

# KAT guide for reproduction farms, hatcheries and breeding establishments



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Tierhaltungsformen e.V.  
(Association for Controlled Alternative Animal Husbandry)  
-KAT-**

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## Preamble

**EEC – European Egg Consortium GmbH** is a coordinating office for existing inspection systems within the EU. The aim is the standardisation of the prevailing standards and inspection tasks in the respective EU countries, especially related to the testing, monitoring and tracing of eggs and egg products, as well as the products made from them, through all production and marketing stages. EEC supports the egg industry by, among other things, monitoring specific quality standards. EEC is tasked with these activities by the Association for Controlled Alternative Animal Husbandry (KAT).

**KAT – the Association for Controlled Alternative Animal Husbandry** constitutes an assurance of origin and traceability system for eggs from alternative forms of rearing in Germany and neighbouring EU countries. The aim is to ensure comprehensive monitoring and consistent registration of the movement of goods from the laying farm to the food retail trade with special regard to animal welfare considerations. In order to reduce the prevalence of salmonella along the entire production chain preventive measures related to general hygiene are crucial preconditions for keeping young hens and laying hen flocks healthy and for ensuring product quality.

The inclusion of the upstream stages of laying hen rearing (parent-animal rearing establishments, hatcheries, breeding establishments) is required so as to produce the best possible hatching egg quality and thus healthy chicks for the downstream production establishments.

Members of these organisations are establishments engaged in the commercial production and marketing of hen's eggs and products manufactured from them.

## Basic principles

The statutory requirements shall apply (including the ordinance governing animal welfare and the rearing of farmed animals, the EU Hygiene Package of January 2006, the implementing regulation for the EU Hygiene Package dated 15 August 2007 and the EU Zoonoses Regulation).

When the establishments within the KAT system are inspected (upstream stages of laying hen rearing) special attention is paid to the establishment's hygiene, comprehensible origin and the establishment's own documentation system. In particular, the hygiene measures and salmonella checks described in the zoonosis guide shall be strictly adhered to. An annual audit is a KAT requirement for all establishments; until further notice, however, the KAT inspection of hatcheries will be based only on veterinary examinations and compliance with hygiene measures.

In accordance with the KAT guidelines for zoonosis, chicks and young hens must be examined for salmonella or vaccinated against it. Young hens/laying hens must be given a salmonella vaccination at the latest in their 18th week of life but at least 10 days before admission to the laying farm. The relevant state requirements must be taken into account in this regard.

Chicks and young hens may be procured only from KAT approved establishments.

The young hens which are later kept as laying hens in alternative rearing systems must be accustomed during the course of rearing to the subsequent form of keeping since this is the only way to ensure that the animals can actually make full use of the rearing environment offered to them.

Feedstuff must be procured exclusively from KAT approved mixed feed manufacturers and/or agricultural self-mixers. Self-mixers must also register with KAT and fulfil the requirements laid down in the guide.

Information about the origin of the young hens and chicks is collected for the database.

## **KAT guide for parent-animal rearing establishments, hatcheries and poultry rearing establishments**

Lists of visitors (with details of contact data) must be kept for people from outside the farm or establishment.

Henhouses may be entered only in the farm's own clothing or disposable clothing. In each henhouse anteroom or in each unit (veterinary hygiene unit) at least a washbasin and soap and paper towel dispenser should be available.

Hygiene locks (dry locks: shoe change, overall) in the henhouse anteroom are mandatory for all establishments. For existing facilities a transition period applies until the next stocking. The rooms can be separated by means by a low wall or a bench so long as the separation material is completely hygienic and easy to clean.

If non-public water supply systems are used microbiological and chemical quality tests are required every two years.

The KAT management must be informed immediately if the supervising veterinary surgeon confirms the suspicion or assumption that the product is not suitable for distribution in accordance with the relevant applicable laws and/or does not meet KAT's requirement criteria.

### **Animal welfare / Medical substances**

The audit subject of the Animal welfare / Medical substances criterion concerns the records related to the procurement and whereabouts of medical substances as well as their storage within the establishment. A supervision contract with a veterinary surgeon is obligatory for establishments which are not taking part in a rearing programme.

The establishment manager is obliged to keep in addition to the use and release receipts a register on the use of the medical substances; responsibility for this rests with the establishment manager.

The formal completeness of the register (use and release receipts) shall be checked. The information entered in the register must show the relevant date, number, identity and location of the treated flocks, the name of the medical substance, the waiting period and the user. Traceability based on the register to the drug use and sale receipt and in reverse must be possible.

In addition to drug use, the type and cleanliness of drug and instrument storage shall be checked. A check shall also be carried out to ensure that the sell-by dates of the medicines have not expired and the medicine bottles are labelled. Random checks or checks in the event of suspicion are carried out to ensure that there are no medicines without release receipts.

### **Criteria for parent-animal rearing establishments/reproduction farms and hatcheries**

In the parent-animal rearing establishments, the hatching eggs are produced from which come the chicks and subsequent young hens/laying hens. The genetics, rearing and feeding of the parent animals determine the quality of the hatching eggs.

Parent-animal rearing establishments are inspected – if applicable – in accordance with the regulations governing laying-hen rearing.

Hatcheries and parent-animal rearing establishments must possess a precisely documented QM system and demonstrate an exact process description (veterinary surgeon, examination/vaccination programmes etc.).

The criteria for reproduction farms and hatcheries are defined even more closely.

## **Criteria and rearing requirements for chicks/young hens in rearing farms**

Chicks of various hatcheries may be accommodated in one henhouse only if the same hygiene status is guaranteed. The rearing of different age groups in one henhouse unit is forbidden (the all-in/all-out procedure must be complied with).

### **Rearing systems**

The rearing systems for chicks and young hens should be arranged in such a way that in a well littered, heated, ventilated and illuminated henhouse, in addition to the feeding and drinking trough equipment, the animals are provided with racks, seating bars or other raised seating options in order to accustom them to resting or sitting on a higher level. It is advisable to install racks or seating bars before the 6th week of life.

The more the henhouse system conforms in terms of design with the later form of rearing the more the animals' optimum adaptation to the respective system is guaranteed.

### **Litter**

Suitable material of guaranteed hygienic quality is recommended as litter (e.g. wood chips if they are freed from dust and come from softwood which has not been chemically treated).

### **Henhouse environment**

A uniform henhouse environment can be guaranteed by correct control of the heating and ventilation equipment. When controlling the temperature through the regulation of ventilation it must be ensured that a sufficient supply of fresh air is guaranteed.

### **Feedstuff**

The feedstuff for poultry rearing establishments must comply with the criteria for KAT mixed feed manufacturers and self-mixers.



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**Application to join the KAT system**

I/we hereby apply to join the KAT system as a

- parent-animal rearing establishment/reproduction farm     hatchery     poultry rearing establishment

Official No.: .....  
Name of mixed feed manufacturer:.....  
**Official registration is enclosed:**  / **Official registration to be submitted at a later date:**  (within 2 weeks of application submission)

Production location  
Name/Company: .....  
Name of contact person in charge:.....  
Street: .....  
Postal code/location: ....., State: .....  
Tel.: ....., Fax: .....  
E-mail: ....., Website: .....  
Office address/correspondence address (if different from production location)  
Name/Company: .....  
Name of contact person in charge: .....  
Street: .....  
Postal code/location: ....., State:.....  
Tel.: ....., Fax: .....  
E-mail: ....., Website: .....  
**VAT No.:**.....

The annual number of hens in the **poultry rearing establishment** comes to

- Floor rearing: ..... birds  
Large enriched cage rearing..... birds  
Organic rearing: ..... birds

Place, date

Stamp, signature