

# PULLETS (LAYER HENS)

RSPCA APPROVED FARMING SCHEME  
STANDARDS



SEPTEMBER 2015

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# OVERVIEW

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## Introduction

The RSPCA established the Approved Farming Scheme as part of its efforts to improve the lives of Australia's farmed animals. The RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme is a not-for-profit program that works by:

- establishing animal welfare standards that go beyond regulatory requirements
- enabling differentiation and marketing of products from RSPCA Approved farms
- offering consumers a higher animal welfare alternative.

The *RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Standards – Pullets (layer hens)* (from here on referred to as “the Standards”) outline animal welfare requirements that are designed to assist the industry to continually improve and demonstrate good animal welfare practices and outcomes. Egg producers are encouraged to source pullets from systems that meet the provisions of these Standards.

These Standards take into consideration RSPCA Australia policy, available scientific research, current legislation applied in Australia, codes of practice, standards and guidelines for animal welfare, veterinary, technical and producer advice, and current industry good practice.

## Principles underpinning the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Standards

The Standards are underpinned by the principles of the ‘Five Freedoms’:

- freedom from hunger and thirst: by ready access to fresh water and a diet to maintain full health and vigour
- freedom from discomfort: by providing an appropriate environment including shelter and a comfortable resting area
- freedom from pain, injury or disease: by prevention, rapid diagnosis and treatment
- freedom to express normal behaviour: by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and company of the animal's own kind
- freedom from fear and distress: by ensuring conditions and treatment which avoid mental suffering.

Covering both behavioural and physiological needs, together, these ‘freedoms’ provide a comprehensive framework for the assessment of bird welfare and require that those responsible for the care of birds provide:

- caring and responsible planning and management
- skilled, knowledgeable and conscientious stockpersonship
- appropriate environmental management and design
- considerate handling and transport
- humane slaughter.

## Eligibility

These Standards apply to pullets kept in eligible non-cage housing systems in Australia.

Eligible non-cage housing systems under the Scheme, where the provisions of these Standards are met, include indoor systems where pullets are housed within a shed and where they may or may not have access to a veranda or outdoor area.

Eligible non-cage rearing systems may be located on farms that also operate cage-rearing systems, however, appropriate separation and traceability arrangements must be in place to ensure pullets associated with the Scheme are clearly identified.

RSPCA Australia has discretion to determine the suitability or eligibility of the housing system as applicable within the context of the Scheme.

## Application

The documentation that supports the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme consists of:

- *Operations Manual* – details the operation of the Scheme for both Approved Producers and Licensees, including the application process and the Assessment procedures
- *Standards* (specific to each species) – provides the requirements for the rearing, housing, handling, transport and/or slaughter of the species
- *Traceability policy* – outlines chain of custody requirements for the Scheme
- *Species-specific information notes* – provides information about a range of aspects relating to the species-specific standards and to the production process generally.

## Requirements of the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme

It is a requirement of pullet rearers participating in the Scheme that:

1. The *RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Standards – Pullets (layer hens)* are complied with.
2. The requirements in the relevant state or territory legislation applicable to the farming enterprise are complied with, including but not limited to animal welfare, animal health, water and land use, transportation, processing, environmental protection, biosecurity, food safety and product labelling.

RSPCA Australia has discretion to request proof of compliance with regulatory requirements through the provision of documentation from the relevant local council, state/territory government, quality assurance program or other appropriate body.

3. The following are completed and subsequently reviewed on an annual basis and made available to RSPCA Australia and to the RSPCA Australia Assessor:
  - Animal Care Statement – specifying general management and standard operating procedures
  - Veterinary Health Plan – specifying animal health management procedures.

Existing quality assurance manuals for other programs or accreditation schemes and/or existing standard operating procedures, and records to support production activities may be utilised to meet the requirements of these Standards, provided the specific provisions in these Standards are demonstrated. Equivalence is determined by RSPCA Australia.

4. Each enterprise nominate a designated person (or persons) who has:
- responsibility for the operation of the farming enterprise
  - responsibility for overseeing the management and application of the requirements of the Scheme.

The owner of the birds raised under the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme has, at all times, the final responsibility for ensuring the welfare of the birds and on-going compliance with these Standards.

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# THE STANDARDS

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## 1 Sourcing and management of chicks in rear

1.01 Chicks must be reared in floor-based<sup>1</sup> or tiered<sup>2</sup> systems.

### Sourcing of chicks

1.02 A record specifying the name of the hatchery and shed number from which chicks are sourced must be kept for each flock placed.

1.03 A record specifying the bird type/strain must be kept for each flock placed.

### Chick placement

1.04 Chicks must be placed within their new housing facilities as soon as possible after arrival.

1.05 The date and time chicks depart the hatchery and arrive at the rearing facility must be recorded.

1.06 A record specifying time of completion of chick placement must be kept.

1.07 The number of chicks delivered by the hatchery must not exceed the specified maximum placement number.

1.08 Chick transport mortalities ('dead-on-arrivals') must be recorded and reported to the hatchery together with notes of any problems identified.

1.09 The rearing facility must be appropriately prepared prior to the arrival of the chicks. Pre-placement preparation activities include:

- a) flushing of water lines
- b) checking water and feed availability and quality
- c) cleaning and sanitation
- d) litter provision
- e) placement of chick paper
- f) appropriate air and floor temperature, humidity and ventilation settings.

1.10 A record specifying completion of pre-placement rearing facility preparation must be kept.

1.11 Minimum temperature alarms must be available during the brooding period.

1.12 Chicks must be observed at least 4 times in every 24-hour period for at least the first 4 days following placement to ensure that their appearance, vocalisations and behaviour are normal, including:

- a) clean appearance
- b) active, responsive yet calm behaviour
- c) even distribution across the brood area.

1.13 Times of chick observation checks, notes of any problems identified and action taken must be recorded.

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<sup>1</sup> **Floor-based systems**, as defined in these Standards, house birds at ground level.

<sup>2</sup> **Tiered systems**, as defined in these Standards, house birds on one or more levels above ground level and also include floor area at ground level.

## 2 Feed and water

- 2.01 Feeding and watering equipment design, position and height must allow birds to access feed and water with minimal effort and using normal posture.
- 2.02 Feeding and watering systems and equipment must be operating effectively to ensure the birds' daily requirements for feed and water are met.
- 2.03 Where wire is used to prevent birds perching over feeding systems, the wire must not be electrified.
- 2.04 Where wire is used to prevent birds perching over watering systems, the wire must not be electrified after the birds are 4 weeks of age.
- 2.05 Feed and water distribution within the rearing facility must ensure that a uniform supply is available and is accessible to birds.
- 2.06 Feed and water must be available in sufficient quantity and quality to meet the birds' requirements.
- 2.07 Flock feed and water intake must be monitored against the breed standard and notes of any problems identified and action taken must be recorded.
- 2.08 Birds must be observed to be feeding and drinking and notes of any problems identified and action taken must be recorded.
- 2.09 Birds must have unrestricted access to feed and water, with the exception of birds being treated under veterinary advice or during extreme heat where feeding birds during cooler parts of the day may be required to reduce the risk to their welfare.
- 2.10 Unthrifty birds that are not able to reach feed or water must be euthanased immediately.

### 3 Environment and housing

- 3.01 The rearing facility must be designed, constructed and maintained to minimise thermal discomfort to birds.
- 3.02 Floors, surfaces, fittings and equipment in rearing facilities must be designed, constructed and maintained to:
  - a) minimise the risk of injury or disease in birds
  - b) facilitate cleaning
  - c) prevent build-up of parasites that affect birds.
- 3.03 Where infrastructure is observed to cause injury to birds, action must be taken to prevent this situation recurring.
- 3.04 Where present, alarms and controls for ventilation, heating and cooling must be fully operational and maintained as required.
- 3.05 Date and time of checks of alarms and controls for ventilation, heating and cooling, notes of any problems identified and action taken must be recorded.
- 3.06 Personnel must be available to respond to alarms and controls for ventilation, heating and cooling.
- 3.07 A maintenance program must be in place to ensure that facility defects are identified and prompt action is taken to ensure their return to full operation.
- 3.08 A record of facility maintenance/repairs must be maintained.
- 3.09 Contingencies must be in place to ensure that conditions in the rearing facility can be managed and that feed and water can be provided to birds including in the event of equipment failure, fire or other natural disasters.
- 3.10 Quarantine and biosecurity procedures must be in place to minimise the risk of introduction and spread of disease among birds.
- 3.11 Facilities (including feed and litter storage areas) must be constructed and maintained to reduce the attractiveness to and restrict the entry of wild birds, rodents, predators and other pests or animals that could cause distress or transmit diseases to birds.
- 3.12 Pest animal control programs must use the most humane techniques that are applicable to the situation, will achieve the program aims and reduce the risk of impact on non-target species.

#### Temperature

- 3.13 Indoor minimum and maximum temperature must be recorded daily.

#### Ventilation

- 3.14 Natural<sup>3</sup> or mechanical<sup>4</sup> ventilation systems must be operational and effective to provide adequate air exchange for the age and number of birds.
- 3.15 Ammonia levels must be managed to not exceed 15ppm at bird head height.
- 3.16 Dust levels at bird head height must be managed to avoid negative impacts on bird welfare.

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<sup>3</sup> Natural ventilation systems, as defined in these Standards, rely on natural airflow to manage air exchange.

<sup>4</sup> Mechanical ventilation systems, as defined in these Standards, rely on extraction fans to manage air exchange. Stirring fans may be used in each system to assist with air movement within the rearing facility.

### Lighting

- 3.17 Chicks up to 1 week of age are permitted to have a maximum light period of 23 hours in every 24-hour period. Continuous lighting is not permitted.
- 3.18 Between 1 and 3 weeks of age, the dark period must be gradually increased to a minimum 8 hours continuous darkness in every 24-hour period.
- 3.19 After 3 weeks of age, in every 24-hour period, the lighting system must provide a minimum:
  - a) 8 hours continuous artificial or natural lighting and
  - b) 8 hours continuous darkness (with all lights off) to be provided at night.
- 3.20 The light intensity measured at bird head height across the rearing facility, must ensure that, during the light period, no area of the rearing facility is lit at less than 10 lux.
- 3.21 From 1 January 2020, the light intensity between lighting periods must be adjusted in a gradual manner over at least 15 minutes.

### Flooring

- 3.22 Where part of the rearing facility consists of raised flooring, the design must
  - a) provide adequate support for the birds' feet
  - b) avoid damage to or entrapment of birds' feet
  - c) prevent manure build-up protruding through the floor.

### Litter

- 3.23 Where the rearing facility does not allow provision of litter indoors, birds must have access to a veranda to allow birds to dust bathe and forage.
- 3.24 Where the rearing facility allows provision of litter indoors, litter must completely and evenly cover the usable<sup>5</sup> area of the rearing facility floor at ground level.
- 3.25 For tiered systems, the litter area must provide sufficient space to allow at least one third of the flock (calculated as per stocking density requirements under 5.01) to forage and dust bathe at any one time.
- 3.26 Birds must be given continuous access to litter:
  - a) immediately in floor-based systems
  - b) as soon as possible, but no later than 3 weeks following chick placement in tiered systems.
- 3.27 In tiered systems, until chicks have access to the floor:
  - a) chick paper must cover one-third of the usable floor area on the first tier
  - b) feed must be scattered on the chick paper
  - c) scattered feed must be replenished to encourage foraging behaviour.
- 3.28 Litter must be maintained to a minimum average depth of 50mm.
- 3.29 Litter must be of good quality, water-absorbing material and provide for the bird's behavioural need to dust bathe, scratch and forage.

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<sup>5</sup> **Usable area**, as defined in these Standards, may include any horizontal floor surface (including litter, slats or wire-mesh surfaces), verandas (where accessible at all times) and any area occupied by feeding and watering equipment, on one or more levels within the rearing facility provided that each area is accessible to the birds. Usable area can only be included where there is sufficient headroom between levels to allow birds to stand normally and where the area is accessible to stock-persons to observe and reach birds.

- 3.30 Litter supplies must be accompanied by documentation specifying source, type and volume.
- 3.31 Litter must be actively maintained in a dry and friable condition.
- 3.32 Litter condition must be monitored daily and prompt action taken where crusts and/or wet areas are identified.
- 3.33 Litter management equipment must be available on-farm.
- 3.34 Irreparably wet or fouled litter must be removed promptly and replaced with dry, friable litter.

### **Perches**

- 3.35 Perches must be introduced:
  - a) by 10 days of age for floor-based systems
  - b) by 3 weeks of age for tiered systems.
- 3.36 Perches must be provided at not less than 5cm per bird.
- 3.37 Perches must be constructed and positioned to:
  - a) be raised above and not flush with floor areas
  - b) allow birds to access them
  - c) allow birds to stand in a normal posture
  - d) provide a comfortable support for the bird's feet and keel bone
  - e) minimise the risk of injury
  - f) prevent vent pecking by birds below and/or behind
  - g) minimise fouling of birds below.

### **Environmental enrichment**

- 3.38 Environmental enrichment in the form of pecking objects must be provided inside the rearing facility for all birds and must be introduced by 10 days of age.
- 3.39 Pecking objects must be provided either in loose form or be suspended.
- 3.40 Pecking objects must be evenly distributed throughout the rearing facility to prevent undue competition and allow easy access for birds.
- 3.41 Pecking objects must be maintained, replaced or changed as necessary to ensure birds have continuous access and maintain interest.
- 3.42 Where used, organic pecking objects must be stored in a manner that avoids the introduction of pathogens and/or pests.

## 4 Veranda

RSPCA Standards do not require that birds have access to a veranda<sup>6</sup> unless the rearing facility does not provide litter indoors. Where the veranda is included in the calculation of usable area, the following additional Standards must be met.

- 4.01 Birds must be given access to the veranda as soon as possible but no later than 3 weeks following placement.
- 4.02 The veranda must be designed and constructed to provide shade, natural light and good airflow.
- 4.03 The usable floor area of the veranda must provide sufficient space to allow at least one third of the flock (calculated as per stocking density requirements under 5.01) to forage and dust bathe at any one time.
- 4.04 The roof of the veranda must be waterproof.
- 4.05 Litter must completely and evenly cover the veranda floor.
- 4.06 Litter must be maintained at a minimum average depth of 50mm.
- 4.07 Litter must be of good quality, water-absorbing material and provide for the bird's behavioural need to dust bathe, scratch and forage.
- 4.08 Litter supplies must be accompanied by documentation specifying source, type and volume.
- 4.09 Litter must be actively maintained in a dry and friable condition.
- 4.10 Litter condition must be monitored daily and prompt action taken where crusts and/or wet areas are identified.
- 4.11 Litter management equipment must be available on-farm.
- 4.12 Irreparably wet or fouled litter must be removed promptly and replaced with dry, friable litter.
- 4.13 Access to the veranda must meet the following requirements:
  - a) openings must be of a minimum height to allow birds to pass through using normal posture
  - b) number and position of openings must ensure that all birds have the opportunity to access the veranda
  - c) design and position of openings must avoid birds being able to obstruct the movement of other birds and avoid injury to birds
  - d) position of openings must allow the veranda to be visible to birds at ground level within the rearing facility
  - e) the area around openings must be kept clean.

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<sup>6</sup> A veranda, as defined in these Standards, is an addition to the rearing facility which provides birds with a roofed area in which to forage and dust bathe. The veranda protects birds from weather extremes while still providing natural light and fresh air through a combination of solid and permeable (e.g. wire netting) walls.

- 4.14 Any ramps for birds to access the veranda must:
- a) be made from non-slip material
  - b) allow for minimal effort and ease of bird movement to and from the rearing facility
  - c) be cleaned after each batch.
- 4.15 The veranda must be actively managed and maintained to:
- a) encourage birds to access all areas
  - b) control disease and parasites
  - c) avoid injury or mortality
  - d) minimise contact with wild birds.

## 5 Stocking density

- 5.01 Bird placement numbers must ensure that stocking density<sup>7</sup> does not exceed 26kg/m<sup>2</sup> at 16 weeks of age.
- 5.02 The removal of a proportion of birds from the shed at any time during rear to maintain stocking density is not permitted.
- 5.03 Upon occurrence of disease, injury, feather pecking, cannibalism, other indicator of poor welfare or where there is difficulty managing environmental conditions, stocking density must be reviewed and, if necessary, reduced when a new flock is placed to ensure the welfare of the birds.

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<sup>7</sup> **Stocking density**, as defined in these Standards, is calculated on the basis of bird liveweight and the usable area available to the birds in the shed.

## 6 Management procedures

### Training and competency

- 6.01 Persons responsible for the management and/or handling of birds must be appropriately trained and competent in their required tasks, including:
- a) handling and catching of birds
  - b) inspection of birds and rearing facility environment
  - c) maintaining rearing facility environment
  - d) identification of normal and abnormal bird behaviour
  - e) deviations in production targets
  - f) bird care and treatment of injury or distress
  - g) euthanasia of birds.
- 6.02 Staff induction/training programs and standard operating procedures must be consistent with the requirements of these Standards.
- 6.03 Records of staff training must be maintained.
- 6.04 Company owned and/or contractor farms must have internal assessment systems in place to ensure on-going compliance with the RSPCA Standards.

### Animal Care Statement

- 6.05 An Animal Care Statement must be drawn up and complied with.
- 6.06 The Animal Care Statement must specify general management and standard operating procedures as relevant to the rearing facility, including, but not limited to:
- a) sourcing and placement of chicks
  - b) feeding and watering
  - c) environment and housing
  - d) veranda as relevant
  - e) stocking density
  - f) bird observation
  - g) euthanasia
  - h) catching
  - i) transport.
- 6.07 The current Animal Care Statement must be provided to RSPCA Australia and be available at the time of an assessment.
- 6.08 The Animal Care Statement must be reviewed on an annual basis.

### Bird observation

- 6.09 After the first 4 days following placement, birds must be observed at least twice in every 24-hour period to ensure that their appearance, vocalisations and behaviour are normal, including:
- a) feather cover, cleanliness, absence of injuries
  - b) active, responsive, calm behaviour, low noise level
  - c) absence of signs of injurious pecking (see requirements under 7.08)
  - d) even distribution across the rearing facility.
- 6.10 Date and times of daily bird checks, notes of any problems identified (including the absence of normal behaviour) and action taken must be recorded.
- 6.11 Inspections must be increased during hot weather or disease outbreak.
- 6.12 A representative sample number of birds must be weighed weekly and the average weight recorded.
- 6.13 Where average bird body weight for age deviates from the breed standard, notes of any problems identified and action taken must be recorded.
- 6.14 Weak, ill or injured birds must be identified and treated or euthanased without delay.
- 6.15 Dead birds must be removed from the immediate vicinity of the rearing facility and disposed of in a safe and hygienic manner.
- 6.16 Where birds are found to be entrapped or have escaped, they must be freed or caught immediately and action taken to prevent the situation recurring.
- 6.17 Where the cause of ill health or disease and the appropriate treatment is unable to be identified, veterinary advice must be sought and followed accordingly.
- 6.18 Any major event<sup>8</sup> which impacts flock health and welfare adversely must be reported to RSPCA Australia.
- 6.19 Animals, other than placed birds, must be prevented from entering the rearing facility.

### Records

- 6.20 The following records must be maintained for each flock:
- a) number of birds
  - b) bird age
  - c) weekly average bird weight
  - d) weekly mortality rates.
- 6.21 Current flock records, as well as flock records since the previous assessment, must be available on farm at the time of an assessment.

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<sup>8</sup> A **notifiable major event**, as defined in these Standards, includes, but is not restricted to sustained above-trend mortality rate(s) or unusual/unexpected incidences of high mortality, injury or disease resulting from non-endemic and/or exotic disease outbreaks, natural events, predator incursions, infrastructure or equipment failure, feed or water supply quality and/or formulation issues, transportation or handling.

## 7 Health

### Veterinary Health Plan

- 7.01 A Veterinary Health Plan must be drawn up and complied with.
- 7.02 The Veterinary Health Plan must contain details of the following:
- a) procedures for the identification and treatment of weak, ill or injured birds, including separation/treatment, euthanasia and emergency mass euthanasia
  - b) procedures to prevent injurious pecking and identify feather loss
  - c) a vaccination schedule
  - d) a worm monitoring and treatment schedule
  - e) a red mite monitoring and treatment schedule
  - f) any prophylactic or corrective medicines administered, their withholding periods, dose rates and when birds should be treated
  - g) quarantine and biosecurity procedures
  - h) pest control procedures to restrict access of wild birds, predators and rodents to the flock
  - i) cleaning and sanitation procedures.
- 7.03 The current Veterinary Health Plan must be provided to RSPCA Australia and be available at the time of an assessment.
- 7.04 The Veterinary Health Plan must be reviewed on an annual basis and authorised by the designated veterinarian.

### Health records

- 7.05 Health records must be kept for each flock.
- 7.06 Health records must contain details of the following:
- a) vaccinations
  - b) diseases
  - c) mortalities, separated into 'deaths' and 'culls' and noting the main reason for culling
  - d) injuries
  - e) other treatments administered to birds.

### Medicines

- 7.07 Antibiotics must only be administered for therapeutic purposes under veterinary advice. The use of coccidiostats is permitted.

### Management of injurious pecking

- 7.08 Daily monitoring of birds must occur to identify:
- a) early signs of injurious pecking including pecking directed at the body feathers of other birds, feather eating, feather damage or bare areas around the tail; or
  - b) signs of persistent aggression such as pecking directed at the head, loud vocalisation and chasing/fighting other birds.

- 7.09 Where birds exhibit early signs of injurious pecking or aggression, notes of any problems identified and action taken to adjust management practices or to seek further technical or veterinary advice must be recorded.
- 7.10 A bird that is injured as a result of injurious pecking or aggression must be promptly removed for treatment or be euthanased.
- 7.11 Where it is considered necessary to beak-trim birds, the procedure must be:
- a) performed on day-old birds at the hatchery by a competent operator using an infrared technique and appropriately calibrated equipment
  - b) limited to tipping of the beak only
  - c) even, rounded and consistent across the flock.
- 7.12 Where it is identified that birds have been incorrectly trimmed, the hatchery and RSPCA Australia must be notified.
- 7.13 Beak trimming procedures not specified in these Standards must not be performed unless prior approval has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.

**Other management procedures**

- 7.14 Management or husbandry procedures that directly impact bird welfare and are not specified in these Standards must not be performed unless prior approval has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.

## 8 On-farm euthanasia

- 8.01 Birds must be handled and euthanased in a manner that ensures that distress or discomfort is minimised.
- 8.02 The approved methods for on-farm euthanasia of individual birds are:
- a) cervical dislocation
  - b) captive bolt to the head
  - c) gas (inert or CO<sub>2</sub>).
- 8.03 Following cervical dislocation, captive bolt or gas use, the bird must be checked to ensure it is dead, evidenced by a limp carcass, no rhythmic breathing, lack of corneal reflex and dilated pupils.
- 8.04 Killing pliers or other equipment that crushes the neck and methods of cervical dislocation that require spinning or flicking of the bird by the head must not be used.
- 8.05 On-farm euthanasia methods not specified in these Standards must not be performed without prior approval from RSPCA Australia.
- 8.06 A plan for on-farm emergency mass euthanasia must be in place with the method(s) specified in the Veterinary Health Plan and approved by RSPCA Australia.

## 9 Catching

- 9.01 Persons involved in the handling and catching of birds must be appropriately trained and competent.
- 9.02 Persons involved in the handling and catching of birds must meet on-farm biosecurity procedures.
- 9.03 A person responsible for the welfare of the birds must be present at catching.
- 9.04 The timing of catching and transport must be coordinated between the rearer, catching crew, transporter and laying facility in order to ensure that birds are not off feed and water for more than 20 hours prior to placement at the laying facility.
- 9.05 Removal of water facilities must not take place until immediately before catching commences.
- 9.06 Removal of environmental enrichment in preparation for catching must coincide with removal of feed to minimise disturbance to the birds.
- 9.07 Lighting must be dimmed during catching to ensure that birds are calm.
- 9.08 The catching process must be designed and managed to ensure that bird crowding, distress or discomfort is minimised and injuries or mortalities are prevented.
- 9.09 Flock preparation involving separation of the birds into groups must proceed calmly and birds are not to be kicked or picked up and thrown aside.
- 9.10 Birds must be caught and carried either firmly around the body, encompassing both wings, or by grasping both legs.
- 9.11 No more than 5 birds must be carried in one hand.
- 9.12 Birds must not be caught, suspended or dragged by the head or neck.
- 9.13 Inappropriate catching techniques used by the catching crew must be addressed immediately by the person responsible for the welfare of the birds.
- 9.14 A record of catching must be maintained for each flock, including:
  - a) the name of the person responsible for the welfare of the birds at catching
  - b) the names of persons involved in the catching of birds
  - c) time feed and water is withdrawn
  - d) time catching commenced and concluded
  - e) number of birds caught.

## 10 Transport

- 10.01 The transporter must have a written emergency protocol in place that includes out of hours contacts and standard procedures for protecting bird welfare in the case of an accident, transport delay or other emergency.
- 10.02 Persons involved in the handling and transport of birds must be appropriately trained and competent.
- 10.03 Persons involved in the handling and transport of birds must meet on-farm biosecurity procedures.
- 10.04 Action must be taken to minimise the risk of heat or cold stress to birds during transport or while the vehicle is stationary.
- 10.05 A record of bird transport must be maintained, including:
  - a) time of departure from rearing facility
  - b) time of arrival at egg-laying facility
  - c) transport mortalities.

**END OF STANDARDS**



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