

**Revision information –  
Agriculture and Group Organisation  
VLOG Standard Version 20.02 as of 01 January 2021**

Verband Lebensmittel  
ohne Gentechnik e.V. (VLOG)



# Part A (General)

## **A 3.2.1 Commissioning External Service Providers**

- Addition:
  - External service providers may only be commissioned once the activities for which certification is mandatory are successfully audited

## **A 3.4 Scope of Applicability/Certification**

- Addition:
  - It is possible to specify the certification's scope of applicability on the certificate. Product-specific information (such as brand names) may not appear on the certificate (could be listed in an annex).

# Part E (Agriculture)

## **E 1 Stage Definition and Mandatory Certification**

- Addition:
  - Explanation with reference to standards recognised as equivalent
- Change:
  - Animal-specific division and revision of requirements for rearing farms (“Rearing of laying hens”, “Rearing of piglets”, “Rearing of cattle and other ruminants for dairy and meat production”)

## E 1 Stage Definition and Mandatory Certification

- Rearing of piglets:
  - If piglets are to be sold to the aforementioned primary producers whose “ohne Gentechnik” compliant feeding is to be applied to the minimum feeding conversion period, the rearing farm must be VLOG-certified
  - As an alternative to certification, rearing farms have the option to register.
  - No change: A document check is possible for farms with < 250 animal spaces for piglets under 30 kg

## **E 1 Stage Definition and Mandatory Certification**

- Rearing of cattle and other ruminants for dairy and meat production
  - If gestating cows and/or dairy cows as of second lactation are to be sold to primary producers whose “ohne Gentechnik” compliant feeding is to be applied to the minimum feeding conversion period, the rearing farm must be VLOG-certified (this also applies to temporarily holding these animals in a VLOG business)
    - A document check is possible for farms with < 20 animal spaces

## **E 1 Stage Definition and Mandatory Certification**

- Rearing of cattle and other ruminants for dairy and meat production (continued):
  - No certification obligation within the aforementioned condition for young cattle and animals in first lactation
  - Addition: Footnote: Definition gestating cows
  - Addition: Footnote: VLOG reserves the right to discuss the certification obligation again in the upcoming version of the Standard

# Part E (Agriculture)

## **E 1 Stage Definition and Mandatory Certification (Animal transport/livestock trade)**

- Addition/specification: Differentiation between livestock trader and animal transporter:
  - As opposed to the exclusive carrier, a livestock trader (temporarily) owns the animals.

# Part E (Agriculture)

## **E 1 Stage Definition and Mandatory Certification (Animal transport/livestock trade)**

- Further details on mandatory certification for animal transports
  - Animal transport of VLOG animals requires certification if at least one of the following requirements is not fulfilled:
    - Commissioning by a VLOG certified business.
    - Transport is integrated into the risk management of the VLOG certified business.
    - An agreement is in effect between the carrier and the certified business regarding compliance with the requirements of the VLOG Standard.



# Part E (Agriculture)

## **E 2.1 Criteria for Risk Grading in the Area of Animal Production**

- Addition: Footnote for grading criterion “Use of grinding and/or mixing facilities”:
  - Risk category 1: If the VLOG farmer’s organic-certified grinding and/or mixing facility is used exclusively for organic-certified feed, the facility can be graded in Risk Category 0.

# Part E (Agriculture)

## **E 3.1 Facility Description**

- Specification:
  - If a new version of the facility description is published, the old version may still be used as long as differences in content or supplements are marked. If clarity and transparency are no longer ensured, a new facility description must be filled out.

# Part E (Agriculture)

## **E 3.4 Joint Use of Machines, Facilities/External Service Providers**

- Specification of the requirement that activities requiring certification be reviewed during an audit or certification of the service provider

## E 4.6 Minimum Feeding Conversion Period

- Change of certification obligation (E 1) for purchase of animals from previous owners who are not VLOG-certified:
  - Animals may be purchased from non-VLOG-certified previous owners only if:
    - the “ohne Gentechnik”-compliant feeding period at the previous owner’s facility will not be applied to the minimum conversion feeding period (i.e. the complete minimum conversion feeding period will be ensured at the buyer’s VLOG facility) AND/OR
    - the rearing facility under E 1 is not subject to a certification obligation.

# Part F (Group Certification)

## **F 2.2.2 Initial Certification Based on Initial Data Collection by the Group Organiser (25 %-process)**

- Specification:
  - The group organiser must forward all facility descriptions, also indicating the corresponding risk categories, and checklists for each group member to the certification body.

# Part F (Group Certification)

## **F 2.4 Follow-up Certification and Monitoring/Audit Intervals**

- Addition:
  - If a follow-up audit is conducted sooner than necessary (e.g., one calendar year sooner), subsequent regular audits must also be scheduled sooner.

# Part J (Requirements for Laboratories and Tests)

## **J 1 Requirements for Commissioning a Test**

- Addition: Explanation:
  - When commissioning a laboratory, certain information must be submitted to the laboratory. Annex 3 of the Guideline for Laboratories provides guidance regarding the order form, which contains all the minimum information that the laboratory must have to test VLOG samples.

# Glossary – Definitions of terms

## **Addition:**

### External Service Provider:

- A business (contractor) that provides services and processes to another business (client) for a fee. The duration and substance of these services must be established in writing (e.g., by contractual agreement).
- Examples of external services at the various stages:
  - Logistics: Transport/storage of feed/food
  - Feed production: Job order production of feed (private labelling)
  - Agriculture: Outsourcing of part of production to a facility/stall that does not belong to the business
  - Food processing: Slicing of cheese (slicer), sterilisation of spices, bottling of food



# Glossary – Definitions of terms

## **Addition:**

### Raw materials/products not subject to compulsory labelling:

- Food which, according to Regulations (EC) No. 1829/2003 and No. 1830/2003, is not subject to compulsory labelling as “genetically modified”.

### Raw materials/products subject to compulsory labelling:

- Food which, according to Regulations (EC) No. 1829/2003 and No. 1830/2003, is subject to compulsory labelling as “genetically modified”.

### Unannounced audit:

- An audit of a retail branch conducted by the certification body without prior notice.

# Glossary – Definitions of terms

## **Specification:**

### Positive test result:

- Any test result that confirms the presence of GMOs in feed, raw materials or products (regardless of the amount of GMO content). A positive test result does not automatically result in exclusion of the goods from “VLOG geprüft” or “ohne Gentechnik” production/marketing. The applicable limit values and conditions of EU Regulations 1829/2003 and 1830/2003 and EGGenTDurchfG must be followed for this classification (see Chapters A 1.3.1 and A 1.3.2).

# Glossary – Definitions of terms

## **Deleted:**

### Logistics businesses:

- “Mobile grinding and/or mixing facilities come under the category of logistics businesses as well”

*Explanation: Belong to the Feed Manufacturing Stage.*

## **Amended Annexes:**

- Annex 13 Facility Description Logistics Stage:
  - Addition: Certification status of external service providers
  - Deleted: Grading into risk category
- Annex 15 Facility Description Feed Manufacturing:
  - Addition: Certification status of external service providers
- Annex 20 Facility Description Agriculture:
  - Addition: Certification status of external service providers
  - Addition: Information about the rearing facility

## **Amended Annexes:**

- Annex 25 Facility Description Food Processing/Preparation:
  - Addition: Certification status of external service providers
- Annex 28 and 29 Checklist – Bulk Goods (central office and branches):
  - New checklists for branches: Division of requirements for headquarters and individual branches into two separate checklists

## **Amended Annexes:**

- Annex 30 Grinding and Mixing Protocol:
  - Addition: Footnote: Only non-VLOG-certified grinding and mixing facilities must indicate whenever the previous mixture was composed of feed subject to compulsory labelling

# Additional information

[www.ohne gentechnik.org](http://www.ohne Gentechnik.org)

[www.ohne gentechnik.org/standard](http://www.ohne gentechnik.org/standard)

(VLOG Standard with all annexes and additional information sheets  
and information)



# Copyright

© 2020 Copyright by VLOG – Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik e.V. – All rights reserved

This presentation, in its entirety and individual components thereof, is intellectual property of VLOG - Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik e.V., unless other sources are referenced.

Verband Lebensmittel ohne Gentechnik e.V.

[info@ohnegentechnik.org](mailto:info@ohnegentechnik.org)

+49 30 2359 945 00