

## NEC Directive and German TA Luft – current impact on cattle farming?

In connection with reducing emissions there is often talk of the NEC Directive and TA Luft. Currently, pig and poultry farmers are particularly impacted by these legal regulations. However, ammonia emissions in particular are a major theme in cattle farming, too. This raises the question of whether there are binding regulations or specific effects of the TA Luft on German cattle farmers. It's better to act than react: the recommendation is to engage with the topic at an early stage.



### Implementation of the NEC Directive in Germany

The NEC Directive, which was amended at EU level in 2016, prescribes emission ceilings for EU member states. Accordingly, Germany is obliged to reduce ammonia emissions by 29 % by 2030 (in comparison to 2005). To implement these objectives at national level, the new version of the Technical Instructions on Air Quality Control (TA Luft) came into effect in Germany on 1 December 2021.

### Using funding opportunities for emission reduction measures

As part of the Agricultural Investment Promotion Programme (AFP), in addition to particularly animal-friendly husbandry methods, measures for reducing emissions in livestock buildings, such as low-emission barn floors (Annex 3 B 1.4), are explicitly eligible for funding. But please keep in mind that not every emission reducing measure is directly eligible or officially recognized. If the measures are not found in the associated positive lists, they must be scientifically researched.

### Cattle farmers should be prepared

Some cattle farmers are already affected by the provisions of the TA Luft, for example with regard to the covering of slurry pits and stricter requirements for solid manure storage. Regardless of the TA Luft, building applications for new cattle barns are, depending on the location, only successful with additional emission reduction measures. Especially on walking alleys in the barn, emission reducing floor coverings provide practicable options. Walking areas that effectively reduce ammonia formation contain an integrated slope so that urine can be drained quickly. This makes the walking alleys drier, which has a positive impact on claw health. It is therefore worthwhile, also in terms of animal health, to obtain information about appropriate systems from the manufacturer at an early stage.

