

assured  
chicken production



POULTRY STANDARDS

**Breeder Replacement**

**Breeder Layers**

**Hatchery**

**Chickens**

**Free Range**

**Poussin**

**Catching, Transport & Slaughter**

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2006-2007

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Revised November 2005  
Including Operating Procedures

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### **INTRODUCTION:**

It is the objective of Assured Chicken Production to set standards for the nutrition and welfare of poultry and to verify producer's compliance with them. Another objective is the development of the standards to achieve high levels of food safety and environmental care.

### **STRUCTURE:**

Assured Chicken Production is an independent company that owns and develops the Assured Chicken Production Scheme (ACP) standards for poultry. The ownership of Assured Chicken Production was transferred to Assured Food Standards Ltd in April 2004 and the AFS Poultry Sector Board is responsible for the direction, overall management and administration of the Scheme. A Technical Advisory Committee monitors and proposes the standards for the Scheme.

CMi Certification and EFSIS Ltd (referred to throughout this manual as the 'Certification Bodies') are licensed to operate the certification system for the Assured Chicken Production Scheme on behalf of Assured Chicken Production Ltd. The certification system is an independent third party system for determining conformity with product standards. The certification system requires examination of product, the production process, the production environment and assessment of the quality management system. Acceptance after initial assessment is followed by ongoing surveillance. The certification system is linked to a Certificate of Approval, and the approved scheme mark. The mark is the property of Assured Chicken Production Limited issued, under licence through the Certification Body.

### **POLICIES:**

The Scheme unreservedly supports the ideals of F.A.W.C. and the Five Freedoms:

- freedom from thirst, hunger and malnutrition
- freedom from discomfort
- freedom from pain, injury or disease
- freedom from fear and distress
- freedom to display most normal patterns of behaviour

### **LEGAL REQUIREMENTS:**

All producers must comply with all current relevant legislation. Producers should notify their certification body of any prosecutions relevant to the scope of ACP, brought or likely to be brought against them with respect to animal welfare, animal movements, food safety or environmental legislation (including cross compliance requirements)

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**CATCHING, TRANSPORT & SLAUGHTER**

These Standards do not seek to duplicate existing published documents on husbandry and welfare. Reference should be made to these documents as appropriate.

## APPLICATION

1. Any site (breeder replacement, breeder layer, hatchery, chicken, free range, poussin, slaughter house, plus any catching teams and hauliers) involved in the chicken production process shall be eligible to apply to join the Assured Chicken Production Scheme.
2. For the purposes of this Scheme, a site is registered under the name of a producer. A producer is the person who has functional responsibility for the management decisions and operating systems being assessed in this Scheme. Where the responsibility and operational control is devolved to a number of different units within a single business, separate membership will be required for each site.
3. It is perfectly acceptable for a producer to receive outside advice on the completion of the forms. However, all documents must be signed by the producer who will be expected to demonstrate to Scheme assessors knowledge and awareness of their content, and of the Scheme's objectives and procedures. Assured Chicken Production Ltd reserves the right not to accept applications when these conditions are not met.
4. Upon initial enquiry, applicants will be issued with a Scheme Registration Pack. This will contain a copy of the relevant standards, t and an application for membership.
5. By signing and returning the application form with the appropriate fees producers agree to be bound by the Scheme Standards, Rules and Procedures. The Board of Assured Chicken Production Ltd. reserves the right to alter the Scheme Rules where, at its absolute discretion, it considers it necessary to do so.

## MEMBERSHIP

6. New Applications - will be accepted throughout the membership year (1<sup>st</sup> April to end March). Full membership will be granted once an external assessment has taken place and it is confirmed that the Standards have been met.
7. Renewal for Existing Members - All existing members will be required to re-register on 1<sup>st</sup> April annually irrespective of when the initial application was made. Membership renewal will be conditional on receipt of the appropriate fee on or before the renewal date. Any producer failing to meet this condition shall, after reasonable notice, have his/her membership terminated.
8. This Scheme differentiates between issues, which are deemed to be food safety and animal welfare critical and those which are not. A red triangle identifies elements, which are deemed to have a critical impact on food safety or animal welfare. Non-Conformance(s) with any of these elements will result in suspension from the Scheme. A recurring non-conformance, previously notified by the member as having been corrected will result in exclusion from the Scheme and the excluded member will be required to reapply as a new applicant.
  - A white triangle  identifies elements which are deemed not to have a critical impact on food safety or animal welfare but are considered best practice and hence are component parts of the Scheme.Initial membership of the Scheme is not compromised by non-conformance(s) of white triangle  elements. As the Scheme demands continuous improvement, in subsequent years these elements maybe upgraded to red triangles  and non-conformance(s) at this point may lead to suspension from the Scheme.

A white triangle  may also be used where new standards are introduced and it is acknowledged that a reasonable time period is required for full implementation.

9. Assured Chicken Production Ltd. reserves the right to refuse/terminate membership when it considers that it is necessary to do so to prevent the Scheme from being brought into disrepute.

## **INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT**

10. All Scheme members agree to give employees and agents of Assured Chicken Production Ltd. reasonable access to their business production sites and records to carry out assessments required under the Scheme Rules. Failure to do so shall result in the suspension of membership. At least one week's notice will be given of any routine site assessments. The right is reserved to make unannounced visits.

11. Assessors may refuse to carry out an assessment in the presence of a third party who they believe will, intentionally or otherwise, influence its outcome in an inappropriate manner.

12. ACP routine surveillance is based on an annual assessment cycle including an in-built random assessment element. Acceptance of this assessment timetable is a condition of Scheme membership. The timetable will not be varied as a result of lobbying by Scheme members or third parties.

13. Once the assessment visit has been completed, the Certification Body will either make a decision to accept the applicant/member or issue the applicant/member with a 'notice to remedy' for non-conformances.

14. The producer should inform the Certification Body once the non-conformance(s) has/have been remedied. The Certification Body may then arrange for a second assessment where applicable. The costs associated with these procedures, including any additional farm visits will be borne by the producer, but will be kept as low as reasonably possible.

15. Non Conformance(s) in an element identified by a red triangle will result in exclusion from the Scheme for that site. In order to prevent this exclusion, objective evidence of corrective actions must be provided within 40 calendar days. (Or within 7 calendar days if the non conformance relates to stocking density or within one month for a hatchery). Failure to supply satisfactory objective evidence will result in exclusion from the Scheme immediately. In the event of any non-conformances being related to elements subject to legislation or to key inputs (feed, medicines and vaccines) which cannot be retrospectively corrected for the current flock cycle then this flock will be immediately excluded from the scheme, as well as the site itself.

16. Certificates will be issued when the producer meets the certification requirements. Certificates are not transferable and remain the property of the Certification Body.

## **APPEALS**

17. In the event that a producer feels he/she has been incorrectly assessed during an assessment visit, he/she has the option to ask for a re-assessment by another assessor. If the producer's complaint is upheld, there will be no cost for this and any suspension of membership that may have been imposed will be immediately lifted. If the findings of the original assessment are corroborated, or if it is clear that the producer has taken action in the interim that will materially affect the outcome of the re-assessment, the cost of the visit will fall upon the producer. Any request for re-assessments will be met as soon as possible by Assured Chicken Production Ltd or its agent.

18. If a producer still feels that he/she has been incorrectly assessed following the procedure outlined in Section 17, they will have the option of having their appeal heard by a panel convened for this purpose by the Certification Body. A producer may either put his/her own appeal to the panel or nominate someone to do so on his/her behalf. In the latter case he/she will still be expected to attend the panel session. Both sides will endeavour to keep

costs to a minimum. In the event that an appeal to the panel is upheld, all costs reasonably incurred by the appellant will be met by the Certification Body. If an appeal is turned down, the cost outlined in Sections 16 & 17 and those costs reasonably incurred through the operation of the panel, will be borne by the producer.

#### **SUSPENSION/TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

19. If a producer fails a surveillance assessment, membership will be suspended. The suspension will remain in force either until the producer is accepted back into full membership or until the end of the Scheme Year when membership will lapse.

20. The Certification Body reserves the right to refuse/terminate membership when it considers that it is necessary to do so to prevent the scheme from being brought into disrepute.

#### **CONFIDENTIALITY**

21. Clearly others in the supply chain will on occasion wish to ascertain a producer's status in the Scheme. No information will be released unless the enquirer provides a written enquiry or enquires via the web quoting the producer's name, address and membership number. Where this information is quoted, Assured Chicken Production Ltd or its agents will confirm membership status.

22. In all other respects, Assured Chicken Production Ltd and its agents will respect absolutely the confidentiality of information supplied to them by producers, or otherwise acquired through operation of this Scheme. As part of its work to assure consumers and promote the development of the Scheme, Assured Chicken Production Ltd will produce reports drawing upon aggregated Scheme data, but this will only be done when it is certain that the information released cannot be traced back to individual members.

23. Assured Chicken Production Ltd will (if appropriate) comply with and use all reasonable endeavours to ensure compliance by its agents with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 affecting any information held or stored by either of them.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

24. Under no circumstances shall Assured Chicken Production Ltd, its employees or agents be liable for any losses, damage, charges, costs or expenses of whatever nature (including consequential loss) which any producer may suffer or incur by reason of, or arising directly or indirectly from the administration by Assured Chicken Production Ltd, its employees or agents or the performance of their respective obligations in connection with the Scheme save to the extent that such loss, damage, charges, costs and/or expenses arise as a result of the finally and judicially determined gross negligence or wilful default of such person.

25. If any competent authority considers that any of the rules of the Scheme are unreasonable, then the Scheme Rules shall be taken to be varied, in such a way as shall make them reasonable, but no other part of the Scheme Rules shall be affected.

26. The Scheme Operating Procedures represent the entire understanding between the producers and Assured Chicken Production Ltd and each producer acknowledges that they have not relied upon any other statement (written or verbal) in applying to join the Scheme.

## STANDARDS FOR BREEDER REPLACEMENT FARMS

### 1. FARM SITE PLAN AND EMERGENCY PLAN

- 1.1 ▲ A unit site plan must be drawn up and kept readily available. It must contain the following information:
1. Position and sizes of all poultry houses and access points;
  2. All auxiliary poultry buildings and their purpose;
  3. Location of fire extinguishers and first aid kits;
  4. Water sources available, sufficient for fire-fighting purposes;
  5. Position of pest control baiting points.
- 1.2 ▲ An emergency action plan must be sited in a prominent position near a telephone point. This plan must outline procedures to be followed in the case of emergencies including fire, flood, power failure, equipment failure or the interruption of supplies. There must also be written instruction for immediate location by the fire brigade, a grid reference number and post code. Important telephone numbers must be listed to include equipment service engineers, retained veterinary surgeon and contacts for emergency procedures. All sites must have telephone access.
- Staff must be aware of the water sources available for the purposes of fire fighting.
- Provision must be made to ensure an emergency supply of drinking water and feed to the birds in case normal supply fails. Evidence of this provision will be required on each unit and all stockpersons must be aware of the procedure. The emergency water supply must be capable of providing water for 24 hours at full demand.
- 1.3 ▲ An alternative power supply capable of supplying all essential electrical systems within the poultry house(s) must be available. Where a malfunction is found this must be rectified immediately.
- 1.4 ▲ Fire prevention precautions must include the following measures:
1. Restrict access and secure buildings;
  2. Control of smoking to designated areas only;
  3. Routine machinery maintenance;
  4. Safe use and storage of flammable/combustible materials;
  5. Escape routes and passages kept free of stored materials and equipment at all times;
  6. Every building exceeding 30m in length must have two doors and must comply with relevant Building Regulations particularly with regard to fire escape exits.
  7. Notices displayed in all main houses of the nearest telephone point.
- 1.5 ▲ Deleted.
- 1.6 △ All sites must have a written Farm Waste Management Plan and if pesticides are used, this should include correct procedures for disposal of empty containers.
- 1.7 △ Participants should be aware of the standards within the DEFRA Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil, Air and Water.
- 1.8 △ Potential pollutants including litter, fertiliser, fuels and oils must be stored where there is no risk of run-off polluting water courses.

### General Requirements

- 2.1 ▲ All units must retain the services of an experienced poultry veterinary surgeon. Evidence to show that the veterinary surgeon provides regular advice on the health, hygiene and welfare of the birds must be available.
- 2.2 ▲ Each site must have a written health and welfare programme tailor-made to the needs of the unit, and must contain a strategy for the prevention and control of common diseases. As a minimum the programme must be annually reviewed and updated. The programme must set out health and husbandry procedures covering the whole of the production cycle.

### Bird Health

- 2.3 ▲ Ill, injured or dead birds must be removed as soon as they are detected. Ill or injured birds must be segregated, treated promptly or if necessary humanely culled. Overtly lame birds and birds finding it difficult to reach feed and water must be treated or humanely culled as soon as detected. When necessary birds must be humanely culled by a trained, competent stockman. Mortality and culls must be recorded in the daily record as well as reasons for culls.

Where system-induced injuries occur prompt action must be taken to find the cause and remedial action taken. If the cause is an environmental factor this must be remedied before the next flock is placed.

If mortality exceeds 0.3% in a 24 hour period an investigation to find the cause must be carried out. Remedial action must be taken to prevent a recurrence. If the cause remains unknown the advice of the responsible veterinary surgeon must be sought. The problem, action and outcome must be recorded in all such incidents.

All culls due to leg problems must be recorded and assessed. Where a trend develops the advice of the veterinary surgeon must be sought.

- 2.4 ▲ Humane culling must be carried out by a trained stockman by dislocation of the neck, percussion killer approved by HSA or by a licensed method.
- 2.5 ▲ Dead birds must be held in locked vermin-proof containers until appropriate disposal, either off or on-site in line with the Animal By-Products Regulations, can be effected without undue delay.
- 2.6 ▲ Parent stock must be vaccinated with a licensed *Salmonella enteritidis* and *typhimurium* vaccine. A derogation will be considered by the ACP Board for countries in which the Chief Veterinary Officer (or equivalent) has confirmed that poultry are *S.enteritidis* and *S.typhimurium* free.

### Biosecurity

- 2.7 ▲ Only essential visitors may be granted access to the site. A record of all visitors must be maintained. This must include date, time of arrival, name and organisation. Visitors must certify that they are not suffering with any enteric illness and must declare recent visits to poultry sites. Management must refuse entry if the health and welfare of the birds could be compromised.
- 2.8 ▲ Barrier footwear systems with dedicated footwear or foot dips must be provided at personnel access points to each bird area as well as at the entrances to poultry houses equipment and litter stores. DEFRA approved disinfectants must be used and in accordance with manufacturers recommendations. Solutions must be replaced on

a prescribed basis and recorded. Footwear must be dipped by all personnel and visitors before entrance into a building and after leaving the building.

- 2.9 ▲ Hand-washing facilities and toilets must be available on-site and must consist of a basin with hot water, bactericidal soap and disposable towels. All personnel and visitors must have the provision to wash or sanitise hands prior to entering poultry houses and after leaving poultry houses. Hands must also be washed after dead bird handling, before and after meals and after visits to the toilet.
- 2.10 ▲ Site-dedicated protective clothing must be supplied for all personnel. All clothing must be washed or discarded between flocks. Visitors must be supplied by the site with protective clothing which must be retained on-site after use.
- 2.11 ▲ All units must operate a period free of all livestock between flock cycles.
- 2.12 ▲ Farm vehicles must be maintained in a clean condition. Provision must be made for vehicles entering or leaving the site to be cleansed and disinfected (including wheels)
- 2.13 △ All personnel must not keep or have contact with other poultry or any other avian species.
- 2.14 ▲ Pets or other animals must not be allowed access to service buildings or poultry houses.
- 2.15 ▲ Pest control must be carried out by a licensed contractor or a properly trained operative with knowledge of pesticides and their placement. Poultry must not have access to pesticides. Pesticides must not be accessible to wild birds and bait boxes must be tamper proof. An accurate location plan of all bait points must be drawn up and numbered, along with a written pesticide programme detailing types of pesticide administered, replenishment dates and visual inspections of bait points. Pest control must make provision for the control of rodents, flies and parasites.
- 2.16 ▲ Auxiliary buildings, toilets, offices, stores and break rooms must be kept clean and tidy.
- 2.17 ▲ Smoking must not be permitted in any building containing birds but restricted to designated areas.

### **Medicines and Vaccines**

- 2.18 ▲ Medicines must be administered according to the recommendations made by RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance) for the Responsible Use of Anti-Microbials in Poultry Production.
- 2.19 ▲ The use of medicines and vaccines must be recorded. Treated birds must be identified. Medicine/vaccine purchase records must contain the following information: type, batch number, quantity purchased and withdrawal period of medicine/vaccine.  
  
Medicine/vaccine usage records must contain the following: date treated, quantity administered, identification of birds treated, withdrawal period, date of safe slaughter, reason for treatment, type of medicine/vaccine, mode of administration (e.g. in-water, in-feed) and name of administrator.
- 2.20 ▲ All medicines and vaccines must be stored in a secure (locked) store and in accordance with any recommendations on the label (e.g. correct temperature and stored up to date of expiry). Only staff trained to administer medicinal products shall have access to them.
- 2.21 ▲ Vaccination programmes must be tailored to the needs of the farm and must be developed in consultation with the responsible veterinary surgeon.

- 2.22 ▲ Withdrawal periods must be strictly adhered to and birds must not be consigned to human consumption before the date of safe slaughter.
- 2.23 ▲ Medicines and vaccines must be used in accordance with UK legislation.
- 2.24 ▲ Prescription Only Medication must only be initiated with the formal approval of the responsible veterinary surgeon via a prescription, verbal direction or an approved treatment programme or protocol (in the case of in-feed medication this will be in the form of a Medicated Feedingstuff Prescription).

All Prescription Only Medicines and vaccines must be used in strict accordance with written instruction that must be provided by the responsible veterinary surgeon. The use of antibiotics must be regularly reviewed and treatment records must be monitored with particular emphasis on outcomes of treatment, including failure to respond.

Each Company must compile an approved drugs (medicines and vaccines) list in agreement with the responsible veterinary surgeon. This list must specify storage, administration and withdrawal period instructions for each drug and make reference to the correct dosage, duration and circumstances of use for each farm.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- 2.25 ▲ Each Company and/or site must develop and implement a written cleaning and disinfection policy. This policy must be strictly adhered to and must contain as a minimum the following:
1. Cleaning and disinfection procedures;
  2. Handling of waste materials such as litter, packaging, pharmaceutical equipment and packaging, reject eggs, feed spillages;
  3. Details of disinfectants (DEFRA approved only) and detergents used, including safe usage, storage and dilutions.

Whenever bird accommodation is emptied it must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the policy. Cleaning procedures of house furniture, water tanks and bulk feed bins must be included in the policy. Evidence to show that cleaning procedures are effective must be provided. Swabs must be taken for environmental bacteria and cultured in a Government-approved laboratory. Equipment must also be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after operation and before storage.

### **Salmonella Monitoring**

- 2.26 ▲ Breeder replacement flocks must be monitored for *Salmonella* in accordance with the Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries Testing Order 1993. A slaughter programme must be implemented. A written cleaning and disinfection procedure appropriate to ensure effective eradication of the pathogen must be implemented once depletion is complete. Records must be kept of all *Salmonella* tests for breeder replacement flocks and must be carried out by a Government-approved laboratory. Inputs for subsequent flocks must not be brought on-site until the site is confirmed as *Salmonella* negative.

### 3. MANAGEMENT AND STOCKMANSHIP

#### Stockmen

- 3.1 ▲ Stockmen must be able to demonstrate competence and be trained in the following before being given responsibility for the care of birds:
1. Emergency procedures and water sources available for fire fighting;
  2. Normal and abnormal behaviour of birds, and fear reactions;
  3. Signs of good health and signs of poor health and disease;
  4. Correct handling of birds in a positive and compassionate manner;
  5. Humane culling method;
  6. Litter management, signs of poor litter and remedial action;
  7. Operation of equipment, routine maintenance, recognition of common signs of malfunction and action to be carried out in the event of failure;
  8. General hygiene, basic Health and Safety requirements including COSHH;
  9. Recognition of the signs of thermal stress in birds and the procedures to be followed in the event of a problem;
  10. Where necessary, training in the administration of medicinal products.

#### Husbandry Procedures

- 3.2 ▲ Birds must be handled in a compassionate and positive manner.
- 3.3 ▲ Beak trimming should be kept to a minimum and if required may only be carried out in-line with FAWC recommendations. Written veterinary approval must be obtained. The procedure must be carried out by trained operatives.
- 3.4 ▲ Flock inspection must be carried out at least twice daily. Records of inspection must be retained and include observations. Stockmen must walk within 3m of every bird and encourage them to move to identify sick or injured birds. Where a problem is identified this must be recorded along with the remedial action taken. If the stockman fails to rectify the problem relevant expert advice must be sought and acted upon (e.g. health advice from the responsible veterinary surgeon, electricity faults by a professional electrician, equipment failure by service engineers).

#### Managers' Responsibilities

- 3.5 ▲ Managers must ensure that staff have access to, and receive guidance on, all the relevant regulations, guides and codes listed in Appendix A, including this Standard.
- 3.6 ▲ Managers must ensure that staff responsible for birds have completed training on all points in Section 3.1, (1-10). Managers must ensure that a suitable programme of training exists for all such staff including induction and refresher courses. Training must be given by a recognised training provider to NVQ/SVQ level or formal in-house training programme. A record of training for all staff, detailing courses attended and training received must be retained. All training must be regularly reviewed and updated. Staff competency must be assessed regularly and these assessments kept on record.

### 4. FEED AND WATER

#### Water

- ▲ Birds must have access to an adequate supply of clean and fresh drinking water, to be available up to depopulation.

4.2 ▲ Water equipment must be supplied in the following quantities:

Bells	1 bell per 100 birds
Nipples and cups	1 nipple/cup per 10 to 20 birds depending on manufacturer's recommendations, water pressure and flow rate
	1 large cup per 40 birds

4.3 ▲ Drinker height must be checked daily.

4.4 ▲ Each house must have a water meter connected and consumption rate recorded daily.

4.4.1. △ Water system should be alarmed.

4.5 ▲ Header tanks must be covered and hygienically managed.

4.6 ▲ Non-mains water must be tested every 6 months and recorded to ensure potable quality.

### **Feed**

4.7 ▲ Birds must be provided with easy access to sufficient feed capable of satisfying their dietary requirements and to maintain good health.

4.8 ▲ Feed space allowances are as follows:

1. 10cm per side per breeding female of trough space
2. 7cm circumference per bird on pan feeders
3. Floor feeding acceptable.

4.9 ▲ Birds must not have to travel more than 4m to reach feed.

4.10 ▲ Feed delivery systems must be free of sharp edges and parts capable of injury, and must be easily adjustable to provide a comfortable feeding level. The system must be checked daily for correct performance and cleanliness.

4.11 ▲ Feed bins must be numbered or identifiable.

4.12 ▲ Companies must demonstrate the following:

Feedstuffs do not contain Meat and Bone Meal or Poultry By-Products Meal.

Feedstuffs do not contain antibiotic growth promoters.

Feedstuffs do not contain tallow.

Compound feed must be sourced from companies who are a certificated merchant or feedingstuff manufacturer in the AIC Universal Feed Assurance Schemes (UFAS) or an approved alternative. (Further details can be obtained from the AIC website [www.agindustries.org.uk/assurance](http://www.agindustries.org.uk/assurance))

Delivery tickets are to be retained for each flock for at least one year.

Samples of each delivery of feed are retained for 3 months.

4.13 ▲ The farm must have a declaration from the feed supplier confirming that the feed has been heat-treated or acid treated.

## 5. ENVIRONMENT

### General

- 5.1 ▲ Exterior areas around buildings and entranceways must be kept clear of debris and non-essential equipment. Vegetation must be kept short and well managed.
- 5.1.1 Δ The main access area to all sites must be laid out in clean concrete, metalled surface or rolled stone including an area large enough for a collection vehicle or feed lorry to stand.
- 5.2 ▲ Baits, disinfectants and other controlled chemicals must be stored in a secure area and in-line with COSHH recommendations.

### Construction and Maintenance

- 5.3 ▲ Buildings must provide a safe, hygienic, comfortable environment for birds.
- 5.3.1 ▲ All electrical installations must be properly earthed and tested every 5 years by a competent person
- 5.4 ▲ All surfaces within the poultry house must be in good condition, durable and cleanable.
- 5.5 ▲ Floors must be made up of concrete or asphalt, and be well drained, safe and hygienically managed. The floor surface must be above the outside ground level. Chalk and earth floors are not permitted.
- 5.6 ▲ Houses must be insulated.
- 5.7 ▲ Buildings must be constructed and maintained to prevent sharp edges and projections likely to cause injury or distress to birds.

### Lighting

- 5.8 ▲ Lighting levels must allow all birds to be clearly seen during inspection.

A minimum of 8 hours of natural or artificial light must be provided in a 24-hour period at a minimum of 10 lux.

Lighting patterns must be recorded.

If aggression occurs the lighting may be adjusted for a few days. If after 14 days the situation has not improved, veterinary advice should be sought

### Temperature, Ventilation and Air Quality

- 5.9 ▲ Temperature must be carefully monitored and controlled. Minimum and maximum temperatures inside the house at bird level must be recorded daily.
- 5.9.1 Δ Humidity should be carefully monitored and recorded on a daily basis
- 5.10 ▲ All houses must have a controlled environment which ensures an ambient house temperature and humidity suited to the birds' physiological needs. Each site must

have a written policy for the recognition of, and procedures to be followed, in the event of heat or cold stress.

- 5.11 ▲ A documented minimum ventilation plan must be in place.
- 5.12 ▲ An alarm system capable of alerting stockmen to ventilation equipment failure at any time must be operational. The alarm system must respond to high and low temperatures and to failures in each phase of the mains electricity. All electrical phases must be monitored. Alarm systems must be checked daily and a record kept of checks. Malfunctions must be recorded and fixed immediately. Ventilation system alarms must work without mains power supply.
- 5.13 ▲ Generators must be tested weekly on load.
- 5.14 ▲ Automatic equipment must be inspected at least once each day. Where a defect is found, either the defect must be rectified immediately or measures must be taken to safeguard the birds from unnecessary suffering or distress. Records of checks, malfunctions and actions taken to rectify must be recorded.
- 5.15 ▲ Units must have access to weather forecasts to allow for planning for extremes in temperature.

#### **Litter**

- 5.16 ▲ All flocks must be provided with clean fresh litter to a minimum depth of 2cm. Litterite and similar products can be used which will expand to a minimum depth of 2cm.
- 5.17 ▲ Litter must remain in dry, friable condition. Wet capped litter must be managed.
- 5.18 ▲ Litter stored in the open must be on pallets and at all times covered with water/bird/vermin-proof protection. Damaged bales must not be used.
- 5.19 ▲ Old litter must be removed from the site promptly and disposed of appropriately. Records of disposal must be retained. Litter must be covered during transport on public highways.

#### **Stocking Density**

- 5.20 ▲ All birds must have sufficient space to walk, turn, sit, preen, flap/stretch their wings and dustbathe.
- 5.21 ▲ Houses must be plated with the following information:
  - 1. Total floor space available to the birds;
  - 2. Number of feeders and drinkers.
  - 3. Feed bin capacity
- 5.22. ▲ Stocking density must not exceed 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>

### 6. PROVISIONS FOR CHICKS

- 6.1 ▲ On arrival at the rearing site chicks must be placed into a pre-heated shed as soon as possible and their behaviour closely monitored.
- 6.2 ▲ Deleted
- 6.3 ▲ The acceptable method of humane culling for chicks is neck dislocation.

## 7. RECORDS

- 7.1 ▲ All records must be presented in an ordered and up to date fashion, including those relating to the previous crop.
- 7.2 ▲ Flock performance records must be monitored for signs of problems. Tolerance limits must be set and once exceeded the veterinary surgeon must be informed and advice sought.
- 7.3 ▲ A record must be maintained for each flock detailing routine checks, monitoring, inspection, delivery, problems and extraordinary events. The following where relevant must be recorded in this way:
1. Flock inspections (observations and actions taken);
  2. Mortality and cull records;
  3. Daily alarm checks;
  4. Alternative power supply test;
  5. Fire extinguisher checks (due date and completion)
  6. Medicine and vaccine administration records;
  7. Temperature records;
  8. Veterinary advice;
  9. Weekly generator tests;
  10. Salmonella tests;
  11. Non-mains water tests;
  12. Feed deliveries (dates, quantities, types);
  13. Lighting regimes.
- 7.4 ▲ Specific information on each flock must be supplied in the Production Report. This Record must begin from the day that the flock arrives at the rearing unit. It must include the following information:
1. Number of day-old chicks delivered/number of birds;
  2. Date delivered;
  3. Origin of flock (hatchery, breeder flock);
  4. Mortality on a daily basis;
  5. Culls on a daily basis identifying sexing errors and leg culls
  6. Water consumption on a daily basis;
  7. House temperatures on a daily maximum and minimum basis;
  8. Date, quantity and type of feed delivered;
  9. Date of sale/transfer;
  10. Incidence of disease and post mortem records;
  11. Administration of medicines and vaccines (dates administered, withdrawal periods, amount administered, mode of administration, administrator.)
- 7.5 ▲ Details of the ACP registration number must be included on all despatch notes
- 7.6 ▲ A register of complaints needs to be maintained and kept available for inspection. The register needs to record:
1. Where any participant has received a complaint as a result of their production process/product not being in compliance with the ACP Standards.
  2. Action taken.

## 8. DEPOPULATION

- 8.1 ▲ Deleted
- 8.2 ▲ Light levels must be kept low during depopulation.
- 8.3 ▲ Deleted

- 8.4 ▲ The manager or stockmen responsible for the birds must be present at depopulation, and shall ensure the flock is fit to travel.
- 8.5 ▲ A level well-drained loading area must be available for the loading and unloading of birds.
- 8.6 ▲ Deleted
- 8.7 ▲ Injured or sick birds must not be transported but humanely culled immediately.
- 8.8 ▲ Deleted
- 8.9 ▲ DELETED
- 8.10 ▲ Deleted
- 8.11 ▲ Crates must be stocked according to manufacturer's recommendations.
- 8.12 △ Deleted

## STANDARDS FOR BREEDER LAYER FARMS

### POPULATION OF SITE (S)

All stock must be sourced from units certified to the relevant ACP standards

### 1. FARM SITE PLAN AND EMERGENCY PLAN

- 1.1 ▲ A unit site plan must be drawn up and kept readily available. It must contain the following information:
1. Position and sizes of all poultry houses and access points;
  2. All auxiliary poultry buildings and their purpose;
  3. Location of fire extinguishers and first aid kits;
  4. Water sources available, sufficient for fire-fighting purposes;
  5. Position of pest control baiting points
- 1.2 ▲ An emergency action plan must be sited in a prominent position near a telephone point. This plan must outline procedures to be followed in the case of emergencies including fire, flood, power failure, equipment failure or the interruption of supplies. There must also be written instruction for immediate location by the fire brigade, a grid reference number and post code. Important telephone numbers must be listed to include equipment service engineers, retained veterinary surgeon and contacts for emergency procedures. All sites must have telephone access.
- Staff must be aware of the water sources available for the purposes of fire fighting.
- Provision must be made to ensure an emergency supply of drinking water and feed to the birds in case normal supply fails. Evidence of this provision will be required on each unit and all stockpersons must be aware of the procedure. The emergency water supply must be capable of providing water for 24 hours at full demand.
- 1.3 ▲ An alternative power supply capable of supplying all essential electrical systems within the poultry house(s) must be available. Where a malfunction is found this must be rectified immediately.
- 1.4 ▲ Fire prevention precautions must include the following measures:
1. Restrict access and secure buildings;
  2. Control of smoking to designated areas only;
  3. Routine machinery maintenance;
  4. Safe use and storage of flammable/combustible materials;
  5. Escape routes and passages kept free of stored materials and equipment at all times;
  6. Every building exceeding 30m in length must have two doors and must comply with relevant Building Regulations particularly with regard to fire escape exits
  7. Notices displayed in all main houses of the nearest telephone point.
- 1.5 ▲ Deleted.
- 1.6 △ All sites must have a written Farm Waste Management Plan and if pesticides are used, this should include correct procedures for disposal of empty containers.
- 1.7 △ Participants should be aware of the standards within the DEFRA Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil, Air and Water.

- 1.8 ▲ Potential pollutants including litter, fertiliser, fuels and oils must be stored where there is no risk of run-off polluting water courses.

## 2. HEALTH AND HYGIENE

### General Requirements

- 2.1 ▲ All units must retain the services of an experienced poultry veterinary surgeon. Evidence to show that the veterinary surgeon provides regular advice on the health, hygiene and welfare of the birds must be available.
- 2.2 ▲ Each site must have a written health and welfare programme tailor-made to the needs of the unit, and must contain a strategy for the prevention and control of common diseases. As a minimum the programme must be annually reviewed and updated. The programme must set out health and husbandry procedures covering the whole of the production cycle.

### Bird Health

- 2.3 ▲ Ill, injured or dead birds must be removed as soon as they are detected. Ill or injured birds must be segregated, treated promptly or if necessary humanely culled. Overtly lame birds and birds finding it difficult to reach feed and water must be treated or humanely culled as soon as detected. When necessary birds must be culled humanely by a trained, competent stockman. Mortality and culls must be recorded in the daily record as well as reasons for culls.

Where system-induced injuries occur prompt action must be taken to find the cause and remedial action taken. If the cause is an environmental factor this must be remedied before the next flock is placed.

If mortality exceeds 0.3% in a 24 hour period an investigation to find the cause must be carried out. Remedial action must be taken to prevent a recurrence. If the cause remains unknown the advice of the responsible veterinary surgeon must be sought. The problem, action and outcome must be recorded in all such incidents.

All culls due to leg problems must be recorded and assessed. Where a trend develops the advice of the veterinary surgeon must be sought.

- 2.4 ▲ Humane culling must be carried out by a trained stockman by dislocation of the neck, percussion killer approved by HSA or by a licensed method.
- 2.5 ▲ Dead birds must be held in locked vermin-proof containers until appropriate disposal, either off or on-site in line with the Animal By-Products Regulations, can be effected, without undue delay.
- 2.6 ▲ Parent stock must be vaccinated with a licensed *Salmonella enteritidis* and *typhimurium* vaccine. A derogation will be considered by the ACP Board for countries in which the Chief Veterinary Officer (or equivalent) has confirmed that poultry are *S.enteritidis* and *S.typhimurium* free.

### Biosecurity

- 2.7 ▲ Only essential visitors may be granted access to the site. A record of all visitors must be maintained. This must include date, time of arrival, name and organisation. Visitors must certify that they are not suffering with any enteric illness and must declare recent visits to poultry sites. Management must refuse entry if the health and welfare of the birds could be compromised.
- 2.8 ▲ Barrier footwear systems with dedicated footwear or foot dips must be provided at personnel access points to each bird area as well as at the entrances to poultry

houses equipment, litter and egg stores. DEFRA approved disinfectants must be used and in accordance with manufacturers recommendations. Solutions must be replaced on a prescribed basis and recorded. Footwear must be dipped by all personnel and visitors before entrance into a building and after leaving the building.

- 2.9 ▲ Hand-washing facilities and toilets must be available on-site and must consist of a basin with hot water, bactericidal soap and disposable towels. All personnel and visitors must have the provision to wash or sanitise hands prior to entering poultry houses and after leaving poultry houses. Hands must also be washed after dead bird handling, before and after meals and after visits to the toilet.
- 2.10 ▲ Site-dedicated protective clothing must be supplied for all personnel. All clothing must be washed or discarded between flocks. Visitors must be supplied by the site with protective clothing which must be retained on-site after use.
- 2.11 ▲ All units must operate a period free of all livestock between flock cycles.
- 2.12 ▲ Farm vehicles must be maintained in a clean condition. Provision must be made for vehicles entering or leaving the site to be cleansed and disinfected (including wheels).
- 2.13 ▲ All personnel must not keep or have contact with other poultry or any other avian species.
- 2.14 ▲ Pets or other animals must not be allowed access to service buildings or poultry houses.
- 2.15 ▲ Pest control must be carried out by a licensed contractor or a properly trained operative with knowledge of pesticides and their placement. Poultry must not have access to pesticides. Pesticides must not be accessible to wild birds and bait boxes must be tamper proof. An accurate location plan of all bait points must be drawn up and numbered, along with a written pesticide programme detailing types of pesticide administered, replenishment dates and visual inspections of bait points. Pest control must make provision for the control of rodents, flies and parasites.
- 2.16 ▲ Auxiliary buildings, toilets, offices, stores and break rooms must be kept clean and tidy.
- 2.17 ▲ Smoking must not be permitted in any building containing birds or eggs but restricted to designated areas.

### **Medicines and Vaccines**

- 2.18 ▲ Prescription Only Medicines (POM) must be administered according to the recommendations made by RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance) for the Responsible Use of Anti-Microbials in Poultry Production.
- 2.19 ▲ The use of medicines and vaccines must be recorded. Treated birds must be identified. Medicine/vaccine purchase records must contain the following information: type, batch number, quantity purchased and withdrawal period of medicine/vaccine.  
  
Medicine/vaccine usage records must contain the following: date treated, quantity administered, identification of birds treated, withdrawal period, date of safe slaughter, reason for treatment, type of medicine/vaccine, mode of administration (e.g. in-water, in-feed) and name of administrator.
- 2.20 ▲ All medicines and vaccines must be stored in a secure (locked) store and in accordance with any recommendations on the label (e.g. correct temperature and

stored up to date of expiry). Only staff trained to administer medicinal products shall have access to them.

- 2.21 ▲ Vaccination programmes must be tailored to the needs of the farm and must be developed in consultation with the responsible veterinary surgeon.
- 2.22 ▲ Withdrawal periods must be strictly adhered to and birds must not be consigned to human consumption before the date of safe slaughter.
- 2.23 ▲ Medicines and vaccines must be used in accordance with UK legislation.
- 2.24 ▲ Medication must only be initiated with the formal approval of the responsible veterinary surgeon via a prescription, verbal direction or an approved treatment programme or protocol (in the case of in-feed medication this will be in the form of a Medicated Feedingstuff Prescription).

All Prescription Only Medicines and vaccines must be used in strict accordance with written instruction that must be provided by the responsible veterinary surgeon. The use of antibiotics must be regularly reviewed and treatment records must be monitored with particular emphasis on outcomes of treatment, including failure to respond.

Each Company must compile an approved drugs (medicines and vaccines) list in agreement with the responsible veterinary surgeon. This list must specify storage, administration and withdrawal period instructions for each drug and make reference to the correct dosage, duration and circumstances of use for each farm.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- 2.25 ▲ Each Company and/or site must develop and implement a written cleaning and disinfection policy. This policy must be strictly adhered to and must contain as a minimum the following:
  1. Cleaning and disinfection procedures;
  2. Handling of waste materials such as litter, packaging, pharmaceutical equipment and packaging, feed spillage's;
  3. Details of disinfectants (DEFRA approved only) and detergents used, including safe usage, storage and dilutions.

Whenever bird accommodation is emptied it must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the policy. Cleaning procedures of house furniture, water tanks and bulk feed bins must be included in the policy. Evidence to show that cleaning procedures are effective must be provided. Swabs must be taken for environmental bacteria and cultured in a Government-approved laboratory. Equipment must also be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after operation and before storage.

### **Salmonella Monitoring**

- 2.26 ▲ Breeder Layer flocks must be monitored for *Salmonella* in accordance with the Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries Testing Order 1993. Egg supplies must cease immediately if either *S. enteritidis* or *S. Typhimurium* is positively confirmed from an infected house. All unhatched eggs must be recovered, destroyed and disposed appropriately. A slaughter programme must be implemented. A written cleaning and disinfection procedure appropriate to ensure effective eradication of the pathogen must be implemented once depletion is complete. Records must be kept of all *Salmonella* tests for breeder flocks and must be carried out by a Government-

approved laboratory. Inputs for subsequent flocks must not be brought on site until the site is confirmed as *Salmonella* negative.

### **Mycoplasma**

2.27 ▲ Flocks must be tested to quantify MG and MS status.

## 3. MANAGEMENT AND STOCKMANSHIP

### **Stockmen**

- 3.1 ▲ Stockmen must be able to demonstrate competence and be trained in the following before being given responsibility for the care of birds:
1. Emergency procedures and water sources available for fire fighting;
  2. Normal and abnormal behaviour of birds, and fear reactions;
  3. Signs of good health and signs of poor health and disease;
  4. Correct handling of birds in a positive and compassionate manner;
  5. Humane culling method;
  6. Litter management, signs of poor litter and remedial action;
  7. Operation of equipment, routine maintenance, recognition of common signs of malfunction and action to be carried out in the event of failure;
  8. General hygiene, basic Health and Safety requirements including COSHH;
  9. Recognition of the signs of thermal stress in birds and the procedures to be followed in the event of a problem;
  10. Where necessary, training in the administration of medicinal products.

### **Husbandry Procedures**

- 3.2 ▲ Birds must be handled in a compassionate and positive manner.
- 3.3 ▲ Beak trimming should be kept to a minimum and if required may only be carried out in-line with FAWC recommendations. Written veterinary approval must be obtained. The procedure must be carried out by trained operatives
- 3.4 ▲ Flock inspection must be carried out at least twice daily. Records of inspection must be retained and include observations. Stockmen must walk within 3m of every bird and encourage them to move to identify sick or injured birds. Where a problem is identified this must be recorded along with the remedial action taken. If the stockman fails to rectify the problem relevant expert advice must be sought and acted upon (i.e. health advice from the responsible veterinary surgeon, electricity faults by a professional electrician, equipment failure by service engineers).

### **Managers' Responsibilities**

- 3.5 ▲ Managers must ensure that staff have access to, and receive guidance on, all the relevant regulations, guides and codes listed in Appendix A, including this Standard.
- 3.6 ▲ Managers must ensure that staff responsible for birds have completed training on all points in Section 3.1, (1-10). Managers must ensure that a suitable programme of training exists for all such staff including induction and refresher courses. Training must be given by a recognised training provider to NVQ/SVQ level or formal in-house training programme. A record of training for all staff, detailing courses attended and training received must be retained. All training must be regularly reviewed and updated. Staff competency must be assessed regularly and these assessments kept on record.

## 4. FEED AND WATER

### Water

- 4.1 ▲ Birds must have access to an adequate supply of clean and fresh drinking water, to be available up to depopulation.
- 4.2 ▲ Water equipment must be supplied in the following quantities:
- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| Bells            | 1 bell per 100 birds  |
| Nipples and cups | 1 nipple/cup per 10 to 20 birds depending on manufacturer's recommendations, water pressure and flow rate |
|                  | 1 large cup per 40 birds  |
- 4.3 ▲ Drinker height must be checked daily.
- 4.4 ▲ Each house must have a water meter connected and consumption rate recorded daily.
- 4.4.1. △ Water system should be alarmed.
- 4.5 ▲ Header tanks must be covered and hygienically managed.
- 4.6 ▲ Non-mains water must be tested every 6 months and recorded to ensure potable quality.

### Feed

- 4.7 ▲ Birds must be provided with easy access to sufficient feed capable of satisfying their dietary requirements and to maintain good health.
- 4.8 ▲ Feed space allowances are as follows:
1. 10cm per side per breeding female of trough space
  2. 7cm circumference per bird on pan feeders
  3. Floor feeding acceptable
- 4.9 ▲ Hens must not have to travel more than 4m to reach feed.
- 4.10 ▲ In breeder flocks female feeders may be fitted with male excluders with separate male feeders provided. Males must have sufficient food to maintain body weight within the profile recommended by the breeding company.
- 4.11 ▲ Feed delivery systems must be free of sharp edges and parts capable of injury, and must be easily adjustable to provide a comfortable feeding level. The system must be checked daily for correct performance.
- 4.12 ▲ Feed bins must be numbered or identifiable.
- 4.13 ▲ Companies must demonstrate the following:
- Feedstuffs do not contain Meat and Bone Meal or Poultry By-Products Meal.
  - Feedstuffs do not contain tallow.
  - Feedstuffs do not contain antibiotic growth promoters.
- Compound feed must be sourced from companies who are a certificated merchant or feedingstuff manufacturer in the AIC Universal Feed Assurance Schemes (UFAS) or an approved alternative. (Further details can be obtained from the AIC website [www.agindustries.org.uk/assurance](http://www.agindustries.org.uk/assurance))

Delivery tickets are to be retained for each flock for at least one year.

Samples of each delivery of feed are retained for 3 months.

- 4.14 ▲ The farm must have a declaration from the feed supplier confirming that the feed has been heat-treated or acid treated.

## 5. ENVIRONMENT

### General

- 5.1 ▲ Exterior areas around buildings and entranceways must be kept clear of debris and non-essential equipment. Vegetation must be kept short and well managed.
- 5.1.1 △ The main access area to all sites must be laid out in clean concrete, metalled surface or rolled stone including an area large enough for a collection vehicle or feed lorry to stand
- 5.2 ▲ Baits, disinfectants and other controlled chemicals must be stored in a secure area and in-line with COSHH recommendations.

### Construction and maintenance

- 5.3 ▲ Buildings must provide a safe, hygienic, comfortable environment for birds.
- 5.3.1 ▲ All electrical installations must be properly earthed and tested every 5 years by a competent person
- 5.4 ▲ All surfaces within the poultry house must be in good condition, durable and cleanable.
- 5.5 ▲ Floors must be made up of concrete or asphalt, and be well drained, safe and hygienically managed. The floor surface must be above the outside ground level. Chalk and earth floors are not permitted.
- 5.6 ▲ Houses must be insulated.
- 5.7 ▲ Buildings must be constructed and maintained to prevent sharp edges and projections likely to cause injury or distress to birds.

### Lighting

- 5.8 ▲ Lighting levels must allow all birds to be clearly seen during inspection.

A minimum of 8 hours of natural or artificial light must be provided in a 24-hour period at a minimum of 20 lux.

Lighting patterns must be recorded.

If aggression occurs the lighting must be adjusted for a few days. If after 14 days the situation has not improved, veterinary advice should be sought.

### Temperature, Ventilation and Air Quality

- 5.9 ▲ Temperature must be carefully monitored and controlled. Minimum and maximum temperatures inside the house at bird level must be recorded daily.

5.9.1  $\Delta$  Humidity should be carefully monitored and recorded on a daily basis

5.10  $\blacktriangle$  All houses must have a controlled environment, which ensures an ambient house temperature and humidity suited to the birds' physiological needs. Each site must have a written policy for the recognition of, and procedures to be followed, in the event of heat or cold stress.

5.11  $\blacktriangle$  A documented minimum ventilation plan must be in place.

5.12  $\blacktriangle$  An alarm system capable of alerting stockmen to ventilation equipment failure at any time must be operational. The alarm system must respond to high and low temperatures and to failures in each phase of the mains electricity. All electrical phases must be monitored. Alarm systems must be checked daily and a record kept of checks. Malfunctions must be recorded and fixed immediately. Ventilation system alarms must work without mains power supply.

5.13  $\blacktriangle$  Generators must be tested weekly on load.

5.14  $\blacktriangle$  Automatic equipment must be inspected at least once each day. Where a defect is found, either the defect must be rectified immediately or measures must be taken to safeguard the birds from unnecessary suffering or distress. Records of checks, malfunctions and actions taken to rectify must be recorded.

5.15  $\blacktriangle$  Units must have access to weather forecasts to allow for planning for extremes in temperature.

#### **Litter**

5.16  $\blacktriangle$  All flocks must be provided with clean fresh litter to a minimum depth of 2cm. Litterite and similar products can be used which will expand to a minimum depth of 2cm.

5.17  $\blacktriangle$  Litter must remain in dry, friable condition. Wet capped litter must be managed.

5.18  $\blacktriangle$  Litter stored in the open must be on pallets and at all times covered with water/bird/vermin-proof protection. Damaged bales must not be stored.

5.19  $\blacktriangle$  Old litter must be removed from the site promptly and disposed of appropriately. Records of disposal must be retained. Litter must be covered during transport on public highways.

#### **Stocking Density**

5.20  $\blacktriangle$  All birds must have sufficient space to walk, turn, sit, preen, flap/stretch their wings and dustbathe.

5.21  $\blacktriangle$  Houses must be plated with the following information

1. Total floor space available to the birds;
2. Number of feeders and drinkers
3. Feed bin capacity.

5.22  $\blacktriangle$  Stocking density must not exceed 25 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

## **6. BREEDER LAYER FLOCK PROVISIONS**

6.1  $\blacktriangle$  Moulting must not be induced.

## Egg collection

- 6.2  Eggs should be collected using an automated nest box system
- 6.3  Egg collection staff must sanitise their hands prior to handling eggs and between handling floor eggs and nest eggs.
- 6.4  All eggs found to be cracked, defective or dirty must be identified and rejected these must be separated from clean eggs. Floor eggs and dirty nest eggs must be placed in separate trays and labelled.
- 6.5  Eggs must be collected at the following minimum frequencies:
- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| Rollaway systems | Once per day     |
| Other systems    | 2 times per day  |
| Floor eggs       | 3 times per day. |
- 6.6  All eggs selected for hatching must be placed in clean, dry trays and placed into suitable storage rooms as soon as possible. Storage room temperature must not exceed 21°C.
- 6.7  Hatching eggs are to be marked with a black mark using an indelible pen.
- 6.8  Each trolley is to be marked with the breeder farm and the date laid.
- 6.9  Egg collection records must include the following details:
1. Quantities recovered
  2. Quantity of floor eggs
  3. Reject egg count.

## 7. RECORDS

- 7.1  All records must be presented in an ordered and up-to-date fashion, including those relating to the previous crop.
- 7.2  Flock performance records must be monitored for signs of problems. Tolerance limits must be set and once exceeded the veterinary surgeon must be informed and advice sought.
- 7.3  A record must be maintained for each flock detailing routine checks, monitoring, inspection, delivery, problems and extraordinary events. The following where relevant must be recorded in this way:
1. Flock inspections (observations and actions taken);
  2. Mortality and cull records;
  3. Daily automatic system checks;
  4. Alarm checks;
  5. Fire extinguisher checks (due date and completion);
  6. Medicine and vaccine administration records;
  7. Temperature records;
  8. Veterinary advice;
  9. *Salmonella* tests;
  10. Weekly generator tests;
  11. Non-mains water tests
  12. Feed deliveries (dates, quantities, types);
  13. Lighting regimes.

- 7.4 ▲ Specific information on each flock must be supplied in the Production Report. This Record must begin from the day that the flock arrives at the farm. It must include the following information:
1. Number of birds delivered;
  2. Date delivered;
  3. Origin of flock (hatchery, breeder flock);
  4. Mortality on a daily basis;
  5. Culls on a daily basis and reasons;
  6. Water consumption on a daily basis;
  7. House temperatures on a daily maximum and minimum basis;
  8. Date, quantity and type of feed delivered;
  9. Date of sale, number sold and average weight;
  10. Incidence of disease and post mortem records;
  11. Administration of medicines and vaccines (dates administered, withdrawal periods, amount administered, mode of administration, administrator.)
- 7.5 ▲ Details of the ACP registration number must be included on all despatch notes
- 7.6 ▲ A register of complaints needs to be maintained and kept available for inspection. The register needs to record:
1. Where any participant has received a complaint as a result of their production process/product not being in compliance with the ACP Standards.
  2. Action taken.

## 8. DEPOPULATION

- 8.1 ▲ Deleted
- 8.2 ▲ Light levels must be kept low during depopulation.
- 8.3 ▲ Deleted
- 8.4 ▲ The manager or stockmen responsible for the birds must be present at depopulation, and shall ensure the flock is fit to travel.
- 8.5 ▲ A level well-drained loading area must be available for the loading and unloading of birds and must be clean, tidy and hygienically managed.
- 8.6 ▲ Deleted
- 8.7 ▲ Injured or sick birds must not be transported but humanely culled immediately.
- 8.8 ▲ Deleted
- 8.9 ▲ Deleted
- 8.10 ▲ Deleted
- 8.11 ▲ Deleted
- 8.12 ▲ Normal feeding programs must not be altered by more than 12 hours.
- 8.13 △ Deleted

## STANDARDS FOR HATCHERY

### POPULATION OF SITE (S)

All eggs must be sourced from units certified to the relevant ACP standards

### HATCHERY STANDARDS

#### General

- 1.1 ▲ A hatchery site plan must be drawn up and kept readily available. It must contain the following information:
1. Key areas and access points.
  2. Location of first aid kits and fire extinguisher.
  3. Water sources available, sufficient for fire fighting purposes.
- 1.2 ▲ An emergency action plan must be sited in a prominent position near a telephone point. This plan must outline procedures to be followed in the case of emergencies including fire, power failure and equipment failure. There must also be written instruction for immediate location by the fire brigade, a grid reference number and post code. Important telephone numbers must be listed to include equipment service engineers, retained veterinary surgeon and contacts for emergency procedures. All sites must have telephone access. Staff must be aware of the water sources available for the purposes of fire fighting.
- 1.3 ▲ All sites must have properly equipped first aid kits.
- 1.4 ▲ Fire prevention precautions must include the following measures:
1. Minimise the threat of arson by restricting access and securing buildings;
  2. Control of smoking to designated areas only;
  3. Routine machinery maintenance;
  4. Safe use and storage of flammable/combustible materials;
  5. Escape routes and passages kept free of stored materials and equipment at all times.
- 1.5 ▲ All hatcheries must retain the services of an experienced poultry veterinary surgeon. Evidence to show that the veterinary surgeon provides regular advice on the health, hygiene and welfare of chicks must be available.
- 1.6 ▲ Only essential visitors may be granted access to the site. A record of all visitors must be maintained. This must include date, time of arrival, name and organisation. Visitors must certify that they are not suffering with any enteric illness and must declare recent visits to poultry sites. Management must refuse entry if the hygiene, health and welfare of the chicks could be compromised. Visitors must be supplied with protective clothing which must be retained on-site after use.
- 1.7 ▲ Foot dips must be provided at personnel access points to the hatchery. DEFRA approved disinfectants must be used in accordance with manufacturers recommendations. Solutions must be replaced on a prescribed basis and recorded. Footwear must be dipped by all personnel and visitors before entrance into the

hatchery and after leaving the building. Barrier footwear systems are an acceptable alternative to foot dips.

- 1.8 ▲ Hand-washing facilities and toilets must be available and must consist of a basin with hot water, bactericidal soap, disposable towels and/or hand driers. All personnel and visitors must wash and sanitise hands prior to entering “clean” areas or starting work routines. Hands must also be washed after dead chick handling, before and after meals and after visits to the toilet.
- 1.9 ▲ All surfaces within the hatchery must be in good condition, durable and cleanable.
- 1.10 ▲ Floors must be in good condition and hygienically managed.
- 1.11 ▲ Site-dedicated protective clothing must be supplied for all personnel. Protective clothing must be changed when moving from “dirty” to “clean” areas.
- 1.12 ▲ Pets or other animals must not be allowed access to the hatchery.
- 1.13 ▲ Auxiliary buildings, toilets, offices, stores and break rooms must be kept clean and tidy.
- 1.14 ▲ Smoking must not be permitted in any building containing chicks or eggs but restricted to designated areas.
- 1.15 ▲ Hatcheries must have a pest control programme in place detailing types of pesticide administered and replenishment dates. Bait points must be monitored and recorded in accordance with a written and numbered bait plan. All bait boxes must be tamper proof.
- 1.16 ▲ Drains in production areas must be accessible and cleanable.
- 1.17 ▲ Hatcheries must have an emergency water supply capable of providing water at maximum demand for 24 hours.
- 1.18 ▲ An alternative power supply capable of supplying all essential electrical systems within the hatchery must be available. Where a malfunction is found this must be rectified immediately. Generators and alarms must be tested and recorded weekly on load.
- 1.19 ▲ Exterior areas around buildings and entranceways must be kept clear of debris and non-essential equipment. Vegetation must be kept short and well-managed.
- 1.20 ▲ Baits, disinfectants and other controlled chemicals must be stored in a secure area in line with COSHH regulations.
- 1.21 ▲ All hatcheries must have a written Environmental Policy covering:
  1. Waste
  2. Emissions
  3. Utilities
- 1.22 ▲ All sites must have a written Waste Management Plan and if pesticides are used, this should include correct procedures for disposal of empty containers.
- 1.23 ▲ Participants should be aware of the standards within the DEFRA Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil, Air and Water.
- 1.24 ▲ Potential pollutants including litter, fertiliser, fuels and oils must be stored where there is no risk of run-off polluting water courses.

## Personnel

- 2.1 ▲ The hatchery must appoint the following personnel:
1. Health and safety officer
  2. Site first aider
  3. An experienced poultry vet
  4. A chick welfare officer
- 2.2 △ All personnel must not keep or have contact with poultry or any other avian species.
- 2.3 ▲ Hatchery operatives must receive formal, documented relevant training in welfare, hygiene and work tasks.
- 2.4 ▲ Drivers must receive documented relevant training in welfare. Where an untrained driver is used to deliver chicks a competent welfare trained operative must accompany the consignment.
- 2.5 ▲ Hatchery managers and supervisory staff must have formal, documented, relevant training in welfare, hygiene and work tasks.
- 2.6 ▲ Managers must ensure that staff have access to, and receive guidance on, all the relevant regulations, guides and codes listed in Appendix A, including this Standard.

## Medicines and vaccines

- 3.1 ▲ All medicines and vaccines must be stored in a secure (locked) store and in accordance with any recommendations on the label (e.g. correct temperature and stored up to date of expiry). Only staff trained to administer such products shall have access to them.
- 3.2 ▲ A Health Plan including vaccination programmes must be drawn up tailored to the needs of recipient farms and must be developed in consultation with the responsible veterinary surgeon.
- 3.3 ▲ Medicines and vaccines must be used in accordance with UK legislation. Medicines and vaccines kept on site must be licensed for use in the UK.
- 3.4 ▲ The use of medicines and vaccines must be recorded. Treated chicks must be accompanied at dispatch by records to demonstrate which vaccines/medicines have been administered. Medicine/vaccine purchase records must contain the following information: type of drug, batch number, quantity purchased and date and supplier of medicine/vaccine. Medicine/vaccine usage records must contain the following: date treated, quantity administered, identification of birds treated, reason for treatment, type of medicine/vaccine, mode of administration and name of administrator. The medicine/vaccine records must be regularly checked and signed by the attending veterinary surgeon.
- 3.5 ▲ Each unit must compile an approved drugs (medicines and vaccines) list in agreement with the attending veterinary surgeon. This list must specify storage, administration and withdrawal period instructions for each drug and make reference to the correct dosage, duration and circumstances of use.

## Procedures

- 4.1 ▲ All eggs must be sourced from approved units accredited to these Standards. Hatcheries must be able to demonstrate that all supplying flocks are *S. enteritidis* and *S. typhimurium* free. Eggs from flocks infected with *S. enteritidis* or *S. typhimurium* must not be admitted to the hatchery.
- 4.2 ▲ Hatcheries must be monitored for *Salmonella* in accordance with the Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries Order 1993. Egg supplies must cease immediately if either *S. enteritidis* or *S. typhimurium* is positively confirmed in a flock. All unhatched eggs must be recovered, destroyed and dealt with in compliance with Poultry Breeding Flocks and Hatcheries Order 1993. Records must be kept of all *Salmonella* tests for hatcheries and must be carried out by a Government-approved laboratory.
- 4.3 ▲ All incoming eggs must be from breeder flocks certified MG free and MS status known.
- 4.4 ▲ Each site must develop and implement a written cleaning and disinfection policy. This policy must be strictly adhered to and must contain as a minimum the following:
  1. Cleaning and sanitation procedures for surfaces and equipment;
  2. Handling of hatchery waste;
  3. Details of disinfectants (DEFRA approved only) and detergents used, including safe usage, storage and dilutions.
- 4.5 ▲ Alarms must be responded to within 15 minutes. Where an alarm is triggered the time, date and response must be recorded. Incubation equipment must be alarmed for high and low temperatures and mains failure.
- 4.6 ▲ One way product flow must be maintained from egg receipt to chick dispatch.
- 4.7 ▲ Incoming air must be filtered. A positive air flow from eggs to chicks must be maintained.
- 4.8 ▲ Differentiation must be maintained between “clean” and “dirty” areas. Staff must be aware of these requirements and be provided with dedicated protective clothing and footwear. Equipment must be segregated between “clean” and “dirty” areas.
- 4.9 ▲ All eggs must be fumigated or sanitised prior to setting. Fumigation and sanitising parameters must be recorded for each batch.
- 4.10 ▲ Incubation hatcher and setter equipment must be easy to clean, in good working order and sealed to the floor.
- 4.11 ▲ Hatcheries must have a dedicated egg store and a designated setter room.
- 4.12 ▲ Eggs must be stored in an environmentally controlled (temperature and humidity) store-room.
- 4.13 ▲ Environmental swabs for TVC's must be carried out weekly and records maintained.

## Chick Welfare

- 5.1 ▲ Chicks must be handled in a compassionate and positive manner and a documented welfare assessment must be carried out
- 5.2 ▲ Hatchery tray waste and unviable chicks to be identified and culled by trained staff in accordance with a documented method approved by the Humane Slaughter Association, at no more than 15 minute intervals.

- 5.3 ▲ Automation and conveyors must not cause injury to chicks
- 5.4 ▲ Chicks must be loaded into clean chick boxes. Chick boxes must be cleaned, dried and sanitised after every delivery.
- 5.5 ▲ Stocking density in chick boxes must be a minimum of 21 cm<sup>2</sup> per chick.
- 5.6 ▲ Chick holding areas must be temperature controlled and monitored. Facilities to reduce light must be available.

### **Records and Identification**

- 6.1 ▲ All records must be presented in an ordered and up-to-date fashion.
- 6.2 ▲ Hatching eggs must be identifiable at all times for:
  - 1. Farm of origin
  - 2. Date of lay
  - 3. Floor eggs and dirty nest eggs to be labelled and stored separately.
- 6.3 ▲ A record must be maintained detailing routine checks, monitoring, inspection, delivery, problems and extraordinary events. The following, where applicable, must be recorded in this way:
  - 1. Injury and cull records (each hatching day);
  - 2. Daily automatic system checks;
  - 3. Alarm tests (weekly);
  - 4. Alternative power supply test (weekly);
  - 5. Fire extinguisher tests (due date);
  - 6. Medicine and vaccine administration records (each hatch day);
  - 7. Veterinary advice (as required);
  - 8. Salmonella tests (environmental swabs weekly, chicks fortnightly)
- 6.4 ▲ Hatcheries must retain the following production records for each consignment of eggs:
  - 1. Farm of origin
  - 2. Date of lay
  - 3. Date of collection and vehicle identity
  - 4. Setting date
  - 5. Setter number
  - 6. Transfer date
  - 7. Hatchery number
  - 8. Chick and cull numbers (hatchability)
  - 9. Transport records
  - 10. Placement details
- 6.5 ▲ Details of the ACP registration number must be included on all despatch notes:
- 6.6 ▲ A register of complaints needs to be maintained and kept available for inspection. The register needs to record:
  - 1. Where any participant has received a complaint as a result of their production process/product not being in compliance with the ACP Standards.
  - 2. Action taken.

## **Dispatch**

- 7.1 ▲ Eggs must be collected and chicks must be delivered in purpose built vehicles, fitted with fans, heating system, temperature recording system and an 'in-cab' read-out. The vehicle must be equipped with a load-locking system, a tail-lift and is easily cleaned. Vehicles carrying chicks must have a means of communication in case of emergency.
- 7.2 ▲ Vehicles must be cleaned and sanitised according to a written programme. Vehicles must be cleaned between loads and the exterior cleaned daily.
- 7.3 ▲ Loading areas must be level, well-drained and hygienically managed

## STANDARDS FOR FARMS PRODUCING BROILER CHICKENS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

### POPULATION OF SITE (S)

All stock must be sourced from units certified to the relevant ACP standards

### 1. FARM SITE PLAN AND EMERGENCY PLAN

1.1 ▲ A unit site plan must be drawn up and kept readily available. It must contain the following information:

1. Position and sizes of all poultry houses and access points;
2. All auxiliary poultry buildings and their purpose;
3. Location of fire extinguishers and first aid kits;
4. Water sources available, sufficient for fire-fighting purposes;
5. Position of pest control baiting points

1.2 ▲ An emergency action plan must be sited in a prominent position near a telephone point. This plan must outline procedures to be followed in the case of emergencies including fire, flood, power failure, equipment failure or the interruption of supplies. There must also be written instruction for immediate location by the fire brigade, a grid reference number and post code. Important telephone numbers must be listed to include equipment service engineers, retained veterinary surgeon and contacts for emergency procedures. All sites must have telephone access.

Staff must be aware of the water sources available for the purposes of fire fighting.

Provision must be made to ensure an emergency supply of drinking water and feed to the birds in case normal supply fails. Evidence of this provision will be required on each unit and all stockpersons must be aware of the procedure. The emergency water supply must be capable of providing water for 24 hours at full demand.

1.3 ▲ An alternative power supply capable of supplying all essential electrical systems within the poultry house(s) must be available. Where a malfunction is found this must be rectified immediately.

1.4 ▲ Fire prevention precautions must include the following measures:

1. Restrict access and secure buildings;
2. Control of smoking to designated areas only;
3. Routine machinery maintenance;
4. Safe use and storage of flammable/combustible materials;
5. Escape routes and passages kept free of stored materials and equipment at all times;
6. Every building exceeding 30m in length must have two doors and must comply with relevant Building Regulations, particularly with regard to fire escape exits.
7. Notices displayed in all main houses of the nearest telephone point.

1.5 ▲ Deleted

- 1.6 ▲ All sites must have a written Farm Waste Management Plan and if pesticides are used, this should include correct procedures for disposal of empty containers.
- 1.7 ▲ Participants should be aware of the standards within the DEFRA Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil, Air and Water.
- 1.8 ▲ Potential pollutants including litter, fertiliser, fuels and oils must be stored where there is no risk of run-off polluting water courses.

## 2. HEALTH AND HYGIENE

### General Requirements

- 2.1 ▲ All units must retain the services of an experienced poultry veterinary surgeon. Evidence to show that the veterinary surgeon provides regular advice on the health, hygiene and welfare of the birds must be available.
- 2.2 ▲ Each site must have a written health and welfare programme tailor-made to the needs of the unit, and must contain a strategy for the prevention and control of common diseases. As a minimum the programme must be annually reviewed, signed and dated. The programme must set out health and husbandry procedures covering the whole of the production cycle.

### Bird Health

- 2.3 ▲ Ill, injured or dead birds must be removed as soon as they are detected. Ill or injured birds must be segregated, treated promptly or if necessary humanely culled. Overtly lame birds and birds finding it difficult to reach feed and water must be treated or humanely culled as soon as detected. When necessary birds must be humanely culled by a trained, competent stockman. Mortality and culls must be recorded in the daily record.

Where system-induced injuries occur prompt action must be taken to find the cause and remedial action taken. If the cause is an environmental factor this must be remedied before the next flock is placed.

If mortality exceeds 0.3% in a 24-hour period an investigation to find the cause must be carried out. Remedial action must be taken to prevent a recurrence. If the cause remains unknown the advice of the responsible veterinary surgeon must be sought. The problem, action and outcome must be recorded in all such incidents.

All culls due to leg problems must be recorded and assessed. Where a trend develops the advice of the veterinary surgeon must be sought.

- 2.4 ▲ Humane culling must be carried out by a trained stockman by dislocation of the neck, percussion killer approved by HSA or by a licensed method.
- 2.5 ▲ Dead birds must be held in locked vermin-proof containers until appropriate disposal, either off or on-site in line with the Animal By-Products Regulations, can be effected without undue delay.

### Biosecurity

- 2.6 ▲ Only essential visitors may be granted access to the site. A record of all visitors must be maintained. This must include date, time of arrival, name and organisation. Visitors must certify that they are not suffering with any enteric illness and must declare recent visits to poultry sites. Management must refuse entry if the health and welfare of the birds could be compromised.

- 2.7 ▲ Barrier footwear systems with dedicated footwear or foot dips must be provided at personnel access points to each bird area as well as at the entrances to poultry houses, equipment and litter stores.. DEFRA approved disinfectants must be used and in accordance with manufacturers recommendations. Solutions must be replaced on a prescribed basis and recorded. Footwear must be dipped by all personnel and visitors before entrance into a building and after leaving the building.
- 2.8 ▲ Hand-washing facilities and toilets must be available on-site and must consist of a basin with hot water, bactericidal soap and disposable towels. All personnel and visitors must have the provision to wash or sanitise hands prior to entering poultry houses and after leaving poultry houses. Hands must also be washed after dead bird handling, before and after meals and after visits to the toilet.
- 2.9 ▲ Site-dedicated protective clothing must be supplied for all personnel. All clothing must be washed or discarded between flocks. Visitors must be supplied by the site with protective clothing which must be retained on-site after use.
- 2.10 ▲ All units must operate a period free of all livestock between flock cycles.
- 2.11 ▲ Farm vehicles must be maintained in a clean condition. Provision must be made for vehicles entering or leaving the site to be cleansed and disinfected (including wheels).
- 2.12 △ All personnel must not keep or have contact with other poultry or any other avian species.
- 2.13 ▲ Pets and other animals, including livestock, must be kept away from poultry houses and service buildings. Pets and other animals, including livestock and wild and game birds, must not be allowed access to poultry houses and service buildings.
- 2.14 ▲ Pest control must be carried out by a licensed contractor or a properly trained operative with knowledge of pesticides and their placement. Poultry must not have access to pesticides. Pesticides must not be accessible to wild birds and bait boxes must be tamper proof. An accurate location plan of all bait points must be drawn up and numbered, along with a written pesticide programme detailing types of pesticide administered, replenishment dates and visual inspections of bait points. Pest control must make provision for the control of rodents, flies and parasites.
- 2.15 ▲ Auxiliary buildings, toilets, offices, stores and break rooms must be kept clean and tidy.
- 2.16 ▲ Smoking must not be permitted in any building containing birds but restricted to designated areas.

### **Medicines & Vaccines**

- 2.17 ▲ Medicines must be administered according to the recommendations made by RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance) for the Responsible Use of Anti-Microbials in Poultry Production.
- 2.18 ▲ The use of medicines and vaccines must be recorded. Treated birds must be identified. Medicine/vaccine purchase records must contain the following information: type, batch number, quantity purchased and withdrawal period of medicine/vaccine.

Medicine/vaccine usage records must contain the following: date treated, quantity administered, identification of birds treated, withdrawal period, date of safe slaughter, reason for treatment, type of medicine/vaccine, mode of administration (e.g. in-water, in-feed) and name of administrator.

- 2.19 ▲ All medicines and vaccines must be stored in a secure (locked) store and in accordance with any recommendations on the label (e.g. correct temperature and stored up to date of expiry). Only staff trained to administer medicinal products shall have access to them.
- 2.20 ▲ Deleted
- 2.21 ▲ Withdrawal periods must be strictly adhered to and birds must not be consigned to human consumption before the date of safe slaughter.
- 2.22 ▲ Medicines and vaccines must be used in accordance with UK legislation.
- 2.23 ▲ Prescription Only Medicines (POM) must only be initiated with the formal approval of the responsible veterinary surgeon via a prescription, verbal direction or an approved treatment programme or protocol (in the case of in-feed medication this will be in the form of a Medicated Feedingstuff Prescription).

All Prescription Only Medicines and vaccines must be used in strict accordance with written instruction that must be provided by the responsible veterinary surgeon. The use of antibiotics must be regularly reviewed and treatment records must be monitored with particular emphasis on outcomes of treatment, including failure to respond.

Each Company must compile an approved drugs (medicines and vaccines) list in agreement with the responsible veterinary surgeon. This list must specify storage, administration and withdrawal period instructions for each drug and make reference to the correct dosage, duration and circumstances of use for each farm.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- 2.24 ▲ Each Company and/or site must develop and implement a written cleaning and disinfection policy. This policy must be strictly adhered to and must contain as a minimum the following:
1. Cleaning and disinfection procedures;
  2. Handling of waste materials such as litter, packaging, pharmaceutical equipment and packaging, feed spillage's;
  3. Details of disinfectants (DEFRA approved only) and detergents used, including safe usage, storage and dilutions.

Whenever bird accommodation is emptied it must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the policy. Cleaning procedures of house furniture, water tanks and bulk feed bins must be included in the policy. Equipment moved from house to house must be cleaned and disinfected. Feed spills must be cleaned up straight away. Evidence to show that cleaning procedures are effective must be provided. Swabs must be taken for environmental bacteria and cultured in a Government-approved laboratory. Equipment must also be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after operation and before storage.

### **Salmonella Monitoring**

- 2.25 ▲ Chicken flocks must be tested between 21-28 days for *Salmonella*. Tests must be carried out in a Government-authorised laboratory. Confirmed infected flocks must be sent for slaughter at the end of the processing plants daily programme. All results must be retained and available.

Where a flock is confirmed as *Salmonella* infected, a written cleaning and disinfection procedure appropriate must be implemented to ensure eradication of the pathogen once depletion is complete.

### 3. MANAGEMENT AND STOCKMANSHIP

#### Stockman

- 3.1 ▲ Stockmen must be able to demonstrate competence and be trained in the following before being given responsibility for the care of birds:
1. Emergency procedures and water sources available for fire fighting;
  2. Normal and abnormal behaviour of birds, and fear reactions;
  3. Signs of good health and signs of poor health and disease;
  4. Correct handling of birds in a positive and compassionate manner;
  5. Humane culling method;
  6. Litter management, signs of poor litter and remedial action;
  7. Operation of equipment, routine maintenance, recognition of common signs of malfunction and action to be carried out in the event of failure;
  8. General hygiene, basic Health and Safety requirements including COSHH;
  9. Recognition of the signs of thermal stress in birds and the procedures to be followed in the event of a problem;
  10. Where necessary, training in the administration of medicinal products.

#### Husbandry Procedures

- 3.2 ▲ Birds must be handled in a compassionate and positive manner.
- 3.2.1 ▲ No mutilations are permitted (includes beak trimming, castration etc)
- 3.3 ▲ Flock inspection must be carried out at least twice daily. Records of inspection must be retained and include observations. Stockmen must walk within 3m of every bird and encourage them to move to identify sick or injured birds. Where a problem is identified this must be recorded along with the remedial action taken. If the stockman fails to rectify the problem relevant expert advice must be sought and acted upon (i.e. health advice from the responsible veterinary surgeon, electricity faults by a professional electrician, equipment failure by service engineers).

#### Managers' Responsibilities

- 3.4 ▲ Managers must ensure that staff have access to, and receive guidance on, all the relevant regulations, guides and codes listed in Appendix A, including this Standard.
- 3.5 ▲ Managers must ensure that staff responsible for birds have completed training on all points in Section 3.1.1-10. Managers must ensure that a suitable programme of training exists for all such staff including induction and refresher courses. Training must be given by a recognised training provider to NVQ/SVQ level or formal in-house training programme. A record of training for all staff, detailing courses attended and training received must be retained. All training must be regularly reviewed and updated. Staff competency must be assessed regularly and these assessments kept on record.

### 4. FEED AND WATER

#### Water

- 4.1 ▲ Birds must have access to an adequate supply of clean and fresh drinking water, to be available up to depopulation.
- 4.2 △ Water must be supplied through a bell or nipple drinker system
- 4.3 ▲ Water equipment must be supplied in the following quantities:

Bells	1 bell per 150 birds
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Nipples and cups      Depending on manufacturer's recommendations,  
water pressure and flow rate  
1 nipple/ small cup per 10 to 20 birds  
1 large cup per 60 birds

- 4.4 ▲ Birds must have no more than 3m to travel for water.
- 4.5 ▲ Drinker height must be checked daily.
- 4.6 △ Water systems on a site should be alarmed.
- 4.7 ▲ Each house must have a water meter connected and consumption rate recorded daily.
- 4.8 ▲ Header tanks must be covered and hygienically managed.
- 4.9 ▲ Non-mains water must be tested every 6 months and recorded to ensure potable quality.

#### **Feed**

4.10 ▲ Birds must be provided with easy access to sufficient feed capable of satisfying their dietary requirements and to maintain good health.

4.11 ▲ Feed space allowances are as follows:

Broilers pan feeders	1 linear metre per 100 birds
Broilers chain feeders	0.75 linear metre per 100 birds

- 4.12 △ Each shed/air space should have access to 2 feed bins
- 4.13 ▲ Birds must not have to travel more than 4m to reach feed.
- 4.14 ▲ Feed delivery systems must be free of sharp edges and parts capable of injury, and must be easily adjustable to provide a comfortable feeding level. The system must be checked daily for correct performance.
- 4.15 ▲ Feed bins must be numbered or identifiable.
- 4.16 ▲ Companies must demonstrate the following:

Feedstuffs do not contain Meat and Bone Meal or poultry by-products meal.

Feedstuffs must not contain tallow.

Feedstuffs do not contain antibiotic growth promoters.

Compound feed must be sourced from companies who are a certificated merchant or feedingstuff manufacturer in the AIC Universal Feed Assurance Schemes (UFAS), or an approved alternative. (Further details can be obtained from the AIC website [www.agindustries.org.uk/assurance](http://www.agindustries.org.uk/assurance) .

Delivery tickets are to be retained for each flock for at least one year.

Samples of each delivery of feed are retained for 3 months.

4.17 ▲ Add-mix whole grain cereals must be acid treated with a proprietary product or heat-treated.

- 4.18 ▲ There must be a written, implemented procedure relating to the management of feed rations to reduce cross contamination.

## 5. ENVIRONMENT

### General

- 5.1 ▲ Exterior areas around buildings and entranceways must be kept clear of debris and non-essential equipment. Vegetation must be kept short and well managed.
- 5.1.1 ▲ The main access area to all sites must be laid out in clean concrete, metalled surface or rolled stone including an area large enough for a collection vehicle or feed lorry to stand.
- 5.2 ▲ Baits, disinfectants and other controlled chemicals must be stored in a secure area and in-line with COSHH recommendations.

### Construction and Maintenance

- 5.3 ▲ Buildings must provide a safe, hygienic, comfortable environment for birds.
- 5.3.1 ▲ All electrical installations must be properly earthed and tested every 5 years by a competent person
- 5.4 ▲ All surfaces within the poultry house must be in good condition, durable and cleanable.
- 5.5 ▲ Floors must be made up of concrete or asphalt, and be well drained, safe, comfortable and hygienically managed. The floor surface must be above the outside ground level. Chalk and earth floors are not permitted.
- 5.6 ▲ Houses must be insulated.
- 5.7 ▲ Buildings must be constructed and maintained to prevent sharp edges and projections likely to cause injury or distress to birds.

### Lighting

- 5.8 ▲ Lighting levels must allow all birds to be clearly seen during inspection.
1. A minimum of 8 hours of natural or artificial light must be provided in a 24-hour period at a minimum of 10 lux.
  2. A minimum of 4 hours continuous darkness must be provided in any 24-hour period except for birds up to the age of 7 days and 10 days prior to the commencement of depletion, when the minimum continuous darkness must be 1 hour in any 24 hour period.
  3. Lighting patterns must be recorded.

### Temperature, ventilation and Air Quality

- 5.9 ▲ Temperature must be carefully monitored and controlled. Minimum and maximum temperatures inside the house at bird level must be recorded daily.
- 5.9.1 ▲ Humidity should be carefully monitored and recorded on a daily basis



- 5.10 All houses must have a controlled environment, which ensures an ambient house temperature and humidity suited to the birds' physiological needs. Each site must have a written policy for the recognition of, and procedures to be followed, in the event of heat or cold stress.
- 5.11 ▲ A documented minimum ventilation plan must be in place.
- 5.12 ▲ An alarm system capable of alerting stockmen to ventilation equipment failure at any time must be operational. The alarm system must respond to high and low temperatures and to failures in each phase of the mains electricity. All electrical phases must be monitored. Alarm systems must be checked daily and a record kept of checks. Malfunctions must be recorded and fixed immediately. Ventilation system alarms must work without mains power supply.
- 5.13 ▲ Automatic equipment must be inspected at least once each day. Where a defect is found, either the defect must be rectified immediately or measures must be taken to safeguard the birds from unnecessary suffering or distress. Records of checks, malfunctions and actions taken to rectify must be recorded.
- 5.14 ▲ Generators must be tested weekly on load.
- 5.15 ▲ Units must have access to weather forecasts to allow for planning for extremes in temperature.

#### **Litter**

- 5.16 ▲ All flocks must be provided with clean fresh litter to an average depth of 2cm. Litterite and similar products can be used which will expand to a minimum depth of 2 cm.
- 5.17 ▲ Litter must remain in dry, friable condition. Wet capped litter must be managed.
- 5.18 ▲ Signs of hockburn and pododermatitis must be monitored.
- 5.19 ▲ Litter stored in the open must be on pallets and at all times covered with water/bird/vermin-proof protection. Damaged bales must not be used.
- 5.20 ▲ Old litter must be removed from the site promptly and disposed of appropriately. Records of disposal must be retained. Litter must be covered during transport on public highways

#### **Stocking Density**

- 5.21 ▲ All birds must have sufficient space to walk, turn, sit, preen, flap/stretch their wings and dustbathe.
- 5.22 ▲ Houses must be plated with the following information:
1. Total floor space available to the birds;
  2. Number of feeders and drinkers
  3. Feed bin capacity
- 5.23 ▲ This Assurance Scheme does not permit planned stocking regimes which exceed 38kg/m<sup>2</sup>. The onus is on the producer to demonstrate that realistic Key Performance Indicators are being used in the planning process Taking account of climatic conditions the onus is on the producer to demonstrate that Key Welfare Indicators are not compromised if stocking regimes of up to 38kg/m<sup>2</sup> are being employed.

- 5.24 ▲ The monitoring and recording of mortality, culls, hockburn and P.M.I. rejects are essential, and should not normally exceed:

Mortality	5%
P.M.I's	1.5%
Hockburn	15%.

## 6. PROVISIONS FOR CHICKS

- 6.1 ▲ On arrival at the rearing site chicks must be placed into a pre-heated shed as soon as possible and their behaviour closely monitored.
- 6.2 ▲ Deleted
- 6.3 ▲ The acceptable method of humane culling for chicks is neck dislocation.

## 7. RECORDS

- 7.1 ▲ All records must be presented in an ordered and up-to-date fashion, including those relating to the previous crop.
- 7.2 ▲ Flock performance records must be monitored for signs of problems. Tolerance limits must be set and once exceeded the veterinary surgeon must be informed and advice sought.
- 7.3 ▲ A record must be maintained for each flock detailing routine checks, monitoring, inspection, delivery, problems and extraordinary events. The following where relevant must be recorded in this way:
1. Flock inspections (observations and actions taken);
  2. Mortality and cull records;
  3. Daily automatic system checks;
  4. Alarm checks;
  5. Fire extinguisher checks;
  6. Medicine and vaccine administration records;
  7. Temperature records;
  8. Veterinary advice;
  9. *Salmonella* tests;
  10. Non-mains water tests;
  11. Weekly generator tests;
  12. Feed deliveries (dates, quantities, types);
  13. Lighting regimes records.
- 7.4 ▲ Specific information on each flock must be supplied in the Production Report. This Record must begin from the day that the flock arrives at the farm. It must include the following information:
1. Number of day-old chicks delivered;
  2. Date delivered;
  3. Origin of flock (hatchery, breeder flock);
  4. Mortality on a daily basis identifying leg culls
  5. Culls on a daily basis;
  6. Water consumption on a daily basis;
  7. House temperatures on a daily maximum and minimum basis;
  8. Date, quantity and type of feed delivered;
  9. Date of sale, number sold and average weight;
  10. Incidence of disease and post mortem records;

11. Administration of medicines and vaccines (dates administered, withdrawal periods, amount administered, mode of administration, administrator.)
- 7.5 ▲ Details of the ACP registration number must be included on all despatch notes
- 7.6 ▲ A register of complaints needs to be maintained and kept available for inspection. The register needs to record:
1. Where any participant has received a complaint as a result of their production process/product not being in compliance with the ACP Standards.
  2. Action taken.

## 8. DEPOPULATION

- 8.1 ▲ Deleted
- 8.2 ▲ Light levels must be kept low during depopulation. Catching curtains are to be fitted to main access doors to prevent light access to the house during catching.
- 8.3 ▲ Deleted
- 8.4 ▲ The manager or stockmen responsible for the birds must be present at depopulation, and shall ensure the flock is fit to travel.
- 8.5 ▲ A level well-drained loading area must be available for the loading and unloading of birds and chicks for transport to the processing plant and must be clean, tidy and hygienically managed.
- 8.6 ▲ Deleted
- 8.7 ▲ Injured or sick birds must not be transported but humanely culled immediately.
- 8.8 ▲ Deleted
- 8.9 ▲ Deleted
- 8.10 ▲ Deleted
- 8.11 ▲ Deleted
- 8.12 ▲ Feed must not be withdrawn for more than 9 hours prior to catching.
- 8.13 △ Deleted

## STANDARDS FOR FREE RANGE CHICKENS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

There must be adherence to EU Poultrymeat Marketing Standards Commission (EEC) No 2891/93

### POPULATION OF SITE (S)

All stock must be sourced from units certified to the relevant ACP standards

### 1. FARM SITE PLAN AND EMERGENCY PLAN

1.1 ▲ A unit site plan must be drawn up and kept readily available. It must contain the following information:

1. Position and sizes of all poultry houses and access points;
2. All auxiliary poultry bird areas and their purpose;
3. Location of fire extinguishers and first aid kits;
4. Water sources (hydrants) available for fire-fighting purposes;
5. Position of pest control baiting points;
6. Designated Biosecure Area, defined as a shed and associated fenced range.

1.2 ▲ An emergency action plan must be sited in a prominent position near a telephone point. This plan must outline procedures to be followed in the case of emergencies including fire, flood, power failure, equipment failure or the interruption of supplies. There must also be written instruction for immediate location by the fire brigade, a grid reference number and post code. Important telephone numbers must be listed to include equipment service engineers, retained veterinary surgeon and contacts for emergency procedures. All sites must have telephone access.

Staff must be aware of the water sources available for the purposes of fire fighting.

Provision must be made to ensure an emergency supply of drinking water and feed to the birds in case normal supply fails. Evidence of this provision will be required on each unit and all stockpersons must be aware of the procedure. The emergency water supply must be capable of providing water for 24 hours at full demand.

1.3 ▲ An alternative system capable of supplying all essential needs within the poultry house(s) must be available. Where a malfunction is found this must be rectified immediately.

1.4 ▲ Fire prevention precautions must include the following measures:

1. Restrict access and secure bird areas;
2. Control of smoking to designated areas only;
3. Routine machinery maintenance;
4. Safe use and storage of flammable/combustible materials;
5. Escape routes and passages kept free of stored materials and equipment at all times;
6. Every building exceeding 30m in length must have two doors and must comply with relevant Building Regulations particularly with regard to fire escape exits.
7. Notices displayed in all main houses of the nearest telephone point.

1.5 ▲ Deleted.

1.6 △ All sites must have a written Farm Waste Management Plan and if pesticides are used, this should include correct procedures for disposal of empty containers.

- 1.7 ▲ Participants should be aware of the standards within the DEFRA Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil, Air and Water.
- 1.8 ▲ Potential pollutants including litter, fertiliser, fuels and oils must be stored where there is no risk of run-off polluting water courses.

## 2. HEALTH AND HYGIENE

### General requirements

- 2.1 ▲ All units must retain the services of an experienced poultry veterinary surgeon. Evidence to show that the veterinary surgeon provides regular advice on the health, hygiene and welfare of the birds must be available.
- 2.2 ▲ Each site must have a written health and welfare programme tailor-made to the needs of the unit, and must contain a strategy for the prevention and control of common diseases. As a minimum the programme must be annually reviewed and updated. The programme must set out health and husbandry procedures covering the whole of the production cycle.

### Bird health

- 2.3 ▲ Ill, injured or dead birds must be removed as soon as they are detected. Ill or injured birds must be segregated, treated promptly or if necessary humanely culled. Overtly lame birds and birds finding it difficult to reach feed and water must be treated or humanely culled as soon as detected. When necessary birds must be humanely culled by a trained, competent stockman. Mortality and culls must be recorded in the daily record as well as reasons for both.

Where system-induced injuries occur prompt action must be taken to find the cause and remedial action taken. If the cause is an environmental factor this must be remedied before the next flock is placed.

If mortality exceeds 0.3% in a 24-hour period an investigation to find the cause must be carried out. Remedial action must be taken to prevent a recurrence. If the cause remains unknown the advice of the responsible veterinary surgeon must be sought. The problem, action and outcome must be recorded in all such incidents.

All culls due to leg problems must be recorded and assessed. Where a trend develops the advice of the veterinary surgeon must be sought.

- 2.4 ▲ Humane culling must be carried out by a trained stockman by dislocation of the neck, percussion killer approved by HSA or by a licensed method.
- 2.5 ▲ Dead birds must be held in locked vermin-proof containers until appropriate disposal, either off or on-site in line with the Animal By-Products Regulations, can be effected without undue delay.

### Biosecurity

- 2.6 ▲ Only essential visitors may be granted access to the site. A record of all visitors must be maintained. This must include date, time of arrival, name and organisation. Visitors must certify that they are not suffering with any enteric illness and must declare recent visits to poultry sites. Management must refuse entry if the health and welfare of the birds could be compromised.
- 2.7 ▲ Barrier footwear systems with dedicated footwear or foot dips must be provided at personnel access points to each bird area as well as at the entrances to poultry

houses, equipment and litter stores. . DEFRA approved disinfectants must be used and in accordance with manufacturers recommendations. Solutions must be replaced on a prescribed basis and recorded. Footwear must be dipped by all personnel and visitors before entrance into a bird area and after leaving the bird area.

- 2.8 ▲ Hand-washing facilities and toilets must be available on-site and must consist of a basin with hot water, bactericidal soap and disposable towels. All personnel and visitors must have the provision to wash or sanitise hands prior to entering the site and after leaving the site. Hands must also be washed after dead bird handling, before and after meals and after visits to the toilet.
- 2.9 ▲ Site-dedicated protective clothing must be supplied by the site for all personnel. All clothing must be washed or discarded between flocks. Visitors must be supplied with protective clothing which must be retained on-site after use.
- 2.10 ▲ All units within a clearly defined biosecure area must operate a period free of all livestock between flock cycles. Multi age sites are permissible provided there is a break period free from stock for each of the defined biosecure areas. Ideally there should be a complete clear out of the farm containing multi age groups.
- 2.11 ▲ Farm vehicles must be maintained in a clean condition. Provision must be made for vehicles entering or leaving the site to be cleansed and disinfected (including wheels)
- 2.12 △ All personnel must not keep or have contact with other live poultry or any other avian species.
- 2.13 ▲ Pets and other animals, including livestock, must be kept away from poultry houses and service buildings. Pets and other animals, including livestock and wild and game birds, must not be allowed access to poultry houses and service buildings.
- 2.14 ▲ Pest control must be carried out by a licensed contractor or a properly trained operative with knowledge of pesticides and their placement. Poultry must not have access to pesticides. Pesticides must not be accessible to wild birds and bait boxes must be tamper proof. An accurate location plan of all bait points must be drawn up and numbered, along with a written pesticide programme detailing types of pesticide administered, replenishment dates and visual inspections of bait points. Pest control must make provision for the control of rodents, flies and parasites.
- 2.15 ▲ Auxiliary buildings, toilets, offices, stores and break rooms must be kept clean and tidy.
- 2.16 ▲ Smoking must not be permitted in any biosecure area containing birds but restricted to designated areas.

### **Medicines and Vaccines**

- 2.17 ▲ Medicines must be administered according to the recommendations made by RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance) for the Responsible Use of Anti-Microbials in Poultry Production.
- 2.18 ▲ Medicine/vaccine usage records must contain the following: date treated, quantity administered, identification of birds treated, withdrawal period, date of safe slaughter, reason for treatment, type of medicine/vaccine, mode of administration (e.g. in-water, in-feed) and name of administrator.
- 2.19 ▲ All medicines and vaccines must be stored in a secure (locked) store and in accordance with any recommendations on the label (e.g. correct temperature and stored up to date of expiry). Only staff trained to administer medicinal products shall have access to them.

- 2.20 ▲ Vaccination programmes must be tailored to the needs of the farm and must be developed in consultation with the responsible veterinary surgeon.
- 2.21 ▲ Withdrawal periods must be strictly adhered to and birds must not be consigned to human consumption before the date of safe slaughter.
- 2.22 ▲ Medicines and vaccines must be used in accordance with UK legislation.
- 2.23 △ Poultry Flocks must be supplied with two feed bins to ensure that all withdrawal periods on medicated feeds and coccidiostats can be adhered to, unless coccidiosis vaccines and water soluble medicines are used.
- 2.24 ▲ Prescription Only Medicines (POM) must only be initiated with the formal approval of the responsible veterinary surgeon via a prescription, verbal direction or an approved treatment programme or protocol (in the case of in-feed medication this will be in the form of a Medicated Feedingstuff Prescription).

All Prescription Only Medicines and vaccines must be used in strict accordance with written instruction that must be provided by the responsible veterinary surgeon. The use of antibiotics must be regularly reviewed and treatment records must be monitored with particular emphasis on outcomes of treatment, including failure to respond.

Each Company must compile an approved drugs (medicines and vaccines) list in agreement with the responsible veterinary surgeon. This list must specify storage, administration and withdrawal period instructions for each drug and make reference to the correct dosage, duration and circumstances of use for each farm.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- 2.25 ▲ Each Company and/or site must develop and implement a written cleaning and disinfection policy. This policy must be strictly adhered to and must contain as a minimum the following:
1. Cleaning and disinfection procedures;
  2. Handling of waste materials such as litter, packaging, pharmaceutical equipment and packaging, feed spillages;
  3. Details of disinfectants (DEFRA approved only) and detergents used, including safe usage, storage and dilutions.

Whenever bird accommodation is emptied it must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the policy. Cleaning procedures of house furniture, water tanks and bulk feed bins must be included in the policy. Equipment moved from house to house must be cleaned and disinfected. Feed spills must be cleaned up straight away. Evidence to show that cleaning procedures are effective must be provided. Swabs must be taken for environmental bacteria and cultured in a Government-approved laboratory. Equipment must also be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after operation and before storage.

### **Salmonella Monitoring**

- 2.26 ▲ Free Range flocks must be tested a minimum of 7 days prior to slaughter for *Salmonella*. Tests must be carried out in a Government-approved laboratory. Confirmed infected flocks must be sent for slaughter at the end of the processing plants daily programme. All results must be retained and available.

Where a flock is confirmed as *Salmonella* infected, a written cleaning and disinfection procedure must be implemented to ensure eradication of the pathogen once depletion is complete.

## MANAGEMENT AND STOCKMANSHIP

### Stockmen

- 3.1 ▲ Stockmen must be able to demonstrate competence and be trained in the following before being given responsibility for the care of birds:
1. Emergency procedures and water sources available for fire fighting;
  2. Normal and abnormal behaviour of birds, and fear reactions;
  3. Signs of good health and signs of poor health and disease;
  4. Correct handling of birds in a positive and compassionate manner;
  5. Humane culling method;
  6. Litter management, signs of poor litter and remedial action;
  7. Operation of equipment, routine maintenance(range and fences), recognition of common signs of malfunction and action to be carried out in the event of failure;
  8. General hygiene, basic Health and Safety requirements including COSHH;
  9. Recognition of the signs of thermal stress in birds and the procedures to be followed in the event of a problem;
  10. Where necessary, training in the administration of medicinal products.

### Husbandry Procedures

- 3.2 ▲ Birds must be handled in a compassionate and positive manner.
- 3.2.1 ▲ No mutilations are permitted (includes beak trimming, castration etc)
- 3.3 ▲ Flock inspection must be carried out at least twice daily. Records of inspection must be retained and include observations. Stockmen must walk within 3m within the building of every bird and encourage them to move to identify sick or injured birds. Where a problem is identified this must be recorded along with the remedial action taken. If the stockman fails to rectify the problem relevant expert advice must be sought and acted upon (i.e. health advice from the responsible veterinary surgeon, electricity faults by a professional electrician, equipment failure by service engineers).

### Managers' Responsibilities

- 3.4 ▲ Managers must ensure that staff have access to, and receive guidance on, all the relevant regulations, guides and codes listed in Appendix A, including this Standard.
- 3.5 ▲ Managers must ensure that staff responsible for birds have completed training on all points in Section 3.1.1-10. Managers must ensure that a suitable programme of training exists for all such staff including induction and refresher courses. Training must be given by a recognised training provider to NVQ/SVQ level or formal in-house training programme. A record of training for all staff, detailing courses attended and training received must be retained. All training must be regularly reviewed and updated. Staff competency must be assessed regularly and these assessments kept on record.

## 4. FEED AND WATER

### Water

- 4.1 ▲ Birds must have access to an adequate supply of clean and fresh drinking water, to be available up to depletion.

4.2 ▲ Water equipment must be supplied in the following quantities:

Bells	1 bell per 150 birds
Nipples and cups	Depending on water pressure, flow rate and manufacturers recommendations. 1 nipple/small cup per 10 to 20 birds, 1 large cup per 60 birds

In the case of brood and move to Free Range the following should apply in the brooding farms:

Bells	1 bell per 150 birds
Nipples and cups	Depending on water pressure, flow rate and manufacturers recommendations. 1 nipple/small cup per 20 to 40 birds 1 large cup per 90 birds

- 4.3 ▲ Birds must have no more than 3m within the house to travel for water.
- 4.4 ▲ Drinker height must be checked daily.
- 4.5 ▲ Each house must have a water meter connected and consumption rate recorded daily.
- 4.6 ▲ Header tanks must be covered and hygienically managed.
- 4.7 ▲ Non-mains water must be tested every 6 months and recorded to ensure potable quality.

**Feed**

- 4.8 ▲ Birds must be provided with easy access to sufficient feed capable of satisfying their dietary requirements and to maintain good health.
- 4.9 ▲ Feed space allowances are as follows:

Broiler pan feeders	1.25 linear metre per 100 birds
Broiler chain feeders	1.00 linear metre per 100 birds

In the case of brood and move to Free Range the following should apply in the brooding farms:

Broiler pan feeders	1.00 linear metre per 150 birds
Broiler chain feeders	0.75 linear metre per 150 birds

- 4.10 ▲ Birds must not have to travel more than 4m within the house to reach feed.
- 4.11 ▲ Feed delivery systems must be free of sharp edges and parts capable of injury, and must be easily adjustable to provide a comfortable feeding level. The system must be checked daily for correct performance.
- 4.12 ▲ Feed bins must be numbered or identifiable.
- 4.13 ▲ Feed formulas must comply with the relevant EU marketing standards.
- 4.14 ▲ Companies must demonstrate the following:

Feedstuffs do not contain Meat and Bone Meal or poultry by-products meal.

Feedstuffs must not contain tallow.

Feedstuffs do not contain antibiotic growth promoters.

Compound feed must be sourced from companies who are a certificated merchant or feedingstuff manufacturer in the AIC Universal Feed Assurance Schemes (UFAS) or an approved alternative. (Further details can be obtained from the AIC website [www.agindustries.org.uk/assurance](http://www.agindustries.org.uk/assurance)).

Delivery tickets are to be retained for each flock for at least one year.

Samples of each delivery of feed are retained for 3 months.

4.15 ▲ Add-mix whole grain cereals must be acid treated or heat-treated.

4.16 ▲ Members must have a written, implemented procedure relating to the management of feed rations to reduce cross contamination.

## 5. ENVIRONMENT

### General

5.1 ▲ Exterior areas around buildings and entranceways must be kept clear of debris and non-essential equipment. Vegetation must be well managed.

5.1.1 ▲ The main access area to all sites must be laid out in clean concrete, metallised surface or rolled stone including an area large enough for a collection vehicle or feed lorry to stand.

5.2 ▲ Baits, disinfectants and other controlled chemicals must be stored in a secure area and in-line with COSHH recommendations.

5.3 ▲ Birds must not be slaughtered before 56 days or before the period laid down by the relevant EU marketing standards and birds must have access to the range for at least half the growing period.

5.4 ▲ Sites must develop a plan to allow range areas to be managed in ways that minimise poaching, control weeds and prevent excess surface water from collecting.

5.5 ▲ Free range units must demonstrate an active approach towards combining farming activities with care for the environment. Members must be aware of their legal obligations if they farm within a Nitrate Vulnerable Zone (NVZ) Option 1 or 2 must be satisfied;

**Option 1:** A written plan must be developed and implemented to cover the following areas:

- 1) Protection of air, soil and water.
- 2) The regeneration and conservation of trees and hedgerows (including protection of hedges and watercourses from fertilisers and pesticides).
- 3) Conservation of wildlife.
- 4) Appropriate disposal of waste materials including packaging and other non-biological waste materials.
- 5) Safe storage, use and disposal of all animal wastes and effluent. Manure applications should be avoided on waterlogged soil.

**Option 2:** All sites must have a Farm Biodiversity Action Plan (FBAP) or agreed national equivalent.

## **Poultry House Construction and Maintenance**

- 5.6 ▲ Bird areas must provide a safe, hygienic, comfortable environment for birds.
- 5.6.1 All electrical installations must be properly earthed and tested every 5 years by a competent person.
- 5.7 ▲ All surfaces within the poultry house must be in good condition, durable and cleanable.
- 5.8 ▲ Within fixed buildings floors must be made up of concrete or asphalt, and be well drained, safe, comfortable and hygienically managed. The floor surface must be above the outside ground level. Chalk and earth floors are not permitted.
- 5.9 ▲ Fixed buildings must be insulated.
- 5.10 ▲ Bird areas must be constructed and maintained to prevent sharp edges and projections likely to cause injury or distress to birds.
- 5.11 ▲ For fixed buildings a minimum of a 1 metre 'door mat' will be provided which is well drained and easily cleanable.
- 5.12 ▲ Pop hole flaps must be evenly distributed around the houses with pop holes of a combined length at least equal to 4m per 100m<sup>2</sup> floor space of the house and a minimum height of 400mm. Any adjustments of height must not restrict free movement of the birds. Records must be kept of flap opening.

## **Lighting**

- 5.13 ▲ Lighting levels must allow all birds to be clearly seen during inspection.  

A minimum of 8 hours of natural or artificial light must be provided in a 24-hour period.

Lighting Regimes must provide a minimum period of six hours continuous darkness in every 24 hour cycle (except when the natural dark period is shorter than six hours). This requirement does not apply during the first three days of brooding and the last three days prior to slaughter, when the minimum continuous darkness must be 1 hour in any 24 hour period.
- 5.14.▲ During the ranging period, birds must have access to the range area for a minimum of 8 hours per day (except where the natural daylight is less). Pop holes must be open during this time, except when this is precluded by inclement weather conditions.

## **Temperature, Ventilation and Air Quality of Fixed Housing or Mobile Housing Connected to Mains Electricity / Services**

- 5.15 ▲ Temperature must be carefully monitored.
- 5.16 ▲ An alarm system capable of alerting stockmen to ventilation equipment failure at any time must be operational. The alarm system must respond to failures in each phase of the mains electricity. All electrical phases must be monitored. Alarm systems must be checked daily and a record kept of checks. Malfunctions must be recorded and fixed immediately. Ventilation system alarms must work without mains power supply.
- 5.17 ▲ Automatic equipment must be inspected at least once each day. Where a defect is found, either the defect must be rectified immediately or measures must be taken to safeguard the birds from unnecessary suffering or distress. Records of checks, malfunctions and actions taken to rectify must be recorded.

- 5.18 ▲ Generators must be tested weekly on load.
- 5.19 ▲ Units must have access to weather forecasts to allow for planning for extremes in temperature.

#### **Litter**

- 5.20 ▲ All flocks must be provided with clean fresh litter to on average depth of 2cm. Litterite and similar products can be used which will expand to a minimum depth of 2 cm.
- 5.21 ▲ Litter must remain in dry, friable condition. Wet capped litter must be managed.
- 5.22 ▲ Signs of hockburn and/or pododermatitis must be monitored..
- 5.23 ▲ Litter stored in the open must be on pallets and at all times covered with water/bird/vermin-proof protection. Damaged bales must not be used..
- 5.24 ▲ Old litter must be removed from the site promptly and disposed of appropriately. Records of disposal must be retained. Litter must be covered during transport on public highways

#### **Stocking density**

- 5.25 ▲ All birds must have sufficient space to walk, turn, sit, preen, flap/stretch their wings and dustbathe.
- 5.26 ▲ Houses must be plated with the following information:
1. Total floor space available to the birds;
  2. Number of feeders and drinkers
  3. Feed bin capacity
- 5.27 ▲ House stocking density must not exceed levels laid down by the appropriate EU Directive.
- 5.28 ▲ Range stocking density must conform to Levels laid down by the EU Directive

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### 6. PROVISIONS FOR CHICKS

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- 6.1 ▲ On arrival at the rearing site chicks must be placed into a pre-heated shed as soon as possible and their behaviour closely monitored.
- 6.2 ▲ Deleted
- 6.3 ▲ The acceptable methods of humane culling for chicks is neck dislocation.

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### 7. RECORDS

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- 7.1 ▲ All records must be presented in an ordered and up to date fashion, including those relating to the previous crop.
- 7.2 ▲ Flock performance records must be monitored for signs of problems. Tolerance limits must be set and once exceeded the veterinary surgeon must be informed and advice sought.

- 7.3 ▲ A record must be maintained for each flock detailing routine checks, monitoring, inspection, delivery, problems and extraordinary events. The following where relevant must be recorded in this way:
1. Flock inspections (observations and actions taken);
  2. Mortality and cull records;
  3. Daily automatic system checks;
  4. Alarm checks;
  5. Fire extinguisher checks;
  6. Medicine and vaccine administration records;
  7. Temperature records;
  8. Veterinary advice;
  9. *Salmonella* tests;
  10. Non-mains water tests;
  11. Feed deliveries (dates, quantities, types);
- 7.4 ▲ Specific information on each flock must be supplied in the Production Report. This Record must begin from the day that the flock arrives at the farm. It must include the following information:
1. Number of day-old chicks delivered, or birds delivered;
  2. Date delivered;
  3. Origin of flock (hatchery, breeder flock);
  4. Mortality on a daily basis identifying leg culls
  5. Culls on a daily basis;
  6. Water consumption on a daily basis;
  7. House temperatures on a daily maximum and minimum basis;
  8. Date, quantity and type of feed delivered;
  9. Date of sale, number sold and average weight;
  10. Incidence of disease and post mortem records;
  11. Administration of medicines and vaccines (dates administered, withdrawal periods, amount administered, mode of administration, administrator.)
- 7.5 ▲ Details of the ACP registration number must be included on all despatch notes
- 7.6 ▲ A register of complaints needs to be maintained and kept available for inspection. The register needs to record:
1. Where any participant has received a complaint as a result of their production process/product not being in compliance with the ACP Standards.
  2. Action taken.

## 8. DEPOPULATION

- 8.1 ▲ Deleted
- 8.2 ▲ Light levels must be kept low during depopulation if within daylight hours. Catching curtains are to be fitted to main access doors to prevent light access to the house during catching.
- 8.3 ▲ Deleted
- 8.4 ▲ The manager or stockmen responsible for the birds must be present at depopulation, and shall ensure the flock is fit to travel.
- 8.5 ▲ A level well drained loading area must be available for the loading and unloading of birds and chicks must be clean, tidy and hygienically managed.
- 8.6 ▲ Deleted

- 8.7 ▲ Injured or sick birds must not be transported but humanely culled immediately.
- 8.8 ▲ Deleted
- 8.9 ▲ DELETED
- 8.10 ▲ Deleted
- 8.11 ▲ Deleted.
- 8.12 ▲ Normal feeding programs must not be altered by more than 9 hours.
- 8.13 △ Deleted.

## STANDARDS FOR FARMS PRODUCING POUSSIN CHICKENS FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

### Definition

A Poussin must have a carcass weight not exceeding 750g or not be more than 28 days old at slaughter.

### POPULATION OF SITE (S)

All stock must be sourced from units certified to the relevant ACP standards

### 1. FARM SITE PLAN AND EMERGENCY PLAN

- 1.1 ▲ A unit site plan must be drawn up and kept readily available. It must contain the following information:
1. Position and sizes of all poultry houses and access points;
  2. All auxiliary poultry buildings and their purpose;
  3. Location of fire extinguishers and first aid kits;
  4. Water sources available, sufficient for fire-fighting purposes;
  5. Position of pest control baiting points
- 1.2 ▲ An emergency action plan must be sited in a prominent position near a telephone point. This plan must outline procedures to be followed in the case of emergencies including fire, flood, power failure, equipment failure or the interruption of supplies. There must also be written instruction for immediate location by the fire brigade, a grid reference number and postcode. Important telephone numbers must be listed to include equipment service engineers, retained veterinary surgeon and contacts for emergency procedures. All sites must have telephone access.
- Staff must be aware of the water sources available for the purposes of fire fighting.
- Provision must be made to ensure an emergency supply of drinking water and feed to the birds in case normal supply fails. Evidence of this provision will be required on each unit and all stockpersons must be aware of the procedure. The emergency water supply must be capable of providing water for 24 hours at full demand.
- 1.3 ▲ An alternative power supply capable of supplying all essential electrical systems within the poultry house(s) must be available. Where a malfunction is found this must be rectified immediately.
- 1.4 ▲ Fire prevention precautions must include the following measures:
1. Restrict access and secure buildings;
  2. Control of smoking to designated areas only;
  3. Routine machinery maintenance;
  4. Safe use and storage of flammable/combustible materials;
  5. Escape routes and passages kept free of stored materials and equipment at all times;
  6. Every building exceeding 30m in length must have two doors and must comply with relevant Building Regulations particularly with regard to fire escape exits.
  7. Notices displayed in all main houses of the nearest telephone point.
- 1.5 ▲ Deleted.
- 1.6 △ All sites must have a written Farm Waste Management Plan and if pesticides are used, this should include correct procedures for disposal of empty containers.

- 1.7 ▲ Participants should be aware of the standards within the DEFRA Codes of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil, Air and Water.
- 1.8 ▲ Potential pollutants including litter, fertiliser, fuels and oils must be stored where there is no risk of run-off polluting water courses.

## 2. HEALTH AND HYGIENE

### General Requirements

- 2.1 ▲ All units must retain the services of an experienced poultry veterinary surgeon. Evidence to show that the veterinary surgeon provides regular advice on the health, hygiene and welfare of the birds must be available.
- 2.2 ▲ Each site must have a written health and welfare programme tailor-made to the needs of the unit, and must contain a strategy for the prevention and control of common diseases. As a minimum the programme must be annually reviewed and updated. The programme must set out health and husbandry procedures covering the whole of the production cycle.

### Bird Health

- 2.3 ▲ Ill, injured or dead birds must be removed as soon as they are detected. Ill or injured birds must be segregated, treated promptly or if necessary humanely culled. Overtly lame birds and birds finding it difficult to reach feed and water must be treated or humanely culled as soon as detected. When necessary birds must be humanely culled by a trained, competent stockman. Mortality and culls must be recorded in the daily record as well as reasons for both.

Where system-induced injuries occur prompt action must be taken to find the cause and remedial action taken. If the cause is an environmental factor this must be remedied before the next flock is placed.

If mortality exceeds 0.3% in a 24-hour period an investigation to find the cause must be carried out. Remedial action must be taken to prevent a recurrence. If the cause remains unknown the advice of the responsible veterinary surgeon must be sought. The problem, action and outcome must be recorded in all such incidents.

All culls due to leg problems must be recorded and assessed. Where a trend develops the advice of the veterinary surgeon must be sought.

- 2.4 ▲ Humane culling must be carried out by a trained stockman by dislocation of the neck, percussion killer approved by HSA or by a licensed method.
- 2.5 ▲ Dead birds must be held in locked vermin-proof containers until appropriate disposal, either off or on-site in line with the Animal By-Products Regulations, can be effected without undue delay.

### Biosecurity

- 2.6 ▲ Only essential visitors may be granted access to the site. A record of all visitors must be maintained. This must include date, time of arrival, name and organisation. Visitors must certify that they are not suffering with any enteric illness and must declare recent visits to poultry sites. Management must refuse entry if the health and welfare of the birds could be compromised.
- 2.7 ▲ Barrier footwear systems with dedicated footwear or foot dips must be provided at personnel access points to each bird area as well as at the entrances to poultry houses, equipment and litter stores. DEFRA approved disinfectants must be used

and in accordance with manufacturers recommendations. Solutions must be replaced on a prescribed basis and recorded. Footwear must be dipped by all personnel and visitors before entrance into a building and after leaving the building.

- 2.8 ▲ Hand-washing facilities and toilets must be available on-site and must consist of a basin with hot water, bactericidal soap and disposable towels. All personnel and visitors must have the provision to wash or sanitise hands prior to entering poultry houses and after leaving poultry houses. Hands must also be washed after dead bird handling, before and after meals and after visits to the toilet.
- 2.9 ▲ Site-dedicated protective clothing must be supplied for all personnel. All clothing must be washed or discarded between flocks. Visitors must be supplied by the site with protective clothing which must be retained on-site after use.
- 2.10 ▲ All units must operate a period free of all livestock between flock cycles.
- 2.11 ▲ Farm vehicles must be maintained in a clean condition. Provision must be made for vehicles entering or leaving the site to be cleansed and disinfected (including wheels)
- 2.12 △ All personnel must not keep or have contact with other poultry or any other avian species.
- 2.13 ▲ Pets and other animals, including livestock, must be kept away from poultry houses and service buildings. Pets and other animals, including livestock and wild and game birds, must not be allowed access to poultry houses and service buildings.
- 2.14 ▲ Pest control must be carried out by a licensed contractor or a properly trained operative with knowledge of pesticides and their placement. Poultry must not have access to pesticides. Pesticides must not be accessible to wild birds and bait boxes must be tamper proof. An accurate location plan of all bait points must be drawn up and numbered, along with a written pesticide programme detailing types of pesticide administered, replenishment dates and visual inspections of bait points. Pest control must make provision for the control of rodents, flies and parasites.
- 2.15 ▲ Auxiliary buildings, toilets, offices, stores and break rooms must be kept clean and tidy.
- 2.16 ▲ Smoking must not be permitted in any building containing birds but restricted to designated areas.

### **Medicines & Vaccines**

- 2.17 ▲ Medicines must be administered according to the recommendations made by RUMA (Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance) for the Responsible Use of Anti-Microbials in Poultry Production.
- 2.18 ▲ The use of medicines and vaccines must be recorded. Treated birds must be identified. Medicine/vaccine purchase records must contain the following information: type, batch number, quantity purchased and withdrawal period.of medicine/vaccine.  
  
Medicine/vaccine usage records must contain the following: date treated, quantity administered, identification of birds treated, withdrawal period, date of safe slaughter, reason for treatment, type of medicine/vaccine, mode of administration (e.g. in-water, in-feed) and name of administrator.
- 2.19 ▲ All medicines and vaccines must be stored in a secure (locked) store and in accordance with any recommendations on the label (e.g. correct temperature and stored up to date of expiry). Only staff trained to administer medicinal products shall have access to them.

- 2.20 ▲ Vaccination programmes must be tailored to the needs of the farm and must be developed in consultation with the responsible veterinary surgeon.
- 2.21 ▲ Withdrawal periods must be strictly adhered to and birds must not be consigned to human consumption before the date of safe slaughter.
- 2.22 ▲ Medicines and vaccines must be used in accordance with UK legislation.
- 2.23 ▲ Prescription Only Medicines (POM) must only be initiated with the formal approval of the responsible veterinary surgeon via a prescription, verbal direction or an approved treatment programme or protocol (in the case of in-feed medication this will be in the form of a Medicated Feedingstuff Prescription).

All Prescription Only Medicines and vaccines must be used in strict accordance with written instruction that must be provided by the responsible veterinary surgeon. The use of antibiotics must be regularly reviewed and treatment records must be monitored with particular emphasis on outcomes of treatment, including failure to respond.

Each Company must compile an approved drugs (medicines and vaccines) list in agreement with the responsible veterinary surgeon. This list must specify storage, administration and withdrawal period instructions for each drug and make reference to the correct dosage, duration and circumstances of use for each farm.

### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- 2.24 ▲ Each Company and/or site must develop and implement a written cleaning and disinfection policy. This policy must be strictly adhered to and must contain as a minimum the following:
1. Cleaning and disinfection procedures;
  2. Handling of waste materials such as litter, packaging, pharmaceutical equipment and packaging, feed spillages;
  3. Details of disinfectants (DEFRA approved only) and detergents used, including safe usage, storage and dilutions.

Whenever bird accommodation is emptied it must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the policy. Cleaning procedures of house furniture, water tanks and bulk feed bins must be included in the policy. Equipment moved from house to house must be cleaned and disinfected. Feed spills must be cleaned up straight away. Evidence to show that cleaning procedures are effective must be provided. Swabs must be taken for environmental bacteria and cultured in a Government-approved laboratory. Equipment must also be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected after operation and before storage.

### **Salmonella Monitoring**

- 2.25 ▲ Chicken flocks must be tested at 14 days (nominally 7 days prior to slaughter) for salmonella. Tests must be carried out in a Government-authorised laboratory. These tests must be fully traceable back to the slaughtered flock. All results must be retained and available.

Where a flock was confirmed as *Salmonella* infected, a written cleaning and disinfection procedure appropriate must be implemented to ensure eradication of the pathogen once depletion is complete.

## **3. MANAGEMENT AND STOCKMANSHIP**

## Stockmen

- 3.1 ▲ Stockmen must be able to demonstrate competence and be trained in the following before being given responsibility for the care of birds:
1. Emergency procedures and water sources available for fire fighting;
  2. Normal and abnormal behaviour of birds, and fear reactions;
  3. Signs of good health and signs of poor health and disease;
  4. Correct handling of birds in a positive and compassionate manner;
  5. Humane culling method;
  6. Litter management, signs of poor litter and remedial action;
  7. Operation of equipment, routine maintenance, recognition of common signs of malfunction and action to be carried out in the event of failure;
  8. General hygiene, basic Health and Safety requirements including COSHH;
  11. Recognition of the signs of thermal stress in birds and the procedures to be followed in the event of a problem;
  12. Where necessary, training in the administration of medicinal products.

## Husbandry Procedures

- 3.2 ▲ Birds must be handled in a compassionate and positive manner.
- 3.2.1 ▲ No mutilations are permitted (includes beak trimming, castration etc)
- 3.3 ▲ Flock inspection must be carried out at least twice daily. Records of inspection must be retained and include observations. Stockmen must walk within 3m of every bird and encourage them to move to identify sick or injured birds. Where a problem is identified this must be recorded along with the remedial action taken. If the stockman fails to rectify the problem relevant expert advice must be sought and acted upon (i.e. health advice from the responsible veterinary surgeon, electricity faults by a professional electrician, equipment failure by service engineers).

## Managers' Responsibilities

- 3.4 ▲ Managers must ensure that staff have access to, and receive guidance on, all the relevant regulations, guides and codes listed in Appendix A, including this Standard.
- 3.5 ▲ Managers must ensure that staff responsible for birds have completed training on all points in Section 3.1.1-10. Managers must ensure that a suitable programme of training exists for all such staff including induction and refresher courses. Training must be given by a recognised training provider to NVQ/SVQ level or formal in-house training programme. A record of training for all staff, detailing courses attended and training received must be retained. All training must be regularly reviewed and updated. Staff competency must be assessed regularly and these assessments kept on record.

## 4. FEED AND WATER

### Water

- 4.1 ▲ Birds must have access to an adequate supply of fresh clean drinking water, to be available up to depopulation.
- 4.2 △ Water must be supplied through a bell or nipple drinker system
- 4.3 ▲ Water equipment must be supplied in the following quantities:

Bells	1 bell per 250 birds
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Nipples and cups      1 nipple/cup per 10 to 30 birds depending on manufacturer's recommendations, water pressure and flow rate

- 4.4 ▲ Birds must have no more than 3m to travel for water.
- 4.5 ▲ Drinker height must be checked daily.
- 4.6 △ All water systems on a site should be alarmed
- 4.7 ▲ Each house must have a water meter connected and consumption rate recorded daily.
- 4.8 ▲ Header tanks must be covered and hygienically managed.
- 4.9 ▲ Non-mains water must be tested every 6 months and recorded to ensure potable quality.

#### **Feed**

- 4.10 ▲ Birds must be provided with easy access to sufficient feed capable of satisfying their dietary requirements and to maintain good health.
- 4.11 ▲ Feed space allowances are as follows:

Broilers pan feeders	1 linear metre per 150 birds
Broilers chain feeders	0.75 linear metre per 150 birds

- 4.12 △ Each shed/air space should have access to 2 feed bins
- 4.13 ▲ Birds must not have to travel more than 4m to reach feed.
- 4.14 ▲ Feed delivery systems must be free of sharp edges and parts capable of injury, and must be easily adjustable to provide a comfortable feeding level. The system must be checked daily for correct performance.
- 4.15 ▲ Feed bins must be numbered or identifiable.
- 4.16 ▲ Companies must demonstrate the following:

Feedstuffs do not contain Meat and Bone Meal or poultry by –products meal.

Feedstuffs must not contain tallow.

Feedstuffs do not contain antibiotic growth promoters.

Compound feed must be sourced from companies who are a certificated merchant or feedingstuff manufacturer in the AIC Universal Feed Assurance Schemes (UFAS) or an approved alternative. (Further details can be obtained from the AIC website [www.agindustries.org.uk/assurance](http://www.agindustries.org.uk/assurance)).

Delivery tickets are to be retained for each flock for at least one year.

Samples of each delivery of feed are retained for 3 months.

- 4.17 ▲ Add-mix whole grain cereals must be acid treated with a proprietary product or heat-treated.
- 4.18 ▲ Members must have a written, implemented procedure relating to the management of feed rations to reduce cross contamination.

**General**

- 5.1 ▲ Exterior areas around buildings and entranceways must be kept clear of debris and non-essential equipment. Vegetation must be kept short and well managed.
- 5.1.1 △ The main access area to all sites must be laid out in clean concrete, metalled surface or rolled stone including an area large enough for a collection vehicle or feed lorry to stand.
- 5.2 ▲ Baits, disinfectants and other controlled chemicals must be stored in a secure area and in-line with COSHH recommendations.

**Construction and Maintenance**

- 5.3 ▲ Buildings must provide a safe, hygienic, comfortable environment for birds.
- 5.3.1 ▲ All electrical installations must be properly earthed and tested every 5 years by a competent person
- 5.4 ▲ All surfaces within the poultry house must be in good condition, durable and cleanable.
- 5.5 ▲ Floors must be made up of concrete or asphalt, and be well drained, safe, comfortable and hygienically managed. The floor surface must be above the outside ground level. Chalk and earth floors are not permitted.
- 5.6 ▲ Houses must be insulated.
- 5.7 ▲ Buildings must be constructed and maintained to prevent sharp edges and projections likely to cause injury or distress to birds.

**Lighting**

- 5.8 ▲ Lighting levels must allow all birds to be clearly seen during inspection.
  - 1. A minimum of 8 hours of natural or artificial light must be provided in a 24-hour period at a minimum of 10 lux.
  - 2. A minimum of 4 hours continuous darkness must be provided in any 24-hour period except for birds up to the age of 7 days and 7 days prior to the commencement of depletion, when the minimum continuous darkness must be 1 hour in any 24 hour period.
  - 3. Lighting Patterns must be recorded

**Temperature, ventilation and Air Quality**

- 5.9 ▲ Temperature must be carefully monitored and controlled. Minimum and maximum temperatures inside the house at bird level must be recorded daily.
- 5.9.1 △ Humidity should be carefully monitored and recorded on a daily basis
- 5.10 ▲ All houses must have a controlled environment, which ensures an ambient house temperature and humidity suited to the birds' physiological needs. Each site must

have a written policy for the recognition of, and procedures to be followed, in the event of heat or cold stress.

- 5.11 ▲ A documented minimum ventilation plan must be in place.
- 5.12 ▲ An alarm system capable of alerting stockmen to ventilation equipment failure at any time must be operational. The alarm system must respond to high and low temperatures and to failures in each phase of the mains electricity. All electrical phases must be monitored. Alarm systems must be checked daily and a record kept of checks. Malfunctions must be recorded and fixed immediately. Ventilation system alarms must work without mains power supply.
- 5.13 ▲ Automatic equipment must be inspected at least once each day. Where a defect is found, either the defect must be rectified immediately or measures must be taken to safeguard the birds from unnecessary suffering or distress. Records of checks, malfunctions and actions taken to rectify must be recorded.
- 5.14 ▲ Generators must be tested weekly on load.
- 5.15 ▲ Units must have access to weather forecasts to allow for planning for extremes in temperature.

#### **Litter**

- 5.16 ▲ All flocks must be provided with clean fresh litter to an average depth of 2cm. Litterite and similar products can be used which will expand to a minimum depth of 2 cm.
- 5.17 ▲ Litter must remain in dry, friable condition. Wet capped litter must be managed.
- 5.18 ▲ Signs of hockburn and pododermatitis must be monitored at the processing plant.
- 5.19 ▲ Litter stored in the open must be on pallets and at all times covered with water/bird/vermin-proof protection. Damaged bales must not be used.
- 5.20 ▲ Old litter must be removed from the site promptly and disposed of appropriately. Records of disposal must be retained. Litter must be covered during transport on public highways

#### **Stocking Density**

- 5.21 ▲ All birds must have sufficient space to walk, turn, sit, preen, flap/stretch their wings and dustbathe.
- 5.22 ▲ Houses must be plated with the following information:
  - 1. Total floor space available to the birds;
  - 2. Number of feeders and drinkers
  - 3. Feed bin capacity
- 5.23 ▲ This Assurance Scheme does not permit planned stocking regimes for Poussin which exceed 30kgs/m<sup>2</sup>. The onus is on the producer to demonstrate that realistic Key Performance Indicators are being used and are not compromised in the planning process.
- 5.24 ▲ The monitoring and recording of mortality, culls, hockburn and P.M.I. rejects are essential, and should not normally exceed:

Mortality	4%
P.M.I's	1%

Hockburn. 10%.

## 6. PROVISIONS FOR CHICKS

- 6.1 ▲ On arrival at the rearing site chicks must be placed into a pre-heated shed as soon as possible and their behaviour closely monitored.
- 6.2 ▲ Deleted
- 6.3 ▲ The acceptable method of humane culling for chicks is neck dislocation.

## 7. RECORDS

- 7.1 ▲ All records must be presented in an ordered and up-to-date fashion, including those relating to the previous crop.
- 7.2 ▲ Flock performance records must be monitored for signs of problems. Tolerance limits must be set and once exceeded the veterinary surgeon must be informed and advice sought.
- 7.3 ▲ A record must be maintained for each flock detailing routine checks, monitoring, inspection, delivery, problems and extraordinary events. The following where relevant must be recorded in this way:
  - 1. Flock inspections (observations and actions taken);
  - 2. Mortality and cull records;
  - 3. Daily automatic system checks;
  - 4. Alarm checks;
  - 5. Fire extinguisher checks;
  - 6. Medicine and vaccine administration records;
  - 7. Temperature records;
  - 8. Veterinary advice;
  - 9. *Salmonella* tests;
  - 10. Non-mains water tests;
  - 11. Weekly generator tests;
  - 12. Feed deliveries (dates, quantities, types);
  - 13. Lighting regimes records.
- 7.4 ▲ Specific information on each flock must be supplied in the Production Report. This Record must begin from the day that the flock arrives at the farm. It must include the following information:
  - 1. Number of day-old chicks delivered;
  - 2. Date delivered;
  - 3. Origin of flock (hatchery, breeder flock);
  - 4. Mortality on a daily basis identifying leg culls
  - 5. Culls on a daily basis;
  - 6. Water consumption on a daily basis;
  - 7. House temperatures on a daily maximum and minimum basis;
  - 8. Date, quantity and type of feed delivered;
  - 9. Date of sale, number sold and average weight;
  - 10. Incidence of disease and post mortem records;
  - 11. Administration of medicines and vaccines (dates administered, withdrawal periods, amount administered, mode of administration, administrator.)
- 7.5 ▲ Details of the ACP registration number must be included on all despatch notes

- 7.6 ▲ A register of complaints needs to be maintained and kept available for inspection. The register needs to record:
1. Where any participant has received a complaint as a result of their production process/product not being in compliance with the ACP Standards.
  2. Action taken.

## 8. DEPOPULATION

- 8.1 ▲ Deleted
- 8.2 ▲ Light levels must be kept low during depopulation. Main access doors must be adjusted or catching curtains fitted to prevent light access to the house during catching.
- 8.3 ▲ Deleted
- 8.4 ▲ The manager or stockmen responsible for the birds must be present at depopulation, and shall ensure the flock is fit to travel.
- 8.5 ▲ A level well-drained loading area must be available for the loading and unloading of birds and chicks for transport to the processing plant and must be clean, tidy and hygienically managed.
- 8.6 ▲ Deleted.
- 8.7 ▲ Injured or sick birds must not be transported but humanely culled immediately.
- 8.8 ▲ Deleted.
- 8.9 ▲ DELETED
- 8.10 ▲ Deleted
- 8.11 ▲ Deleted.
- 8.12 ▲ Feed must not be withdrawn for more than 9 hours prior to catching.
- 8.13 △ Birds should be transported in a crated system designed for Poussin.

## STANDARDS FOR CATCHING, TRANSPORT & SLAUGHTER

The role of biosecurity in reducing *Campylobacter* is paramount

### 1. DEPOPULATION

- 1.0 ▲ All catching contract companies must be registered with the Scheme
- 1.1 ▲ Catching teams must be correctly trained to minimise bird stress at depopulation. This training must include induction and annual refresher courses. A record of training must be maintained
- 1.2 ▲ Light levels must be kept low during depopulation. Catching curtains are to be fitted to main access doors to prevent light access to the house during catching.
- 1.3 ▲ All vehicles and transport crates must be clean, disinfected and not pose a risk of injury to the birds.
- 1.4 ▲ The manager or stockmen responsible for the birds must be present at depopulation.
- 1.5 ▲ A loading area must be available for the loading of birds for transport to the processing plant and must be clean, tidy and hygienically managed.
- 1.6 ▲ Birds must not be carried by the wings or by the neck.
- 1.7 ▲ Injured or sick birds must not be transported but culled immediately and recorded.
- 1.8 ▲ Suitable, clean protective clothing must be worn at the commencement of catching at each farm. Foot dips must be used where provided and Defra approved disinfectants must be used and in accordance with manufacturers recommendations. Footwear must be cleaned and sanitised between farms.
- 1.9 ▲ Maximum crate stocking densities must be as follows:
- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Poultry weighing less than 1.6 kg                  | 180 to 200 cm <sup>2</sup> / kg. |
| Poultry weighing 1.6kg and over but less than 3kg. | 160 cm <sup>2</sup> / kg.        |
| Poultry weighing 3kg and over but less than 5kg.   | 115 cm <sup>2</sup> / kg.        |
| Poultry weighing 5kg and over.                     | 105 cm <sup>2</sup> / kg.        |
- These figures may vary depending not only on the weight and size of the birds but also on their physical condition, the meteorological conditions and the likely journey time.
- 1.10 ▲ Feed must not be withdrawn for more than 9 hours prior to catching. (Water must be available up to catch.)
- 1.11 △ Birds should be transported in modular systems which should be placed as close as possible to the group being caught.
- 1.12 ▲ Scheduled catching plan should:
- take into consideration bird weight
  - allow sufficient breaks between loads
- 1.13 ▲ A nominated member of the catching team must be made responsible for the catching operation.

## 2. TRANSPORT (Applies to all movements).

- 2.1 ▲ All chickens must be transported by transporters registered with the Scheme.
- 2.2 ▲ Hauliers must adhere to all current legislation that applies to the transport of birds, with particular reference to the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997.
- 2.3 ▲ Drivers must be competent and trained in the handling and welfare of poultry.
- 2.4 ▲ Each vehicle must carry a written statement of maximum stocking density. This must detail the maximum number of birds by weight band to be transported. This statement must not be exceeded.
- 2.5 ▲ The time between start of loading and unloading at the processing plant must not exceed 12 hours.
- 2.6 ▲ The transporter and modules must be safe and not cause injury to the birds.
- 2.7 ▲ Noises during loading and unloading must be kept to a minimum.
- 2.8 ▲ Mortality must be recorded. Incidents of mortality during transport investigated and recorded.
- 2.9 ▲ Journeys must be planned in advance to minimise waiting times. All drivers must have a means of mobile communication with the farm and/or processing plant. The processing plant is responsible for implementing a pre-planned arrivals system.
- 2.10 ▲ When birds have to be retained on a stationary vehicle action must be taken to prevent heat or cold stress from occurring. Protection must be available for use in the winter months.
- 2.11 ▲ Measures must be in place to protect the birds from heat stress in periods of high temperature and humidity. The adoption of power-ventilated vehicles or a reduction in crate / module stocking densities must be considered.
- 2.12 ▲ All vehicles must have a written Emergency Action Plan, and must cover the procedures to be followed in the case of fire, accident or traffic congestion, as well as contact numbers for breakdown service and the processing plant.
- 2.13 ▲ Hauliers must retain records in accordance with (WATO 95) Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1995 and as a minimum the following:
1. Date of movement
  2. Farm of origin including ACP registration number
  3. Destination
  4. Mortalities
  5. Start of loading and end of loading times
  6. Vehicle identification (Registration number)
  7. Start of journey and end of journey times
  8. A register of complaints and action taken.
- 2.14 △ Suitable and well maintained vehicles should be fitted with curtains and a roof unless the modules have a solid top/roof.

### 3. SLAUGHTER

#### Lairage

- 3.1 ▲ Each processing plant must have a trained Poultry Welfare Officer (PWO) who must oversee the unloading, lairaging and slaughter of birds.
- 3.2 ▲ Each processing plant must develop and implement a bird welfare policy. This policy must cover written procedures that safeguard the welfare of the birds, and the responsibilities of staff. The policy must be communicated to all relevant staff and reviewed and updated on an annual basis.
- 3.3 ▲ Regular checks including a check on arrival must be made on birds in the lairage to ensure their comfort and safety.
- 3.4 ▲ The birds must be placed in the lairage as soon as possible.
- 3.5 ▲ The lairage must provide protection in adverse weather. Appropriate action to be taken to avoid temperature stress in the birds.
- 3.6 ▲ Lairage time should be as short as possible and should not exceed 6 hours.
- 3.7 ▲ Lairage staff must be trained in the welfare of the birds, including induction and refresher courses.
- 3.8 ▲ Birds must be treated humanely before slaughter. Injured birds should be humanely culled immediately upon detection. They should not be attached to the line.
- 3.9 ▲ Processing plants must provide cleaning and sanitation provisions for crates and transporters. All crates must be disinfected after cleaning with a DEFRA approved disinfectant.
- 3.10 ▲ Managers must ensure that staff have access to, and receive guidance on, all the relevant regulations, guides and codes listed in Appendix A, including this standard.

#### Shackling/Pre slaughter handling

- 3.11 ▲ Shackling must be carried out by staff who are both competent and trained.
- 3.12 ▲ Birds must be hung onto the shackle line by both legs.
- 3.13 ▲ Appropriate measures must be taken to prevent wing flapping and head raising before stun, i.e. the use of a breast bar.
- 3.14 ▲ Appropriate measures must be taken to match the line speed to staff ability to hang birds on line without causing unnecessary distress to the birds.
- 3.15 △ The shackling area should use subdued or blue lighting.
- 3.16 ▲ Care must be taken to ensure birds cannot escape from the holding / hanging area or fall from the shackle line. Any escaped birds should be recaptured immediately and taken to the hanging on area or, if injured, immediately humanely destroyed.
- 3.17 ▲ Contingency plans must be made to deal with occasions when unavoidable delays may occur and it is not possible to process birds. Specifically, if the slaughter line is stopped, birds between the point of shackling and the killer must be removed and placed in crates, any birds which have already been stunned must be humanely killed,

The length of time birds remain on the shackle line must comply with legislative requirements.

- 3.18 ▲ A system must be in place to monitor hockburn incidence, pododermatitis, bruising, and Dead on Arrivals

### **Stunning and Slaughter or Killing**

- 3.19 ▲ Birds must be stunned and slaughtered or killed humanely in compliance with all relevant codes of practice and legislation.
- 3.20 ▲ Processing plants must provide documented performance parameters for the stunning equipment, line and slaughter equipment.
- 3.21 ▲ Procedures must be available for process controls, back up procedures, maintenance, and monitoring procedures. Records must be kept and be available for inspection
- 3.22 ▲ The efficiency of the stunning and slaughter/killing process, must be regularly checked by a Vet or licenced slaughterman
- 3.23 ▲ Effective stunning must be carried out by one of the following approved methods:
1. Stunning bath
  2. Dry stunner
  3. Hand operated stunner
  4. Controlled atmosphere stunning.

Appropriate to the size of bird, adequately calibrated, maintained and supervised during its operation.

- 3.24 ▲ Stunning and slaughter and killing equipment must be checked prior to each kill and problems preventing effective stun rectified prior to the start of slaughter.
- 3.25 ▲ Birds must be stunned within 2 minutes of shackling.
- 3.26 ▲ Manual or back-up neck cutting must be provided so that stunned birds that miss the automatic neck cutting equipment are humanely slaughtered by a licensed slaughter-man.
- 3.27 ▲ No more than 15 seconds must elapse between stunning and neck cutting
- 3.28 ▲ Chickens must not be immersed in a scalding tank or plucked until at least 90 seconds have elapsed since the major blood vessels in their necks have been severed.
- 3.29 ▲ As a minimum, both major blood vessels in one side of the neck must be severed by the neck cut. However, ACP recommends the complete effective severance of carotid arteries and jugular veins in both sides of the neck through the use of a ventral cut.

APPENDIX A

**RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS**

The following publications are available from DEFRA Publications Tel No: 0845 955 6000 (www.defra.gov.uk) and/or The Stationery Office Ltd, Tel No: 0870 600 5522 (www.clicktso.com).

Equivalents may be used in devolved regions of the UK. Producers outside of the UK must refer to and retain copies of the UK publications. Equivalents are not acceptable. Where the documents are lengthy and cover all species members are only required to hold copies of the poultry specific sections.

This list is correct at the time of going to press. However, it is the responsibility of the producer/occupier to comply with all relevant guidance, codes of practice and legislation.

Reference	Relevant Publications generally required to be held by participants in the Assured Chicken Production Scheme	Farm Specific	Hatchery Specific	Transport Specific	Processing Plant Specific
PB10543	Heat Stress in Poultry: Solving the problem	Y			
PB9362	Farm Fires: Advice on Farm Animal Welfare	Y			
PB7275	Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock: Meat chickens and breeding chickens	Y			
PB 1739	Poultry Litter Management	Y			
PB1147	Emergencies on Livestock Farms	Y			
PB2630	Code of Practice for the Prevention of Rodent Infestations in Poultry Flocks	Y			
PB6490	The Welfare of Hens in Free-Range Systems	Y			
RUMA	Responsible use of Anti-microbials in Poultry Production*	Y			
2002/1646	SI 2000 No. 1870 Animals, England Prevention of Cruelty, England. The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000. As amended: SI 2002 No. 1646 Animals, England Prevention of Cruelty. The Welfare of Farmed Animals (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2002	Y			
PB 0910	FAWC Report on the Welfare of Broiler Chickens	Y			
PB 3907	FAWC Report on the Welfare of Broiler Breeders	Y			
PB 0585	Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Water	Y			
PB 0617	Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Soil	Y			
PB 0618	Code of Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Air	Y			
1774/2002	EU Animal By-Products Regulation No: 1774/2002, for Guidance on the Disposal of Fallen Stock.	Y			
2891/93	EU Poultrymeat Marketing Standards Commission (EEC) No 2891/93	Y			
PB1435	Guide to the Poultry Breeding Flocks & Hatcheries Order 1993	Y	Y		
HSA	Code of Practice for the Disposal of Chicks in Hatcheries, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Edition ISBN 1 871561 17 5**		Y		
1997/1480	Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997		y	Y	
PB3766	Guidance on the Welfare of Animals (Transport) Order 1997			Y	
1995/0731	Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995				Y
PB2594	Explanatory Guide to the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995				Y
PB3476	Welfare of Poultry at Slaughter: A Pocket Guide				Y

PB3724	Guide to Alleviation of Thermal Stress in Poultry in Lairage				Y
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\*available from: The Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA) Secretariat, c/o NFU Headquarters, Agriculture House, 164 Shaftesbury Avenue, London WC2H 8HL. Tel No: 020 7331 7200.

\*\*available from: The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA)  
The Old School, Brewhouse Hill, Wheathampstead, Herts AL4 8AN. Tel No: 01582 831919.

For further information, please contact:

Assured Chicken Production Scheme:

CMi Certification Ltd  
Long Hanborough,  
Oxford  
OX29 8LH

Tel No: 01993 885648  
Fax No: 01993 885611  
Email: [acp.enquiries@cmicertification.com](mailto:acp.enquiries@cmicertification.com)

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