

Functions of an expert witness for veterinary public health as part of the licensing procedure for livestock buildings (indoor climate and airborne emissions)

G. Schauberger

Summary

In the licensing procedure for livestock buildings official expert witness are brought in from the fields of emission technology, veterinary public health and environmental health for the assessment of the documents submitted in the context of construction law generally. Based on this assessment, the building permit is issued by the mayor as planning authority. Besides the obvious agendas of veterinary public health (animal welfare) also the airborne emissions of the livestock building and the related environmental impacts have to be taken into account. This includes the assessment of the indoor climate with the necessary facilities like the ventilation system, which releases the airborne emissions of the livestock into the atmosphere. In this overlap area, the control carried out under cross-compliance guide lines can be seen. Furthermore, the emission of bio aerosols from livestock buildings for assessing the biosafety of the livestock itself has to be evaluated, as well as impact on the neighboring livestock buildings. With regard to the liability of the expert witness for his expertise, the criterion the state of the science has to be taken as reference. Therefore, the interface between veterinary public health in the narrow sense and the related environmental aspects will be discussed here.

Keywords

welfare oriented animal husbandry, indoor climate, airborne emissions, odour, particulate matter, bio aerosols