

RSPCA APPROVED FARMING SCHEME STANDARD

DRAFT 1.0

LAYER HENS

2022

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This RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Standard applies to layer hens raised in Australia for egg production. The Standard must be read in conjunction with the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Operations Manual which contains information about the Scheme's processes and operation.

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THE STANDARD

1 STAFF TRAINING AND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

Training and competency

- 1.01 Persons responsible for the management and/or handling of birds must be appropriately trained and **competent** in their required tasks, including:
 - a) recognising signs of ill-health
 - b) appropriate care and/or treatment of injury, disease, or distress
 - c) maintaining the housing environment
 - d) general management and husbandry
 - e) observing birds and identifying normal and abnormal behaviour
 - f) **euthanasia** of birds, including observing all signs of death
 - g) catching, handling, loading, transport and unloading of birds
 - h) **on-farm** killing and slaughter of birds, including observing **signs of unconsciousness**
 - i) accurate record keeping.
- 1.02 Staff induction/training programs and standard operating procedures must include the requirements of the Standard.
- 1.03 Records of staff training must be maintained.
- 1.04 Staff must be available to respond **promptly** to problems that arise.
- 1.05 Instances of animal neglect, cruelty or other breaches of animal welfare legislation must be reported immediately to the relevant regulatory authority and RSPCA Australia.

Internal assessment

- 1.06 All **sites** must have internal assessment systems in place to facilitate on-going compliance with the Standard.
- 1.07 Records of all completed internal assessments must be maintained.

Animal Care Statement

- 1.08 An Animal Care Statement must be completed and implemented.
- 1.09 The Animal Care Statement must specify general management and standard operating procedures as relevant, including but not limited to:
 - a) procedures for reporting breaches of animal welfare legislation
 - b) internal assessment systems, including regularity of assessments
 - c) contingency plans and procedures to manage **shed** conditions in the event of power failure, equipment failure or other breakdowns, fire, flood, drought, **extreme weather** conditions, or other **major reportable events**
 - d) supply and placement of birds
 - e) maximum bird placement number for each **shed**

- f) feed and water, including contingency plans for problems with supply and/or formulation issues and changes to feed provision during **extreme weather** conditions
- g) environment and housing, including nest boxes, **perches**, **ramps** and **environmental enrichment**
- h) maintaining appropriate internal **shed** temperatures
- i) lighting programs, including dark periods and changes to lighting provision during **extreme weather** conditions
- j) husbandry and animal management procedures, including bird observations, and management and monitoring of **injurious pecking**
- k) bird handling
- l) catching
- m) transport, including emergency arrangements and measures to minimise the risk of **heat stress** and **cold stress**
- n) on-farm killing and/or slaughter.

1.10 The Animal Care Statement must be reviewed on an annual basis.

1.11 The current Animal Care Statement must be provided to RSPCA Australia upon request.

Record keeping

1.12 All records required to be maintained must be:

- a) available on **site** at the time of an assessment (applicable to facility and live bird records only)
- b) provided to RSPCA Australia upon request.

2 HEALTH

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

Veterinary Health Plan

- 2.01 A Veterinary Health Plan must be completed and implemented.
- 2.02 The Veterinary Health Plan must specify bird health management and monitoring procedures, including but not limited to:
 - a) biosecurity, including quarantine, cleaning and sanitation
 - b) routine health monitoring, including identification and treatment of weak, ill or injured birds
 - c) the vaccination program, including vaccinations received as pullets
 - d) the use of veterinary medicines, including **antimicrobials**
 - e) the use of any other treatments or additives, including probiotics
 - f) the **euthanasia** of birds and signs of death, including mass euthanasia
 - g) physical injury, including **trigger levels** for **keel bone fractures**
 - h) preventing **injurious pecking**, including **trigger levels** for **feather cover**
 - i) the identification and treatment of disease
 - j) the control of internal and external parasites
 - k) production outcomes, including egg production
 - l) mortalities and the **trigger levels**
 - m) pest control procedures to restrict access of wild birds, predators and rodents to the **flock**.
- 2.03 The Veterinary Health Plan must be reviewed on an annual basis and authorised by the designated registered veterinarian.
- 2.04 The current Veterinary Health Plan must be provided to RSPCA Australia upon request.

Vaccination

- 2.05 The Veterinary Health Plan must incorporate a vaccination program to protect birds from diseases for which an effective vaccine is available and which may represent a risk to the birds at a particular **site** as determined by **veterinary advice**.

Medicines

- 2.06 **Antimicrobials** must only be administered for therapeutic purposes under **veterinary advice**.
- 2.07 Any **antimicrobial** classified by the Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on **Antimicrobial Resistance** as being of 'high' or 'medium' importance for human medicine is not permitted for use in layer hens, unless **veterinary advice** indicates that the only effective treatment option is an **antimicrobial** from these categories.
- 2.08 Where **antimicrobials** are used, an Antimicrobial Stewardship Plan must:
 - a) be completed and implemented

- b) specify current type, quantity and nature (therapeutic or preventative) of **antimicrobial** use in a format to be agreed with by RSPCA Australia
- c) consider available evidence of **antimicrobial** resistance in the Australian layer hen **flock**
- d) specify a year-on-year strategy which considers the reduction, refinement and/or replacement of preventative **antimicrobial** use
- e) specify husbandry, management strategies and any alternative preventative treatments, where used, to manage disease risk during any planned reduction, refinement and/or replacement of **antimicrobials**
- f) be reviewed on an annual basis in order to inform the following year's strategy
- g) be authorised by the designated registered veterinarian
- h) be provided to RSPCA Australia as part of the Veterinary Health Plan.

Health monitoring

- 2.09 Quarantine and biosecurity procedures must be in place to minimise the risk of introducing and spreading disease among birds.
- 2.10 Birds that are of ill-health or have been injured must be appropriately treated or **euthanased promptly**.
- 2.11 Where the cause and/or appropriate treatment of ill-health in the **flock** is unable to be identified, **veterinary advice** must be sought immediately and followed accordingly.
- 2.12 Dead birds must be removed **promptly** from the **shed** and disposed of in a safe and hygienic manner.
- 2.13 Any **major reportable event** must be reported **promptly** to RSPCA Australia.
- 2.14 Where a **major reportable event** is identified, records must be maintained and include:
 - a) nature of the problem
 - b) date the problem was identified
 - c) nature of the action taken
 - d) date the action was taken.
- 2.15 Health records for each **flock** must be maintained and include:
 - a) vaccinations
 - b) treatments or medicines administered, including **antimicrobials** for both preventative and therapeutic use
 - c) diseases
 - d) injuries
 - e) dates of any veterinarian visits, notes of any problems identified and the action taken
 - f) incidences of any **trigger level** reached, including **feather cover**, **keel bone fractures** and mortalities, notes of any problems identified and the action taken.
- 2.16 Where birds are temporarily segregated from the **flock** for treatment or recovery, records must be maintained and include:
 - a) date
 - b) reason for segregation
 - c) treatment where applicable
 - d) length of stay
 - e) outcome for each bird.

- 2.17 Daily records of bird mortality, from **placement** until on-**farm** killing or final **pick-up** for slaughter, must be maintained and include:
- a) total mortalities
 - b) mortalities separated into deaths and birds **euthanased**
 - c) the main reasons for **euthanasia**
 - d) the type of injury if any birds are **euthanased** due to injury.

3 SOURCING AND PLACEMENT OF PULLETS

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

Sourcing of pullets

- 3.01 Pullets must be sourced from a cage-free rearing system.
- 3.02 For each **placement** of pullets, records must be maintained and include:
- a) type of cage-free rearing system from which pullets are sourced
 - b) name of the rearing facility and **shed** number from which pullets are sourced
 - c) date and time pullets depart from the rearing facility
 - d) date and time each truck load of pullets arrives at the laying facility
 - e) date and time the pullet **placement** in each **shed** is completed from each truck load
 - f) total number of pullets placed in each **shed**
 - g) total number of pullet transport mortalities for each **flock**
 - h) genetic type/strain.

Pre-placement activities

- 3.03 The **shed** must be prepared prior to the arrival of the pullets by:
- a) being cleaned and sanitised
 - b) flushing the water lines
 - c) checking water and feed availability and quality
 - d) the provision of litter
 - e) maintaining appropriate temperature, air quality and ventilation
 - f) appropriate operation of lighting and provision of **light intensity**.
- 3.04 Records specifying completion of pre-**placement shed** preparation must be maintained.

Pullet placement

- 3.05 Upon arrival of the transport vehicle at the laying facility, pullets must be placed in the **shed** without delay or breaks.

4 FEED AND WATER

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 4.01 Birds must have continuous access to feed and water from when they are placed in the **shed**, unless:
- a) being treated under **veterinary advice**
 - b) during catching or preparation for catching
 - c) when necessary during litter maintenance activities.
- 4.02 Where feed and/or water are temporarily withheld from the **flock**, records must be maintained and include:
- a) date
 - b) reason for withdrawal
 - c) length of withdrawal.
- 4.03 Feeding and drinking equipment must be operating to ensure that birds' daily requirements for feed and water are met.
- 4.04 Feeding and drinking equipment design, distribution, position and height must allow all birds to access feed and water with minimal effort.

Feed

- 4.05 Feed must be:
- a) palatable
 - b) available in sufficient quantity to meet birds' requirements.

Water

- 4.06 Water must be:
- a) suitable for drinking
 - b) available in sufficient quantity to meet birds' requirements.

5 ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

Shed facilities

- 5.01 All birds must have continuous access to a **shed**.
- 5.02 Floors, surfaces, fittings and equipment and other facilities in and around the **shed** must be designed, constructed, operated and maintained to minimise the risk of injury, **entrapment**, escaping or disease.
- 5.03 Where all or part of the **shed** consists of raised flooring, the design must:
 - a) provide adequate support for the birds' feet
 - b) prevent manure build-up protruding through the floor.
- 5.04 A maintenance program must identify and rectify any facility defects.
- 5.05 Facilities, including feed and litter storage areas, must be maintained to limit the entry of pathogens, pests, and animals that could cause distress or transmit diseases to birds.
- 5.06 Pest animal control programs must:
 - a) use the most humane effective techniques that are applicable to the situation
 - b) reduce the risk of impact on non-target species.
- 5.07 Where electrified wire is used to prevent birds from laying floor eggs or perching on feed/water systems, it must be switched off as soon as possible and no later than three weeks following **placement** allowing for nest box training.

Temperature and ventilation

- 5.08 Equipment for ventilation, heating or cooling must be designed, constructed, operated and maintained to:
 - a) manage air exchange, air quality, humidity, dust and bird comfort within the **shed**
 - b) minimise the risk of **heat stress** or **cold stress**.
- 5.09 Where present, automatic equipment for ventilation, heating or cooling must:
 - a) be inspected daily when in use
 - b) be fitted with automatic alarms that warn immediately of equipment failure
 - c) have a back-up power supply that is tested weekly
 - d) have date and time of alarms checks, any problems identified and the action taken recorded
 - e) have staff available to respond to alarms **promptly**.
- 5.10 Minimum and maximum **shed** temperatures must be recorded daily at bird head height.
- 5.11 **Shed** conditions must be managed so that ammonia levels do not exceed 15ppm at bird head height.

- 5.12 **Ammonia readings** must be taken in each **shed**:
- a) at least twice per week upon first entering the **shed** in the morning, and
 - b) within one hour after any litter maintenance activities have ceased.
- 5.13 Records for **ammonia readings** must be maintained and include:
- a) date and time of checks
 - b) any problems identified and the action taken.

Litter

- 5.14 Birds must have continuous access to litter as soon as possible and no later than three weeks following **placement** allowing for nest box training, unless access to a **veranda** or an **outdoor area** to dust bathe and forage is provided.
- 5.15 Where litter provision is required and nest box training occurs, birds must have at least daily access to litter immediately after the egg-laying period.
- 5.16 Where litter provision is required, the floor of the **shed** must be covered in litter:
- a) that provides sufficient space to allow at least 1/3 of the **flock** based on **shed placement** numbers to dust bathe and forage at any one time
 - b) to a minimum average depth of 50mm
 - c) of a substrate that encourages birds to dust bathe and forage
 - d) that allows birds to maintain thermal comfort
 - e) that is maintained in a dry and friable condition.
- 5.17 Records for litter supplies must be maintained and include:
- a) source
 - b) type
 - c) volume.

Lighting

- 5.18 Birds ≥ 21 days of age, in each 24-hour period, must have a minimum of:
- a) eight hours continuous light period
 - b) eight hours continuous dark period at night, unless during a night catch where a minimum four hours continuous dark period that night is permitted.
- 5.19 **Light intensity** in the **shed** at bird head height across the laying facility, must ensure, unless during catching, that:
- a) during the light period no area of the **shed** is lit at < 10 lux
 - b) during the dark period at night lights in the **shed** must be turned off.
- 5.20 **Light intensity** in the **shed** between lighting periods must be adjusted in a gradual manner over at least 15 minutes.
- 5.21 Flickering lights must be replaced or repaired **promptly**.

- 5.22 Artificial lighting, unless during catching, must:
- a) provide at least the broad spectrum visible to humans
 - b) not be monochromatic in wavelength.

Nest boxes

- 5.23 Birds must be provided with a minimum of one single nest for every seven birds or 1m² nest boxes for every 120 birds in the laying facility **shed**.
- 5.24 Nest boxes must be enclosed and provide a suitable substrate that encourages nesting behaviour.
- 5.25 Nest box flooring must not consist of wire or plastic-coated wire.
- 5.26 Nest boxes must be kept dark, unless during nest box training where nest box lighting must only be used in the morning.

Perches and ramps

- 5.27 Birds ≥ 7 days of age, must have access to **perches** in the **shed**, unless during catching or preparation for catching or where temporary removal is required for litter maintenance.
- 5.28 **Perches** in the laying facility must be provided at a minimum length of 150m per 1000 birds based on **shed placement** number.
- 5.29 **Perches** must be constructed and positioned to:
- a) be evenly distributed throughout the **shed**
 - b) have rounded edges and provide a solid flat surface
 - c) have a minimum width of 3cm and support birds' keel bone and whole foot
 - d) be raised at least 60cm above the floor
 - e) have a minimum height of 20cm clearance above.
- 5.30 For **tiered systems**, birds must have access to **ramps** in the laying facility **shed**, unless during catching or preparation for catching or where temporary removal is required for litter maintenance.
- 5.31 **Ramps** must be constructed and positioned to:
- a) be of a minimal slope to allow birds to walk up and down the **ramp** with normal gait
 - b) provide a continuous surface
 - c) provide a non-slip surface.

Environmental enrichment

- 5.32 Birds in the laying facility must be provided with:
- a) at least two different types of **environmental enrichment** objects
 - b) a minimum of two **environmental enrichment** objects for every 1000 birds based on laying facility **shed placement** number.

- 5.33 **Environmental enrichment** must be provided, maintained, replaced or changed to ensure continuous easy access and maintain interest for all birds, unless the laying facility **shed** is being prepared for catching or where temporary removal is required for litter maintenance.

6 VERANDA

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

The Standard does not require that birds have access to a **veranda**, however, where the **veranda** is included in the calculation of **usable area**, the following additional standards must be met.

- 6.01 Birds must be given access to the **veranda** as soon as possible but no later than three weeks following **placement** allowing for a period of nest box training.
- 6.02 Birds must be given the choice to access the **veranda** area daily during daylight hours, immediately after the egg-laying period, unless:
 - a) **extreme weather** conditions require birds to be temporarily kept indoors
 - b) during nest box training
 - c) under direct **veterinary advice**, including during treatment specified in the Veterinary Health Plan
 - d) on the day of catching for on-farm killing or slaughter.
- 6.03 The total available **usable area** in the **veranda** must be at least 1/3 the size of the **shed** floor **usable area**.
- 6.04 The **veranda** must be designed and constructed to provide:
 - a) shade and shelter, including protection from weather
 - b) natural light
 - c) adequate air exchange to manage airflow, temperature, humidity, and dust.
- 6.05 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.
- 6.06 The floor of the **veranda** must be entirely covered in litter.
- 6.07 The design, number and position of openings that provide access to the **veranda** must:
 - a) allow birds to pass through using normal posture
 - b) that all birds have the opportunity to access the **veranda**
 - c) give birds a clear view at ground level of the **veranda** from within the **shed**.

7 OUTDOOR AREA

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

The Standard does not require that birds have access to an **outdoor area** unless the laying facility does not provide litter indoors or a **veranda**, or where the product label indicates that birds have had access to an **outdoor area**. Where an **outdoor area** is provided the following standards must be met.

- 7.01 Birds must be given access to the **outdoor area** as soon as possible but no later than three weeks following **placement** allowing for a period of nest box training.
- 7.02 Birds must be given the choice to access the **outdoor area** during daylight hours for a minimum of eight hours each per 24-hour period, immediately after the egg-laying period, unless:
 - a) **extreme weather** conditions require birds to be temporarily kept indoors
 - b) during nest box training
 - c) under direct **veterinary advice**, including during treatment specified in the Veterinary Health Plan
 - d) on the day of catching for on-farm killing or slaughter.
- 7.03 Records must be maintained daily and include:
 - a) dates and times that openings to the **outdoor area** were opened and closed
 - b) dates and reasons where fewer than eight hours access per 24-hour period was provided.
- 7.04 A maximum of 2,500 birds per ha of **outdoor area** must be available to birds.
- 7.05 The **outdoor area** must be designed and actively managed and maintained to:
 - a) encourages birds to dustbathe and forage
 - b) provide palatable vegetation
 - c) provide **overhead cover**
 - d) be well drained to avoid muddiness and the accumulation of water
 - e) control disease and parasites
 - f) avoid injury or mortality
 - g) minimise the risk of fire.
- 7.06 The design, number and position of openings that provide access to the **outdoor area** must:
 - a) allow birds to pass through easily and unhindered using normal posture
 - b) give birds a clear view at ground level of the **outdoor area** from within the **shed**
 - c) take into account prevailing weather conditions.
- 7.07 At least 75m² of **overhead cover** per 1000 birds based on the laying facility **shed placement** number must be provided.
- 7.08 **Overhead cover** must be:
 - a) first located <20m from any opening to the **outdoor area**
 - b) distributed evenly across the total available **outdoor area**
 - c) of sufficient height for birds to stand under it using normal posture
 - d) constructed, placed and maintained to encourage bird use.

7.09 Where used, fences in or around the **outdoor area** must not be electrified.

8 STOCKING DENSITY

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 8.01 **Stocking density** in the **usable area** must not exceed:
- a) 7 birds per m² for **floor-based systems**
 - b) 9 birds per m² for **floor-based systems** if access to an **outdoor area**
 - c) 9 birds per m² for **tiered systems**.
- 8.02 Records of the size of the **usable area/s** must be maintained.

9 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND MANAGEMENT

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 9.01 Where it is identified that birds have been incorrectly beak trimmed, the supplier must be **promptly** notified.

Guideline: Where preventative management strategies for **injurious pecking** are in place and good **feather cover** (score ≤ 1) has been achieved in at least two consecutive **flocks**, the phasing out of beak trimming should be actively considered.

- 9.02 Other management or husbandry procedures that directly impact bird welfare and are not specified in the Standard must not be performed unless prior consent has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.

Bird observation

- 9.03 Birds must be observed at least three times in every 24-hour period. Where abnormal observations occur action must be taken and recorded for:
- a) appearance, vocalisations and behaviour, including **feather cleanliness**, **wounds** and **aggression**
 - b) **injurious pecking**, including **feather cover**
 - c) **keel bone fractures**.
- 9.04 Bird observations must be increased during periods of:
- a) adverse environmental conditions (including hot weather)
 - b) disease outbreak
 - c) any other circumstance where bird health or welfare may be compromised.
- 9.05 A sample of birds representative of the **flock per shed**, must be assessed every four weeks from the day of **placement** in the laying facility **shed** for:
- a) **feather cleanliness**
 - b) **feather cover**
 - c) **keel bone fractures**.

Induced moulting

- 9.06 Induced moulting of birds is not permitted.

10 ANIMAL HANDLING

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 10.01 Bird handling time must be kept to a minimum.
- 10.02 Birds must be approached and handled:
- a) calmly and quietly
 - b) with an awareness of the bird's natural **flight zone**
 - c) in a manner that avoids pain, suffering and/or distress
 - d) in a manner that avoids injuries and mortalities.
- 10.03 Birds must be caught, picked up and carried individually with both hands supporting the bird's body while holding the wings against the bird's body or with one hand securing the legs and the other holding the bird against the person's body, unless:
- a) during catching for on-**farm** killing or slaughter, where birds may be caught by one leg then lifted up and carried by holding both legs in one hand, with no more than two birds in each hand
 - b) during shackling at slaughter, where birds may be caught by one or both legs, then gently lifted up by both legs and each leg then gently inserted into the shackle.
- 10.04 Catching aids which may cause injury, entanglement, or result in birds being suspended or dragged must not be used.
- 10.05 Other bird handling techniques not specified in the Standard must not be performed unless prior consent has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.

11 EUTHANASIA

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 11.01 Birds must be **euthanased** in a manner that avoids pain, suffering and/or distress.
- 11.02 Birds must be **euthanased** immediately if they are of ill-health, injured or have some other physical impediment and are not able to respond to treatment or recover.
- 11.03 The permitted methods for **euthanasia** of birds are:
 - a) captive bolt device
 - b) carbon dioxide controlled atmosphere killing
 - c) manual cervical dislocation.

Guideline: The phasing out of manual cervical dislocation for **euthanasia** should be actively considered and replaced with alternative methods, such as captive bolt devices or controlled atmosphere killing.

- 11.04 For all **euthanasia** methods (captive bolt, carbon dioxide controlled atmosphere killing, or cervical dislocation), birds must have unconsciousness and death confirmed by checking for the absence of the **nictitating membrane reflex**, and at least two of the following signs:
 - a) no **corneal reflex**
 - b) no **pupillary light reflex**
 - c) no rhythmic breathing
 - d) no neck tension
 - e) no vocalisation.
- 11.05 Where the **euthanasia** method has not resulted in immediate loss of consciousness and subsequent death:
 - a) the method must be immediately repeated or another permitted method must be immediately applied
 - b) equipment and method which resulted in failure must be checked and adjusted to correct any fault.
- 11.06 Other **euthanasia** methods not specified in the Standard must not be performed unless prior consent has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.

Cervical dislocation

- 11.07 Cervical dislocation must be performed:
 - a) manually and without the use of objects or equipment to assist
 - b) holding the bird with both legs in one hand and the head in the other, unless the bird is being **euthanased** for poor leg health or the bird has apparent leg problems, in which case the base of both wings must be held in one hand instead of the legs, with the weight of the bird supported against the person's body
 - c) using a single, quick and controlled stretching motion that dislocates the first neck vertebrae from the cranium and severs the spinal cord, causing death at the first attempt.

Captive bolt

11.08 Captive bolt devices must be designed, manufactured, maintained and operated to be:

- a) appropriate for the size of the bird
- b) fit for purpose
- c) able to achieve death at the first attempt.

11.09 The operator of a captive bolt device must:

- a) appropriately restrain the bird to enable accurate positioning of the device so that it is in contact with the bird's head
- b) aim and discharge the device straight down on the midline of the head, between the eyes and ears where the brain is located.

Carbon dioxide controlled atmosphere killing

11.10 Where carbon dioxide controlled atmosphere killing is used, a detailed standard operating procedure including the gas concentrations used, must be submitted and prior consent obtained from RSPCA Australia.

11.11 Carbon dioxide controlled atmosphere killing must take place in a purpose-built container that is designed, manufactured, maintained and operated to ensure rapid unconsciousness and death, while:

- a) being of sufficient floor space and height to allow birds to sit or stand comfortably in a single layer
- b) allowing visual observation of birds inside the container
- c) having monitors that indicate the temperature of gas that birds are exposed to in the container
- d) being used in accordance with the submitted and agreed to standard operating procedure outlining the method.

11.12 Carbon dioxide gas concentrations must not exceed 40% until birds have lost consciousness, followed by concentrations of $\geq 40\%$ until death.

12 CATCHING AND TRANSPORT

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 12.01 All persons involved in the catching, loading, transport and unloading of birds must:
 - a) meet on-**farm** biosecurity procedures
 - b) be aware of and be able to implement emergency arrangements.
- 12.02 Action must be taken to minimise the risk of **heat stress** or **cold stress** to birds at catching, loading, unloading, during transport and while the vehicle is stationary.
- 12.03 The timing of catching, transport and slaughter must be coordinated to minimise the time birds spend on the transport vehicle.
- 12.04 Birds must not be off feed or water for more than 18 hours prior to on-**farm** killing or slaughter.

Preparation for catching

- 12.05 Birds must have access to water until immediately before catching commences.
- 12.06 Any removal of nest boxes, **perches**, **ramps** and **environmental enrichment** must coincide with removal of feed or water to minimise disturbance to the birds.
- 12.07 A visual assessment of birds must be made before catching commences to confirm that they are **fit for the intended journey**.
- 12.08 Any birds not **fit for the intended journey** must be treated or **euthanased** immediately.

Catching

- 12.09 At least one senior member of the catching team must be made responsible for supervising and maintaining the Standard throughout the catching process.
- 12.10 Loading birds into transport crates or modules must take place inside the **shed**.
- 12.11 Transport crates or modules must:
 - a) be clean and intact
 - b) provide sufficient floor space to allow birds to sit comfortably at the same time
 - c) be of a height and have openings of sufficient size to avoid injury to the birds
 - d) not be tilted at an angle that may impact bird welfare by piling or smothering
 - e) be closed in a manner that avoids **entrapment** of any birds.
- 12.12 Birds must be placed onto the floor of the crate or module, not thrown, swung or dropped into a crate or module.
- 12.13 Records for catching must be maintained and include:
 - a) **farm** and **shed** of birds
 - b) name of the person and company responsible for the birds at catching
 - c) names of persons involved in the catching of birds

- d) time and date feed and water are withdrawn
- e) time and date catching commenced and concluded
- f) number of birds caught.

Post catching

- 12.14 Where part of a **flock** is removed from the **shed**, the remaining birds in the **shed** must **promptly**:
- a) be checked and encouraged to re-distribute evenly throughout the **usable area**
 - b) be provided with feed and water
 - c) have all nest boxes, **perches**, **ramps** and **environmental enrichment** redistributed within the **shed** where applicable.

Transport

- 12.15 Only **transporters** that have been routinely assessed by RSPCA Australia and shown to comply with the Standard may be used to transport RSPCA Approved birds.
- 12.16 **Transporters** must provide information relevant to the Standard **promptly** to RSPCA Australia upon request.
- 12.17 **Transporters** must have emergency arrangements in place that include out of hours contacts and standard operating procedures for protecting bird welfare in the case of breakdowns, unexpected delays, accidents, and other circumstances that may affect the welfare of the birds during the journey.
- 12.18 Access roads and **pick-up** pads must be well maintained to provide a level and compacted surface and kept clear to ensure access at catching and loading for transport.
- 12.19 Transport crates or modules must be placed onto the transport vehicle at a speed and angle that minimises tilting and avoids injury to birds.
- 12.20 Records for transport must be maintained and include:
- a) time and date of departure from **farm**
 - b) time and date of arrival at destination
 - c) any problems identified and the action taken.

13 SLAUGHTER

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 13.01 Only **abattoirs** that have been routinely assessed by RSPCA Australia and shown to comply with the Standard may be used to slaughter RSPCA Approved birds.
- 13.02 **Abattoirs** must provide information relevant to the Standard **promptly** to RSPCA Australia upon request.
- 13.03 The **abattoir** must nominate a designated person/s who is:
- a) responsible for the oversight of animal welfare at the facility
 - b) responsible for animal-based welfare assessments and monitoring of live birds handling and slaughter
 - c) on **site** when live birds are being unloaded, handled and slaughtered
 - d) knowledgeable in all facets of handling and slaughter
 - e) responsible for monitoring adherence to the Standard
 - f) responsible for ensuring that breaches of animal welfare legislation are reported to the relevant regulator and RSPCA Australia.
- 13.04 A Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system must be installed and operational to allow a clear, unobstructed view and recording of live birds at:
- a) unloading from transport vehicles into **lairage** area
 - b) loading of transport crates or modules onto the system prior to **stunning**
 - c) removal from transport crates or modules prior to **stunning** where applicable
 - d) all shackling points prior to **stunning** where applicable
 - e) electrical waterbath stunning systems at **stunning** unit entry and exit and along the entire waterbath
 - f) controlled atmosphere stunning systems at the point where birds lose consciousness during the **stunning** process and at **stunning** unit exit
 - g) neck cutting, including back-up.
- 13.05 Procedures for the use and review of CCTV footage must be in place and have:
- a) routine reviewing of footage at least once per shift covering a representative sample of bird sizes and shift times
 - b) availability for viewing (both stored and real-time footage) by RSPCA Australia
 - c) storage of footage for a minimum of 14 days
 - d) dates for routine monitoring with any problems identified and the action taken recorded.
- 13.06 **Stunning** and slaughter equipment must be:
- a) designed, manufactured, maintained and operated to provide effective restraint, **stunning**, and bleeding out
 - b) checked at least at the start of each shift
 - c) checked and adjusted to accommodate bird size when required
 - d) checked and adjusted after a breakdown or line stoppage.
- 13.07 Procedures must be in place to manage equipment failure and other breakdowns that may impact on bird welfare and must:
- a) ensure that effectively **stunned** birds are **promptly** processed or **euthanased**
 - b) ensure other birds are managed until the issue has been rectified.

- 13.08 Methods of **stunning** and killing not specified in the Standard must not be performed unless prior consent has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.
- 13.09 Daily records must be maintained and include:
- a) source **farm** of birds
 - b) hourly checks of the birds in **lairage** to monitor bird welfare and signs of **heat stress**, **cold stress** or other signs of distress
 - c) number of birds dead on arrival and mortality rate
 - d) reason/s for death on arrival, if mortality **trigger level** reached
 - e) slaughter date
 - f) holding time (time in **lairage**)
 - g) number of birds slaughtered
 - h) segregation of RSPCA Approved birds.

Lairage

- 13.10 Upon arrival at the **abattoir**, birds must be placed in a **lairage** area that is:
- a) covered to provide shelter and shade
 - b) fitted with fans and misting equipment
 - c) designed and operated to provide adequate air exchange between and within transport crates or modules
 - d) able to allow effective inspection of all birds.
- 13.11 Birds must be checked on arrival and hourly to identify any birds suffering from injury, **heat stress**, **cold stress** or other signs of distress.
- 13.12 Where transport mortalities exceed set **trigger levels** they must:
- a) be reported **promptly** to the consignor with any problems identified
 - b) have action taken by the consignor to address any problems identified.
- 13.13 Records for bird checks in the **lairage** area must be maintained and include:
- a) date and time of checks
 - b) any problems identified and the action taken.
- 13.14 Where birds are tipped from transport modules, the system must be fitted with slides to minimise the distance between the transport module and the conveyor belt.
- 13.15 Transport crates or modules must be inspected following unloading of birds, and any crates or modules that may cause injury to birds must be disposed of or repaired.

Stunning

- 13.16 Birds must be **stunned** prior to slaughter using one of the following methods:
- a) electrical waterbath stunning
 - b) controlled atmosphere stunning.
- 13.17 Birds must be checked for **signs of unconsciousness** post **stunning**.
- 13.18 Where birds are identified as ineffectively **stunned**, action must be taken immediately.

- 13.19 Persons must be available at all times when the **stunning** system is in operation to immediately make adjustments when required.

Shackling – Electrical waterbath stunning systems

- 13.20 The shackling line and shackles must be an appropriate size for processing layer hens.
- 13.21 Transport crates or modules must be checked for birds that remain behind and any remaining birds immediately removed.
- 13.22 The shackling line must be designed and operated to minimise wing-flapping, head-raising, or disturbance to birds at any stage on the line.
- 13.23 A breast comforter must be present from the point at which the bird is shackled to the stunner entry, and maintain contact with the breast of the bird in a manner that does not cause injury, discomfort and/or distress.
- 13.24 Any birds that have severe visible injuries must:
- a) not be shackled
 - b) be **euthanased** immediately.
- 13.25 Shackling crews must place both bird's legs simultaneously in the shackles:
- a) firmly but gently
 - b) in a manner that minimises disturbance and wing-flapping
 - c) in a manner that avoids excessive swinging in the shackles
 - d) in a manner that birds cannot fall from the shackle line
 - e) only if shackles are clear of obstructions.
- 13.26 Birds must not be suspended from the shackle line for more than 60 seconds prior to **stunning**.
- 13.27 Shackles must:
- a) be wet at the point where the bird's feet touch the shackle
 - b) have water applied prior to the bird being placed in the shackles.
- 13.28 The shackling area must be checked regularly to ensure that no birds have been left behind.

Electrical waterbath stunning systems

- 13.29 Equipment, calibration, and procedures for electrical waterbath stunning must have as their primary purpose that:
- a) birds do not receive pre-stun shocks
 - b) the bird's head is in immediate contact with the electrified water and for the entire length of the waterbath
 - c) **electrical waterbath stunning parameters** are effective for the size of birds and the type of **stunning** system
 - d) **electrical waterbath stunning parameter** settings are accurately monitored
 - e) deviations from the set **electrical waterbath stunning parameters** are immediately rectified.

- 13.30 Birds must have their neck cut within 15 seconds after leaving the electrical waterbath stunning system.

Guideline: The phasing out of electrical waterbath stunning systems for slaughter should be actively considered and replaced with alternatives that do not require conscious shackling of birds, such as controlled atmosphere stunning systems.

Controlled atmosphere stunning systems

- 13.31 Gas concentration monitors must:
- a) accurately indicate the gas concentrations at different phases
 - b) be calibrated regularly, as per the manufacturer's recommendations
 - c) have dates of calibration with notes of any problems identified and the action taken recorded.
- 13.32 The controlled atmosphere stunning system must be fitted with a visual or audible alarm which is automatically triggered when the equipment is not functioning effectively.
- 13.33 Where carbon dioxide gas is used for controlled atmosphere stunning, concentrations must not exceed $\geq 40\%$ until birds have lost consciousness.
- 13.34 Where a shackling carousel is used, it must be constructed and managed to avoid birds exiting the **stunning** unit falling to the floor.
- 13.35 Birds must have their neck cut within 60 seconds after leaving the controlled atmosphere stunning system.

Bleeding out

- 13.36 **Stunned** birds must be cut effectively in a manner that severs both carotid arteries to ensure bleed out without regaining consciousness.
- 13.37 Bleeding out time prior to scalding must be at least 120 seconds.
- 13.38 Manual and automated cutting systems must at all times have at least one back-up knife-hand ensuring that all birds are cut effectively to bleed out without regaining consciousness.
- 13.39 Where any **red birds** are identified:
- a) action must be taken to rectify the problem and avoid reoccurrence of birds being cut ineffectively
 - b) the action taken must be recorded
 - c) the total number of **red birds** must be recorded.

Animal-based welfare assessment

- 13.40 For a random sample of at least 100 RSPCA Approved birds processed, following each calibration of equipment and at least daily:
- a) number of birds receiving pre-**stun** shocks (electrical waterbath stunning systems only)
 - b) number of birds where the head is not in contact with the electrified water for the entire length of the waterbath (electrical waterbath stunning systems only)
 - c) number of birds at stunner exit (or at point of shackling for gas stunning systems) not effectively **stunned**
 - d) number of birds not effectively cut.

14 ON-FARM KILLING FOR DEPOPULATION

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 14.01 The permitted methods for on-**farm** killing for depopulation of birds are:
- a) captive bolt device
 - b) controlled atmosphere killing.
- 14.02 The on-**farm** killing method must be suitable for the type of housing facility and number of birds.
- 14.03 Where carbon dioxide gas is used for controlled atmosphere killing, concentrations must not exceed 40% until birds have lost consciousness, followed by concentrations of $\geq 40\%$ until death.
- 14.04 Birds must have death confirmed **promptly** after the on-**farm** killing method.
- 14.05 Where any bird is identified as ineffectively killed following the on-**farm** killing method, the bird must be **euthanased** immediately.
- 14.06 Other on-**farm** killing methods not specified in the Standard must not be performed unless prior consent has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.

15 REARING OF PULLETS

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

The Standard does not require that pullets are reared by producers, however, where producers own pullets the following additional standards must be met.

Environment and housing

- 15.01 Pullets must be reared in a cage-free **floor-based system** or **tiered system** that is similar to the intended laying facility housing system.
- 15.02 Pullets must have continuous access to litter:
 - a) immediately in floor-based systems
 - b) as soon as possible, but no later than 21 days of age in **tiered systems**.
- 15.03 For **tiered systems**, until pullets are provided access to litter, chick paper must cover 1/3 of the **usable area** on the floor of the first tier in the rearing facility.
- 15.04 Pullets <7 days of age, in each 24-hour period, must have a minimum of one hour of continuous dark period at night.

Guideline: The use of lighting programs that mimic natural brooding such as dark brooders or intermittent lighting programs for pullets should be actively considered.

- 15.05 Pullets 7 to 21 days of age, in each 24-hour period, must have the dark period gradually increased to a minimum 8 hours continuous darkness at night.
- 15.06 **Light intensity** in the **shed** at bird head height across the rearing facility, must ensure, unless during catching, that during the light period no area of the **shed** is lit at <20 lux.
- 15.07 **Perches** in the rearing facility must be provided at a minimum length of 75m per 1000 pullets based on **shed placement** number.
- 15.08 Pullets ≥7 days of age being raised for **tiered systems**, must have access to **ramps** in the rearing facility **shed**.
- 15.09 Pullets ≥7 days of age in the rearing facility must be provided a minimum of one **environmental enrichment** object for every 1000 pullets based on **shed placement** number.

Stocking density

- 15.10 **Stocking density** in the **usable area** of the rearing facility must not exceed 12 pullets per m² at 16 weeks of age.

Animal husbandry and management

- 15.11 Where beak-trimmed pullets are sourced, the procedure must be:
 - a) performed on day-old pullets at the hatchery by a **competent** operator using an infrared technique and appropriately calibrated equipment

- b) limited to the minimum amount necessary to prevent beak re-growth that would require re-trimming
 - c) even, rounded and consistent across the **flock**.
- 15.12 Beak trimming and re-trimming procedures not specified in the Standard must not be performed unless prior consent has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.

GLOSSARY

NOTE: The glossary defines words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within the Standard and which form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard.

abattoir	A facility where animals are slaughtered for the purpose of meat and meat products for human consumption.
aggression	Exhibited behaviour often associated with dominance and the establishment of a pecking order. Signs of aggression include aggressive attacks from birds directed at the head, neck of another bird, aggressive pecking, loud vocalisation and chasing or fighting other birds. Aggression is assessed by the total number of birds showing aggression and the specific type of behaviours observed.
ammonia readings	Measurements of ammonia concentration at bird head height using an ammonia meter or ammonia test paper at locations representative of litter condition in the shed.
antimicrobial	An agent that kills or stops the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Antimicrobials may be used therapeutically for the treatment of a diagnosed disease or they may be used to prevent the occurrence or spread of disease. Ionophores and non-ionophore coccidiostats are a subcategory of antimicrobials used in poultry production to kill or inhibit protozoal infections. For the purpose of the Standard, the term ‘antimicrobial’ excludes anthelmintics, antiseptics, disinfectants, essential oils, feed enzymes, prebiotics, probiotics, and organic acids.
cold stress	A condition in which a bird is unable to maintain core body temperature within the normal range during periods of cold ambient temperature resulting in core body temperature falling below the normal range. Signs of cold stress include huddling, shivering, feather fluffing, pale comb, lethargy and collapse.
competent	Having the necessary knowledge, experience, skill and ability to undertake a task successfully.
corneal reflex	Blinking in response to touching the bird’s eye.
electrical waterbath stunning parameters	Factors that affect the outcome of an electrical stun including voltage (V), total current (mA), frequency (Hz), current type (AC or DC), average current per bird, stun duration (secs) at number of birds per minute, and number of birds in the waterbath.
entrapment	A situation in which a bird’s body or part of its body is trapped, and the bird is unable to free themselves.
environmental enrichment	Improvement of the environment of the birds, which increases their behavioural opportunities (e.g., pecking and ground scratching) and the opportunity to experience positive affective states. Environmental enrichment (either fixed or able to be moved around by birds) may include, but is not limited to, organic and non-organic manipulable materials such as pecking blocks, balls and other moveable objects, food items and bales of straw.

euthanasia/euthanased	Humanely ending the life of an animal when it is in the interest of the animal's welfare and using a technique that avoids further pain, suffering or distress.
extreme weather	A weather event which can include heavy and/or prolonged rain, hail, snow, wind, or extremely high or low temperatures that may affect the welfare of the exposed bird.
farm	The site at which birds are housed.
feather cleanliness	<p>The amount of dirt a bird has over its body, particularly on its feathers. Feather cleanliness condition is assessed by scoring one side of the bird (except the feet and legs) with the following scoring method:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 = Clean: the bird is clean, no area of soiling • 1 = Moderate dirtiness: there is soiling on at least one part of the bird but no area $\geq 5\text{cm}$ maximum dimension • 2 = Substantial dirtiness: there is soiling on one or more parts of the bird $\geq 5\text{cm}$ maximum dimension
feather cover	<p>The amount of feathers a bird has over its body, particularly on the back and wings. Feather cover condition is assessed by separately scoring the head/neck area and back/vent area of the bird with the following scoring method:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 = No/minimal feather loss: no bare skin visible, no or slight wear, only single feathers missing • 1 = Slight feather loss: moderate wear, damaged feathers or 2 or more adjacent feathers missing up to bare skin visible $< 5\text{cm}$ maximum dimension • 2 = Moderate/severe feather loss: bare skin visible $\geq 5\text{cm}$ maximum dimension
fit for the intended journey	A bird that satisfies all the criteria for catching, loading and transport which includes being strong enough to undertake the journey, can walk normally and bear weight on both legs, is not emaciated or visibly dehydrated, is not blind in both eyes, is not in a condition that could cause it increased pain or distress during transport, and is not suffering from visible distress or injury.
flight zone	The area around an animal that if encroached upon by a potential threat, will trigger escape behaviour. This is the distance a bird will let a person approach before moving away.
flock	A group of birds of the same or similar age raised together within the same usable area of a shed.
floor-based systems	Rearing or laying facility shed where birds are housed at ground level.
heat stress	A condition in which a bird is unable to maintain core body temperature within the normal range during periods of hot ambient temperature resulting in core body temperature exceeding the normal range. Signs of heat stress include loss of appetite, increased respiration rate, excessive drinking, open mouth breathing, lethargy, and reluctance to move.

injurious pecking	Severe feather pecking behaviour directed at other birds and can lead to cannibalism. Signs of injurious pecking include pecking directed at the body feathers of other birds around the back, tail and wings, feather eating, feather damage or removal, or bare areas around the tail or vent. Injurious pecking does not include preening or gentle pecking of other birds, which is a normal social, investigatory behaviour.
keel bone fractures	<p>Keel bone fracture prevalence is assessed by palpating the keel bone by running a thumb and finger down the sides focusing on the bottom 1/3 of the keel bone, for the presence or absence of deviations, deformities and/or calcium deposits (lumpiness) indicative of healed fractures.</p> <p>An assessment of a keel bone fracture is based on the following scoring method:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 = no deviations, deformities or thickened lumpy sections. • 1 = mild deviations, deformities or thickened lumpy sections. • 2 = severe deviations, deformities or thickened lumpy sections.
lairage	Designated area at the abattoir used for the purpose of holding birds prior to slaughter.
light intensity	The illuminance expressed in lux emitted by a light source.
major reportable event	A circumstance that has a significant adverse impact on the welfare of the birds. A major reportable event includes sustained at or above trigger level mortality rate/s or unusual/unexpected incidences of high mortality; injury or disease including those resulting from endemic and/or exotic disease outbreaks; natural events; predator incursions; infrastructure or equipment failure; poor bird management (including keel bone fractures, injurious pecking, cannibalism); feed supply and/or formulation issues; transportation; bird handling; or other circumstance deemed reportable by company/producer standard operating procedures. In the case of a suspected exotic animal disease, the relevant state/territory government department must be notified.
nictitating membrane reflex	The third eyelid slides across horizontally in response to touching the bird's eye.
outdoor area	An outside space immediately adjacent to the shed. Netting may be used to cover or enclose the outdoor area.
overhead cover	Artificial or natural shade and shelter (not including the laying facility shed) that is provided in an outdoor area and offers birds protection from overhead predators and the sun, and is safe and easily accessible for birds. Overhead cover is measured as the area directly underneath the artificial structure or natural feature. Shade cast by the laying facility shed or eaves is not included as satisfying the requirement for overhead cover.

perches	Structures above the floor on which birds, depending on age, step up or jump on to sit, stand or roost. Typically, perches are rigid horizontal structures on which birds balance, although perches may be provided in the form of platforms to facilitate use.
pick-up	Removal of live birds from the shed. This includes partial or full catching for on-farm killing or transport for slaughter.
placement	The action of putting a group of birds which arrive at the farm together into a shed.
promptly	To make a priority and address with little or no delay.
pupillary light reflex	The pupil constricting in response to a bright light shining into the bird's eye.
ramps	Sloping structures joining the floor or a tiered level to a different level on which birds, step up or jump on to sit, stand or walk along. Typically, ramps have a continuous plastic or wire grid surface and facilitate birds accessing different levels, including access to a veranda and/or outdoor area in a rearing or laying facility.
red bird	A bird carcass which is red in colour at exit of scalding and has not had the neck cut effectively.
shed	A housing structure consisting of at least four walls and a roof that provides all birds with protection from cold, heat, wind, and rain.
signs of unconsciousness	Indicators used at the abattoir after stunning which demonstrate that a bird is no longer aware of its surroundings and able to feel pain. Signs of unconsciousness may include, but are not limited to, an absence of spontaneous blinking, lack of nictitating membrane reflex, lack of pupillary light reflex, lack of corneal reflex, no rhythmic breathing, no vocalising, no wing-flapping, no swallowing, no head-shaking, no reaction to comb pinch, and no muscle tone.
site	The location at which one or more facilities for housing or slaughtering birds is situated.
stocking density	Space allowance expressed in bird/m ² calculated on the basis of the number of birds and the usable area available per flock of birds.
stun/stunned/stunning	A procedure (or the act of carrying out a procedure) that has as its primary purpose to render a bird unconscious and insensible to pain. A stun is effective where, following the stunning procedure, the bird is unconscious and will not (or be allowed to purposely) regain consciousness prior to neck cutting (bleed out) and prior to entering the scalding.
tiered systems	Rearing or laying facility shed where birds are housed on one or more levels above ground level and may also include floor area at ground level.
transporter	The company responsible for a livestock transport vehicle and its driver.
trigger level	A predetermined threshold which sets in motion a course of action to investigate and address the cause of a breach of that threshold.

usable area	A floor area available to birds and includes tiers, slats, and covers over manure belts. Excludes the nest area (which minimises nest soiling and allows the nest area to be dedicated to egg laying) and areas that do not have clear headroom or are too narrow for birds to enter.
veranda	A roofed area attached to a shed in which birds can forage and dust bathe. A veranda provides natural light and adequate ventilation, through a combination of solid and permeable walls (e.g., wire netting).
veterinary advice	Recommendation/s provided by a registered veterinarian with expertise in poultry health.
wounds	Visible fresh or older injuries, including bleeding. Wounds are assessed by the total number of birds with wounds and the location of wounds. Wound locations are categorised as head (includes head, beak and neck areas), back (includes end of neck to the beginning of the tail) and tail/vent wounds.

END OF THE STANDARD