



QUALITÄTSMANAGEMENT<sub>milch</sub>

# FEED AGREEMENT

GOVERNING THE USE  
OF FEED IN MILK PRODUCTION

Applies from 10.10.2019

QUALITÄTSMANAGEMENT MILCH IS AN INITIATIVE OF



# **Feed agreement**

## **governing the use of feed in milk production**

### **1. Scope**

It is essential, as part of comprehensive quality assurance, including controls on incoming raw materials, that only feed which, in addition to complying with feed-related legal provisions, is subject to a quality management system and is safe for milk production may be used. This feed agreement applies to Milk Quality Management (QM Milk Scheme). You can find more information about the QM Milk Scheme and the corresponding standard documents at [www.qm-milch.de](http://www.qm-milch.de).

To ensure that dairy products are safe, not just dairies, but milk producers, feed manufacturers and feed traders (including private labels) whose goods may be traded in the QM Milk Scheme, all also bear responsibility. There is a close link between the safety and quality of feed and the safety and quality of food. The feed chain should therefore be seen as a preliminary stage of food production. The scope of this feed agreement encompasses compound and straight feedingstuffs that are delivered directly to the dairy farm and that are produced according to the QM Milk Scheme standards. This is feed, according to Regulation (EC) 767/2009, which is intended for use as dairy cattle feed. Primary feed that is produced on the farmer's own farm or that is bought in from other farmers is not covered in this agreement.

As part of the joint responsibility for safety of milk and dairy products, it is necessary and makes sense for dairies, milk producers, feed manufacturers and feed traders to inform and help each other. A rapid-functioning information system is also a requisite.

The relevant feed and food-related legal provisions in their current form (annex) form part of this agreement.

## **2. Precautionary measures (quality management programmes)**

### **2.1 Feed manufacturers and traders**

#### **Quality management system**

The feed businesses that are subject to the feed agreement must comply with the feed-related legal provisions that are in force as well as the specifications of this agreement. As part of quality management, the feed businesses must comply with the requirements of a certified quality assurance scheme, currently QS Quality and Safety (QS Qualität und Sicherheit GmbH<sup>1</sup>), schemes recognised by QS as equivalent or GMP+ International<sup>2</sup> (henceforth summarised under the term 'system providers'). Thus feed businesses (feed manufacturers and feed traders including private labels) must be certified or authorised to supply feed by QS or GMP+ International.

#### **Requirements**

Feed must comply with feed-related provisions in force (national and European, in particular the rules on undesired and forbidden substances and feeding bans), the particular requirements of dairy cattle feed (see specification under monitoring), as well as the basic principles of good professional practice. With regard to good professional practice, reference is made to Regulation (EC) 183/2005 in its current form.

According to Regulation (EC) 183/2005, when handling, including storing and transporting, feed that is supplied in the QM Milk Scheme, harmful effects on the safety and quality of the products must be avoided. Thus feed for the QM Milk Scheme must be stored and transported separately from feed that is not permitted to be supplied in the QM Milk Scheme.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.q-s.de/futter-tiere-fleisch/futtermittelwirtschaft.html> (documents in their current version)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.gmpplus.org/de/certification-scheme/gmpplus-fsa-certification/b-documents/> (documents in their current version)

Only straight feedingstuffs that are:

- recorded in the German positive list for feed material, or
  - permitted under other schemes, which are recognised as equivalent by the system providers,
- may be used.

### **Monitoring programme**

Monitoring must include regular examinations carried out on feed. The sampling of the feed and the monitoring take place in accordance with the requirements of the system provider<sup>3,4</sup>.

For milk production, the following parameters are particularly relevant. The following values, which are for feed that is intended for dairy cows in the QM Milk Scheme, must be met:

Aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>: The recommended value is 0.001 mg/kg (ppm)\* in straight and compound feed.

Dioxins: The legal action threshold set out in the current version of Annex II to Directive 2002/32/EC apply, namely 0.5 ng WHO-PCDD/F-TEQkg (ppt)\* in compound feed.

Dioxin-like PCBs: The legal maximum content levels set out in the current version of Annex II to Directive 2002/32/EC apply, namely 0.5 ng WHO-PCDD/F-TEQkg (ppt)\* in compound feed.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.q-s.de/futter-tiere-fleisch/futtermittelwirtschaft.html> (documents in their current version)

Non dioxin-like PCBs: The legal maximum content levels set out in the current version of Annex I to Directive 2002/32/EC apply, namely 10 µg WHO-PCDD/F-TEQ/kg (ppb)\* in compound feed (sum of PCB 28, 52, 101, 138, 153, 180).

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\*related to a feed with a moisture content of 12%

The signatories of this agreement take into account current scientific knowledge, legal requirements as well as practical experience when implementing the recommended values, action thresholds and maximum content levels, in order to guarantee the food safety of the milk and dairy products.

### **Information requirements**

When the established action thresholds, guideline values or maximum levels are exceeded, it is crucial that this information is swiftly disseminated in order to prevent contamination of the milk. Section 4 of this agreement explains how the warning procedure must be carried out.

For the parameters of dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs, non-dioxin-like PCBs and Aflatoxin B<sub>1</sub>, the system providers compile an aggregated, anonymised evaluation of the monitoring results for feed once every three months, and make this available to QM Milk.

The feed manufacturers or feed traders will intensify their feed examinations and investigate the cause when the thresholds are exceeded. See section 4 for more details.

## **2.2 Milk-producing holdings**

Milk producers are involved in the QM Milk Scheme through individual contracts or as part of milk supply orders of dairies.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.gmpplus.org/de/certification-scheme/gmpplus-fsa-certification/b-documents/> (documents in their current version)

Milk-producing holdings must obtain their feed exclusively from such feed manufacturers and traders that have registered for the delivery authorisation in the QM Milk Scheme and that are listed in the central lists (databases), see section 3.

The traceability of the individual purchased components must be guaranteed. To do this, the delivery notes and other documents which correspond to the QM Milk Scheme standards must be kept.

Feed from listed manufacturers or traders are clearly labelled, i.e. per article. Goods in bulk are labelled on the goods' accompanying documents, bagged/packaged goods on the bag trailer or on the goods' accompanying documents (e.g. delivery notes).

The use of own-farm feed and feed bought in from other farmers must be documented (e.g. delivery notes, invoices, further proof).

### **3. Registration and listing (databases) of authorised QM Milk feed suppliers**

Feed businesses, which are authorised to supply feed by QS, register to be listed as companies able to supply QM Milk on the QS Platform. Here, the requirements of this feed agreement must be agreed to<sup>5</sup>. To be able to supply QM Milk, GMP+ authorised businesses require an additional certificate after the Country Note for QM Milk.

The feed manufacturers and traders authorised by QS and GMP+ International that produce or market feed according to the specified standards and therefore have a delivery authorisation for QM Milk are listed in QS and GMP+ International databases. In addition, they can be found at [www.qm-milch.de](http://www.qm-milch.de) (link to the QS and GMP+ International databases).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Registration: <https://www.q-s.de/softwareplattform>

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.q-s.de/softwareplattform\\_\(See list of "QS businesses participating in QM Milk"\)](https://www.q-s.de/softwareplattform_(See_list_of_\)  
<https://portal.gmpplus.org/cdb/certified-companies/> (Tick "GMP+ FSA" and under scope select "QM-Milk GMP+-BCN DE1")

#### **4. Implementing the monitoring and warning system**

Should the feed exceed the maximum levels, action thresholds or guideline values set out in this agreement and in the feed monitoring, the incident and crisis management system immediately sends an electronic notification from the system providers to QM Milk as soon as the anomaly is spotted. The system providers reserve the right to verify the plausibility of the claim. The feed manufacturer or trader in question also receives a copy of the notification at the same time. QM Milk then forwards the notification on to the regional offices, where appropriate. Prior to any further action, QM Milk and the regional offices commit to contacting the feed manufacturer or trader in question in order to ascertain the extent and gravity of the incident, and determine which measures have already, or remain to be taken. Notwithstanding the above, the system providers inform QM Milk about any measures introduced with the businesses in question under the incident and crisis management system, and whether these measures have been successful. In this case, the system providers also immediately give QM Milk the name of a contact person at the feed manufacturer or trader in question (generally speaking, the crisis manager).

In addition, exceeded thresholds which are detected during any other controls or in-house controls and which are reported to the system providers via the incident and crisis management system are also passed on to QM Milk. Conversely, QM Milk relays information concerning milk tests that present anomalies or exceed the parameters cited under section 2.1 of this agreement to the system providers and, if necessary, the feed manufacturer or trader in question.

What's more, in the case of anomalies, QM Milk or the regional offices may carry out on-site inspections on the milk producer, feed manufacturer or feed trader. The feed manufacturers and traders commit to having the necessary documents ready for inspection and are obliged to disclose information to QM Milk and the regional offices.

Feed manufacturers and traders must authorise the system providers to report to QM Milk. Giving consent for notifications to be sent to QM Milk is a prerequisite for a feed manufacturer or trader to be included in the list mentioned in section 3 of this agreement.

## **5. Consequences of non-compliance**

Should a feed manufacturer or trader fail to respect the present agreement, and especially if this non-compliance results in the use of an unsuitable or prohibited feed component, QM Milk may revoke the right of feed manufacturer or trader to supply feed to the QM Milk Scheme.

Should a milk producer fail to respect point 2.2 of this agreement corresponding to the requirements under their respective individual contracts or milk supply orders, the measures set out under the QM Milk Scheme and the individual contract or milk supply order of the dairies will apply.



## **6. Validity of the feed agreement**

The agreement will enter into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. It will replace the 2015 feed agreement. The agreement may be repealed, giving 12 months' notice at the end of the calendar year. Written notice of termination must be given. This is without prejudice to the right to terminate the contract without notice for serious reasons.

**Signatories:**

German Farmers' Association  
(Mr B. Krüsken)

German Raiffeisen Confederation  
(Dr H. Ehlers)

German Pet Food Association  
(Dr H.-J. Baaken)

GMP+ International  
(Mr J. den Hartog)

German Dairy Industry Federation  
(Dr G. Runge)

QM Milk  
(Mr Börger)

QS Quality and Safety  
(Dr H.-J. Nienhoff)

Additional organisations can also sign this agreement.

## **Annex – List of legal requirements that apply in the current version, i.e. with changes and consequential terms**

### 1. National law

#### **Food and feed code**

#### **Feed regulation**

### 2. EU legislation

#### **Feed and food safety**

Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 laying down the general principles and requirements of food law, establishing the European Food Safety Authority and laying down procedures in matters of food safety

#### **EU feed hygiene regulation**

Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 laying down requirements for feed hygiene

#### **EU regulation on labelling feed**

Regulation (EC) No 767/2009 on the placing on the market and use of feed

#### **Feed additives**

Regulation (EC) No 1831/2003 on additives for use in animal nutrition

#### **Undesirable substances in animal feed**

EU Directive 2002/32/EC on undesirable substances in animal feed

Regulation (EC) No 396/2005 on maximum residue levels of pesticides in or on food and feed of plant and animal origin and amending Council Directive 91/414/EEC

Commission Recommendation on the presence of deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A, T-2 and HT-2 and fumonisins in products intended for animal feeding

Regulation (EC) No 2160/2003 on the control of salmonella and other specified food-borne zoonotic agents

#### **Feed ban**

Regulation (EC) No 999/2001 laying down rules for the prevention, control and eradication of certain transmissible spongiform encephalopathies

#### **Hygiene regulation for specific animal by-products**

Regulation (EC) No 1069/2009 with health rules concerning animal by-products not intended for human consumption