

KAT – Verein für kontrollierte alternative Tierhaltungsformen e.V.

KAT Guide for Rearing Farms

Conventional rearing of pullets and brother roosters
Organic rearing of pullets and brother roosters

Version 2025.01



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Teil I: Introduction

1 Basic principles

1.1 Scope of application

This Guide has been developed for rearing farms and applies to all rearing farms that supply pullets and brother roosters to KAT laying farms and that enter into a participant contract. The establishment itself is responsible for compliance with KAT requirements and for the complete and correct documentation of self-monitoring.

The requirements for conducting the necessary inspections are regulated by contract. The basis for this is provided by the label statutes and the participant contract, together with the requirements of the KAT certification protocol.

The general requirements set out in Part II, Sections A 1 to A 9 apply to all rearing farms. Section B 10 additionally applies to the conventional rearing of pullets and brother roosters, and Sections C 11 to C 13 additionally apply to the organic rearing of pullets and brother roosters.

1.2 General establishment data

Every establishment must register independently to participate in the system using the online registration tool and draw up an establishment description.

→ Online registration tool (<https://anmeldung.kat.eu>)

 Evidence/documentation (establishment description)

The master data are stored in the KAT database. Any changes to the master data are communicated immediately to KAT, the programme owner.

2 Guaranteeing that no chicks are killed in the KAT system

The killing of chicks has been prohibited by law in Germany since 1 January 2022. Since 1 January 2022, hatcheries outside Germany that wish to continue supplying their female chicks to the KAT system have been required to submit documentary evidence proving that the corresponding male chicks are also either hatched and reared in KAT-certified rearing farms or selected before hatching using an in-ovo sexing method.

Since 1 January 2024, measures must also be in place in the KAT system if in-ovo sexing methods are being applied to ensure that the incubation of the male embryos is brought to an end before the 13th day of incubation.

In order to guarantee that no chicks are killed, and to ensure the traceability and allocation of flocks of brother roosters to the marketed eggs in the KAT system, batch designations that clearly define the birds included in that batch must be assigned at the level of the hatchery and at the level of the rearing farm when entering the livestock data into the KAT database.

2.1 Batch designation in the hatchery or rearing farm

Tab. 1: Batch designation in hatchery

Information	Explanation	Example
KAT ID	Identification number assigned to hatchery by KAT	DE/B-999
Hatching date	YYYYMMDD	20210711
Hybrid variety	Breed identification, comprising a G and sequential number (three-digit)	G000

Information	Explanation	Example
Sex	Abbreviation for male or female	M or F
Type of production	Information on whether hatching is from organic (0) or conventional (2) production	0 or 2
Method used to avoid killing of chicks	No method applied = B100 Male chicks are reared = B200 Selection method = B300	B100 B200 B300
Sequential numbering	Three-digit numbering for clear identification of a batch	000
Blank spaces	All blank spaces are marked with an underscore (“_”).	_

Examples:

Breeding batch: DE/B-999_20210118_G010_F_2_B300_000

Organic breeding batch: DE/B-999_20210118_G010_M_0_B200_000

Abbreviations for the labelling of selection method

B301	Respeggt
B302	Ella (In Ovo)
B303	Plantegg
B305	Genus Focus (Orbem)
B306	Cheggy Zoom

Information: An up-to-date list of the selection methods and hybrid varieties can be viewed in the internal members' area of the KAT website (system participants login under "Documents → Procedural instructions/VA-B-01"). All selection methods that are permitted by law may be used in the KAT system.

Tab. 2: Batch designation in rearing farm

Information	Explanation	Example
KAT ID	Identification number assigned to hatchery by KAT	DE/A-999
Henhouse	The henhouse can be selected when entering the livestock reports. The KAT database automatically inserts a multi-digit numerical code as the henhouse designation when creating the batch.	1234
Section	Individual sections can be selected when entering the livestock reports. The KAT database automatically inserts a multi-digit numerical code as the section designation when creating the batch.	5678
Stocking date	YYYYMMDD	20210711

Information	Explanation	Example
Sex	Abbreviation for male or female For mixed flocks	M or F G
Type of production	Information on whether hatching is from organic (0) or conventional (2) production	0 or 2
Indication of the method used to avoid killing of chicks	No method applied = A100 Male chicks are reared = A200 Selection method = A300 Mixed procedure = A400	A100 A200 A300 A400
Blank spaces	All blank spaces are marked with an underscore (“_”).	_

Examples

DE/A-666_1234_20210127_M_0_A100

DE/A-666_1234_5678_20210128_F_2_A200

Information: When birds are being re-stocked (e.g. after pre-rearing), a new rearing batch number is automatically created.

Teil II: List of requirements

A General requirements for the rearing of pullets and brother roosters

1 General condition of rearing farm (henhouse and external areas)

1.1 Physical condition of henhouse building

The henhouse building, as well as doors and gates, are all in a good structural condition. The areas used for loading and unloading the chicks/pullets or cockerels have a sealed floor plate (e.g. concrete, plaster or similar) and are easy to clean and disinfect.

1.2 Physical condition of housing equipment

The housing equipment is in a sound structural condition and good working order, and is designed to minimise any risk of injury to the birds.

Feed conveyor belts and drinking-trough systems are arranged in such a way that they are easy to clean and disinfect.

1.3 Building security, controlled access

Controlled access to the henhouse building is guaranteed. External doors and gates to the henhouse have been designed to prevent non-authorised persons entering the premises unnoticed.

1.4 Visitor registration

Visitors and external service providers are registered upon arrival. Visitors are recorded in lists. These records are kept for at least one year and presented upon request.

 *Form FB-LB 14: Visitors' list*

1.5 Sanitary facilities

The rearing farm site is equipped with appropriate sanitary facilities taking into account the number of staff.

2 Organisation, cleanliness and hygiene

2.1 Organisation and cleanliness of the henhouse and external areas

2.1.1 Accumulated waste, dirt, excessive dust deposits, cobwebs and dead flies are all removed on a regular basis or as necessary from the entire premises.

 *Evidence/documentation*

2.1.2 The rearing farm has a clean and tidy appearance overall. The premises are in a non-defective, well-maintained and tidy condition.

2.2 Storage of feed

2.2.1 Feed silos and storage containers are kept clean and in particular free of chemical, physical (e.g. shards of glass) and also microbial contamination (e.g. mould). The materials and coatings used for storage containers are cleaned and pose no risk to health.

2.3 Staff hygiene

- 2.3.1 Non-establishment persons represent a hygiene risk. Non-establishment persons are only granted access to the henhouses and housing equipment when absolutely necessary. Henhouses are entered only by those wearing company-owned clothing or appropriate disposable clothing. Measures are in place to ensure that non-establishment persons can only enter the henhouse or other area in which the birds are being kept with the agreement of the keeper.
- 2.3.2 A hygiene lock is compulsory in all farms. Depending on the site layout, the lock is situated in the most logical location taking into account animal health and the prevention of disease, e.g. at the entrance to the henhouse complex. The process within the hygiene lock includes at least a change of footwear.
- The following requirements apply to hygiene locks:
- Clear separation into a black and a white area: Street clothes are stored in the black area, work clothing in the white area.
 - The black and white areas are separated by a wooden bench or low wall. The material must be easy to wipe down with a smooth surface.
 - The bird area is only entered and exited via the hygiene lock.
- 2.3.3 Each henhouse anteroom or hygiene lock is fitted with at least a washbasin with running water, soap dispenser and paper towels. Hand washing is compulsory before and after entering the hygienic area. Measures are also in place to ensure that hands can be disinfected after washing and drying.
- 2.3.4 The establishment has defined appropriate hygiene rules. These rules are clearly displayed on the premises and are familiar to all staff.

3 Animal health


In accordance with Section 11 of the German Animal Welfare Act, any person who keeps animals commercially must carry out in-company self-monitoring to ensure that the requirements of Section 2 are observed. In particular, for the purposes of assessing fulfilment of the requirements of Section 2, appropriate animal-related characteristics (animal welfare indicators) must be surveyed and evaluated.

 *German Animal Welfare Act as last amended*

3.1 Documentation system for flock assessments

- 3.1.1 The farm has an appropriate system in place for assessing flocks based on animal-related characteristics. Using this system, the rearing farm introduces and documents appropriate remedial measures in the event of significant problems affecting the flock. As a minimum, the system encompasses a review and documentation of weight development and a plumage score.

 *Procedural instruction VA- JA 1: Weight development in the rearing of birds*

 *Form FB-JA 3: Flock inventory sheet*

Information: Since 1 January 2022, it has been possible to use the KAT tool for laying hen production (birds) or a comparable tool (M-Tool, KTBL) to assess flocks.

Further information can be found on the KAT website under “Systemteilnehmer-Login/Tierwohlbonitierung“ (Login for participants/Animal welfare assessment).

 *Form FB-JA-03: Flock record/Animal health in rearing*

 *KAT tool*

- 3.1.2 The birds and equipment are inspected at least twice per day, with documentation. The minimum information documented includes date, time and any abnormalities.
- 3.1.3 All farm staff who come into contact with the birds are given in-house training at least once per year. This training may be given by the farm manager provided that he or she is suitably qualified to do so.

3.2 Care by a veterinary surgeon

- 3.2.1 An agreement is in place with a veterinary surgeon regarding care of the birds. The attending vet is appointed by the farm.
- 3.2.2 A vaccination plan is in place, including at least all of the vaccinations required by law. The vaccination plan is prepared by the farm in consultation with the vet.

 Evidence/documentation of vaccination plan

- 3.2.3 All of the vaccinations listed in the plan are carried out and documented. The minimum information documented includes the date of vaccination and name of the vaccine.

- 3.2.4 In the event of medicines being administered, the minimum information documented is as follows:

- Name of the drug and the quantity administered
- Drug batch number
- Date administered
- Waiting period, where applicable
- Name of person who administered the drug
- Number of veterinary drug administration record

 Evidence/documentation

- 3.2.5 There is documentary evidence of the vaccinations already administered at the hatchery site.

3.3 Establishment hygiene

3.3.1 Pest control

In poultry houses special attention is paid to the prevention of pests (rats, mice, insects etc.). All henhouses and production facilities must be protected against infiltration or contamination by domestic animals or by other farmed animals and birds so that the transmission or introduction of pathogens is eliminated as far as possible.

- 3.3.1.1 The establishment has a suitable pest control system in place. The frequency of pest control measures is dependent on the type of pest and extent of the infestation.

- 3.3.1.2 Pest control measures may be taken by the farm itself if the manager can demonstrate an appropriate level of specialist expertise and provided that the documentation requirements (→ 3.3.1.3) are met. With regard to agricultural operations, proof of expertise as defined in the German Crop Protection Expert Knowledge Ordinance (*Pflanzenschutz-Sachkunde-VO*) is sufficient.

In the event of an external service provider carrying out pest control measures, the provider meets the documentation requirements (→ 3.3.1.3).

- 3.3.1.3 The minimum documentation requirements are as follows:

- Bait plan with numbered pest detectors
- List of all biocides used
- Safety datasheets for all biocides used
- Defined inspection intervals (toxic baits: at least monthly)
- Documentation of infestation checks (trend analysis)


 Evidence/documentation

3.3.2 Cleaning and disinfection

3.3.2.1 **[K.O.]** After every destocking, the henhouse and the feed silos are cleaned thoroughly, and all housing equipment with which the birds come into contact is also disinfected. This includes disinfection of the drinker lines. These processes are documented.

 Evidence/documentation

3.3.2.2 Only disinfectants included in the list in the KAT database are used. Establishments with organic production must also exclusively use disinfectants in accordance with the currently valid inputs list for organic agriculture in Germany. The relevant certificates and operating instructions are available for all disinfection agents used.


 *Inputs list for organic agriculture in Germany (published by Research Institute of Organic Agriculture, FiBL)*


 Evidence/documentation

3.3.2.3 For each stocking, the name and manufacturer of the disinfectant used is recorded in the KAT database.

3.3.2.4 The establishment has an appropriate system in place to prove that its cleaning and disinfection measures have been effective.

Note: A possible procedure is described in the procedural instruction VA-LB 3. Within a 24-month period, at least one henhouse must be checked for the effectiveness of cleaning and disinfection prior to a new stocking of birds.

 *Form FB-LB-07: Cleaning and disinfection documentation*

 *Procedural instruction VA-LB-03: Inspecting disinfection*

 Evidence/documentation

3.3.2.5 If a single henhouse contains several pens, different groups are only housed in the same building if the pen has been sufficiently cleaned and disinfected in advance without posing any hazard to the health of the birds or to the rearing in the other pens that are still occupied.

3.3.3 Storage of manure

3.3.3.1 Manure is temporarily stored in a separate area that is not accessible to the birds. This does not include manure in the litter.

3.3.4 Storage of dead birds

3.3.4.1 Birds that have died are removed from the henhouse as quickly as possible (daily). The carcasses are stored separately from other waste and are protected from weather conditions in refrigerated carcass boxes. Measures are also in place to ensure that carcasses cannot be accessed by any unauthorised persons.

4 **General requirements of housing equipment and conditions**

4.1 **Perches**

Perches must provide the birds with a secure footing and not damage the balls of their feet. Perches must also be at least 17 cm away from the wall, with a minimum distance of 25 cm from the centre of each perch to the centre of the next perch. There must be at least 40 cm free space above perches/raised levels that the birds can reach by flying and at least 20 cm of free space above those that the birds can climb on to.

- 4.1.1 The birds are given access to perches from their first day of life. At least one third of the perches are raised.
- 4.1.2 It is ensured that the perch length is not less than 10 cm/bird as of the 50th day of life. Only in the conventional rearing of brother cocks is 6 cm/bird sufficient from the 35th day of life. 40 % of the required total length of the perches can be realised with raised sitting areas of at least 100 cm²/bird.


Note: Double counting of the raised sitting levels as both a perch and usable area is not permitted. If pullets and brother roosters are being reared together, the requirement of 10cm/bird applies to the entire flock.

4.2 Light conditions

- 4.2.1 The availability of **natural daylight** is obligatory. The henhouse has light openings that correspond to at least 3% of the usable floor area.
- 4.2.2 The daylight openings guarantee an even distribution of light.
- 4.2.3 If **artificial lighting** is used, an even distribution of light across the birds' activity area is guaranteed.
- 4.2.4 A permanent blackout of the light openings (e.g. using paint, covering with coloured films) or the use of monochromatic light is only permitted in exceptional cases on **sound veterinary grounds** (which must be confirmed in writing).

 Evidence of sound veterinary grounds

- 4.2.5 The light phase must last for at least 8 hours/day as of the 15th day of life. There must be an uninterrupted dark phase of at least eight hours. The dark phase should always be preceded by a dusk phase. The light programme is documented.

 Evidence of light programme

4.3 Feeding and drinking facilities

The feeding and drinking equipment is designed to provide all birds with access to perfect quality feed and water at all times and to minimise any contamination of the water or feed as far as technically possible.

4.3.1 Feeding equipment

- 4.3.1.1 If using linear feeders, a minimum edge length of 4.5 cm per bird must be provided for pullets and brother roosters as of the 50th day of life, and a length of at least 3 cm per bird in the case of circular feeders.

In the case of brother roosters, provided that ad libitum feeding is guaranteed, the edge length can be reduced to **2 cm per bird** in the case of circular feeders. There is clear documentary evidence of this.

Note: Regardless of the type of feeding, if pullets and brother roosters are being reared together, the minimum edge length of 3 cm/bird for circular feeders applies to the entire flock.

4.3.2 Drinking equipment

- 4.3.2.1 With nipple or cup drinkers there must be at least *one* drinking bowl for every 15 birds as of the 50th day of life. Where circular drinkers are used, an edge length of at least 1 cm per bird is guaranteed.
- 4.3.2.2 The drinkers are set at an appropriate height for the birds to reach.

4.4 Enrichment material/dust baths

In addition to litter, the birds are always provided with other manipulable and alterable material to help keep them occupied. When selecting the materials, care is taken from a biosecurity perspective to ensure that they are hygienically safe.

- 4.4.1 As of the 1st day of life, the birds are consistently offered enrichment material and are given the means of having a dust bath as early as possible.

Note: Acceptable enrichment material includes feedstuff scattered over the chicken paper as well as the chicken paper itself, as well as bales of hay or straw, alfalfa, pecking stones etc.

- 4.4.2 Corresponding documentation of the quantity and type of enrichment material used is in place.

4.5 Henhouse environment

- 4.5.1 A henhouse environment (ventilation system, ambient temperature) that complies with animal health requirements, the stocking rate and the age of the hens is guaranteed in the henhouse area.

4.6 Live electrical wires

- 4.6.1 **[K.O.]** Birds must not be directly exposed to electricity anywhere in the area in which they are kept.

- 4.6.2 The area in which they are housed also does not contain any other installations that act like electricity wires if simply connected to a source of electricity. If wires are used as deflectors above feed and drinker lines, no isolators may be used to attach them.

4.7 Emergency power supply

- 4.7.1 The farm has a suitable emergency power supply to guarantee the supply of power needed to look after the birds in the event of a power outage.

This emergency power supply is regularly tested (at least six-monthly) and the function tests are documented.

 Evidence/documentation

Note: Alternatives to an emergency power supply may be accepted if it can be proven that they will guarantee the supply of power needed to look after the birds.

5 Cold scratching area (conservatory)

A cold scratching area (conservatory) is not a requirement for conventional or organic rearing. If there is a cold scratching area (conservatory), however, it may only be counted towards the usable area if the conditions of Chapter 5.1 are met in full.

5.1 Cold scratching area (conservatory) requirements

- 5.1.1 The establishment has a cold scratching area, the size of which is based on the stocking rate, this means a cold scratching area of at least 1 m² per 72 birds for conventional rearing and of 1 m² per 60 birds for organic rearing.
- 5.1.2 The cold scratching area (conservatory) is at least 2 m high and has a wind-breaking net with perforations that ensure permanent light and air permeability. The height of the wind-breaking net is at least 70% of the height of the external wall of the cold scratching area (i.e. a minimum of 1.40 m). Installations that have the same features as a wind-breaking net are also permitted. The cold scratching area is not subject to the climate control of the henhouse and has a roof. It is separated from the warm henhouse by a solid wall and is designed in such way that wild birds cannot gain access.
- 5.1.3 Measures are in place to ensure that the cold scratching area (conservatory) is available to the birds as of the day on which this is required to maintain compliance with the stocking rate.
- 5.1.4 The birds have access to the cold scratching area (conservatory) at least during the entire light phase. The outdoor periods during the light phase are documented.

 Evidence/documentation

5.2 Popholes

- 5.2.1 **[K.O.]** The popholes leading to the cold scratching area are at least 35 cm high and 40 cm wide and evenly distributed along the entire length of the outside wall at ground level. They are not arranged above one another.
- 5.2.2 **[K.O.]** For accessing the cold scratching area, there is 1 m of popholes per 1,000 birds in conventional rearing and at least 2 m of popholes per 100 m² of minimum indoor surface area in organic rearing.

6 In-company self-monitoring

6.1 Establishment data collection

- 6.1.1 An appropriate establishment description has been prepared for each rearing farm.

 Form FB-A-01: Establishment description

6.2 Stocking and destocking

Stocking and destocking must always be carried out in compliance with Section 1 of the Animal Welfare Act. During destocking the lighting is reduced and/or windows covered so as to calm the birds down, and care is taken to avoid any incidence of light when opening and closing the doors.

6.2.1 General stocking and destocking requirements

- 6.2.1.1 The establishment holds documentary evidence (delivery notes and/or invoices from the hatcheries/pre-rearing facilities) showing the stocking date and exact number of chicks delivered.

 Evidence/documentation

- 6.2.1.2 **[K.O.]** Measures are in place to ensure that no beak trimming is carried out on any birds in henhouses covered by the KAT certification area.

Note: During the audit, the auditor will check this for all occupied KAT henhouses and document the findings in the audit report.

- 6.2.1.3 The delivery notes and invoices for deliveries to a KAT laying farm include at least the following information:

- KAT ID (rearing site)

- Rearing batch number(s)
- No. of birds per rearing batch number
- Age of birds in weeks and days
- Total number of delivered birds

6.2.2 Specific requirements if KAT/non-KAT flocks are to be stocked in the same henhouse

6.2.2.1 If KAT/non-KAT flocks are to be housed together in the same henhouse, measures are in place to ensure that the flocks are kept in physically separate pens, that mixing is excluded and that the criteria according to the current version of the KAT Guide for Rearing Farms are observed for the entire henhouse.

6.2.2.2 Measures are also in place to ensure that no KAT flocks are housed together with a flock with treated beaks.

6.3 **Obligation to inform KAT**


6.3.1 **[K.O.]** All events that must be reported by law are reported to the responsible authority and to the KAT Office at the same time.

 Evidence/documentation

6.4 **Crisis management**

6.4.1 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).

Information: The KAT Crisis Management Guide for Member Establishments contains the most important information for critical situations and recommended ways of tackling different situations.

 Form FB-A-02: Emergency plan/Contact list; KAT Crisis Management Guide for Member Establishments

6.5 **Flock documentation**

6.5.1 The establishment records the **number of birds** per henhouse daily. The resulting **loss ratio** (in %) is calculated on a cumulative basis at least weekly.

 Evidence/documentation

6.5.2 A system is in place to record **feed and water consumption** per bird and also the **temperature** in the henhouse. This is documented on a daily basis.

 Evidence/documentation

6.5.3 The **average weight of the birds** is recorded at least every 4 weeks. There is either a standardised plan to hand-weigh the birds or the henhouse is fitted with automated weighing equipment, also guaranteeing comparable results.

 Evidence/documentation

6.6 **Analysis**

6.6.1 Analysis to be carried out upon delivery of day-old chicks:

- Collection of a meconium sample from a minimum of 300 day-old chicks from at least three different transportation containers

OR

- Collection for salmonella analysis of 10 g of chicken paper contaminated with manure from each of 25 different chicken boxes.

Note: The analysis may be carried out by either the hatchery or the rearing farm.

- 6.6.2 Analysis to be carried out before moving birds to the laying farm:
- Implementation of a sock swab for salmonella that is no older than 14 days before the flock is transported to the laying farm.


- 6.6.3 Drinking water quality is reviewed once **per site and calendar year** by means of a microbiological quality test carried out by an accredited laboratory. The sample for analysis is drawn directly from the drinker lines in the henhouse.

The analysis includes the following required parameters (see table below):

Tab. 3: Drinking water analysis parameters

Parameter	Unit	Insignificant
E.coli	in 1 ml	< 1 cfu
Coliforms	in 1 ml	< 1 cfu
Total number of aerobic bacteria at 20°C	in 1 ml	< 10,000 cfu
Total number of aerobic bacteria at 37°C	in 1 ml	< 1,000 cfu

Source: BMEL "Hygienische Qualität von Tränkewasser" [Hygienic quality of drinking water], July 2019


 Documentary evidence of drinking water analysis

6.7 Origin and procurement of feed

6.7.1 Feedstuff supplier

- 6.7.1.1 **[K.O.]** The feed is procured exclusively from KAT-approved feedstuff suppliers.

- 6.7.1.2 The feed has a fibre content of at least 4%. The birds are also offered additives, e.g. grit or other materials, to promote digestion if required.

 Documentary evidence/analysis

6.7.2 Self-mixers/users of own crop

Self-mixers are establishments that produce mixed feed (complete feed for laying hens) for their own requirements up to a maximum total annual quantity of 5000 t. Users of own crop are establishments that produce finished feed on the basis of a feedstuff supplement made in a mixed feed factory, regardless of whether the crop used is the establishment's own or bought in. Responsibility for the components used as well as for the proper production of the feed mixes rests with the farmer.

- 6.7.2.1 At least one sensory incoming goods inspection must be implemented prior to every raw material storage. Records must be kept of all inspections and measures taken.


 Evidence/documentation





- 6.7.2.2 Measures are in place to ensure that the raw materials stored on-site are stored properly in accordance with product requirements and in a way that prevents any negative impact on and contamination of the raw materials during storage.

- 6.7.2.3 **[K.O.]** Reference samples are available from all raw material batches (incl. feedstuff supplements) used for the production of feedstuff – regardless of whether these were bought in or produced in-house. The reference samples are kept for a period of at least 6 months.

 Evidence/documentation

- 6.7.2.4 Documentary evidence is available for all bought-in components and contains at least the product name, quantity and seller.

 Evidence/documentation

- 6.7.2.5 **[K.O.]** All raw materials and additives used for the production of feed are stored in the KAT database.
 *Procedural instruction VA- LB 05: Database instructions for laying farms/rearing farms and self-mixers*
- 6.7.2.6 **[K.O.]** Measures are in place to ensure that any feedstuff supplements used are procured exclusively via a KAT-certified feedstuff manufacturer.
- 6.7.2.7 **[K.O.]** The finished feed recipes used by self-mixers are based on ration calculations prepared by qualified persons/companies. The production of finished feed based on feedstuff supplements is traceable to the mixing instructions provided and production is carried out exclusively in accordance with such instructions.
 *Evidence/documentation*
- 6.7.2.8 The feed has a fibre content of at least 4%. The birds are also offered additives, e.g. as grit or other materials, to promote digestion if required.
 *Documentary evidence/analysis*
- 6.7.2.9 The production process for the finished feed is documented comprehensibly. In the case of self-mixers and the use of mobile milling and mixing equipment, a mixing protocol is also available for each batch in accordance with the “Mixing protocol for mobile milling and mixing equipment” form.
 *Form FB-LB-13: Mixing protocol for mobile milling and mixing equipment*

7 Minimum slaughter age/minimum slaughter weight of brother roosters

7.1 Minimum slaughter age/minimum slaughter weight of brother roosters

- 7.1.1 The minimum slaughter age is 70 days and, regardless of breed, an average minimum weight of 1,300 g is achieved upon destocking.
- 7.1.2 The average weight of the flock at the time of destocking is documented at the rearing site.
- 7.1.3 There is a slaughter record including weight information and a clear reference to the destocked flock at the rearing site for every destocking.

8 Database/plausibility checks

All establishment and henhouse data are documented in the KAT database, along with all process stages.

8.1 Database reports

- 8.1.1 **[K.O.]** The stocking of all KAT rearing flocks is entered in the KAT database for each henhouse/henhouse section. The stocking reports are entered in the KAT database no later than 21 days after the stocking process.
- 8.1.2 The physical sections of a henhouse match the virtual sections entered in the database for that henhouse.

Note: A physical section is not required if it is possible to separate the flocks on the basis of colour (brown/white feathers).
- 8.1.3 **[K.O.]** The destocking of all KAT rearing flocks is entered in the KAT database for each henhouse/henhouse section. The destocking reports are entered in the KAT database no later than 21 days after the destocking process.

- 8.1.4 All KAT pullet flocks at the site have been entered in the KAT database and are recorded in that database as KAT flocks.
- 8.1.5 **[K.O.]** Additionally, when brother rooster flocks are being destocked, the average weight and cumulative mortality rate for the flock are entered in the database at the end of the rearing cycle.
- 8.1.6 The prescribed information for deliveries of purchased or self-produced complete feedstuffs are entered in the KAT database in full for all KAT rearing cycles. The feed reports should be entered no later than 4 weeks after the delivery date.

9 Rules with regard to existing facilities

Establishments that applied for planning permission before July 2020 generally have protected status. The duration of the respective transitional period will be set on a case-by-case basis. The protected status will cease to apply as soon as an establishment implements structural measures to modernise its facilities (e.g. installation of a new aviary) prior to the expiry of the rules on existing facilities, or when the transitional period applicable to that establishment has expired.

The following transitional periods apply with a general start date of 1 July 2020 for the conventional rearing of pullets and 1 January 2021 for the conventional rearing of brother roosters:

- Buildings have protected status: maximum of 15 years
- System installations/entire systems have protected status: maximum of 10 years

Furthermore, the transitional arrangements stipulated in Article 26 of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/464 are accepted for organic rearing.

Establishments that applied for planning permission after the Guide entered into force are not granted protected status, and the maximum stocking rate of 18 birds/m² as well as all further requirements contained in the Guide apply with immediate effect.

Since 1 January 2022, all rearing henhouses have been required to be fitted with perches in accordance with the KAT Guide for Rearing Farms. Protected status cannot be applied to existing houses for other types of bird/animal that are also used for rearing brother roosters. The same applies to houses for the rearing of pullets in cases where such houses are structures with a partial aviary or with floor rearing. The transitional period referred to above may only be applied to full aviary designs.

B Special criteria – Conventional rearing

10 Special requirements applicable to housing equipment and housing conditions for pullets and brother roosters

10.1 Stocking rate

10.1.1 Stocking rate rules

[K.O.] Measures are in place in the respective henhouses to ensure that the stipulated stocking rate is never exceeded.

From the 35th to the 49th day of life, the following applies:

- Max. 30 birds/m² total usable area
In housing equipment in which the usable area is distributed across several levels, a maximum of 60 birds/m² usable floor area applies.

From the 50th day of life the following applies:

- Max. 18 birds/m² total usable area
In housing equipment in which the usable area is distributed across several levels, a maximum of 36 birds/m² total usable floor area applies.

Note: hatch date = 1st day of life

10.2 Usable areas

These are areas, the side length of which is never <30 cm, that have headroom of at least 40 cm and the floor of which slopes by no more than 14%, including the areas under feeding and drinking facilities, perches and landing perches, and fixtures for claw rubbing that the pullets can pass over or under.

10.2.1 In multi-tier housing equipment, there are no more than 4 levels on top of each other, with the henhouse floor counting as the first level.

10.2.2 Only those levels from which the manure can only fall one level lower are counted towards the usable area. Further levels only count towards the usable area if the manure is collected.

10.2.3 System-related usable areas* may be counted towards the usable area even if not fitted with a manure belt provided that they are available during the entire daylight period, are at least 30 cm wide, have headroom of at least 40 cm and provide the birds with a firm surface.

* see Annex 1.3 “Definition of terms“

10.3 Scratching area

The scratching area is deemed to be that part of the henhouse with a flat compacted floor, the whole of which is covered with material to be manipulated by the birds and that offers scope for dust baths.

10.3.1 At least 25% of the usable henhouse floor area is a scratching area. The scratching surface is located only on the lowest level.

10.3.2 The birds are given access to the scratching area as early as possible and by no later than the 35th day of life.

10.3.3 The scratching area is fully covered with a suitable type of litter.

C Special criteria – Organic rearing

11 Special requirements applicable to housing equipment and housing conditions for pullets and brother roosters

11.1 Origin of the birds

11.1.1 Measures are in place to guarantee that organic chicks always originate from organic parent stock/organic hatcheries.

Note: If not enough organic hatching eggs/chicks are available, chicks from conventional parent stock may be used. The exemption rule currently practised in Germany applies. An exemption certificate issued by the competent authority must be presented.

11.2 Stocking rate

11.2.1 **[K.O.]** Measures are in place in the respective henhouses to ensure that the stipulated stocking rate is never exceeded:

From the 50th day of life the following applies:

- 15 birds/m² total usable area
In housing equipment in which the usable area is distributed across several levels, a maximum of 30 birds/m² total usable floor area applies.

Note: hatch date = 1st day of life

11.3 Usable areas

These are areas, the side length of which is never <30 cm, that have headroom of at least 40 cm and the floor of which slopes by no more than 14%, including the areas under feeding and drinking facilities, perches and landing perches, and fixtures for claw rubbing that the pullets and brother roosters can pass over or under.

11.3.1 In multi-tier housing systems, there are no more than **3 levels** on top of each other, with the henhouse floor counting as the first level.

Information: If there are 4 levels arranged on top of each other, the 4th level does not have to be removed.

11.3.2 Levels are only counted towards the usable area if they have been designed in such a way that no droppings can fall down onto the birds below and if fitted with an efficient system for removing the droppings.

11.4 Group size/spatial separation of flocks

11.4.1 All henhouses including cold scratching areas are sectioned off so as not to exceed the maximum permitted group size of 10,000 birds.

11.4.2 The separating elements are designed to reliably prevent any mixing of groups. Any doors in the separations must be kept closed.

11.4.3 If there is a cold scratching area or additional, roofed outdoor area, the same separation of flocks is required as applies indoors.

11.5 Scratching area

The scratching area is deemed to be that part of the henhouse with a flat compacted floor, the whole of which is covered with material to be manipulated by the pullets and which offers scope for dust baths.

- 11.5.1 The scratching area makes up at least 1/3 of the usable floor area. The scratching surface is located only on the lowest level.
- 11.5.2 The scratching area is opened as of the 22nd day of life at the latest and all birds must have access to the scratching area as of the 28th day of life at the latest.
- 11.5.3 The area is completely covered with suitable litter.

12 Additional, roofed outdoor area

An additional, roofed outdoor area is not a requirement for organic rearing. If there is an additional, roofed outdoor area, however, it may only be counted towards the usable area if the conditions of Chapter 12.1 are met in full.

12.1 Requirements applicable to additional, roofed outdoor area

- 12.1.1 The establishment has an additional, roofed outdoor area measuring at least 1 m² for every 60 birds.
- 12.1.2 Measures are in place to ensure that the additional, roofed outdoor area complies with the requirements of Implementing Regulation (EU) 2020/464.
- 12.1.3 Measures are in place to ensure that the additional, roofed outdoor area is available to the birds 24 hours per day as of the 50th day of life and that the flaps on the popholes providing access from the henhouse to the additional, roofed outdoor area have been removed or are kept permanently open.

12.2 Popholes for accessing the additional, roofed outdoor area

- 12.2.1 For accessing the additional, roofed outdoor area, there is a minimum length of 2 metres of popholes per 100 m² of minimum indoor surface area. The popholes are at least 35 cm high and 40 cm wide and evenly distributed along the entire length of the outside wall at ground level. They are not arranged above one another.
- 12.2.2 If the popholes are not at ground level, climbing aids have been positioned at each pophole across the full breadth of the latter.

13 Free-range criteria

13.1 Popholes providing access to free-range area

- 13.1.1 For accessing the free-range area, there is a minimum length of 4 metres of popholes per 100 m² of minimum indoor surface area. The popholes leading to the free-range area are at least 35 cm high and 40 cm wide, located at ground level and evenly distributed along the entire length of the outside wall. They are not arranged above one another.
- 13.1.2 If the popholes are not at ground level, climbing aids have been positioned at each pophole across the full breadth of the latter.
- 13.1.3 The birds must have unrestricted access to the outdoor area.

13.2 Run areas

- 13.2.1 The run area of at least 1 m²/bird must be no further than 350 m from the closest pophole. This may be documented using a clear overview of the surface areas.

Note: Sealed surfaces cannot be counted as run areas.

13.2.2 If there are narrow areas or obstacles, bridges or tunnels are required, with a minimum width of 2 m/100 m² minimum indoor surface area.

13.2.3 The birds are given access to the outdoor run as early as possible and no later than as of the 70th day of life in the case of pullets. Measures are also in place to ensure that the broiler roosters have access to the outdoor run for at least 1/3 of their lifetime.

Note: Later or more restricted access to the outdoor run will only be accepted after submission of evidence of veterinary grounds for this.



13.2.4 Measures must also be in place to ensure that the birds have access to the outdoor area for a minimum of 8 hours per day.

Teil III: Annex

1 Definitions

1.1 Signs and symbols

[K.O.] Knock-out criteria

-  References to applicable documents
-  Required documents/documents for submission*
- Reference to other sections

* The required documents and documents for submission must be in an appropriate form. The KAT forms can be used as a guide and reference in this regard. This is not compulsory, however.

1.2 Abbreviations

K.O.	Knock-out criterion
Mjr	Major
LW	Week of life
LT	Day of life
NA	not applicable
ID	Identification number

1.3 Definition of terms

Tab.: 4: Definition of terms

Term	Definition/explanation
Ad libitum feeding	Feeding method with no defined feeding times and/or rations; feed must be available to the birds at all times.
Rearing farm	Establishment in which pullets and/or brother roosters from laying hybrid breeds are reared commercially
Brother rooster	Male chicken of laying hen strains intended for meat production
Lifetime	The lifetime begins on the hatch date and ends on the slaughter date.
Total usable area	Total of all usable areas within a henhouse including the additional usable area and the usable henhouse floor area
Housing equipment	Equipment (e.g. henhouse, perches, feeders etc.) required for the long-term housing of birds
Flock	A certain number of birds of the same age kept together in one henhouse
Minimum indoor surface area	Usable area that must be provided for a given number of birds to avoid exceeding the stipulated stocking rate. (Example: based on the stocking limit of 6 birds/m ² , the minimum indoor surface area for 3,000 organic laying hens is 500 m ² .)
Newbuilds	All henhouses used for the rearing of pullets and for which the planning permission application was submitted after this Guide entered into force

Term	Definition/explanation
Usable henhouse floor area	Portion of the floor area of the part of the building that the birds can use at any time and without any restrictions, minus any area under henhouse equipment that the birds cannot cross over or under
Usable area	Area that is available to the birds at least during the entire light phase and areas, the side length of which is no less than 30 cm at any point, that have headroom of at least 40 cm, that have a floor slope of no more than 14% and that provide the birds with a firm surface, including surfaces under feeding and drinking facilities and perches that the pullets can cross over or under
Hatch date	Hatch date = 1st day of life
Epidemiological unit	All birds of the same species that are housed together or looked after together
Henhouse	Part of the operation/building in which chicks/birds or flocks are kept
Henhouse floor area	Floor area of the part of the building in which the chicks/ birds are housed
System-related area	Areas provided in the housing equipment in order to train the pullets' mobility (jumping and flying) and that are not equipped with a manure belt
Aviary	Housing system comprising several levels equipped with perches, and feeding and drinking systems, in order to make better use of the available space
Additional usable area	All surface areas within an aviary, including system-related areas

2 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 Certification Protocol
- ✓ Checklist for rearing farms
- ✓ Documents: forms and procedural instructions
- ✓ KAT Crisis Management Guide for Members
- ✓ List of approved KAT certification bodies