

# Certification Obligation for Rearing Farms

## VLOG Stage: Agriculture

### Rearing of cattle and other ruminants for dairy and meat production

The EC Genetic Engineering Implementation Act (EGGenTDurchfG) defines a period of time prior to the production of a food 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 and varies depending on the animal species:

Animal species	Period
Equids and cattle (including water buffaloes and bison species) for meat production	Twelve months and in any case at least three quarters of their life
Milk-producing animals	Three months

**Minimum feeding conversion period according to EGGenTDurchfG** (see EGGenTDurchfG, most recently amended by Art. 58 V of 31 August 2015 | 1474)

In earlier versions of the "Ohne Gentechnik" production and certification standard (in short: VLOG standard), a certification obligation for rearing farms was planned from 01.01.2021, if the customer (dairy farm or fattening farm) wishes to have the "Ohne Gentechnik" compliant feeding of the rearing farm to be applied for compliance with the minimum feeding conversion period.

In dialogue with the dairy and meat industries, VLOG came to the conclusion that many rearing farms cannot implement a general certification obligation at the present time for various reasons. With the publication of the VLOG standard version 20.02, changes to the certification obligation were therefore specified in chapter E1, which has been valid since 01.01. 2021.

### Certification required according to VLOG Standard

- For agricultural businesses that sell gestating cows<sup>1</sup> and/or dairy cows (as of second lactation) to primary producers (cf. Chapter E1 of the VLOG Standard) or temporarily hold VLOG animals in this category as a service to VLOG businesses and whose "Ohne Gentechnik" compliant feed is to be applied to the minimum feeding conversion period, if the following business size is fulfilled:
  - ≥ 20 animal spaces in ruminant rearing/maintenance of gestating cows

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<sup>1</sup> Non-lactating cows: milk-producing animal (e.g. a dairy cow) which is not milked for the time between two lactation periods.

## Approval by document check,... or proof, Annex 2

- For agricultural businesses that sell gestating cows<sup>2</sup> and/or dairy cows (as of second lactation) to primary producers (cf. Chapter E1 of the VLOG Standard) or temporarily hold VLOG animals in this category as a service to VLOG businesses and whose “Ohne Gentechnik” compliant feed is to be applied to the minimum feeding conversion period, if the following business size is fulfilled:
  - < 20 animal spaces in ruminant rearing/maintenance of gestating cows

If an agricultural operation is smaller than the aforementioned business size, a document check is necessary. Please contact the VLOG head office in this regard.

- For agricultural businesses that sell young cattle and animals in first lactation to the aforementioned primary producers or temporarily hold VLOG animals in these categories as a service to VLOG businesses and whose “ohne Gentechnik” compliant feed is to be applied to the minimum feeding conversion period.

Proof in accordance with Annex 2 is necessary (see Chapter E 4.6)

## 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, etc.). 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 must be filled out or the relevant items in the old description must be supplemented.

## Outlook

VLOG is currently collecting data to obtain information regarding the rearing and purchase of cattle and other ruminants. The knowledge obtained in this way will be used to record the structures of rearing farms and identify potential risks to “Ohne Gentechnik” production.

The results will be used to discuss and make decisions regarding the necessity of a future certification and registration obligation for young cattle and cattle in first lactation. Changes to the current procedure will be published in future versions of the Standard, if necessary.

## Contact VLOG:

For questions regarding the information letter, please contact [qualitaet@ohnegentechnik.org](mailto:qualitaet@ohnegentechnik.org).  
Phone: +49 30 2359 945 00

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<sup>2</sup> Non-lactating cows: milk-producing animal (e.g. a dairy cow) which is not milked for the time between two lactation periods.