

Berlin, 30/11/2019

## **Updated feed agreement under the QM-Milk Scheme, as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020**

*In brief: On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, an updated feed agreement governing the use of feed in dairy production (hereinafter referred to as feed agreement) will enter into force. It will replace the previous feed agreement from 2015. This implies the expiry of the clearance certificate<sup>1</sup>, which will cease to be valid as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Consequently, all feed businesses must subscribe to certified quality assurance schemes (QS or standards recognised by QS, GMP+ international) in order to be permitted to supply feed to producers that operate within the QM-Milk Scheme.*

The feed agreement regulates the use of feedingstuffs between the feed and dairy industries for milk production within the QM-Milk Scheme. The scope of this agreement encompasses straight and compound feedingstuffs that are delivered to dairy farms producing in accordance with the QM-Milk Scheme provisions. The signatories include QM-Milk, the German Farmers' Association, the German Dairy Industry Federation, the German Raiffeisen Confederation, QS Quality and Safety, the German Pet Food Association, and GMP+ International.

On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 an updated feed agreement (as at 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019) will enter into force (see attachment).

The update to the feed agreement mainly concerns the clearance certificate's expiry. As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, the clearance certificate will no longer be valid and its use no longer permitted. As of this point in time, any feed businesses (producers and traders, private labellers) supplying milk within the QM-Milk Scheme must, without exception, be certified under a certified quality assurance scheme (QS or standards recognised by QS, GMP+ international). On

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<sup>1</sup> clearance certification = a self-declaration signed by a number of feed businesses and issued to dairy producers, certifying the safety of their feed. These feed businesses are not registered on the national list and are generally not part of any certification scheme.

this basis, these feed businesses must register (see 1: Information for Feed Businesses) for QM Milk delivery authorisation by agreeing to the terms of the feed agreement.

The feed agreement lays down provisions for monitoring of residues (aflatoxin B1, dioxin-like PCBs, non dioxin-like PCBs) as well as the information and warning system, amongst other things.

## **1. Information for Feed Businesses**

→ **QS-certified feed businesses** can register using the QS Platform to be listed as approved QM Milk suppliers. To do so, they must login using their individual login data, and tick the boxes to agree with the feed agreement requirements for their respective location. To register, please follow this link: <https://www.q-s.de/softwareplattform>  
Registration for QM-Milk certification via QS recognition of other certification bodies is also possible.

→ **GMP+-certified businesses** require an additional certificate in accordance with the Country Note for QM Milk in order to be approved as QM Milk suppliers. For the necessary requirements, see:

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

For a summary of relevant information concerning the requirements of the feed agreement or QM Milk supplier registration for QS or GMP+ certified businesses or businesses of other certification bodies, see the QM Milk homepage. For further information, see: [www.qm-milch.de/futtermittelsicherheit](http://www.qm-milch.de/futtermittelsicherheit)

### **Reference to Small Farmers' Scheme for QS**

Producers of straight feedingstuffs with an annual feed production output of less than 1 000 tonnes of dry matter can apply for QS certification under the *Smallest Farmers' Scheme* (see QS guidelines: *QS inspection for smallest farmers (QS-Inspektion für Kleinsterzeuger)*). Registration for QM Milk supplier approval follows the same procedure as mentioned above (tick boxes on QS platform by accepting feed agreement).

→ for further information on the Small Farmers' Scheme, see:

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

## **2. Specific information for QM Milk dairy producers**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020, the feed producers' or traders' clearance certificate will no longer be accepted for bought-in feedingstuffs within the QM Milk system. The feed used must be in compliance with the provisions of the feed agreement. As this is a compulsory requirement for the QM Milk standard, non-compliance would mean the dairy producer not being able to pass the QM Milk audit.

The feed companies that are authorised to supply feed for QM Milk are listed on national lists. Food producers are listed in the following databases according to participation in the respective certification scheme:

→ for approved QM Milk suppliers and **QS certified feed producers and traders** including businesses from other certification bodies that have been approved by QS, see:

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

(Go to *Scheme Participant Search*, select *feed sector* and then *Next* for the list *QS certified locations participating in QM-Milk*.)

→ for QM-Milk approved and **GMP+ certified feed producers and traders** see:

<https://portal.gmpplus.org/cdb/certified-companies>

(Go to *QS certified locations participating in QM-Milk/Anwendungsbereich* and select *QM-Milk GMP+ BCN-DE1*.)

You'll find both databases in this section on the QM-Milk homepage:

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

### Attachment

New feed agreement, as at 10<sup>th</sup> October 2019 (German and English version)