

KAT – Verein für kontrollierte alternative Tierhaltungsformen e.V.

KAT Guide on Administrative Audits in Hatcheries

on traceability and assurance of origin -
rearing and selections procedures

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Part I: Basic principles

1 Preamble

The Verein für kontrollierte alternative Tierhaltungsformen e.V. (Association for Controlled Alternative Animal Husbandry, KAT) is the most important inspection body in Germany and neighbouring EU countries for the inspection of eggs from alternative forms of hen keeping (free-range, barn and organic egg production). Virtually all eggs offered for sale on the German food retail market bear the KAT conformity seal. The number of member establishments has grown continually since the association was founded in 1995.

The chief objectives of KAT are:

- to ensure full traceability, assurance of origin, and quality assurance of eggs and egg products from barn, free-range and organic rearing produced, traded or placed on the market by Members;
- to lay down and implement uniform requirements for the barn, free-range and organic rearing of laying hens, taking account of animal welfare issues;
- to lay down and implement uniform requirements for the keeping of male laying hybrids, taking account of animal welfare issues;
- transparency for the consumer by providing information (e.g. through the www.was-steht-auf-dem-ei.de).

2 Rearing and selection procedures in the KAT system

The aim of the assurance of origin and traceability system, based on the quantity reports for each production stage (hatchery, rearing, slaughterhouse, laying farm, packing station/marketer) that must be submitted to the KAT database, is to guarantee a plausible link between the laying hen and the corresponding reared male laying hybrid/selected male hatching eggs. In this way, for eggs produced under these conditions, transparent traceability of the rearing and selection procedures is provided, and added value is created for consumers as a result.

3 Scope of application

This Guide was developed for the production stage of “Hatchery” within the KAT traceability system and describes the requirements that hatcheries must meet in order to systematically guarantee assurance of origin and traceability of eggs that are marketed under the KAT logo with a label stating “Rearing of male chicks” or a similar message. This Guide applies with effect from 1 January 2022.

With effect from 1 January 2022, eggs may only be marketed using the KAT logo subject to compliance with the requirements in relation to the KAT traceability system “Rearing and selection procedures” and if all of the necessary production and distribution systems are integrated into the KAT system.

4 Participation in the system

Any establishment that wishes to be part of the KAT value chain must register with KAT at www.anmeldung.kat.eu and – if not already a participant in the KAT system – enter into a KAT participant contract.

Once the KAT Office has been provided with all of the necessary registration documents and signed participant contract, the establishment will be given access details for the KAT database and the database instructions.

5 Responsibilities

Every stage in the value chain is responsible for complying with the described requirements and for correctly reporting the necessary data to the KAT database.

6 Data protection

The data entered by the system participant in the KAT database system are stored on the internet server and computer system and on data storage media. All data are protected against tampering and access by third parties through state-of-the-art technology. Master data are not transferred to third parties and are used exclusively by KAT for participant administration.

Only the KAT Office and the participants themselves have access to the data entered in the system. The disclosure of data to entities outside the system (“the public”) is fundamentally excluded.

For the purpose of plausibility checks, the KAT Office has comprehensive access rights to participant data and can also access information on bird movements at all production and sales stages included in the KAT system.

7 Internet portal

In order to create greater transparency, KAT offers a special service on the query page at www.was-steht-auf-dem-ei.de: By entering the number printed on the egg (stamp number), consumers can find out the name and location of the laying farm and view pictures of the henhouse and birds. The query function is also available as a smartphone app.

Further information on the KAT system can be found at www.kat.eu. Every KAT participant can register for the internal area of the website and download the documents held there (circulars, forms, member lists, etc.).

Part II: List of requirements

1 Official licence

- 1.1.1 **[K.O.]** The farm must have an official licence.

2 Labelling

The establishments that participate in the KAT system must keep KAT stocks completely separate from third-party stocks at all times both physically and in accounting terms, and with documentation of the separation available at all times. Any risk of KAT goods being mistaken for or mixed up with third-party goods must be excluded. KAT and third-party stocks must therefore be clearly labelled to ensure that they can always be identified.

2.1 Use of the KAT logo

- 2.1.1 The KAT logo may be used as a general logo on delivery notes and invoices provided that the items are also clearly marked as KAT or third-party goods or are exclusively KAT goods.

 *KAT logo design rules*

3 Batch designation

In order to ensure the traceability and allocation of flocks of cockerels to the marketed eggs, batch designations that clearly define the birds included in that batch are assigned by both the hatcheries and the rearing farms when entering the livestock data into the KAT database.

Two procedures for the traceability of the rearing of male laying hybrids are possible in the KAT system:

- **Hatch equivalents:** Male chicks are reared that come from the same hatching and hatchery and are of the same breed as the female chicks.
- **Head equivalents:** The male chicks that are reared have different hatching dates from the female chicks and may also have been hatched in other hatcheries. The male chicks must, however, come from laying hybrid breeds. Measures must be in place to guarantee that the hatching date of the males is a maximum of 12 months before the hatching date of the young hens, and that the males are slaughtered before the young hens are stocked in the laying house. Several flocks of cockerels may be assigned to one flock of laying hens.

Information: The head equivalent approach will still be permitted by KAT up until 31 December 2021, i.e. only the hatch equivalent approach will be accepted in the KAT system with effect from 1 January 2022. Male laying hybrids reared up until 31 December 2021 under head equivalent conditions may be counted in the figures for a new stocking of laying hens up to 31 December 2022.

3.1 Batch designation in hatchery

Tab.1: Batch designation in hatchery

Information	Explanation	Example
KAT ID	Identification number assigned to hatchery by KAT	DE/B-999
Date	YYYYMMDD	20210711
Hybrid variety	<i>Breed identification, comprising a G and sequential number (three-digit)</i>	G000
Sex	Abbreviation for male or female	M or F
Form of production	Information on whether hatching is from organic (0) or conventional (2) production.	0 or 2
Process used for male chicks	No process applied = B100 Male chicks are reared = B200 Selection procedure = B300	B100 B200 B300
Sequential numbering	Three-digit sequential numbering for clear identification of a batch	000
Blank spaces	All blank spaces are marked with an underscore (“_”).	_

Examples

Brood batch: DE/B-999_20210118_G010_F_2_B300_000

Organic brood batch: DE/B-999_20210118_G010_M_0_B200_000

Abbreviations for the labelling of selection procedure

B301	Seleggt
B302	In Ovo
B303	Plantegg (genetic testing)
B304	Chegg (hyperspectral analysis)

Information: This list is correct as at September 2021. An up-to-date list of the selection procedures and hybrid varieties can be viewed in the internal members' area under "DOCUMENTS → Information and Leaflets".

4 KAT database reports and documentation requirements

4.1 KAT database reports

All bird reports are entered weekly – by no later than midnight on Wednesday of the following week – into the KAT database at <https://datenbank.kat.eu>.

Every establishment is responsible for correctly inputting the required data in the KAT database itself.

The access details are treated as confidential. The establishments are responsible for the accuracy of the input data.

The KAT database reports include all data necessary for traceability and plausibility checks.

 *Procedural instruction VA-JA-03-EN_Database_instructions*

4.1.1 **[K.O.]** All bird reports to the KAT database are submitted in accordance with the procedural instruction.

 *Procedural instruction VA-JA-04-EN_Submission_of_goods_reports*

4.1.2 **[K.O.]** All outgoing animals destined for the KAT system are reported to the KAT database in due time on a client-by-client basis, indicating the recipient's KAT ID.

4.1.3 KAT database reports when selection procedures are applied

4.1.3.1 All hatched female chicks delivered into the KAT system are reported to the KAT database specifying the selection procedure used.

4.1.3.2 In the case of KAT hatchings, all male chicks hatched due to errors in sex determination (mis-sexed) are also reported to the KAT database specifying the selection procedure.

4.1.4 KAT database reports on rearing of male chicks

4.1.4.1 For each hatch delivered into the KAT system, the total of all female and male chicks of that hatch shall be reported to the KAT database.

4.1.5 KAT database reports by dealers (hatchery)

4.1.5.1 If chicks for the KAT system are sold to another hatchery, these are reported in full to the trader ID of the recipient hatchery.

4.1.5.2 If chicks for the KAT system are delivered to rearing farms which have not hatched in the own hatchery, these are reported in full to the KAT database via the own trader ID.

4.2 Documentation requirements

4.2.1 The establishment description is complete and up to date. Any changes to the establishment description are reported to the KAT Office immediately.

 *Form FB-A-01-EN_Establishment_description*

4.2.2 Contingency plans with clearly defined responsibilities are in place in the event of an emergency or critical situation. These include the names and telephone numbers of all key contact persons (e.g. veterinary surgeon, veterinary inspection office, suppliers/buyers, KAT).

 *Form FB-A-03_EN_Emergency_plan*

 *KAT Emergency Guide for Member Establishments*

4.2.3 The establishment has an effective self-checking system for the traceability and traceability of livestock and for the care and maintenance of the premises.

4.2.4 All relevant documents (invoices/delivery notes) are kept for at least 12 months.

4.2.5 Files are organised on the basis of accounting requirements, with delivery notes and invoices for KAT goods being stored separately.

4.2.6 The recipient sites of male and female birds are documented.

4.2.7 The delivery notes for the chicks at least include the following information:

✓ KAT ID (hatchery site)

- ✓ KAT brood batch number
- ✓ No. of birds per KAT brood batch number
- ✓ Laying hybrid variety per KAT brood batch number
- ✓ Recipient (rearing farm including KAT ID)
- ✓ Dispatch/delivery date
- ✓ Rearing/selection procedure used
- ✓ Clear KAT labelling

4.2.8 The invoices for the outgoing goods at least include the following information:

- ✓ KAT brood batch number(s)
- ✓ No. of birds per KAT brood batch number
- ✓ Recipient/supplier
- ✓ Invoice/delivery date
- ✓ Clear KAT labelling
- ✓ Number of corresponding delivery note(s)

4.2.9 It is ensured and documented that on the day of a KAT hatch, no chicks are killed from the entire day's hatch in the hatchery concerned. This also applies to hatchlings of the same day that are not destined for the KAT system.

4.2.10 All hatchlings relevant for the KAT system are fully documented and identified as such.

4.2.11 On the basis of documentation and records hatchlings relevant for the KAT System can transparently be tracked from the used hatching eggs to the delivered chicks.

4.2.12 For each hatching relevant for the KAT system, where a selection procedure is applied, there is additionally a complete documentation, on the basis of which all parameters of the selection process can be traced.

5 Quantity balance

5.1 Plausibility checkff

5.1.1 The number of delivery notes for outgoing goods is complete.

5.1.2 The number of invoices for outgoing goods is complete and clearly allocated by means of continuous numbering.

5.1.3 The proper booking of invoices can be traced by means of the receipts.

5.1.4 The link between the invoice and delivery note for the outgoing goods is plausible. Every delivery note can be assigned to an outgoing invoice.

Information: It is recommended that invoices and delivery notes should be filed together.

5.1.5 The establishment relationships (recipients) stored in the KAT database are complete and match the establishment's internal customer list.

5.1.6 **[K.O.]** The data reported to the KAT database are correct. All reports regarding quantity, type and time match the data on the corresponding invoices and delivery notes.

5.1.7 The losses between the number of hatching eggs required for a KAT hatch and the number of chicks delivered from it are traceable and plausible on the basis of the documents.

5.1.8 Based on the available documentation and evidence, plausibility is ensured for all hatchlings relevant for the KAT system where a selection procedure was applied.

5.2 Traceability

5.2.1 **[K.O.]** The establishment has a system that guarantees the identification of delivered brood batches and for tracing and documenting how these relate to the number of birds sold.

Part III: Annex

1 Signs and symbols

[K.O.] Knock-out criteria

 *References to applicable documents*

 *Required documents/documents for submission*

2 Abbreviations

EU	European Union
F	Female
FB	Form
JA	Rearing of young hens
K.O.	Knock-out
KAT e.V.	Verein für kontrollierte alternative Tierhaltungsformen
KAT ID	KAT identification number
LEH	Food retail trade
M	Male
VA	Procedural instruction

3 Definition of terms

Tab.2: Definition of terms

Term	Definition/explanation
Rearing farm	Farm in which young hens are reared commercially for subsequent egg production
Stocks	Quantity/number of birds and goods
Hatchery	Establishment in which eggs are artificially hatched
Third-party stocks	Alternative stocks from establishments/establishment sections that are not part of the KAT system and that do not have KAT certification
Cockerel flock	Name for a group of male laying hybrid chicks (<i>Gallus gallus</i>)
Dealer (hatchery)	Hatchery site that delivers chicks into the KAT system that are not hatched at its own site.
KAT stocks	Stocks from establishments that are KAT-compliant and are subject to a conformity assessment across all stages

Head equivalent	Procedure by means of which a male chick is reared for every female chick but with a different hatching date from the female chick
Laying farm	Agricultural business that keeps laying hens for the purposes of egg production
Male laying hybrid	The male of the hybrid of the Gallus gallus species; laying hybrids are optimised for poultry farming based on hybrids and are bred specifically for their laying performance
Packing station	Any establishment that is licensed pursuant to Article 5 of Regulation (EU) 589/2008 and in which eggs are sorted and packed by weight class, with the packaging being labelled accordingly
Slaughterhouse	Establishment in which fresh meat is obtained from the slaughter of animals or birds
Hatch equivalent	Procedure by means of which a male chick is reared for every female chick with the male chick originating from the same hatching and the same hatchery as the female chick
Hatching batch	All chicks of the same sex and selection procedure and of the same breed hatched on one day in a hatchery
Day hatch	All chicks, irrespective of breed, sex and selection procedure, hatched in a hatchery on one day (0-24h)

4 Applicable documents

The documents can be downloaded from the internal area of the KAT website www.kat.eu.

Applicable documents (in the currently valid version) include:

KAT documents

- ✓ KAT logo design rules
- ✓ Procedural instruction VA-JA-03-EN_Database_instructions
- ✓ Procedural instruction VA-JA-04-EN_Submission_of_goods_reports
- ✓ Form FB-A-01-EN_Establishment_description
- ✓ Form FB-A-02-EN_Emergency_plan
- ✓ KAT Emergency Guide for Member Establishments