

Revision Information – Agriculture, Group Organisation Agriculture VLOG Standard Version 25.01 as of 01.01.2025

Verband Lebensmittel
ohne Gentechnik e.V. (VLOG)

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Preamble

In this Revision Information, the main changes in content of the VLOG Standard version 25.01 compared to version 23.01 are presented in compact form, which are relevant for the stages Agriculture and Group Organisation Agriculture.

A more detailed overview can be found in the Revision Document.

Editorial changes, which were made in the context of the restructuring of the standard, but which do not entail any changes in content, are not indicated (e.g. rewordings, correction of duplications, deletions).

Part A - General

Part A: General

A 10.1 „Ohne GenTechnik“ Seal and Word Mark „VLOG“

Change „Ohne GenTechnik“-seal:

- Trade mark rights transferred to VLOG::

The “Ohne GenTechnik“-seal was initiated by the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL). Meanwhile, VLOG is the holder of the trademark rights and is exclusively responsible for awarding and administration of the seal.“

- Update of the „Ohne GenTechnik“ seal (Figure A 2)



Addition Word Mark „VLOG“:

- The Standard Usage Agreement concluded with VLOG as the holder of the trademark rights governs the use of the word mark “VLOG” for food or animals.

Part A: General

Glossary – Definitions of terms

Addition of new definitions of terms:

- Document check
- Main ingredient
- Bills of lading

Revision of existing definitions of terms:

- Evaluator

Part Z - Certification

Part Z: Certification

Z 3.1 Audit Types

Specification of Document audit:

„External audits that are to be performed only in the following cases:

- As part of an expansion certification in agriculture to integrate new areas of application (cf. Chapter Z 2.5), the agricultural business being obligated to comply with specific criteria
- After KO grading if the grade resulted solely from a lack of documentation. The certification body shall decide on the scope of the document audit depending on the situation and the KO grading.

In a document audit, business documents (e.g. process and work instructions, delivery slips) are audited without an on-site facility inspection (cf. Chapter Z 3.6)“

Part Z: Certification

Z 3.8 Evaluation of Compliance of the Requirements

Table Z 4 Evaluation of Compliance of the Requirements:

Change KO-criteria:

- Depending on the specification in the checklists, KO-criteria may be graded as C:
- „Depending on the specification in the checklists KO criteria may be graded as A, B, C or KO.“

Addition chapter Z 3.8:

„If the same violation is repeated, the auditor or the certification body shall decide whether the same or a more severe grading is required.“

Part Z: Certification

Z 3.9 and Z 3.11

Z 3.9 Determination and Handling of Corrective Actions

Deletion

~~„The statements (cf. Chapter Z 3.10) and Annex (10) apply if the business is sanctioned and/or in connection with corrective actions.“~~

Z 3.11 Evaluation, Review by the Certification Body

Addition (moved from glossary):

„The evaluator issues the certifier a recommendation regarding whether certification should be granted. If the evaluator and certifier are different people, the result of the evaluator must be documented separately.“

Part Z: Certification

Z 4.5 Withdrawal of the Certificate

Addition:

- „Termination (without a notice period) of the certification body recognition agreement before the end of the period of validity of the certificate.“

Changes across all stages

Changes across all stages

- **Specification of the VLOG-Sub-ID**
(Stage Logistics: B 2.1; Stage Feed Manufacturing: C 2.1; Stage Food Processing: G 2.1)
- **Standardisation and specification of the requirements for incoming goods inspection**
(Stage Logistics: B 3.1, B 4.1, B 6.2; Stage Feed Manufacturing: C 2.6; Stage Agriculture: E 4.6, E 4.8; Stage Food Processing: G 2.6; Stage Einzelhandel H 2.6)
- **Standardisation and specification of the requirements for outgoing goods control**
(Stage Logistics: B 2.8; Stage Feed Manufacturing: C 3.3; Stage Agriculture: E 4.12; Stage Food Processing: G 2.9)
- **Addition of requirements for complaint management**
(Stage Logistics: B 2.10; Stage Feed Manufacturing: C 2.10; Stage Matrix Organisation: D 2.9; Stage Agriculture: E 3.8; Stage Group Organisation F 2.9; Stage Food Processing: G 2.11)

Changes across all stages

- **Addition requirements Corrective Action, Ongoing Improvement Process**
(Stage Logistics: B 2.13; Stage Feed Manufacturing: C 2.13; Stage Matrix Organisation: D 2.12; Stage Agriculture: E 3.10; Stage Group Organisation: F 2.11; Stage Food Processing: G 2.14; Stage Retail: H 2.14)
- **Specification Documentation and Retention Period**
(Stage Logistics: B 2.14; Stage Feed Manufacturing: C 2.14; Stage Food Processing: G 2.15)
- **Specification and addition of minimum quantities of sample materials for ground/milled feed material and raw materials**
(Stage Logistics: B 4.2.2; Stage Feed Manufacturing: C 3.1.2; Stage Agriculture: E 4.11.2; Stage Group Organisation: F 2.6.2)

Part E - Agriculture

Part E: Agriculture

E 1 Stage Definition and Mandatory Certification

Change of Table E 1 Stage Definition and Mandatory Certification

- Deletion „Proof, Annex (2)“ in column 3
(in table header and column 3 – Moving of content to chapter 4.8, table E 6)
- Deletion mandatory certification in the area „Rearing and sale of animals “
(cf. chapter E 4.8 Receipt of animals):
 - Deletion Mandatory certification for cattle and other ruminants for dairy and meat production
 - Deletion Mandatory certification for „Other types of animals“ (e.g. bees, farmed game, rabbits)

Part E: Agriculture – E 3 General Requirements

E 3.8 Complaint Management

Addition for individual certified businesses (comments are also to be considered):

„A documented system is to be introduced to deal with complaints, feedback and comments associated with the requirements of the VLOG Standard.“

Part E: Agriculture – E 4 Animal Production

E 4.6 Incoming Goods Inspection of Feed

Incoming goods inspection of bulk VLOG certified feed:

- Specification of subject of the inspection and complaints about bills of lading:
„The accompanying bills of lading must be checked for the “VLOG geprüft” label and/or “VLOG geprüft” seal. A complaint is to be issued to the supplier for incomplete or ambiguous bills of lading.“

Incoming goods inspection of bagged VLOG certified feed:

- Specification of subject of the inspection :
„All bags must be checked for the “VLOG geprüft” label and/or “VLOG geprüft” seal.”
- Addition:
„A complaint is to be issued to the supplier for a incomplete or ambiguous bills of lading.“

Part E: Agriculture –E 4 Animal Production

E 4.8 Receipt of animals

- Chapter renamed from „Purchase of animals“ to “Receipt of animals”
- Specification start of minimum feeding conversion period:
„The minimum feeding conversion period with “Ohne Gentechnik” compliant feed begins with the purchase of animals or the return of outsourced animals in the VLOG operating unit.“
- Specification process/evidence for accounting of compliant feeding at the previous farm:
„The “Ohne Gentechnik” compliant feeding period of the rearing facility/previous owner/outsourcing facility can be counted towards the minimum feeding conversion period.“

Part E: Agriculture – E 4 Animal Production

E 4.8 Receipt of animals – Table E 5

- Restructuring of Table E 5:
Specification of the conditions and required proof for taking VLOG compliant feeding by the rearing facility/previous owner/outsourcing facility into account
- Change for the following animal species/categories:
Annex (2) as a condition/sufficient proof for taking VLOG-compliant feeding by the rearing facility/previous owner/outsourcing facility into account:
 - Dairy cattle: All animal categories (e.g. milk cows, gestating cows, heifers, young cattle, bulls)
 - Fattening cattle: All cattle fattening categories
 - Sheep and goats
 - Other relevant species/categories of animals, e.g. bees, farmed game, rabbits

Part E: Agriculture – E 4 Animal Production

E 4.8 Receipt of animals

Continuation Table 5 : Specifications für animal species/categories pullets and piglets:

- Certification in various forms or registration of the breeder as a condition for the accountability of VLOG-compliant feeding at the breeder
- Proof of the start of the minimum feeding conversion period via Annex (2) or information on the delivery slip

Addition chapter E 4.8: Incoming goods inspection upon the purchase or return of VLOG animals:

- „At the incoming goods stage, the bills of lading are to be checked for the “VLOG” label and/or the “Ohne GenTechnik” seal. A complaint shall be made to the supplier regarding any incomplete or ambiguous bills of lading.
 - Cattle: If the minimum feeding conversion period for the animal has not been completed for all areas of application, the information regarding the start of the minimum feeding conversion period must also be checked.
- The certification status of the rearing facility/previous owner/outourcing facility (VLOG certification or certification recognised as equivalent or inclusion in a VLOG group) shall be checked as of the purchase date/return date or, if there are regular purchases/returns of animals, on a regular basis, but at least once per calendar year.“

Part E: Agriculture – E 4 Animal Production

E 4.11.2 Sampling, Retention of Reference Samples

Minimum quantities of sample materials:

- Specification:
„Compound feed: at least 400 g, max. 1 kg“
- Addition Feed material/raw materials:
„ground: at least 400 g, maximum 1 kg“

Part E: Agriculture – E 4 Animal Production

E 4.11.4 Frequency of Testing

- Addition of the following exception to the GMO analysis of sampled feed after every switch to “Ohne Gentechnik” feeding:
 - „VLOG-operating units/VLOG stables are exempted if a documented wet cleaning of the stable and the feeding equipment (including silo) is carried out before “Ohne Gentechnik” compliant feeding “
- Specification for the use of not VLOG-certified mobile grinding and/or mixing facilities (in Table E 6):
„One sample + one test per audit interval and facility “

Part E: Agriculture – E 4 Animal Production

E 4.11.6 Reduction of the Scope of Testing after Changing Feed

~~E 4.11.6 Reduction of the Scope of Testing after Changing Feed in Group Organisations~~

- Deletion of chapter (content has been moved to Part F: Group Organisation)

Part F – Group Organisation Agriculture

Part F: Group Organisation Agriculture –

F 2 Requirements for Group Organisers

F 2.2.3 und F 2.4

F 2.2.3 Stable space overview

- Change: As of 2026, it is no longer required to send a stable space overview to VLOG.
„Up to and including 2025: The group organiser must send a complete stable space overview for group members in accordance with Annex (23c) as Excel file to VLOG between 01 January and 31 March of each calendar year.“

F 2.4 Risk Management

- Deletion in brackets: “analogous to the HACCP concept”

Part F: Group Organisation Agriculture –

F 2 Requirements for Group Organisers

F 2.6.2 Sampling and Commissioning a Laboratory

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Minimum quantities of sample materials:

- Specification:
 - „Compound feed: at least 400 g, max. 1 kg“
- Addition Feed material/raw materials:
 - „ground: at least 400 g, maximum 1 kg“

Part F: Group Organisation Agriculture –

F 2 Requirements for Group Organisers

F 2.6.6 and new: F 2.6.7

F 2.6.6 Disclosure of test results to VLOG

- Change: As of 2026, it is no longer required to send an analysis of the test results to VLOG.
„Up to and including 2025: The group organiser must send a full analysis/overview of the test results in accordance with Annex (23d) as Excel file to VLOG between 01 January and 31 March of each calendar year. “

F 2.6.7 Reduction of the Scope of Testing after Changing Feed

- Addition (content has been moved from Part E)

Part F: Group Organisation Agriculture –

F 2 Requirements for Group Organisers

F 2.9 Complaint Management

Addition (comments are also to be considered):

„A documented system is to be introduced to deal with complaints, feedback and comments associated with the requirements of the VLOG Standard.“

Annexes

Annexes

Changes to content

Annex	Change
(11) VLOG Certificate Template	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specification that the VLOG sub-ID needs to be indicated if a site is available• Update “Ohne GenTechnik” seal• Footnote deleted regarding certificate number
(20a) Facility Description Agriculture Stage – Animal Production	Attachment Receipt and outsourcing of animals: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update to changes in Chapter E 4.8 Receipt of animals
(20c) Facility Description Agriculture Stage – Animal Transport/Livestock Trade	Part 2 (Overview Animal Transport, Suppliers, Carriers) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addition Commissioning of Carriers
(23) Group Description Agriculture and member list	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addition: Documentation of check that the group description is up to date
(33) VLOG Incident Sheet Agriculture and Livestock Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Addition: Criterion “Quality of Feed” of the feed affected by the incident
(34) VLOG Incident Sheet Agricultural Group Organisation	

Annexes

Changes in structure, but not in content

Annex	Change
(7) Reduction of the Scope of Testing after Switching Feed in Group Organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Moving to Part F: Updated chapter reference
(20a) Facility Description Agriculture Stage – Animal Production	Attachment Purchase of feed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specification of the “GMO” certification status of the feed as subject to compulsory labelling Attachment Stable space overview: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specification of the subdivision „Production/feeding“ in:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ VLOG/recognised as equivalent○ Conventional - not subject to compulsory labelling○ Conventional - GMO/subject to compulsory labelling
(20a) Facility Description Agriculture Stage – Animal Transport/Livestock Trade	Attachment Purchase of feed: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specification of the “GMO” certification status of the feed as subject to compulsory labelling
(30) VLOG Grinding and Mixing Protocol for Grinding and Mixing Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specification that the produced feed mixture is a “VLOG mixture”

Annexes

Deleted Annexes

Annex	Change
(10) Dealing with deviations and breaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deletion because content was added to Part Z and duplication with other existing documents

Further Information and Contact

Current VLOG-Standard

including all annexes, additional helpful documents and information sheets:

www.ohnegentechnik.org/en/standard



Contact VLOG Quality Assurance:

qualitaet@ohnegentechnik.org

www.ohnegentechnik.org/en/

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