

# Certification Obligation for Rearing Farms

## VLOG Stage: Agriculture

### Rearing of piglets for pork production

#### 1. Background

The EC Genetic Engineering Implementation Act (EGGenTDurchfG) defines a period of four months for the production of pork before the food is produced, within which the feeding of genetically modified feed is not permitted. This period is described in the VLOG production and certification standard as the minimum feeding conversion period.

The minimum feeding conversion period of four months cannot be met in most VLOG certified fattening farms, so that a part of it is already completed in the area of piglet rearing. To ensure the "Ohne Gentechnik" (oGT) system, a registration obligation for piglet rearing farms was therefore decided in 2020 in dialogue with representatives of the pork industry. This registration obligation has been valid since the VLOG standard V20.02 became obligatory on 01.01.2021.

The registration obligation applies to all rearing/piglet farms that sell piglets to oGT primary producers and whose "Non-GMO" compliant feeding or part thereof is to be applied for compliance with the minimum feeding conversion period.

#### 2. When is no registration necessary?

- The feeding/part of the feeding on the rearing farm is not to be applied as part of the minimum feeding conversion period on the fattening farm
- The rearing farm is certified according to VLOG or a standard recognized as equivalent
- The farm has less than 250 animal places for piglets with a weight less than 30 kg. In this case, a document audit is required (cf. VLOG Standard Chapter E 1).
- A VLOG certified pig (fattening) farm produces piglets for its own fattening. The rearing farm and the fattening farm run under the same company name and no piglets are sold to other VLOG certified fattening farms whose "Ohne Gentechnik" compliant feed is to be applied to the minimum feeding conversion period.

#### 3. Registration procedure

The following documents are to be completed by the piglet farm and sent to VLOG:

- a) Signed registration contract incl. master data sheet in duplicate.
- b) Facility description for registered companies

The farm receives a countersigned version of the contract back after the documents have been checked by VLOG. In addition, the farm receives a registration confirmation with which the registration with VLOG can be confirmed to the fattening farm. The registration confirmation must be presented to the auditor during the audit at the fattening farm. In order to prove the “Ohne Gentechnik” (Non GMO) compliant feeding of the individual animals, the piglet farm must also complete Annex 2 of the VLOG standard for every delivery and hand it over to the fattening farm.

The registration confirmation is a time-limited document. Confirmation issued in 2021 are valid until the end of 2022. The registration confirmation will be extended accordingly if a review of compliance with the contract requirements by VLOG shows that the requirements for registration remain unchanged.

#### 4. Revisions to the Facility Description at the Agriculture Stage

The facility description at the Agriculture Stage is supplemented to add information about rearing farms (e.g., name, certification status). Rearing farms are better integrated into the VLOG system in this way.

- Note: Since this involves differences in content as well as supplements, either a new facility description (Version 20.02) must be filled out or the relevant items in the old description must be supplemented.

#### 5. Outlook

In order to gather information, VLOG will conduct further facility inspections of selected piglet rearing farms in 2021. The purpose of this is to detect the potential risks and challenges of piglet production under “ohne Gentechnik” conditions. In addition, the possibility of parallel production of the same types of animals will be discussed, and new insights will be gained regarding the further procedure for moving toward the planned certification obligation.

#### Contact VLOG:

If you have any questions, please contact the VLOG head office at [qualitaet@ohnegentechnik.org](mailto:qualitaet@ohnegentechnik.org) or by phone at +49 030/235994500

All necessary documents can be found on the VLOG website at the following link:

<https://www.ohnegentechnik.org/en/for-businesses/certification/registration-piglet-rearing>