

Changes to the Certification Obligation for Rearing Farms

Agriculture Stage – Rearing of piglets for pork production

The “Ohne Gentechnik” Production and Certification Standard (the “VLOG-Standard”), Version 20.01, established a certification obligation for rearing farms, as of 01 January 2021, if their “Ohne Gentechnik” compliant feed is to be applied to the minimum feeding conversion period.

Through dialogue with representatives of the pork industry, VLOG came to the conclusion that many rearing farms cannot implement a general certification obligation at the present time for various reasons. Therefore, when updating the Standard, changes to the certification obligation were developed, which will take effect on 01 January 2021.

The purpose of this letter is to provide information to the businesses affected by the change in the certification obligation at an early stage, before the official publication of Version 20.02 of the VLOG Standard on 01 September 2020, so that these businesses can make the appropriate adjustments.

Current wording of the VLOG Standard, Version 20.01

Certification required

- As of 01 January 2021: For agricultural businesses that sell young animals/livestock to primary producers and whose “ohne Gentechnik” compliant feed is to be applied to the minimum feeding conversion period (e.g. producers of piglets) and that fulfil a business size of ≥ 250 animal spaces for piglets under 30 kg.

Certification not required

- As of 01 January 2021: For agricultural businesses that sell young animals/livestock to primary producers and whose “ohne Gentechnik” compliant feed is to be applied to the minimum feeding conversion period and that fulfil a business size below 250 animal spaces for piglets under 30 kg. Document review is possible for these businesses as an alternative to an on-site audit.

New wording of the VLOG Standard, Version 20.02 – Effective as of 01 January 2021

Registering businesses:

As an alternative to VLOG certification and document review, agricultural businesses that sell piglets to “ohne Gentechnik” primary producers and whose “ohne Gentechnik” compliant feed is to be applied to the minimum feeding conversion period have the option to register.

A retrieval of general operational data, similar to the Master Data Sheet of the VLOG Standard Usage Agreement, is planned.

Certification required

- For agricultural businesses that sell piglets to “ohne Gentechnik” primary producers and whose “ohne Gentechnik” compliant feed is to be applied to the minimum feeding conversion period, if the following requirements are fulfilled:
 - The business is not registered as a piglet rearer with VLOG and
 - The business fulfils the following business size: ≥ 250 animal spaces for piglets under 30 kg

Certification not required

- For agricultural businesses that sell piglets to “ohne Gentechnik” primary producers and whose “ohne Gentechnik” compliant feed is to be applied to the minimum feeding conversion period, if the following business size is fulfilled:
 - < 250 animal spaces for piglets under 30 kg

Document review is possible for these businesses as an alternative to an on-site audit. Please contact the VLOG head office for this (qualitaet@ohnegentechnik.org).

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 will conduct facility inspections of selected piglet rearing farms in the second half of 2020 to gather information. 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 or by phone at +49 030/235994500.