

ARLAGÅRDEN®

FARM MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME



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FOREWORD

In our cooperative, farmers work hard to manage their farms professionally and responsibly and we take huge pride in our profession.

Every Arla farmer knows that a healthy, comfortable and well-fed cow lives longer and produces more high-quality milk. This increases efficiency and profitability on the farm and also reduces the carbon emissions per litre of milk.

Together with our cooperative dairy company, we farmers invest a lot of time and resources in developing and consistently delivering high standards of animal welfare, milk quality, food safety and sustainability on farm. We do this, because it is vital to all of us that people across the world maintain their trust in us, in Arla and in dairy in general.

For the past 17 years, the Arlagården® programme has helped lift dairy farming standards in Northern Europe. We have become more transparent about the way we produce our milk and care for our animals. With this sound management programme and audit system, we are able to better monitor and support the individual farmer to deliver high standards. And as a cooperative we are able drive ongoing development for the benefit of everyone.

It has always been my guiding star as a farmer to keep my farm and herd in a state where I, at any time, can proudly present it to unannounced guests. This is our ambition for every single Arla farm.

Jan Toft Nørgaard
Farmer Owner
& Chairman of the Board of Directors





A HOLISTIC FARM MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME

Our farm management programme Arlagården® contains the requirements for milk production on all Arla farms. Arlagården® ensures high quality milk that is produced responsibly with the aim of supporting our accelerated transition to more sustainable dairy production.

The requirements laid out in Arlagården® must be adhered to by all our farmer owners in Sweden, Denmark, Germany, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, and the United Kingdom at all times. Furthermore, and in addition to compliance with all applicable national legislation in our owner countries, as well as EU legislation, our farmer owners comply with the following well-established industry audit standards:

BELGIUM	DENMARK	GERMANY/LUXEMBURG
Qualité Filière Lait (QFL)/ Qualität der Milchketten (QMK)/ Integrale Kwaliteitszorg Melk (IKM)	Branchekode for egenkontrol i mælkeleverende besætninger Branchekode for egenkontrol med dyrevelfærd i kvægbesætninger	QM-Milch
NETHERLANDS	UK	SWEDEN
Keten Kwaliteit Melk (KKM)	Red Tractor	Branschriktlinjer -Hygienisk mjölkproduktion Branschriktlinjer för hygienisk intransport av obehandlad mjölk från gård Branschriktlinjer för kontroll av obehandlad mjölk

Arlagården® stands for ONE Globally Aligned Farm Standard

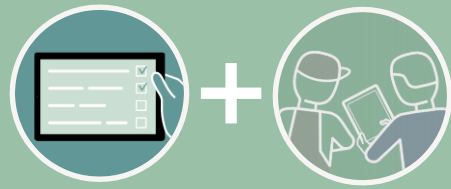
Ever since its launch in 2003, we have continuously updated and developed Arlagården®, partly to live up to requirements and wishes from our customers and consumers, and partly to take into account developments in the conditions and opportunities that dairy farmers have. As a cooperative, the continuous development of Arlagården® is driven by a strong collaboration between farmer owners

and dairy experts to define requirements and ensure a robust audit process. Our Arlagården® pro-gramme can be viewed as ‘industry leading’ through the fact that it is aligned across all our seven owner countries with one external audit company assessing all Arla farmers against the same list of criteria. The result is a globally aligned and truly holistic farm management programme.



Arlagården® stands for Top Farm Management 24/7

To guarantee the fulfilment of all Arlagården® requirements, Arla farmers have developed and are committed to a multi-approach compliance set-up that is based on two important elements:



Self-Assessment

External Audits

1. Quarterly Self-Assessment:

- ✓ Every 3 months, all Arla farmers evaluate and document their on-farm practices against all Arlagården® requirements. The data must be submitted via an Arla's online data platform. The frequent self-assessment serves the purpose of deeply anchoring the Arlagården® requirements into day-to-day farm management practices and can be used as a practical tool for Arla farmers to continuously review, manage and improve their performance, both on their own and in consultation with their Arla member service contact, farmer peers, vets, and farm advisors.

(NB: Further details about our Quarterly Self-Assessment can be found in the last chapter of this document.)

2) Independent 3rd Party Audits:

- ✓ To ensure a globally aligned and calibrated approach to the auditing of Arlagården®, all on-farm audits to assess farmers' compliance are conducted by SGS (a leading international inspection, verification, testing and certification company).

Depending on the results collected from farm data daily (via milk testing) and quarterly (via farmer self-assessments), every farm will have an on-farm audit a minimum of once every 3 years. In addition to this, 'attention audits' are carried out on a continuous basis with two weeks' notice. These apply to farms where the data indicates a need for specific improvements. Furthermore, 'spot checks' are completed to validate the system (with 48 hours' notice). Overall, the aim is to ensure a high level of trust in Arla farmers' compliance and performance.

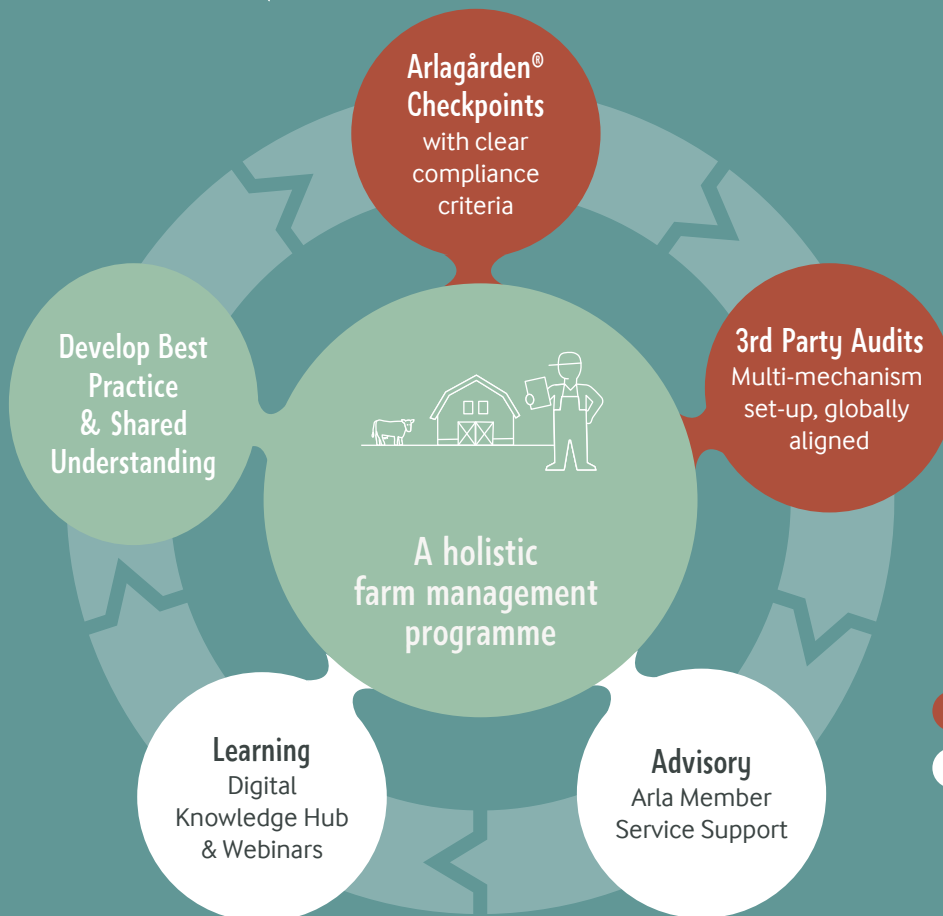
(NB: Further details about our different 3rd party Audit types can be found in the last chapter of this document.)



Arlagården® stands for Continuous Learning & Improvement

As a modern cooperative, data-driven insights and benchmarking are a natural foundation for continuous improvement on every Arla farm. To empower Arla farmers to constantly improve, Arla is continuously developing new tools and programmes to support farms in sharing best practice and excel in every respect of their farm management practices.

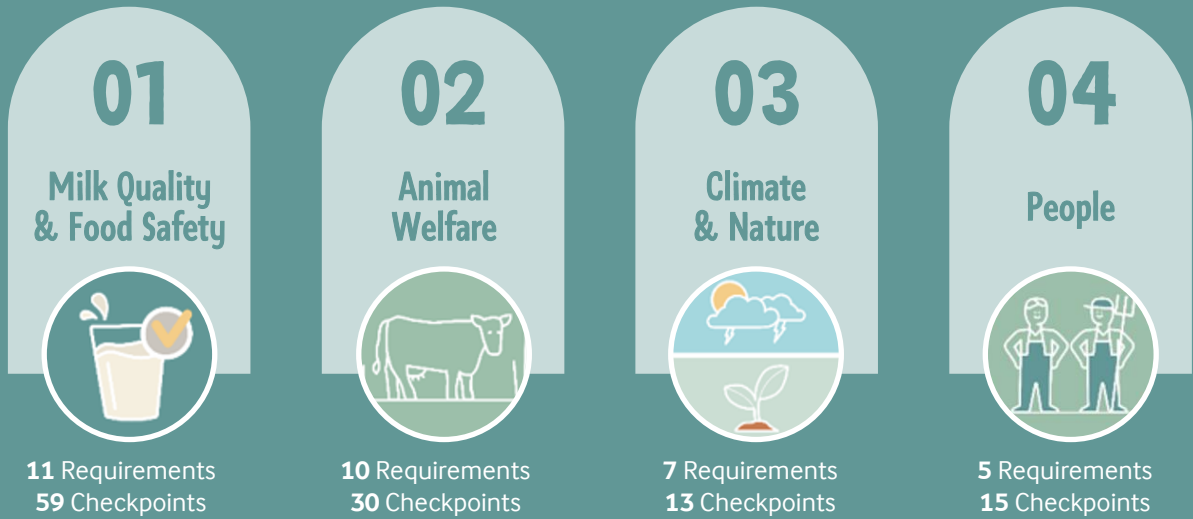
This focus on continuous improvement, based on a strong data foundation, is what make Arlagården® a holistic, and truly unique farm management programme.





THE 4 FOCUS AREAS OF ARLAGÅRDEN®

Arlagården® encompasses **33** requirements that are currently operationalised through a total set of **117** checkpoints and corresponding compliance criteria covering **4 focus areas**:



Focus Areas	Requirements	Checkpoints	Compliance Criteria
Milk Quality & Food Safety			
Animal Welfare			
Climate & Nature			
People			

Our key priorities on Arla Farms

The requirements each Arla farmer lives up to – our promise to consumers, customers and society

Checkpoints operationalise the requirements into practical steps taken on farm to bring the requirements to life

For each checkpoint, compliance criteria establish what “good looks like” in very specific terms

The next section gives an overview over all Arlagården® requirements in each of the 4 focus areas. The way these requirements are operationalised on farm are illustrated by a description of what it takes to be compliant to each Arlagården® Checkpoints. The total number of checkpoints is noted on the right-hand side.



01 Milk Quality & Food Safety



The core of our farmer owned dairy company is that our farmers take pride in responsible and safe milk production. Our Milk Quality and Food Safety requirements are currently operationalised through a set of 59 checkpoints, which establish the framework for hygienic milk production and storage to keep the milk safe, nutritious and fresh at all times. It outlines the specific ways in which Arla farmers manage their farm and handle the milk to avoid any risks that could impact the safety of the milk.

Quick Navigation

Topic	Number of Checkpoints	
Good Milk Quality	General Farm Management	8
	Milking	14
	Milk Storage	18
	Good and Safe Cleaning	4
Good Feed Quality	2	
Responsible Use of Antibiotics	13	
Total	59	



Milk Quality & Food Safety

Good Milk Quality

Delivering high milk quality is central to everything we do at Arla, and therefore Arlagården® thoroughly specifies all the general farm management, milking, milk storage and cleaning requirements that are needed to guarantee the production of high quality and safe milk at all times. In addition to the Milk Quality & Food Safety requirements outlined in Arlagården®, all raw milk collected from farm is analysed by external laboratories against key milk quality parameters to ensure it meets the safety and quality requirements ahead of processing for manufacture. More information, if necessary, can be provided upon request.

General Farm Management

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
The overall farm appearance and management of waste must ensure high quality food production.	Milk collection area, including access to the tank room, allows the safe and hygienic collection of milk. It is kept clean, tidy and has a free draining surface and no standing water.	A1
	The farm buildings, yard, fencing and access road are maintained and kept tidy. Waste is stored tidily together awaiting disposal/collection.	A32
	Areas around buildings are kept tidy and do not encourage the presence of vermin.	A33
Biosecurity measures are in place to ensure milk quality and food safety	Pigs or poultry are not present or kept in facilities covered by Arlagården®. Facilities covered by Arlagården® are: housing, feed storage, milking, milk storage facilities etc.	A3
	Flies are controlled by means that do not risk milk safety including fly paper or insectocutors. Fly spray is not used.	A77
	Measures are in place to ensure that pests and insects are controlled in milking areas.	A78
	Rodenticides are not present in the milk storage room. There is no risk from rodenticides to cows or milk in the milking areas.	A79
	There is no evidence of contamination from wild birds, domestic animals or vermin in the milk storage and milking area.	A120
# Checkpoints		8





Milk Quality & Food Safety

Milking

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
Milking equipment is designed, used, cleaned and maintained for animal comfort, milk quality and food safety.	Milking equipment is clean and in good condition, including metalwork, pipework, jars, rubberware and clusters. There is a final rinse with water after washing with chemicals. There is no worn and perished rubberware. Teat cup liners are changed in line with manufacturer specifications as a minimum. The brushes and wash cups on Automatic Milking Systems (AMS) and the jettors on a conventional parlour are clean.	A12
	All metalwork, rubberware and glassware that come into contact with milk during the milking and storage process are food grade approved, are easy to clean and washable. No evidence of corrosion visible.	A14
	Detachable inlet/outlet and pump pipes are always detached, cleaned and stored hygienically.	A10
	Milking machine and associated equipment is well maintained as specified by the manufacturer and checked by an engineer or suitably qualified person. Records of when milking machine service is done, are kept for two years. Faults identified at the service are rectified.	A13
Milking routines and management processes for milking ensure cow comfort, milk quality and food safety.	All fixtures and fittings in the milking area including walls, floors and ceilings and metal work are suitable for animal and food safety and they are well maintained and clean. There is no mouldy feed in troughs/in parlour feeders. There is no evidence of pooled water and/or milk in the milking area.	A11
	A stop sign must be placed on the bulk tank/silo when milk is not suitable for collection.	A82
	Milk unfit for human consumption is separated and does not enter the bulk tank/silo.	A84
	Milking staff wear clean clothes and maintain high levels of hygiene.	A85
	Precautions must be taken to ensure that people do not risk contamination of milk or transmission of disease to humans and/or animals.	A86
	When cuts or wounds are present on hands, disposable gloves must be worn during milking.	A87
	All medicinal products, udder and hoof care products and disinfectants are used according to manufacturer's instructions to avoid milk contamination. Medicines are only given once the cow has finished being milked. Hoof products are not used during milking. Hoof products and udder preparation containing QACs are not used. Oxytocin can be used during milking for milk let down.	A88
	Teats and surrounding areas are cleaned and dried if necessary before milking.	A89
	Teat brush systems and teat-cups are checked and maintained. Cow teats are checked for damage and cleanliness.	A90
	A minimum of one udder cloth/teat wipe/paper towel is used per cow and not used on other cows.	A91
# Checkpoints		14



Milk Storage

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
Milk is stored and handled ensuring freshness, good quality and food safety.	The milk storage room must be clean and tidy. No visible dirt and cobwebs. Bulk milk tank is clean on all exterior surfaces. Air quality is good.	A2
	Only clean items that are used routinely for milk handling and cleaning are present in the milk storage room including cleaning chemicals that are in daily use.	A4
	The walls, ceiling and floor of the milk storage room are complete and are easy to clean. There is no standing water or milk after cleaning.	A5
	It is possible to completely open the manhole cover to inspect the inside of the tank. There is a safe ladder or equivalent available that enables access to the manhole.	A6
	The milk must be cooled and the temperature must be maintained cold until collection	A7
	Milk must be agitated throughout the cooling process.	A8
	The bulk tank, milking equipment and associated pipe work are sufficiently cleaned after milking and all tanks are thoroughly cleaned when emptied.	A9
	Lights in the milk storage room are protected with, for example, a plastic cover, or have shatterproof bulbs.	A35
	All entrance and exit points to and from the milk storage room have complete and tight fitting doors. There is no direct access for milk collection to the milk storage room from the cow housing.	A36
	The milk storage room/silo area has a continuous supply of hot and cold water for cleaning.	A37
	Hand washing is available in the milk storage room or accessible adjacent room. There is a mixing tap or a sink to mix water. Soap for handwashing and hygienic hand drying facilities are present.	A38
	Tank alarm is installed on a tank or silo which was produced after 1 October 2015 and is it fully functional.	A39
	There is a working and accurate temperature gauge on the bulk tank/silo.	A40
	All extra tanks (not routinely used), intended for milk collection are identified. All extra tanks meet the same requirements as the main tank. An extra tank sign is available for use when tank is in use for milk collection.	A54
	Tanks must be made of materials that are resistant to corrosion and approved for food handling.	A80
All milk storage tanks/silos must comply with the requirements of the Arla 'Technical Specification for Milk Cooling Tanks'.	A81	
There is a set up for communication with the tanker driver.	There is a place for communication with the tanker driver near the entrance to the milk storage room e.g. notice board	A52
	If the truck driver is expected to start the bulk tank's automatic washing system (CIP), there is an instruction in place and clearly visible.	A121
# Checkpoints		18



Milk Quality & Food Safety

Good and Safe Cleaning

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
The water supply, water temperature and cleaning agents used for milking equipment and milk storage equipment are suitable for use and do not contaminate the milk or compromise food safety.	All cleaning and disinfection products are approved and used as specified on the label or product datasheet.	A55
	The water temperature fulfils the requirements set by the manufacturer of the cleaning product. The water temperature is checked at the beginning of the wash cycle.	A83
	Water used for cleaning milk storage tanks, milking equipment and for hand and udder washing in the milking area meets national requirements.	A56
	Products containing quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs) are not used for cleaning and disinfecting milk equipment, and bulk tanks/silos.	A41
# Checkpoints		4

Good Feed Quality

Safe and nutritious feed for cows on farm is an essential foundation for animal health, well-being and performance as well as for producing milk of high and natural quality. Arlagården® ensures that feed is stored and sourced safely and only contains known and permitted constituents. Beyond the Arlagården® requirements, [Arla's Responsible Sourcing code of conduct](#) for suppliers aim at ensuring that all soy fed to cows producing milk for Arla is either organic, Pro Terra-certified, RTRS5 certified or covered by RTRS credits and criteria.



Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
All homegrown or purchased feed is safe and suitable for the animal and for producing safe food.	Feed troughs/equipment/ area are clean. Storage facilities are clean and contaminated/mouldy feed is disposed of.	A23
	Compound feed, straights and by/co products are purchased from suppliers that are a member of a feed assurance scheme. Declarations are available for purchased compound feed, straights and by/co products. Declarations not required for farm to farm transactions. Farm to farm transactions are supported by an invoice.	A61
# Checkpoints		2



Responsible Use of Antibiotics

The stewardship of antibiotics is an essential benefit for people and animals. To ensure antibiotics are only used when necessary, an accurate diagnosis is key. Arlagården® ensures clear procedures for both the use of antibiotics and prevention of contamination in the supply chain. The milk is tested on several occasions between farm to production site, and if antibiotic residues are detected at dairy the milk is discarded. In the event of an antibiotic failure identified at farm, Arla has a clear sanction system that includes a financial penalty and a mandatory advisory consultation to ensure appropriate remedial actions are implemented and the milk does not enter the food supply chain.

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
The farm has implemented clear procedures to prevent milk from cows treated with antimicrobials/ medicine/ antibiotics entering the bulk tank/silo, thus minimizing risks to human health from antibiotic resistance.	The Safe Milking procedure is up to date, followed and placed in a prominent position close to use. Milk from a cow in withdrawal period is segregated. There is a separate milking system or, if the vacuum is taken from the milk line, the cow within the withdrawal period is milked at last and the milk line is disconnected / removed from the collection tank(s). The cluster / AMS is thoroughly washed / cleaned after milking a cow within the withdrawal period.	A92
	All cows, including dry cows, are clearly identified during a withdrawal period and all milkers are aware of the identification system.	A93
	All milking staff are competent at managing cows in a withdrawal period.	A94
All medicines are managed and stored safely, and all medicine purchase and use are recorded.	All veterinary medicines/ products are correctly stored and in a locked cabinet /fridge / room. No expired medicines in the store	A15
	Records covering all medicine purchased on the farm are present and correct. All criteria are completed. The record is up to date.	A57
	Medicine records are kept for all medicines used.	A97
Antimicrobials are used responsibly and only when there is a benefit to the animal from their use. Antibiotics that are critically important to human health are only used as a last resort.	Before treatment there is either a vet diagnosis in place or vet protocols are followed that lead to a diagnosis.	A58
	There is an implemented drying off protocol in place which may include a decision tree. Cows are only treated when there is evidence that treatment is necessary based on the needs of the cow	A59
	All veterinary medical products are labelled. The product is approved for the intended use or vet approved off label use is documented. Content of the product used is known. Use of homeopathic and herbal products is recorded.	A95
	Milk from antibiotic treated cows is not fed to calves except colostrum. Milk is disposed of according to best practice for example, in slurry. Process for milking treated cows is described in the 'Safe milking procedure'.	A96
	Medicine is used in accordance with veterinary and/or manufacturer's instructions. People that administer medicines including antibiotics are instructed.	A98
	Antibiotic therapy is only used if there is evidence that shows the need for the treatment.	A99
# Checkpoints		13



02 Animal Welfare



As a farmer owned dairy company, every Arla farmer is committed and held accountable to ensure optimal conditions for the health and wellbeing of every cow and calf. Our animal welfare requirements set out a practical framework for how farmers are expected to care for their animals.

Since 2020, it is a compulsory requirement for all Arla farmers to assess and report animal welfare on a quarterly basis, within the framework of 4 animal-based indicators: cow mobility, cleanliness, absence of injuries and body condition. The Arlagården® requirements and compliance criteria demand that where the minimum performance levels are not met, prompt actions are taken by the farm to address any causative factors.

Being of the absolute highest priority for our farmers and for us as a business, animal welfare is strategically anchored and driven by a science-based development of our animal welfare initiatives and programmes in Arla.

The following description of our animal welfare requirements and respective checkpoints is based on the principles and criteria defined by the EU financed project [WelfareQuality®](#).




Quick Navigation

Topic	Number of Checkpoints
Good Health & Animal Well-being	20
Good Housing	7
Good Feeding	3
Total	30



Good Health & Animal Well-being

Good health and the cow’s ability to express their species-specific appropriate behavior is a fundamental prerequisite for cows’ and calves’ well-being. To ensure good health and possibility to express ap-proprate behaviors, Arlagården® requirements and checkpoints are rooted in the fundamental principles that:

	Cows and calves should be free of physical injuries and unnecessary pain		Disease is prevented by high levels of hygiene and care		Animals should be able to express normal/natural behaviors and handlers should promote good human–animal relationships.
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Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
The health and well-being of the cows is reflected by assessing their mobility, cleanliness, body condition and absence of lesions/abrasions	Number of cows must be reported	A16
	Cow Assessment – Mobility Score 1 – Slightly lame – number of cows must be reported Score 2 – Obviously lame – cow ID (ear tag or equivalent) must be reported for each cow	A17
	Cow Assessment – Cleanliness Score 1 – Slightly dirty – number of cows must be reported Score 2 – Obviously dirty – cow ID (ear tag or equivalent) must be reported for each cow	A18
	Cow Assessment – Abrasions/Lesions Score 1 – Smaller patches of hair loss – number of cows must be reported Score 2 – Abrasions, wounds or swellings – cow ID (ear tag or equivalent) must be reported for each cow	A19
	Cow Assessment – Body Condition Score 1 – Thin – number of cows must be reported Score 2 – Very thin – cow ID (ear tag or equivalent) must be reported for each cow	A20





Good Health & Animal Well-being (cont'd)

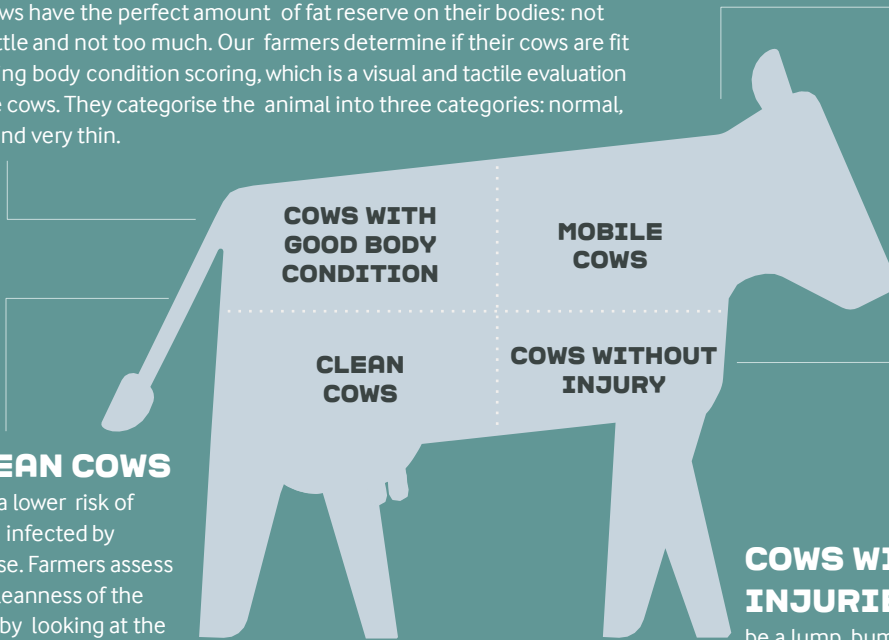
We measure the general wellbeing of the cows using four indicators developed based on scientific research into the most common dairy cattle issues.

COWS WITH GOOD BODY CONDITION

Fit cows have the perfect amount of fat reserve on their bodies: not too little and not too much. Our farmers determine if their cows are fit by using body condition scoring, which is a visual and tactile evaluation of the cows. They categorise the animal into three categories: normal, thin and very thin.

CLEAN COWS

have a lower risk of being infected by disease. Farmers assess the cleanness of the cows by looking at the size of dirt and muck patches on their bodies and categorise the cows into three categories: normal (clean), slightly dirty and dirty.



MOBILE COWS

walk without any problems, and have no pain in their legs and feet. If mobility is impaired, cows limp, which can be caused by a range of conditions, like disease, poor management and environmental factors. Farmers categorise the cows into three categories: normal, slightly lame, and obviously lame.

COWS WITHOUT INJURIES

An injury on a cow can be a lump, bump, ulcer, sore or coloured area on the skin. Farmers categorise the cows into three categories: normal (without injuries), with small injuries, and with bigger injuries.

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
The health and welfare of livestock must be met at all times.	All animals must be observed regularly, according to their stage of production, to identify and manage any treatment required and ensure animal health and welfare needs are met.	A21
All forms of interventions (including disbudding) are carried out in a painless and stress-free manner.	All forms of interventions are carried out in a painless and stress-free manner. The minimum requirements for disbudding are: DK, SE, UK: Use of anaesthetic + pain relief BE, DE, LUX, NL: Use of Sedation + pain relief Disbudding with caustic paste is not allowed. Castration: UK: Rubber ring can be used in the first week of life with a long-acting pain-killer Anaesthetic, pain relief and sedation used are recorded in the medicine administration record.	A60



Good Health & Animal Well-being (cont'd)

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
The well-being and comfort of a sick or calving cow and her calf is met by prompt action to avoid unnecessary suffering and by providing a comfortable and clean environment that satisfies their needs.	Chronically sick/lame animals are handled appropriately, if they do not respond to treatment are euthanised by a competent person.	A22
Animals have enough space and the freedom to exhibit their normal behaviour.	There are enough lying places available to enable all cows to lie down when needed.	A47
	Cows housed in tethered systems are on grass during the grazing period.	A48
	Calves are never tethered unless it is necessary for feeding milk and then only for a short period.	A102
Heavily pregnant cows, unborn and newborn healthy calves are not slaughtered or killed.	All healthy calves are reared to a minimum age of 56 days and not shot, slaughtered or euthanised. All healthy calves are not sold to be shot, slaughtered or euthanised within the first 56 days of age.	A101
	Cows more than seven months pregnant are not sent to slaughter. Euthanasia on farm is carried out by a competent person.	A102
The health of the herd is managed to avoid suffering and any potential risk to consumer health.	To minimise the risk of disease transmission animals must not have access to manure stored in fields.	A104
	Fallen and euthanised livestock must be removed promptly from the field/ building and covered or screened off until the time of collection.	A105
	Compulsory national disease control programmes must be followed.	A106
	Grazing must not take place until at least 4 weeks after surface applications of slurry or manure.	A110
The well-being of the animal is not put at risk by using hormones for synchronising oestrus in a lactating cow (post parturient animals), or to increase milk yield or to boost growth rate.	Hormones cannot be used to boost growth or milk yield. (Oxytocin may be used to aid milk let down).	A107
	Cows must not be synchronised unless as therapy for a disorder diagnosed by the vet or if it is needed for an embryo transfer treatment.	A108
	Use of hormones is only allowed after veterinary examination of each individual cow for therapy of diagnosed disorders and fertility treatment.	A109
# Checkpoints		20



Good Housing

Creating and maintaining an animal friendly housing environment is also a fundamental prerequisite for the wellbeing of cows and calves. Good housing means that cows and calves have comfort to rest together in their social groups.

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
Housing, yards and handling facilities are designed and managed to optimise animal health and well-being by minimising stress. Contingency plans are implemented when required to avoid suffering.	All areas that animals rest, eat, sleep, walk, are handled and milked are designed, and maintained to make sure animals are safe. This includes no: Sharp edges, Broken fixtures and fittings e.g. troughs, pen divisions, cubicles and gates, Slippery or incomplete flooring, Damage to the crush/ handling facilities.	A29
	Housing, handling, feeding, loafing areas and collecting yards are cleaned regularly and kept clean.	A30
	Lying areas including cubicles must have soft, dry and clean bedding.	A31
	Non slatted lying areas are available for housed cows and female calves (up to six months of age).	A49
	New housing systems starting to be built after 1 May 2020 have lying areas that are not fully slatted.	A50
	Contingency must be in place to provide emergency power to ensure milking, water and feeding of the animals during power cut.	A51
The well-being and comfort of a sick or calving cow and her calf is met by prompt action to avoid unnecessary suffering and by providing a comfortable and clean environment that satisfies their needs.	Cows must have access to calving and hospital pens when needed.	A28

Checkpoints 7





Animal Welfare

Good Feeding

Part of the wellbeing of cows and calves is their feed and feeding. Good feeding is a question of a healthy and balanced diet. The Arlagården® requirements and checkpoints ensure that cows and calves have a sufficient and appropriate diet as well as a sufficient and accessible water supply. The body condition score (see above) is able to reflect good feeding on an outcome-based level.

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
All feed, milk and water must be of good quality and provided in adequate quantities to meet each individual animal's demand for nutrients and water.	All feed, milk and water must be of good quality and provided in adequate quantities to meet each individual animal demand for nutrients and water.	A24
	Water of good quality is offered to calves < 2 weeks and continually available for calves > 2 weeks.	A25
	Roughage is available for all animals > 2 weeks for >20 hours per day.	A26
# Checkpoints		3





03 Climate & Nature



Dairy farming has an important role to play in providing nutritious food produced in a sustainable way. The Arlagården® Climate & Nature requirements set the framework for how we care for the climate, environment and biodiversity while producing food for the world.

As we accelerate the journey towards **our Science-Based Targets** and our ambition to become **Carbon Net Zero by 2050**, the Arlagården® Climate & Nature requirements are gradually extended with additional programmes, such as our **global Climate Checks** to deliver on the three overarching themes of our **Green Ambition**.

Our Green Ambition Covers Three Themes



Better Climate
Carbon Net Zero 2050



Clean Air & Water
Nitrogen & phosphorus cycles in balance



More Nature
Increase biodiversity & access to nature

The development of cutting-edge, science-based and data-driven tools to measure, track and improve our on-farm sustainability performance has entailed that some of the checkpoints that used to be captured in Arlagården® are now incorporated in our global Climate Checks, which is a state-of-the art programme providing us with the largest externally verified climate data set across our seven owner countries. By equipping our farmers with insights and latest expert knowledge via yearly Climate Checks and advisory visits, we are on a pioneer’s journey of accelerating dairy’s climate efficiency, providing a clear pathway for meeting our ambitious target of producing climate neutral dairy by 2050.

The methodology of Climate Check is based on ISO (14044) standards for life cycle assessment and follows the International Dairy Federation (IDF) guidelines on Carbon Footprint methodology, while emissions from animals, manure and soils are based on IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). The climate checks survey consists of +200 questions and Arla farmers report both Arlagården® and Climate Check through an integrated online data hub.

Quick Navigation

Topic	Number of Checkpoints
Ecosystem Protection	9
Clean Air & Water	4
Total	13



Ecosystem Protection

Arlagården® ensures that the practices on farm minimise environmental impact and contribute to the protection of natural habitats and to the conservation of biodiversity and soil health. Waste must be handled responsibly, kept to a minimum and disposed of safely. Reuse and recycling practices at farm level are a key part of Arla’s overall sustainable dairy farming practices.

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
All chemicals and plant protection products are stored, used and disposed of safely to avoid cross contamination and damage to the environment.	All chemicals must be stored and used safely and accurately. All plant protection products must be kept under locked storage in a bunded store or with sufficient absorbent material in case of a spill.	A113
	All chemicals including cleaning agents, disinfectants, teat sprays/dips and plant protection products must be stored and used safely	A114
All refrigerants used for milk storage are approved, managed and disposed of to ensure minimal environmental impact.	Only approved refrigerants must be used in the bulk tank´s refrigeration system.	A66
	Evidence of leakage test in the last twelve months for tanks with more than 5 tons CO2. Tested by an authorised company.	A67
	No tanks have been replaced or scrapped. There is evidence that refrigerant was extracted and disposed of by an authorised company when tank was scrapped or disposed of.	A68
Biodiversity on farm land must be assessed and conserved. Farming practices encourage and enhance biodiversity and provision of habitats.	At least one action must be implemented to support biodiversity on the farm land, or planned within the first year of this programme.	A118
Soil health and fertility are protected and enhanced to support resilient farming and the food production needs of future generations.	Soil fertility must be monitored by soil testing at least every 7 years including P, K, Mg and pH.	A65
Waste is minimised and where unavoidable, systems will be in place to ensure safe disposal, reuse or recycling of relevant material to ensure food safety and environmental protection.	All waste, for example hazardous waste, packaging material and used parts, must be stored safely and in a dedicated place for collection, recycling or disposal, according to instructions from local authorities and/or the waste, management company used.	A111
	Hazardous waste must be identified, sorted and stored safely and securely awaiting disposal (e.g. medicine containers, expired medicines, used needles, solvents, chemicals, chemical containers, oil filters and waste oil), ensuring there is no potential for leakage or spillage. The waste must be disposed of in accordance with local authority, manufacturers instructions and waste management company.	A112
# Checkpoints		9



Clean Air & Water

Nitrogen and Phosphorous cycles in balance are part of Arla's Green Ambition. Both are important nutrients for plants and Arla farmers ensure N & P efficiency on farm level by reviewing the specific crop requirements in relation to the soil it is grown on and by timing the application for the benefit of the crop.

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
The application of Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorous (P) to farmland is balanced to minimise the impact on water and air quality.	Documented nutrient management plan is implemented that takes into account soil sample results. The plan is updated according to the needs of the crop and soil.	A64
Manure and fertiliser is stored and applied to land appropriately to maximise efficient uptake of nutrients and minimise leaching and influence on the surrounding environment.	If using sewage sludge and/or compost from municipalities, national legislation is followed.	A115
	All slurry and manure stores must meet national requirements and legislation and evidence of compliance must be available.	A42
	In countries where splash plates are currently permitted, they may only be used until 31 December 2024, after this time they will not be permitted on Arla farms	A43
# Checkpoints		4





04 People



The dairy farm is a place to live and work. Respectful relations are part of the heritage of our cooperative and are just as important for the generations to come. The Arlagården® People requirements define a framework for how we ensure a fair and safe workplace for the farmer and the employees, forming the foundation for respectful relations between people on the farm, within the local community and in the value chain.

Through our Cooperative's **Code of Conduct**, we have formalised our commitment to ethical business practices and respect for human rights by adhering to several international organisations' guiding principles. Being part of the UN Global Compact since 2008, we are committed to observing the Global Compact's 10 fundamental principles, which includes working against forced labour globally and eradicating it from our own workforce and supply chain, as we see this as our responsibility as a leading global dairy cooperative. Our farmer owners are an essential part of our Cooperative's supply chain, and our joint commitment to eliminating forced labour. As per our General Membership Terms, our farmer owners are obliged to ensure that no forced labour is used in their production, and that as a minimum they comply with all applicable laws and industry standards relating to working hours and minimum wage. Farmers in the UK are specifically obliged to comply with the provisions of the Modern Slavery Act.

Quick Navigation

Topic	Number of Checkpoints
Health & Safety	11
Fair Employment Conditions	4
Total	15



Health & Safety

Arla farmers take care of their staff, family members and themselves and create safe and sustainable working conditions on their farms.

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
A safe working environment is provided to ensure the well-being of farmers and employees.	A gutter is in place above the entrance to the milk storage room where there is an eave or overhang. A snow guard is in place where it is required	A34
	There is a functioning light at the entrance to the milk storage room (switch or sensor operated).	A45
	An annual safety walk must be completed following a minimum checklist.	A73
	All relevant instructions are written in the language the workers understand. All relevant instructions are accessible.	A74
	All new employees must have a health and safety induction	A117
The health and safety of employees is protected with a supply of personal protection equipment specific to the task.	An up to date well stocked first aid box must be located in appropriate areas.	A44
	Suitable personal protective equipment must be available where it is required and be specific to the task. All those required to use safety and personal protective equipment must be trained and familiar with its use.	A75
	An accident book containing numbers and records of health and safety incidents must be maintained on farm.	A76
The risk to human health from chemicals is minimised by the display of relevant warning signs and instructions.	Instructions are available for the safe inspection of the bulk tank/ silo. Instructions are available for washing the plant that include the chemical used, dilution rates and personal protection equipment required.	A53
	Safety data sheets are accessible for all chemicals on farm. Chemical containers have warning signs and content labels.	A71
	A list of emergency numbers must be easily accessible.	A72
# Checkpoints		11





People

Fair Employment Conditions

Arla farmers ensure that all their employees are treated with respect, understand the terms and conditions of their freely chosen employment and, where necessary, provide appropriate facilities and accommodation.

Requirement	Compliance Description	Checkpoint ID
Accommodation and rest facilities provide for the comfort and needs of employees.	If workers are employed (seasonal, temporary and full time) there must be suitable rest and hygiene facilities available including toilet and hand wash facilities and a suitable place to rest, eat and drink during working hours. This must include the provision of hot and cold running potable water.	A62
	Any housing accommodation provided for employees must be suitable, with food preparation and storage areas or a canteen, sleeping rooms, toilets and washing facilities, heating and lighting.	A63
Family and employees work in a fair and respectful environment that upholds their human rights.	All applicable laws and industry standards relating to working hours and minimum pay must be met.	A69
	For contracted workers the farmer must have seen evidence of their identity and checks are in place they are in possession of the documents unless employees choose to have them safely stored.	A70
# Checkpoints		4





ARLAGÅRDEN® FARM INFORMATION SURVEY



Because we are a farmer-owned company, we have always been in a strong position when it comes to the traceability of our products, knowing every single one of our farmer owners.

A newly introduced part of Arlagården®, the Farm Information survey, ensures that we have the most relevant information about all Arla farms at any given point in time.

The completion of the Farm Information survey is mandatory for all Arla farmers. The survey questions are continuously evaluated and updated to support with developing and delivering product information and added value to our customers and consumers. As a large farmer-owned company with members in seven countries, this is an ever-more important tool, enabling the business to provide more value to our customers and consumer from the innovation and great work our farmers do every day.

Currently, the Farm Information survey consists of 36 questions.
Examples of survey questions are:

<p>What is the predominant milking system on the farm?</p> 	<p>Does the farm have a video surveillance (Closed-circuit television – CCTV) in the hospital pen, calving pen or parlour and is footage retained for 30 days?</p> 
<p>How many cows have access to rotating/static cow brushes?</p> 	<p>What is the total indoor area (m²) of shed space that the dairy cows have access to?</p> 
<p>What is predominant bedding material for cows?</p> 	<p>How many days are mother and calf kept together after birth?</p> 



THE ARLAGÅRDEN® AUDIT SYSTEM

All Arla farmers are obliged to adhere to our Cooperative’s farm management programme Arlagården® in force at any time. Arlagården®’s mandatory components include Arlagården® and Farm Information survey.

The Arlagården® farm management programme and its verification process consists of two steps, each designed to further strengthen transparency and trust in our high-quality milk and processes on Arla Farms:



The Quarterly Self-Assessment

each farmer must assess their own performance against the Arlagården® requirements and complete the survey Farm Information.



The 3rd Party Audit

an on-farm verification of compliance with the Arlagården® requirements, carried out by Arla’s external audit partner SGS.

The 5 Steps of Arlagården®



Arlagården® Quarterly Self-Assessment

The self-assessment is an integral part of the Arlagården® system – ensuring that we have accurate, regularly updated information from our farmers about the situation on their farms. This builds trust in the process and ensures that audits can be used as a verification tool.

The Arlagården® self-assessment and Farm Information survey must be completed **quarterly**, during specified data-entry windows. Farmers are notified when a reporting window is open, and during that time they log on to Arla’s digital farmer hub, where they can access the Arlagården® survey and review their compliance levels with the +100 checkpoints.

For each checkpoint, detailed information is available as to what it takes to be compliant (compliance criteria).

If after reviewing a checkpoint the farmer detects any non-conformances, he is prompted to select from a list of reasons. At the end of the assessment an **action list** is visible, showing the selected non-conformance(s), and the deadlines by which they must be rectified. Automatic reminders will be sent out before the respective deadlines are due. Failure to correct the non-conformance(s) within the specified deadlines can result in a follow-up audit charged back to the member.



The Arlagården® Audit System

Arlagården® 3rd Party Audits

External audits are carried out to ensure and verify compliance with the Arlagården® requirements and respective checkpoints. These independent 3rd party audits enable us to document to customers and consumers that Arla delivers the promised quality on farm on a daily basis. The audits also help farmers ensure that they are on track if they face any challenges.

There are three main audit types that the external auditors conduct on farm: basic audit, attention audit and spot checks. These are supplemented by special attention and follow-up audits where necessary.

Moreover, any farmer wanting to start supplying milk to Arla needs to pass a start-up audit, which verifies compliance with all Arlagården® requirements. In the event of a milk collection stop, a re-opening audit must be carried out (see more details below).

All farms must have either a basic audit, attention audit or spot check within a **three-year** period. The diagram below gives an overview of these three main audit types, followed by a more detailed de-scription of the those and other audit types.

The Three Main Audit Types

01



Basic Audit

All farms
Maximum 3 years
between audits
2 weeks notice

02



Attention Audit

Identified via 5 Risk
parameters
2 weeks notice

03



Spot Check Audit

Randomly selected
farms to ensure
full compliance
48 h notice



The Arlagården® Audit System



Start-up Audit

Before a new member or a new production unit can start supplying milk to Arla, a start-up audit must be carried out. The new member must contact Member Services at least 14 days prior to the desired first collection day. Start-up audits includes all Arlagården® requirements.



Basic Audit

Basic audits are our standard audits and planned with 2 weeks' notice. Duration of a basic audit is between 1.5-2.5 hours, depending on the farm size. There will be a maximum of 3 years between the basic audits on farm.



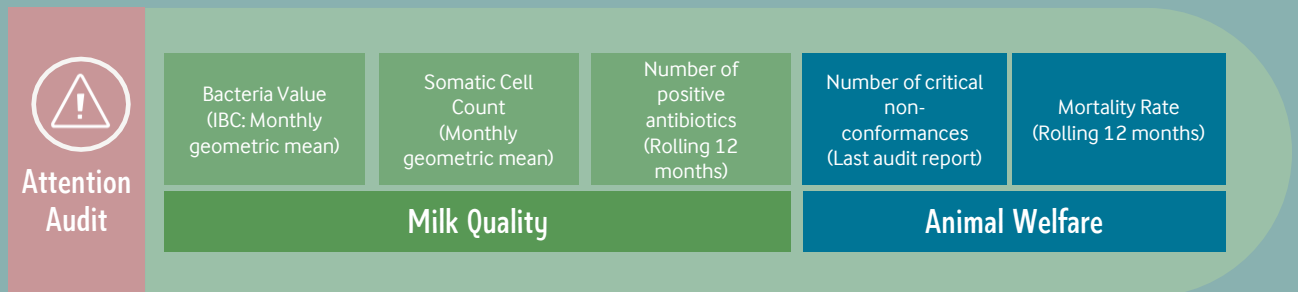
Spot Check Audit

Spot checks are conducted in the same way as basic audits, while farms are selected on a random basis. Spot check audits are planned with a short notice period of 48 hours, in order to ensure full compliance on all Arla farms.



Attention Audit

Attention audits are identified via 5 risk parameters within milk quality and animal welfare. Farmer owners with critical values on one or more of the 5 parameters might be selected for an attention audit.



Special Attention Audit

A Special Attention audit is scheduled where an audit is deemed necessary following concerns raised about a farm. The audit could be arranged for a number of reasons. Examples could include a complaint raised by a member of the public, or an issue in the media. These audits may be scheduled at very short notice and are conducted to check whether or not the reported issue is genuine and whether further action is needed in order to protect the farmer and the Arla brand.



Follow-Up Audit

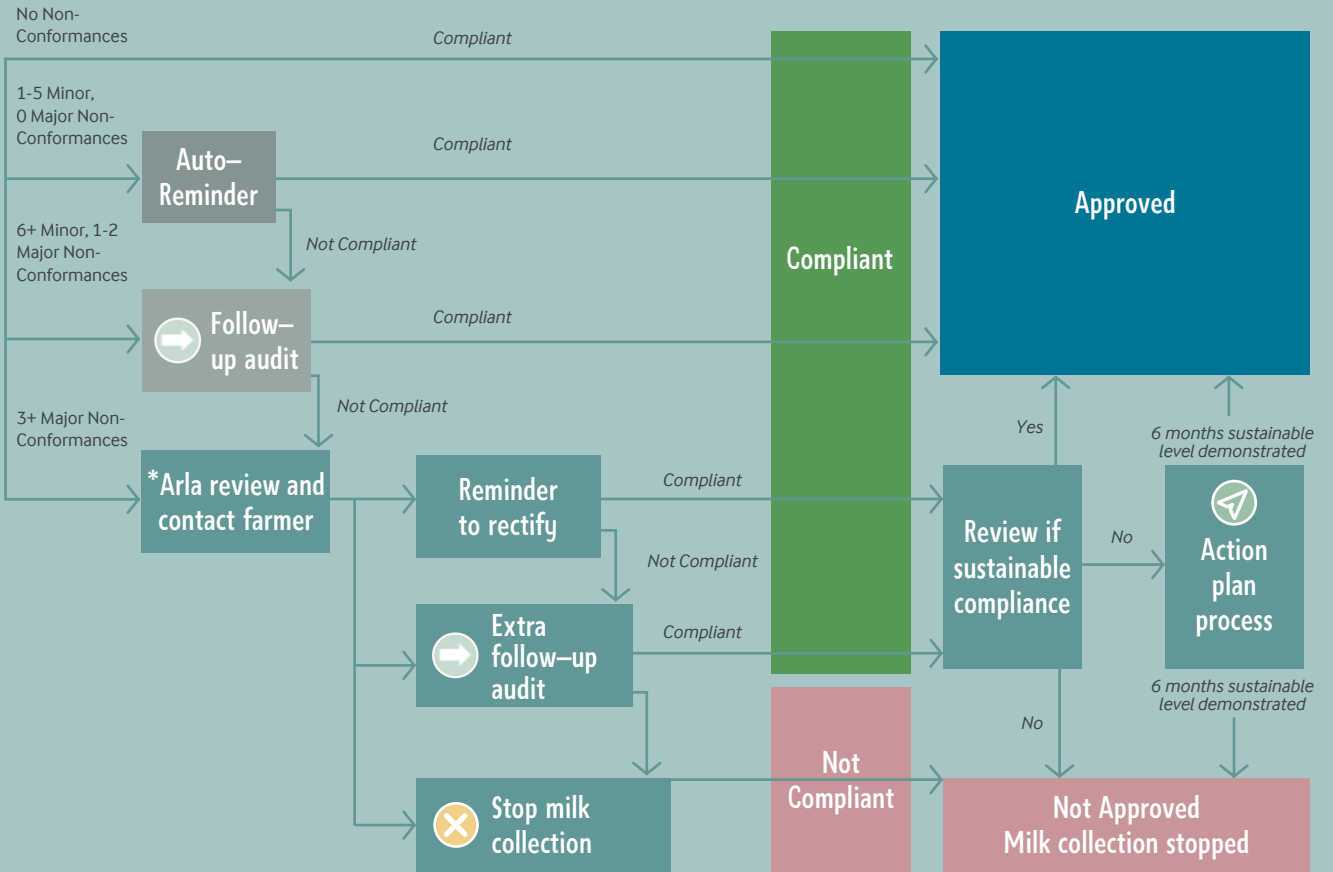
Follow-up audits are performed in case of significant non-conformances. Any major non-conformance or more than five minor non-conformances will directly trigger a follow-up audit. Any non-conformances that are not rectified within the deadlines may also lead to a follow-up audit. They may also happen in the event that the assessment is inaccurate or not submitted.



The Arlagården® Audit System



The Arlagården® Audit Process



**depending on the reason for the “not –compliant” Arlagården audit after a follow-up audit or more than 3 majors non-conformances, Arla decides on the next steps and contacts the farmer. This could entail an immediate stop of milk collection, extra follow-up audit or a reminder to rectify.*



The Arlagården® Audit System

The Arlagården® Audit Process (cont'd)



Follow-Up Audits

A follow up audit is conducted when the number of non-conformances exceeds the relevant thresholds (see diagrams). At a follow up audit, the auditor is checking that all previous non-conformances have been rectified. Farmers need to check their audit report and action list to ensure they are clear on their non-conformances and what is needed to rectify them.



Action Plan Process

Being compliant, the history of a farm and the complexity of the process will in some cases call for a process to ensure sustainable level of compliance. Farmers in this situation are expected to reach out for professional help targeting the actual topic(s). Through a 6-month period based on an approved action plan including an intensive follow-up activity, obvious progress on requirements being challenged must be delivered.



Stop of Milk Collection

A stop of milk collection is a last resort, and prior to reaching this point, the farmer should be clear as to why it is needed. If it is decided that a stop is necessary, the farmer is contacted by Arla to explain the reasons why. A stop of milk collection lasts for a **minimum of four (4) days**. In order to re-start milk collection, a re-opening audit must be completed. Milk is not allowed to be stored in the tank during the period of the temporary stop. In exceptional circumstances a temporary stop of milk collection could be applied immediately, for example when the outcome of an audit shows critical non-conformances or where an audit is refused repeatedly, despite a warning of a temporary stop of milk collection.



Re-opening Audits

In order to re-commence milk collections after a temporary stop, a re-opening audit must be carried out. These audits are carried out using a full checklist that reflects the questions asked at the self-assessment. The farmer needs to be in regular contact with their Arla Member Service team and confirm when they are ready for a re-opening audit. This must be done with at least two working days' notice to enable the audit to be conducted. The farm must pass the re-opening audit in order for milk collections to re-commence.