-scheme/gmpplus-fsa-certification/b-documents/>

The QM-Milch website provides detailed information about the terms of the Feed Agreement and ways in which QS-certified companies, GMP+-certified companies and companies complying with other relevant standards can register as an approved QM-Milch supplier.

Further details are available at [www.qm-milch.de/futtermittelsicherheit](http://www.qm-milch.de/futtermittelsicherheit)

### **Note on the QS small-scale-producer regulation**

Individual feed producers with an annual feed production of less than 1,000 tonnes of dry matter can obtain QS certification under the “small-scale-producer regulation” (see QS guideline “QS Inspection for Small-Scale Producers” [*QS-Inspektion für Kleinsterzeuger*]). These producers may also register as approved QM-Milch suppliers using the procedure described above (ticking the box on the QS platform to confirm acceptance of the terms of the Feed Agreement).

→ Further information about the QS small-scale-producer regulation is available at:

[www.q-s.de/dokumentencenter/dc-kleinhersteller-einzelfuttermittel.html](http://www.q-s.de/dokumentencenter/dc-kleinhersteller-einzelfuttermittel.html)

## **2. Specific information for milk producers participating in the QM-Milch scheme**

As of 1 January 2020, the presentation of a feed-safety declaration for feed bought from applicable feed producers or distributors will no longer be accepted by the QM-Milch scheme. Presentation of a feed-safety declaration will no longer meet the mandatory requirements of the QM-Milch standard and will not be sufficient for a dairy farm to pass the QM-Milch audit.

As of this date, feed-safety declarations will cease to be valid and feed companies (distributors and producers) will be required to participate in certified quality-assurance schemes (QS, GMP+, or other equivalent standards recognised by these schemes). To become an approved QM-Milch supplier, feed companies will also have to register to confirm their acceptance of the terms of the Feed Agreement.

Lists are available with details of all approved QM-Milch feed suppliers throughout Germany. Feed companies are listed in the following databases, according to the certification scheme in which they participate:

→ For QS-certified feed producers and distributors that are approved QM-Milch suppliers, including companies complying with other QS-recognised standards, see:

[www.q-s.de/softwareplattform](http://www.q-s.de/softwareplattform)

(Click on “Scheme Participant Search”, select “Feed sector” and click “Next” to bring up the list of “QS-certified companies participating in QM-Milch”.)

→ For GMP+-certified feed producers and distributors that are approved QM-Milch suppliers, see: <https://portal.gmpplus.org/cdb/certified-companies>

(Select “QM-Milch GMP+ BCN-DE1” under “Scope”.)

Both databases may also be accessed via the QM-Milch web site at

[www.qm-milch.de/futtermittelsicherheit](http://www.qm-milch.de/futtermittelsicherheit)

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#### **Note on the feed-safety declaration**

The QM-Milch scheme’s dairy cattle feed-safety declaration is signed at present by certain feed companies that are not on the national list of approved QM-Milch feed suppliers. Most of these companies do not participate in recognised feed-safety certification schemes. These companies currently sign a feed-safety declaration confirming that their feed is safe to use in order to be allowed to sell their feed to milk producers participating in the QM-Milch scheme. However, as of the date when the feed-safety declarations cease to be valid, it will be mandatory for them to participate in a certified quality-assurance scheme.