This document forms part of the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals.

This document will be reviewed regularly.

Suggestions and recommendations for amendments should be forwarded to:

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Preface

The development of Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry is an important initiative of all Australian Governments to guide new, nationally consistent policies to enhance animal welfare arrangements in all Australian states and territories. The development process is supported and funded by all Governments and the major poultry industries.

The standards will provide a basis for developing and implementing consistent legislation and enforcement across Australia, and provide guidance for all people responsible for poultry. They are based on current scientific knowledge, recommended industry practice and mainstream community expectations.

The development of these standards is an important project for all commercial poultry species and at all points along the production supply chain.

These draft standards were developed in consultation with state and territory governments, livestock industry organisations, animal welfare groups and the general public under the auspices of the Animal Welfare Task Group (AWTG). The draft standards were drafted by a small drafting group, supported by a widely representative Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) and in a process managed by Animal Health Australia (AHA).

Although the SAG has agreed to release the draft standards and guidelines for public comment, it must be acknowledged that this draft document does not necessarily represent the views of all parties that contributed to it.

An important part of the process is the preparation of a Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) to assess the proposed standards and evaluate the costs resulting from changes to existing requirements.

These poultry standards and guidelines will replace the following Model Codes of Practice:

- Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals: Farming of Ostriches, Primary Industries Report Series 84

The preparation of these draft standards represents a significant investment by all parties, especially members of the drafting group and the SAG. Their efforts are gratefully acknowledged by AHA.

Public Consultation

An extensive consultation process will be undertaken. A RIS for the draft poultry standards and guidelines has been released, along with these proposed standards and guidelines for comment. The RIS evaluates seven options that were identified by the SAG. The RIS does not select a preferred option at this stage – that will be done after public consultation. A full list of the RIS
public consultation questions asked in the RIS is provided after the RIS summary (answering these questions is optional in written submissions).

Assessment of submissions from the public consultation process will give consideration to:

- the extent to which suggestions strengthen the intent and objectives of the standards
- the volume and variety of responses making similar suggestions
- form letters will be considered as providing a collective submission
- anticipated benefits or adverse impacts if submitted suggestions were to be implemented
- the viability of implementing any suggested change.

The main decision-making principles used for developing the draft standards are to ensure the standards are:

- desirable for livestock welfare
- feasible for industry and government to implement
- important for the livestock-welfare regulatory framework, and
- achieve the intended outcome for livestock welfare.

**Next steps following public consultation**

After the 90 day consultation period, an independent consultant will provide a report on public submissions to AHA. AHA will provide the submissions report to AWTG for review and comment and to the drafting group, who will make any necessary changes to the draft standards and guidelines document.

The revised standards and guidelines document and submissions report will then be provided to the SAG for discussion and advice to AWTG. The RIS consultant will commence work on the draft Decision RIS, which will include recommendation of a preferred option identified in the consultation RIS or in the public consultation period.

The draft Decision RIS, revised proposed final standards and guidelines and submissions report will be provided to AWTG. The SAG will also get the opportunity to comment on the documents and provide advice to AWTG. Once AWTG has endorsed the documents, these will be progressed for approval to Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR), endorsement by the Agriculture Senior Officials Committee (AGSOC) and for noting or endorsement by the Agriculture Ministers’ Forum (AGMIN).

It is then a policy decision for each state and territory jurisdiction to implement the poultry standards in legislation as they see fit.
Introduction

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to state standards and guidelines for the welfare of all poultry in Australia. The document informs all those with responsibilities for the care and management of poultry.

The standards provide the basis for developing and implementing consistent legislation and enforcement across Australia, and direction for people responsible for poultry. They reflect available scientific knowledge, current practice and community expectations.

The poultry standards and guidelines may be reflected in the industry-based quality-assurance programs that may include poultry welfare provisions.

In May 2009, primary industries ministers took the position that guidelines, regardless of their purpose in existing codes and the new standards and guidelines documents, will not be regulated.

In particular agreement was reached that:

All future revisions of Model Codes and ‘Australian Standards and Guidelines’ documents must provide a number of:

a. clear essential requirements (‘standards’) for animal welfare that can be verified and are transferable into legislation for effective regulation, and

b. guidelines, to be produced concurrently with the standards but not enforced in legislation, to be considered by industry for incorporation into national industry QA along with the standards.

This document is part of a series of standards and guidelines, each of which brings together welfare standards and guidelines for a particular species — in this case, poultry.

Scope

The standards will apply to all poultry in Australia. ‘Poultry’ are defined within this document as the following bird species reared or bred in captivity

- chickens
- ducks
- emus
- geese
- guinea fowl
- ostriches
- partridges
- pheasants
- pigeons
- quail
- turkeys

The standards apply to all those responsible for the care and management of poultry.

These standards and guidelines should be considered in conjunction with other requirements for livestock, and related Commonwealth, state and territory legislation, including:

- for farming enterprises — model codes of practice or standards and guidelines for livestock species, saleyards, livestock processing (slaughter) establishments and the Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock
- for transport — the Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines – Land Transport of Livestock, Australian Standards for the Export of Livestock, livestock health and biosecurity requirements, and regulated livestock loading schemes and driver regulations
- Slaughtering – Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Livestock at Slaughtering Establishments
- Food processing standards - Standard for Poultry Meat (Standard 4.2.2) and Standard for Eggs and Egg Products (Standard 4.2.5)

Where legislation requires a higher standard than these standards, the higher standard will apply. Where there is a conflict with another standard in meeting the livestock welfare standards, the welfare of livestock must be the first consideration unless there is a work health and safety requirement.

Cruelty and unacceptable animal welfare practices can be prosecuted under cruelty and aggravated cruelty offence clauses in animal welfare legislation. For example, ‘poultry must not be allowed to die from lack of feed or water’.

Advice or assistance with welfare management and disease control is available from state and territory departments of agriculture, locally based private consultants or veterinarians, as appropriate. These Australian standards and guidelines do not endeavour to describe ‘best practice’ because it is often too difficult to reflect known regional and species variation. There are other industry and government documents to better communicate these industry practices that also consider regional variations.

1 Exhibition poultry: Standards and Guidelines Part A apply to exhibition poultry. Because of the diversity of species and breeds, Part B Standards and Guidelines do not necessarily apply to exhibition poultry.
Development process

Each document in the series of *Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines* is produced following the same overall process. Production of the document is undertaken by a drafting group and guided by a stakeholder advisory group that includes appropriate representation from industry, government and non-government organisations.

Standards are underpinned by science based on references identified through a review of relevant scientific literature, a process that helps to ensure that the standards are scientifically valid. Nevertheless, it must be acknowledged that interpretation of animal welfare science is influenced by the worldview and convictions (values) of the individual reader (Green and Mellor, 2011). This interplay of values and science can lead to people drawing different conclusions about the same piece of animal welfare science. Through a public consultation process, the community, industry, government and any other relevant stakeholders are given opportunities to comment on drafts of the standards and guidelines documents.

A Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) is also prepared for the standards in the document. The RIS document, along with these draft standards and guidelines documents, are made available in print and on the internet at www.animalwelfarestandards.net.au.

The final documents will be provided to state and territory jurisdictions and industry bodies, for referencing in relevant legislation and to be available for incorporation into industry quality-assurance programs.

Interpretation

This document has two parts:

- Part A — general standards and guidelines that apply to all poultry
- Part B — specific standards and guidelines for each species of poultry (except exhibition poultry).
- Each chapter in Parts A and B contains the following information:
  - Heading
  - Animal welfare objective — the intended outcome(s) for each section of the standards and guidelines.
  - Standards — the animal welfare requirements designated in this document (i.e. the requirements that must be met under law for livestock welfare purposes). The standards are intended to be clear, essential and verifiable statements. However, not all issues are able to be well defined by scientific research or are able to be quantified. Science cannot always provide an objective or precise assessment of an animal’s welfare and, consequently,

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2 The primary purpose of regulatory impact statements is to ensure that the economic and social costs and benefits of regulatory proposals are examined fully so [government] and members of the community can be satisfied that the benefits of the regulations exceed the costs.
where appropriate science is not available, the standards reflect a value judgement that has to be made for some circumstances. Standards use the word ‘must’. They are presented in a box and are numbered with the prefix ‘S’. The use of hyperlinks in the standards indicate a defined term.

- **Guidelines** — the recommended practices to achieve desirable animal welfare outcomes. Guidelines use the word ‘should’ and complement the standards. Noncompliance with one or more guidelines will not constitute an offence under law.
- **Notes** — explanations of the context of the standards and guidelines.
- **Definitions** — are described in the glossary. Jurisdictions may vary in their definition of specific terms under their animal welfare legislation. Every endeavour has been made to adopt terms that have nationwide application. Readers are urged to check the relevant definitions under the relevant legislation to their jurisdiction.

Further detail on livestock management practices can be found in other industry and government publications.

Please note the use of ‘a person’ or ‘a person in charge’ in the standards. ‘A person’ means anyone interacting directly with poultry. The reference can be to more than one person (plural) and not just a specific person. Use of ‘a person in charge’ is appropriate where responsibility is shared and may extend along a hierarchy of management to include all levels of management and ownership as appropriate. In contrast, the term ‘the person in charge’ usually relates to a single, specific person.

Some standards describe the required welfare outcome without prescribing the exact actions that must be done.

The ‘risk to welfare of poultry’ is the potential for a factor to affect the welfare of poultry in a way that causes pain, injury or distress to poultry. The outcome could include hypothermia, heat stress, dehydration, exhaustion, injury, disease or death. Risks can be managed by undertaking ‘reasonable actions’ to prevent or reduce them.

A ‘reasonable action(s)’ are those actions regarded as reasonable to be done by an experienced person in the circumstances to address a problem, as determined by accepted practice and by other similarly experienced people. It is not intended that all reasonable actions are described in this document.

In the context of these standards, the term ‘at the first reasonable opportunity’ means within the time-frame that would be expected by a reasonable person with the relevant knowledge, skills and experience in the management of poultry given the urgency of the situation in relation to the welfare of poultry.

**Principles for poultry welfare**

Poultry in Australia are managed in a range of farming systems including cage, barn and free range.
In achieving improved welfare outcomes envisaged by the standards, it is important that people responsible for poultry have the necessary knowledge, experience and skills to undertake the various procedures and meet the requirements of the standards, in a manner that minimises the risk to poultry welfare.

Adherence to good animal husbandry principles is essential to meet the welfare requirements of animals. Good husbandry principles that also meet the basic physiological and behavioural needs of poultry include:

- a level of nutrition adequate to sustain good health and welfare
- access to sufficient water of suitable quality to meet physiological needs
- social contact with other poultry
- space to stand, lie and stretch their wings and limbs and perform normal patterns of behaviour
- handling facilities, equipment and procedures that minimise stress to the poultry
- procedures to minimise the risk of pain, injury or disease
- provision of appropriate treatment including humane killing if necessary
- minimising the risk of predation
- provision of reasonable precautions against extremes of weather and the effects of natural disasters
- selection of poultry appropriate for the farming system and the level of planned bird management to be provided
- assessment of the need to undertake any management procedures that may result in significant short-term pain or distress against alternative strategies for the long-term welfare of the poultry
- undertaking any management procedures required for planned bird management in a manner that reduces the impact of these procedures and minimises risks to poultry welfare
- Innovative husbandry and housing systems which enhance bird welfare should be encouraged, and applied to commercial egg farming as practical.

References:

Part A  General standards and guidelines for all species of Poultry
1 Responsibilities

Objectives
A person knows their responsibilities for poultry welfare and is able to perform the required tasks to minimise the risk to the welfare of poultry.

Standards

| SA1.1 | A person must take reasonable actions to ensure the welfare of poultry under their care. |
| SA1.2 | A person involved in any part of poultry production must be competent to perform their required task, or must be supervised by a competent person. |

Guidelines

GA1.1 Elements of responsibility for poultry management should include:
- understanding the standards and guidelines for poultry welfare
- obtaining knowledge of relevant animal welfare laws
- understanding poultry behaviour
- planning and undertaking actions for the enterprise to meet the welfare standards and address contingencies that may arise
- assessing the quantity, quality and continuity of feed and water supply
- handling to minimise stress, and using facilities and other equipment appropriately
- undertaking hygienic practices for management procedures in a manner that minimises the risks to poultry welfare
- understanding and following vaccination, chemical and medication treatment instructions for poultry
- identifying distressed, weak, injured or diseased poultry, and taking appropriate action
- maintaining appropriate records
- knowledge of local patterns of disease and biosecurity practices to prevent disease
- killing poultry by appropriate methods, or have access to the assistance of someone who is capable and equipped to kill them appropriately.

GA1.2 Owners, managers and stockpersons should have an appropriate staff induction program, periodically review existing practices, and be aware of new developments and training relevant to the welfare of poultry.

GA1.3 Operational procedures should be documented and implemented.
GA1.4 Documentary evidence of staff training and/or competence should be maintained.
2 Feed and water

Objective
Poultry have access to feed and water to minimise the risk to their welfare.

Standards

| SA2.1 | A person in charge must ensure poultry have reasonable access to adequate and appropriate feed and water. |
| SA2.2 | A person in charge must ensure poultry, other than newly hatched poultry or where skip-a-day feeding is acceptable (for broiler breeders) have access to food at least once in each 24 hour period. |
| SA2.3 | A person in charge must ensure poultry, other than poultry less than 3 days old, have reasonable access to drinking water at least once in each 24 hour period. |
| SA2.4 | A person in charge must ensure newly hatched poultry are provided with feed and water within 60 hours of take-off or 72 hours following take-off if provided with hydrating material. |
| SA2.5 | A person in charge must ensure that feed and water are provided to poultry in ways that prevent undue competition and injury. |
| SA2.6 | A person in charge must ensure poultry except for emus and ostriches over 4 days old are not deprived of feed for more than 12 hours prior to depopulation or pick up. |
| SA2.7 | A person in charge must ensure feeding and watering systems are checked daily to ensure all poultry have access to feed and water. |

Guidelines

Feed

| GA2.1 | Feed supply for poultry should minimise harmful metabolic and nutritional conditions, and be based on: |
|       | • age, body weight, and/or fat/body condition score |
|       | • extra demands associated with growth and exercise |
|       | • prevailing/predicted weather conditions. |
| GA2.2 | The interval of time from hatching to first feed and drink should be as short as possible. |
| GA2.3 | Feed particle size should be appropriate for the age and size of the bird. |
| GA2.4 | Poultry access to contaminated and spoilt feed, toxic plants and harmful substances should be avoided or managed. |
| GA2.5 | Feeders should be cleaned and maintained regularly. |
GA2.6  Feed should be carefully assessed for suitability and safety.
GA2.7  Unless being used to induce moulting major changes in diet should be introduced over an appropriate length of time and be closely monitored.
GA2.8  Feed quality and nutrients should be considered if poultry display negative or abnormal behaviours (e.g. injurious feather pecking, cannibalism).
GA2.9  Flock growth rates should be monitored regularly.
GA2.10 Feeding and watering design, position and height should allow all poultry access to feed and water with minimal effort and using normal posture.

Water

GA2.11 Assessment of water requirements for construction of poultry watering facilities should consider:
- daily requirements and total annual requirement
- flow rates needed for peak, short-term demand
- construction to prevent temperature build-up
- quality and biosecurity risk.
GA2.12 Water within drinker lines should be regularly flushed and monitored.
GA2.13 Uncontrolled water sources (e.g. bores, dams, open stock troughs, creeks) used as drinking water sources should be treated as appropriate to improve quality and minimise biosecurity risks.
GA2.14 Medicated water systems should be closely monitored to ensure poultry are correctly dosed.
GA2.15 Water should be available up to the start of pick up.
3 Risk management of extreme weather, natural disasters, disease, injury and predation

**Objective**

Poultry are managed to minimise the impact of threats to their welfare, including extremes of weather, natural disasters, disease, injury and predation.

**Standards**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA3.1</th>
<th>A person in charge must take reasonable actions to protect poultry from threats, including extremes of weather, fires, floods, disease, injury and predation.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA3.2</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure the inspection of poultry daily, at a level appropriate to the management system and the risk to the welfare of poultry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA3.3</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure appropriate action for sick, injured or diseased poultry at the first reasonable opportunity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA3.4</td>
<td>A person must ensure poultry which are unable to access feed and water are treated or killed as soon as possible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA3.5</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure poultry have access to shelter from adverse weather that is likely to cause heat or cold stress, and to minimise the risk of predation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA3.6</td>
<td>A person must ensure dead poultry are removed and disposed of at least daily and in a way that minimises disease risks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Guidelines**

**Contingency Planning**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GA3.1</th>
<th>Contingency plans should address events which could result in a potentially significant welfare impact on poultry.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GA3.2</td>
<td>Plans to minimise risks to poultry welfare should include:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• emergency contact details</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• electrical power or systems failure</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• breakdown or mechanical failure affecting feed, water, ventilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• adverse weather — specifically, conditions that predispose poultry to heat or cold stress</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• flood and fire</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• insufficient supply of feed or water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
- disease outbreak or injury
- emergency killing and disposal
- other issues specific to the enterprise or poultry being managed.

Weather and natural disasters

GA3.3 Poultry handling should be minimised during extremely hot weather.

GA3.4 Poultry should be managed to minimise heat stress (signs of which may include panting, wings outstretched) or cold stress (huddling).

GA3.5 Adequate firefighting equipment should be available and maintained for all indoor housing systems.

Inspections

GA3.6 Sufficient inspections should be undertaken during which temperature, light levels, availability of feed, feeding systems, water and all parts of the ventilation system are checked, and where problems are encountered, appropriate remedial action should be taken to protect the welfare of poultry.

GA3.7 Inspections should be documented.

GA3.8 Inspection should be done in such a way that poultry are not unnecessarily disturbed, for example animal handlers should move quietly and slowly through the flock.

GA3.9 All alarm systems, firefighting equipment and emergency power supplies should be tested regularly and test results documented.

GA3.10 Poultry distribution and behaviour should be monitored during daily inspections and corrective action should be taken to adjust light, temperature or ventilation as required.

Disease and injury

GA3.11 Biosecurity programmes should be implemented. These programmes should address the control of the major routes for disease and pathogen transmission:
- direct transmission from other poultry, domesticated and wild animals and humans
- fomites (e.g. equipment, facilities and vehicles)
- vectors (e.g. rodents and arthropods such as insects)
- aerosols
- water supply
- feed.

GA3.12 Appropriate veterinary advice on poultry disease diagnosis, prevention or treatment should be sought as required.

GA3.13 Mortalities, including culls, should be monitored and recorded.
GA3.14 Poultry should be vaccinated to protect against likely infectious diseases if there is a significant risk to the welfare of poultry.

GA3.15 Internal and external parasites should be monitored and managed.

GA3.16 Daily monitoring of poultry should occur to identify early signs of injurious pecking which may include:

- pecking directed at the body feathers of other birds
- vent pecking
- feather eating
- feather damage or bare areas around the tail
- signs of persistent aggression such as pecking directed at the head
- chasing other birds.

GA3.17 Feather pecking and cannibalism risk should be managed. Management methods, such as the below may be considered:

- infrared beak trim at day old
- reducing light intensity
- providing foraging materials
- modification of nutrition and feeding practices
- reducing stocking density
- selecting the appropriate genetic stock
- isolation of affected birds.

Lameness

GA3.18 Poultry should be monitored for incidence of lameness, and the cause of lameness investigated and treated.

Predators

GA3.19 Predator control programs should be implemented where predation is a significant risk.
## 4 Facilities and equipment

### Objective
Facilities and equipment are appropriate to minimise the risk to the welfare of poultry.

### Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA4.1</th>
<th>A person in charge must take reasonable actions in the construction, maintenance and operation of facilities and equipment to ensure the welfare of poultry.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA4.2</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure all housing systems are designed to allow poultry to maintain a natural standing posture.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| SA4.3 | A person in charge must ensure openings provided for poultry to access an outside area are designed and positioned to:  
              1) allow the birds to maintain a normal posture; and  
              2) not obstruct movement of birds; and  
              3) minimise the risk of smothering or injury. |
| SA4.4 | A person in charge must ensure any slatted, wire or perforated floors are constructed to support the forward facing toes, prevent entrapment and facilitate removal of manure. |
| SA4.5 | A person must ensure that poultry on perches are protected from excreta from birds perching above. |

### Guidelines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GA4.1</th>
<th>Facility construction or modification should take into account:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• poultry behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• topography (location and drainage)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• flood and fire risk</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• climate</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• purpose</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• space allowance</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• feed and water requirements</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• shade/shelter</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• surface materials</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• cleaning and waste disposal</td>
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</table>

| GA4.2 | Facilities should be free of protrusions and obstacles that are likely cause injury. |
GA4.3 Facilities should be subject to a pest (e.g. wild birds and rodents) control plan.

GA4.4 A maintenance programme should in place for all equipment if the failure of which can jeopardise poultry welfare.

GA4.5 Provision of environmental enrichment should be considered, taking into account potential risks and benefits to poultry welfare. Such practices may include provision of:
- bales of hay or straw
- perches/barriers
- objects for pecking
- dust-bathing materials
- a radio in sheds to accustom poultry to a range of noises and voices.

**Housed poultry**

GA4.6 Exposure of poultry to stimuli that might cause fear and distress should be minimised where possible. Ventilation fans, feeding machinery or other indoor or outdoor equipment should be constructed, placed, operated and maintained in such a way that they cause the least possible amount of fear and distress.

GA4.7 All poultry should be able to be inspected with ease (i.e. there is good access to all poultry and sufficient lighting).

GA4.8 Poultry should have enough vertical and horizontal space available to stretch to their full height and flap their wings.

GA4.9 When new buildings are planned, existing buildings modified or equipment purchased, advice on aspects that can affect welfare should be sought from suitably qualified and experienced persons.

GA4.10 Where poultry are brooded on wire, temporary supportive flooring material, such as paper or matting, should be provided during the early brooding period.

**Perches**

GA4.11 If perches are provided they should be designed and fitted to reduce the risk of vent pecking.

GA4.12 Where used perches should be designed and located to minimise the risk of injury when mounting or dismounting perches.

GA4.13 Perches should be without sharp edges.

GA4.14 Perching areas should be designed to allow poultry to grip without risk of trapping their claws.

**Nests**
GA4.15 Where nests are provided, they should provide seclusion from the flock and should be of adequate size and number to meet the laying needs of all poultry, and ensure poultry can lay without undue competition.

GA4.16 If nest boxes are provided, they should be easily accessible and should not be so high above the floor level that poultry may be injured when ascending or descending.

GA4.17 Nest litter, where used, should be kept clean, dry, friable and moisture adsorbent. Nest liners should be kept clean and dry.

Outdoor areas

GA4.18 Access to the outdoors should meet the following requirements:

- openings should be of a height to allow birds to pass through using normal posture
- design and position of openings should avoid birds being able to obstruct the movement of other birds
- position of openings should allow the outdoors to be visible to birds at ground level within the laying facility
- the area around openings should be kept clean and well drained.

GA4.19 If ramps are provided they should be made from non-slip material, allow for minimal effort and ease of bird movement and be cleaned after each batch.
5 Management of outdoor systems

Objective
Management of outdoor systems is appropriate to minimise the risk to the welfare of poultry.

Standards

| SA5.1  | A person in charge must ensure that young poultry are adequately feathered before access to an outdoor area. |
| SA5.2  | A person in charge must ensure poultry kept in housing with access to an outdoor area have ready access to the shed and shaded areas. |
| SA5.3  | A person in charge must not keep poultry on land which has become contaminated with poisonous plants or chemicals which cause disease to an extent which could seriously prejudice the health of poultry. |
| SA5.4  | A person in charge must take reasonable actions to minimise access to feed and drinking water by wild birds. |
| SA5.5  | A person in charge must ensure that poultry are able to be confined as required in compliance with housing standards to manage welfare risks to birds in the outdoor area. |

Guidelines

| GA5.1  | The outdoor area should be actively managed and maintained to: |
|        | • encourage birds to access all areas |
|        | • provide birds with palatable vegetation |
|        | • control disease and parasites |
|        | • avoid injury or mortality |
|        | • prevent land degradation |
|        | • avoid accumulation of water |
|        | • minimise contact with wild birds |
|        | • minimise the risk of fire. |

| GA5.2  | A management plan for the outdoor area should be developed and followed that covers the management of: |
|        | • risk of disease and parasites |
|        | • drainage |
|        | • shelter and shade. |

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Public Consultation Nov 2017
GA5.3 Outdoor area enhancement should be provided to allow poultry to feel safe outdoors and be encouraged to move away from the housing openings.

GA5.4 Poultry should be confined at night to mitigate predation and biosecurity risks.

GA5.5 Where there is a risk to the welfare of poultry due to the presence of a disease organism on the outdoors area, every effort should be made to minimise the risk to the health of poultry.
6 Lighting

Objective

Lighting is appropriate to minimise the risk to the welfare of poultry.

Standards

SA6.1 A person in charge must ensure that the light intensity on poultry must be adequate to allow poultry and equipment to be inspected and any problems to be identified.

SA6.2 A person in charge must ensure that the light intensity for young poultry for the first 3 days after hatching is at least 20 Lux.

SA6.3 A person in charge must ensure that the light intensity for poultry is at least 5 Lux on average during light periods.

SA6.4 A person in charge must ensure poultry are not exposed to continuous light or darkness in any 24 hour period except on the day of pick-up (meat chickens) and meat chickens during very hot weather.

SA6.5 A person in charge must ensure poultry except for meat chickens, emus, ostriches and quail are exposed to at least 4 hours of continuous darkness within a 24 hour period.

Guidelines

GA6.1 Natural and artificial lighting should be evenly distributed to facilitate the distribution of poultry over the floor area and avoid overcrowding.

GA6.2 Chicks up to 7 days old should have a maximum light period of 23 hours in a 24 hour period.

GA6.3 Enterprises where poultry are housed indoors should have access to equipment to measure light intensities and keep appropriate records.

GA6.4 Lighting should be managed to avoid sudden changes in light intensity.
7 Temperature and ventilation

Objective
Temperature and ventilation is appropriate to minimise the risk to the welfare of poultry.

Standards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SA7.1</th>
<th>A person in charge must ensure airflow and temperature in enclosed housing facilities minimises the risk to poultry welfare from heat, cold, humidity, dust or noxious gases.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA7.2</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure that mechanically ventilated sheds have:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) a back-up power supply that is tested weekly; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) automatic alarm systems to warn immediately of ventilation failure; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3) a system in place to respond and take action at the first reasonable opportunity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA7.3</td>
<td>A person in charge must monitor ammonia levels and ensure immediate corrective action is taken if ammonia levels reach 20 ppm at bird level in sheds.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines

Temperature

GA7.1  Rapid changes in temperature should be avoided where possible.

GA7.2  Brooder areas should be pre-heated before placement of day old poultry and the temperature managed at a level that minimises the risk to the welfare of poultry.

GA7.3  Temperature and poultry behaviour should be monitored more frequently at maximum stocking densities and during extreme weather conditions.

GA7.4  Corrective action should be taken immediately if signs of stress (sneezing, prolonged panting and wing extension due to heat or huddling due to cold) are observed.

Ventilation

GA7.5  Extra attention should be paid to ventilation at maximum stocking densities and during extreme weather conditions.

GA7.6  Air quality parameters, such as temperature, humidity and ammonia levels, should be monitored and recorded on a daily basis. Poultry should be monitored for eye and nasal irritation that might indicate ammonia, dust or other air quality problems.

GA7.7  Dust levels should be kept to a minimum by maintaining appropriate ventilation and humidity levels and appropriate litter management.

GA7.8  Alarm systems in mechanically ventilated sheds should have:

- back-up power
• the ability to detect if the shed temperature is too high or too low and if there is a power failure in any power supply phase

• appropriate setting so that alarms are easily heard

• all-hours response availability with restoration of power or emergency ventilation within 15 minutes.
8 Litter management

Objective
Where litter is used, management is appropriate to minimise the risk to the welfare of poultry.

Standards

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SA8.1 Where litter is used, a person in charge must ensure litter material is suitable for the species and of a good quality.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SA8.2 Where litter is used, a person in charge must ensure the risk of contamination of litter with toxic agents is minimal.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SA8.3 Where litter is used, a person in charge must manage litter to avoid excessive caking, dustiness or wetness that impacts on the welfare of poultry.</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GA8.1 Where litter is re-used at the end of a batch, it should be treated to address pathogen loads and ammonia concentrations and be dry and friable at bird placement.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA8.2 Where appropriate, poultry housed indoors should have access to a littered area, the litter occupying at least one third of the ground surface in order for birds to forage and dust-bathe. Litter should be at a depth suitable to the species.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
9 Handling and husbandry

Objective

Handling and husbandry practices are appropriate and minimise the risk to the welfare of poultry.

Standards

| SA9.1 | A person must manage and handle poultry in a manner that minimises pain, stress or injury to birds. |
| SA9.2 | A person must ensure care is taken in catching poultry to avoid creating panic and subsequent injury or smothering of the birds. |
| SA9.3 | A person must free entrapped poultry at the first reasonable opportunity and if possible prevent this situation from recurring. |
| SA9.4 | A person in charge must ensure that induced moulting is not routinely practiced. |
| SA9.5 | A person in charge must ensure that poultry are in adequate physical condition to endure an induced moult if necessary. |
| SA9.6 | A person in charge must ensure that poultry induced to moult are: |
| | 1) in adequate physical condition to endure another lay cycle; and |
| | 2) not deprived of feed or water; and |
| | 3) not fed a high fibre/low energy diet for longer than 20 days or body weight loss of no more than 25%; and |
| | 4) provided with a calcium supplement. |
| SA9.7 | A person in charge must ensure that where wing and leg bands are used they are checked regularly and where necessary, loosened or removed. |
| SA9.8 | A person other than a veterinarian must not perform pinioning, castration or devoicing, on poultry. |
| SA9.9 | A person must not perform desnooding or dubbing for cosmetic purposes on poultry. |
| SA9.10 | A person must only perform desnooding, dubbing, despurring and web marking on day old hatchlings selected as potential breeders. |
| SA9.11 | A person must only perform toe trimming on day old hatchlings selected as potential breeders, except for emus and ostriches which may have toes trimmed on commercial stock up to 5 days of age. |
| SA9.12 | A person must use appropriate pain relief when carrying out surgical procedures on poultry. |
| SA9.13 | A person must not pluck live poultry. |
**Beak trimming**

SA9.14 A person must use appropriate tools and methods to trim the beaks of poultry.

SA9.15 A person must not remove more than one-third of the upper and lower beaks.

**Blinkers**

SA9.16 A person must not use blinkers or contact lenses on poultry unless under veterinary advice.

**Hatching systems**

SA9.17 A person in charge must monitor hatching systems daily including back-up systems and/or alarms.

SA9.18 A person must monitor incubators at regular intervals during hatching and hatchlings that are found outside the trays must be returned to the tray or placed in brooders as soon as possible.

SA9.19 A person must treat hatchery waste, including unhatched embryos, quickly and effectively to ensure the rapid killing of all unhatched embryos.

SA9.20 A person in charge must ensure cull or surplus hatchlings awaiting disposal are treated humanely and are killed as soon as practicable.

**Guidelines**

**Handling and management**

GA9.1 The stocking density should be reviewed regularly and adjusted, according to the age of the bird, flock size, house or paddock conditions, behavioural needs and the likely occurrence of disease.

GA9.2 Poultry should be managed at a stocking density that takes the following into account:

- growth rate
- competition for space
- access to feeders and water
- air temperature and quality
- humidity
- litter quality
- housing system
- production system
- biosecurity strategy
- genetic stock
• market age and weight.

GA9.3 Manual handling of poultry should be kept to a minimum during stocking and depopulation.

GA9.4 A person should not carry more than 4 birds in each hand.

GA9.5 Poultry should be released by setting them down on their feet or from low heights that enable them to land normally, feet first. Avoid releasing in such a way that requires flying.

GA9.6 Mechanical catchers, where used, should be designed, operated and maintained to minimise injury, stress and fear to the birds. A contingency plan is advisable in case of mechanical failure.

GA9.7 Poultry that are identified as unfit or injured before or during the catching procedure should be humanely killed immediately.

GA9.8 Where poultry are moved on conveyor belts, the maximum height difference between consecutive conveyor belts should not exceed 40 cm.

GA9.9 Sex ratios in breeding flocks should be monitored to ensure that there is not excessive aggression or domination.

GA9.10 Cutting of feathers including the wing feathers from live birds should only be carried out by a person who is has the relevant experience, knowledge and skills in the procedure.

GA9.11 Feathers should be cut no closer than 10 mm to the bloodlines. Feathers without a ripe bloodless clearance above the bloodline should be left on the bird.

**Beak trimming**

GA9.12 New, more humane technologies and methods for performing physical alterations should be adopted as they become available.

GA9.13 Beak trimming, when undertaken, should be done using an infrared beam within 3 days of hatching.

GA9.14 If therapeutic beak trimming is required, it should be carried out by trained and skilled personnel at as early an age as possible and care should be taken to remove the minimum amount of beak necessary using a method which minimises pain and controls bleeding.

GA9.15 Alternative strategies for managing injurious (feather) pecking that minimise the need for beak trimming should be employed.

**Induced moulting**

GA9.16 Where exceptional circumstances necessitate induced moulting should only be carried out;

• when replenishing a flock in event of a disease outbreak
• where there is limitation of available grower space
• when there is limited availability of day old pullets.
GA9.17 Alternative strategies for inducing moulting that minimise the need for feed restriction should be explored.

Identification

GA9.18 Identification devices permanently or temporarily attached to poultry should be lightweight and safe to both the identified bird and to other birds in the flock.

Hatching systems

GA9.19 Steps should be taken to ensure that unhatched eggs are killed within the day of hatch.

GA9.20 Hatching trays with live young birds should be moved smoothly. Trays should be tipped to remove chicks and unhatched residue in such a way that the birds do not pile or become trapped.
10 Humane killing

Objective
Where it is necessary to kill poultry (other than processing), it is done promptly, safely and humanely.

Standards

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SA10.1</strong></td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure killing methods for poultry result in rapid death, or loss of consciousness, followed by death while unconscious.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SA10.2</strong></td>
<td>A person must have the relevant knowledge, experience and skills to be able to humanely kill poultry, or be under the direct supervision of a person who has the relevant knowledge, experience and skills, unless:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) the poultry are suffering and need to be killed to prevent undue suffering; and</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2) there is an unreasonable delay until direct supervision by a person who has the relevant knowledge, experience and skills becomes available.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SA10.3</strong></td>
<td>A person in charge of poultry which are suffering from severe distress, disease or injury and that cannot be reasonably treated or which have no prospect of recovery must ensure that the poultry are killed at the first reasonable opportunity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SA10.4</strong></td>
<td>A person killing poultry must take reasonable action to confirm the bird is dead.</td>
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</table>

Guidelines

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>GA10.1</strong></td>
<td>Humane killing protocols should be documented.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GA10.2</strong></td>
<td>Acceptable methods should be used for the humane killing of poultry, these are:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• cervical dislocation or decapitation for poultry less than 6 kgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• stunning by blunt trauma followed by decapitation or bleeding out for poultry over 6 kgs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• electrical stunning</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• gas using carbon dioxide or a mixture of inert gases</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• captive bolt</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• firearm</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• immediate fragmentation/maceration for unhatched eggs and day-old chicks.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Cervical dislocation involves partial separation of the head or brain from the spinal cord. The resulting damage to the nervous system leads to cardiac and respiratory arrest and death. The method requires a high degree of skill to be humane.
GA10.3 When using gas, the procedure should ensure the collapse of every bird within 35 seconds of exposure to the gas. Poultry should remain in the gas for at least a further 2 minutes following collapse.

GA10.4 When using gases to kill poultry a mixture of inert gases with a modified atmosphere containing at least 45% CO₂ and up to 80% CO₂ should be used.

GA10.5 Equipment that crushes the neck and methods of cervical dislocation that require spinning or flicking of the bird by the head should not be used.

**Confirming death in poultry after humane killing**

GA10.6 Three or more signs should be observed to determine whether the method used for humane killing has caused death.

*Note: Signs of death include:*

- loss of consciousness and deliberate movement including eye movement
- absence of a corneal 'blink' reflex when the eyeball is touched, or
- maximum dilation of the pupil
- absence of rhythmic respiratory movements for at least 5 minutes
- in case of cervical dislocation, manual verification of a clear gap of skin only in the neck area.

**Bleeding out (exsanguination)**

GA10.7 Bleeding out of unconscious poultry should be done using a suitable, sharp blade.

*Note: Bleeding out (exsanguination) is done by cutting the main blood vessels in the neck (neck cut).*
11 Poultry at slaughtering establishments

Objective
Processing of poultry is done promptly, safely and humanely.

Standards

SA11.1 A person must ensure that poultry at a slaughtering establishment are treated in a manner that minimises handling and stress.

SA11.2 A person in charge must ensure killing methods for poultry result in rapid loss of consciousness, followed by death while unconscious.

SA11.3 A person must ensure that if poultry are not fit for slaughter they will be killed humanely.

SA11.4 A person must ensure that devices which use blunt force to the head, pinch or crush the spinal cord are not used to stun poultry.

SA11.5 A person in charge must ensure slaughtering establishments have a contingency plan to be used in case the main stunning system does not work.

SA11.6 A person must ensure that if there is an extended delay in slaughtering, alternative arrangements are made for slaughter at an alternative facility, or humane killing.

SA11.7 A person must ensure all poultry held awaiting slaughter must be protected from direct sunlight, radiant and reflected heat, and adverse weather such as rain and wind.

SA11.8 A person in charge must ensure that the effectiveness of the stun is monitored and that birds are dead prior to entering the scalding.

Guidelines

GA11.1 All holding areas should be managed to allow adequate ventilation. e.g. corridors between stacked crates.

GA11.2 All poultry in holding areas should be checked at a minimum of every 2 hours for welfare. Checks should be recorded on the daily monitoring form.

GA11.3 Contingency plans for stunning should include stopping processing and return poultry to holding/growing areas, second electrical stunner, captive bolt etc.

GA11.4 The lairage at the processing plant should be covered to provide shelter and shade and be fitted with fans and misting equipment to allow cooling of poultry as required.

Shackling — Electrical stunning systems

GA11.5 The shackle should be able to accommodate the shanks of birds of different size and weight without causing undue trauma to the birds.

GA11.6 If poultry are shackled they should be suspended head downwards from shackle lines for a short time to allow them to settle before stunning.
GA11.7 Shackling of poultry should occur in a purpose built area with a maximum light level of 5 Lux.

GA11.8 If poultry are shackled a breast comforter should be installed from the end of the shackling point to the stunner and be operating in a manner that does not cause injury to poultry.

**Stunning — Electrical stunning systems**

GA11.9 Poultry should not be suspended from the shackling line for more than 3 minutes for domestic fowl and turkeys before they are stunned.

GA11.10 Equipment and procedures for stunning should ensure that poultry are immediately rendered unconscious without receiving pre-stun shocks.

GA11.11 Effective electrical water bath operation should include:

- effective earthing
- proper adjustment of the water height in the water bath according to the size of the bird
- proper construction of the entry ramp
- correct immersion of the birds in the water ramp
- proper adjustment of the voltage and amperage to the age and size of the bird.

**Stunning — controlled atmosphere systems**

GA11.12 The module unloader should be checked at the end of each batch of birds to ensure no birds have fallen to the floor or are trapped in the loader unit. Fallen or trapped birds should be either placed into the gas stunning unit’s entry point or, if injured, immediately killed.

GA11.13 Poultry should not be subjected to the gas mixture until the correct concentration has been reached.

GA11.14 Gas stunning units should have windows or other surveillance to allow observation of the birds to verify that the gas mixture is rendering birds insensible with minimal distress.

**Bleeding out**

GA11.15 Bleeding out times prior to immersion for scalding or prior to plucking should not be less than 90 seconds for domestic fowl and 2 minutes for turkeys.
Part B  Species standards and guidelines for poultry
Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of laying chickens.

| SB1.1 | A person in charge must not allow the excreta of laying hens in cages to accumulate to the stage that compromises poultry health and welfare. |
| SB1.2 | A person in charge must ensure multi deck cages are arranged so that the poultry in the lower tiers are protected from excreta from above. |
| SB1.3 | A person in charge must ensure poultry in cages are able to stand at a normal height. Cages must be at least higher than the maximum height of all the poultry standing normally. The height of all cages must be at least 40 cm over 65% of the cage floor area. |
| SB1.4 | A person in charge must ensure that, for useable areas and any area occupied by feeding and watering equipment and nest boxes, on one or more levels ensure that; |
|       | 1) each level is easily accessible to the hens |
|       | 2) headroom between the levels is at least 45 cm |
|       | 3) all levels are accessible to stock workers to observe and reach birds which are sick or injured |
|       | 4) feeding and watering facilities are distributed to provide equal and ready access to all hens; and |
|       | 5) levels are sited so as not to foul birds below. |
| SB1.5 | A person in charge must ensure that after the training period, where hens are housed under artificial light, lighting schedules must provide a minimum of 4 hours of continuous darkness in each 24-hour period. |

Stocking Densities Cage Systems

<p>| SB1.6 | A person in charge must ensure that all caged laying chickens weighing less than 4.5 kg live weight have the following minimum acceptable space allowances: |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birds per cage</th>
<th>Minimum cage floor area per bird</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 or more birds (&lt;2.4 kgs) per cage</td>
<td>550 cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or more birds (&gt;= 2.4 kgs) per cage</td>
<td>600 cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 birds per cage</td>
<td>675 cm²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single bird cages</td>
<td>1000 cm²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3 Laying chickens include birds (Gallus gallus) being reared and managed for table egg production, but do not include birds being reared and managed for purposes of breeding laying chickens (see Part B3)
NB: Floor area is measured in a horizontal plane and includes the area under the egg/waste baffle and the area under the drinking nipples and vee-trough for water.

Maximum acceptable live weight density for rearing laying pullets is 40 kg live weight per m² cage floor area.

SB1.7 A person in charge must ensure that all laying chickens weighing 4.5 kg or more live weight do not exceed the following stocking densities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Birds per cage</th>
<th>Maximum live weight per unit of floor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 or more birds per cage</td>
<td>46 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 birds per cage</td>
<td>40 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single birds cages</td>
<td>26 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: Floor area is measured in a horizontal plane and includes the area under the egg/waste baffle and the area under the drinking nipples and vee-trough for water.

Maximum acceptable live weight density for rearing laying pullets is 40 kg live weight per m² cage floor area.

**Stocking Densities Non – Caged Systems**

SB1.8 A person in charge must not exceed a stocking density of 30 kg/m² (measured as bird density in the useable area) for rearing laying pullets and for managing adult laying chickens.

SB1.9 A person in charge must provide nest boxes for layer hens in lay in non-caged systems.

**Guidelines**

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of laying chickens.

GB1.1 The slope of the floor should not exceed 8 degrees. Where mesh flooring is used, the mesh size should be less than 25 mm x 25 mm.

**Lighting**

GB1.2 The lighting system should provide a minimum period of 8 hours continuous artificial or natural lighting per day and a minimum period of 7 hours continuous darkness (with all lights off) to be provided at night, in every 24-hour period. The exception to this is during extreme heat where feeding birds during cooler parts of the day may be required to reduce the risk to their welfare.

GB1.3 The light intensity measured at bird head height across the laying facility, during the light period, should be at least 10 Lux.

**Litter**

GB1.4 For tiered systems, unless the poultry can access outdoor areas the litter area should provide sufficient space to allow at least one third of the flock to forage and dust-bathe at any one time.
GB1.5 When using litter poultry should be given continuous access to litter as soon as possible but no later than 3 weeks following placement allowing for a period in which to train birds to use the nests.

**Nest boxes**

GB1.6 Where nests are provided, there should be a sufficient number of appropriately-sized nests for the strain and number of hens in each group.

GB1.7 Hens should be provided with a minimum of one single nest for every 7 birds or 1m² nesting box area for every 120 birds.

GB1.8 Nest boxes should be enclosed and provide a suitable floor substrate to encourage nesting behaviour.

GB1.9 Nest box flooring should not consist of wire or plastic-coated wire.

GB1.10 Nest boxes should be kept clean and operational.

GB1.11 Where used during nest box training, nest box lighting should:
- only be turned on in the morning
- be turned off in the afternoon
- not be used once birds have learnt to lay in the nest.

GB1.12 Where electric wires are used along walls and corners to prevent floor eggs, these should:
- only be turned on in the morning during nest box training
- be turned off in the afternoon
- not be used once birds have learnt to lay in the nest.

GB1.13 Where a large number of floor eggs are found, efforts should be made to identify if there is a problem with the nest boxes, and to rectify the problem if possible.

**Perches**

GB1.14 Perches should be provided at all times.

GB1.15 Perches should be provided at not less than 15 cm per bird unless a producer is able to demonstrate that this would obstruct movement of birds and people throughout the laying facility in which case no less than 7.5 cm per bird is permitted.

GB1.16 Perches should be constructed and positioned to:
- be raised above and not flush with floor areas
- allow birds to access them
- allow birds to stand in a normal posture
- provide a comfortable support for the bird’s feet and keel bone
- minimise the risk of injury
• prevent vent pecking by birds below and/or behind
• minimise soiling of birds below.

**Veranda**

GB1.17 Birds should be given access to the veranda as soon as possible but no later than 3 weeks following placement allowing for a period in which to train birds to use the nests.

GB1.18 The veranda should be designed and constructed to provide shade, natural light and good airflow.

GB1.19 The usable floor area of the veranda should provide sufficient space to allow at least one third of the flock to forage and dust-bathe at any one time.

GB1.20 The roof of the veranda should be waterproof.

**Outdoor Area**

GB1.21 Birds should at least have daily access to the outdoor area immediately after the egg-laying period. The exceptions to this are during unsuitable weather conditions, while training birds to use the nests, under direct veterinary advice, during treatment specified in the Veterinary Health Plan, or on the day of depopulation.

GB1.22 A daily record specifying the date and times of access to the outdoor area should be kept.

GB1.23 At least 8 m² of natural and/or artificial overhead shade/shelter per 1000 birds should be provided and distributed across the outdoor area.

GB1.24 Birds should be observed to be using shade/shelter structures and action taken to modify facilities if use is deficient.

GB1.25 Feed and drinking water should not be provided in the outdoor area.

GB1.26 The opening that provides access between indoor and outside areas (pop hole) should be at least 35 cm high and 40 cm wide with a combined total width of all openings being 2 metres for each 1,000 birds.

**Colony Cages**

GB1.27 A colony cage height should be at least 45 cm other than in the nest area.

GB1.28 A scratching area should be provided in colony cages.

GB1.29 Suitable claw shortening devices should be fitted in colony cages.

GB1.30 The scratch pad area should be sufficient to allow all poultry to exhibit foraging behaviour.

GB1.31 All hens in colony cages should have access to dust-bathing material.
Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of meat chickens.

SB2.1 A person in charge must ensure that after 7 days of age, lighting patterns must encourage activity and provide a minimum period of 4 hours of continuous darkness each day except on the day of pickup (meat chickens) and meat chickens during very hot weather.

SB2.2 A person must not routinely undertake surgical procedures, such as beak trimming, on meat chickens.

Maximum acceptable live weight densities for Meat Chickens (Non-Caged Systems)

SB2.3 A person in charge must not exceed the following stocking densities for meat chickens:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Housing Type</th>
<th>Minimum Requirements</th>
<th>Maximum Density</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tunnel ventilated or extractive systems etc.</td>
<td>Evaporative cooling system capable of 1 air exchange per minute</td>
<td>40 kg/m² year-round</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other mechanically ventilated</td>
<td>Stirring fans</td>
<td>40 kg/m² in winter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Water-based cooling system</td>
<td>36 kg/m² in summer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-mechanically ventilated</td>
<td></td>
<td>28 kg/m² year-round</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB: Winter – is pick up occurring between 1 April and 30 September

Summer – is pick up occurring between 1 October and 31 March

Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of meat chickens.

GB2.1 Catching of meat chickens should be carried out under dim or blue light.

GB2.2 Where slatted or perforated plastic flooring is used, the smaller of the dimensions of the gaps or perforations should be no greater than 25 mm.

Meat chickens include birds (Gallus gallus) being reared and managed for meat production purposes and do not include birds being reared and managed for the purpose of breeding meat chickens (see Part B3). While meat chickens in Australia are currently reared and managed using only non-caged systems of husbandry, this Part should not be interpreted as precluding the future use of innovative husbandry systems offering improved animal welfare outcomes.
GB2.3 Feed and drinking water should not be provided in the outdoor area.

GB2.4 The opening that provides access between indoor and outside areas (pop hole) should be at least 35 cm high and 40 cm wide with a combined total width of all openings being 2 metres for each 1,000 birds.
### B3 Meat and Laying Chicken Breeders

#### Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of meat and laying chicken breeders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SB3.1</th>
<th>A person in charge must not allow the excreta of chicken breeders in cages to accumulate to the stage that compromises poultry health and welfare.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB3.2</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure multi deck cages are arranged so that the poultry in the lower tiers are protected from excreta from above.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB3.3</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure poultry in cages are able to stand at a normal height. Cages must be at least higher than the maximum height of all the poultry standing normally. The height of all cages must be at least 40 cm over 65% of the cage floor area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB3.4</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure, in relation to useable areas on one or more levels of a multideck cage and for any area occupied by feeding and watering equipment and nest boxes that:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1) each level is easily accessible to the hens</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2) headroom between the levels is at least 45 cm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3) all levels are accessible to stock workers to observe and reach birds which are sick or injured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4) feeding and watering facilities are distributed to provide equal and ready access to all hens; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5) levels are sited as to minimise the risk of soiling birds below.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB3.5</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure that after the training period, where hens are housed under artificial light, lighting schedules must provide a minimum of 4 hours of continuous darkness in each 24-hour period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB3.6</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure meat and laying chicken breeders are not lifted or carried by the head, neck, wings, feathers or tail feathers unless otherwise supported by the breast, except if lifted and carried by the base of both wings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB3.7</td>
<td>Nest boxes must be provided during the egg production phase.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Stocking Densities - Caged Systems

| SB3.8   | A person in charge must ensure that all caged chicken breeders weighing up to 4.5 kg live weight have the following minimum acceptable space allowances: |

---

5 Breeders include birds (*Gallus gallus*) being reared and managed for purposes of breeding either laying chickens or meat chickens.
Birds per cage | Minimum cage floor area per bird
---|---
3 or more birds (<2.4 kgs) per cage | 550 cm²
3 or more birds (>/= 2.4 kgs) per cage | 600 cm²
2 birds per cage | 675 cm²
Single birds cages | 1000 cm²

NB: Floor area is measured in a horizontal plane and includes the area under the egg/waste baffle and the area under the drinking nipples and vee-trough for water.

Maximum acceptable live weight density for rearing layer pullets is 40 kg live weight per m² cage floor area.

Birds per cage includes roosters run with hens.

SB3.9 A person in charge must ensure that all caged chicken breeders weighing more than 4.5 kg live weight have the following minimum acceptable space allowances:

Birds per cage | Maximum live weight per unit of floor
---|---
3 or more birds per cage | 46 kg/m²
2 birds per cage | 40 kg/m²
Single birds cages | 26 kg/m²

NB: Floor area is measured in a horizontal plane and includes the area under the egg/waste baffle and the area under the drinking nipples and vee-trough for water.

Maximum acceptable live weight density for rearing chicken breeders is 40 kg live weight per m² cage floor area.

Birds per cage include roosters run with hens.

Stocking Densities—Non-Caged Systems

SB3.10 A person in charge must not exceed a stocking density of 30 kg/m² (measured as bird density in the useable area) for pullets and adult birds (including roosters).

Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of chicken breeders.

The guidelines in Part B1 and Part B2 are also recommended to apply, as appropriate, to the husbandry methods being used to rear and manage chicken breeders.

GB3.1 Hens should be provided with a minimum of one single nest for every 7 birds or 1m² nest boxes for every 120 birds.

GB3.2 Where slatted or perforated plastic flooring is used, the smaller of the dimensions of the gaps or perforations should be no greater than 25 mm.
**Standards**

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of ducks.

| SB4.1 | A person must ensure ducks are not lifted or carried by the head, legs, wings, feathers or tail feathers unless otherwise supported by the breast. |
| SB4.2 | A person must not routinely trim the bills of ducks. |
| SB4.3 | A person in charge must ensure bill trimming is carried out by a skilled operator at day old and only the rim at the front of the upper bill is to be removed. |
| SB4.4 | A person in charge must ensure facilities are provided to allow ducks to dip their heads under water or misters/showers to allow ducks to wet preen, and to clean their eyes and nostrils. |
| SB4.5 | A person in charge must ensure nest boxes are provided for duck breeders when in lay. |

**Space allowances**

| SB4.6 | A person must ensure the maximum recommended stocking densities for ducks are according to housing type and under good management conditions and as follows: |
| **Age** | |
| **In confinement** | |
| Ducklings – to 10 days | 50 birds/m² |
| Ducklings – at 8 weeks | 8 birds/m² 20-24 kg/m² |
| Breeders | 5 birds/m² 17-20 kg/m² |
| **In runs** | |
| Ducklings - at 8 weeks | 5000 birds/ha |
| Breeders | 4000 birds/ha |

*Note: Lighter stocking densities necessary for heavier breeds such as muscovies.*

**Guidelines**

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of ducks.

**Management practices**

| GB4.1 | Every effort should be made to avoid bill trimming by the appropriate selection of birds and the provision of conditions which reduce the tendency for adverse traits, such as cannibalism, to occur. |
GB4.2 Bill trimming should be carried out only when it is essential to reduce damage and suffering in flocks.

GB4.3 Water facilities should be sufficient in number and designed to allow water to cover the head and be taken up by the bill so that the duck can shake water over the body without difficulty.

GB4.4 New technologies that provide surface water for ducks without compromising litter management or environmental outcomes should be investigated and adopted when they become available.

GB4.5 Handling ducks requires special skill and it should be undertaken only by competent persons who have been appropriately trained.

GB4.6 Handling ducks should be carried out quietly and confidently, exercising care to avoid unnecessary struggling which could bruise or otherwise injure ducks.

GB4.7 In hot weather handling ducks should be carried out during the coolest part of the day.

GB4.8 Day-old and young ducklings should be picked up bodily in the palm of the hand or if handling groups by the neck.

GB4.9 Where slatted or perforated plastic flooring is used, the smaller of the dimensions of the gaps or perforations should be no greater than 25 mm.
Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of emus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SB5.1</th>
<th>A person in charge must ensure that natural aggression is effectively managed.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Chicks</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB5.2</td>
<td>A person must house chicks in groups of up to 200 for the first 4 weeks of life at a shed density of up to 30 chicks per m(^2) provisional that adequate heating is provided to prevent huddling that would cause smothering.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Blackhead/Juvenile emus - 4 weeks to 12 months old</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB5.3</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure the maximum shed density for emus from 4 weeks to 4 months old is 10 per m(^2) and above 4 months old is 2 per m(^2).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB5.4</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure emus kept inside are provided with access to an outside run of at least 15 m x 2 m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB5.5</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure blackhead/juveniles in open conditions are provided with effective windbreaks or other shelter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB5.6</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure stocking rates for birds raised in open conditions vary from 175 per hectare for dry or bare conditions to 250 per hectare for lush or irrigated conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Yearling emus – 12 months old to processing</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB5.7</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure yearlings are housed in open conditions at stocking rates from 100 per hectare for dry or bare conditions to 175 per hectare for lush or irrigated conditions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mature/Breeding emus</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB5.8</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure where emus are kept as breeding pairs, each pair are provided with a minimum pen size of 400 m(^2) which must be securely fenced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB5.9</td>
<td>A person in charge must ensure in low rainfall areas and where there is little vegetation, stocking rates are decreased, except if supplementary feed is provided.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of emus.

**Food and water**

GB5.1 Young chicks should not be fed fibrous or coarse food as it may become impacted and cause obstruction.
GB5.2 Care should be taken when changing the environment of emus in order to prevent impactions and nutritional imbalances.

GB5.3 Where chicks and yearlings are reared in groups of over 100, multiple feed points should be provided in each pen.

GB5.4 Newly hatched chicks should have access to feed every 24 hours but this may be extended to not more than 48 hours.

**Housing and handling yards**

GB5.5 Fencing should be at least 1.5 m high in all yards for adult emus and should be of adequate height to suitably contain pre-adult birds.

GB5.6 Where portable yards are used, the partitions should be well constructed and yard flooring should be firm to avoid injury to birds and birds being clawed by other birds.

GB5.7 All fences in handling yards should be solid sided so that emus cannot see outside the confines of the yard.

GB5.8 In enclosed buildings, ammonia levels should not be allowed to exceed 20 ppm of air, measured at bird level, without immediate correction action being taken.

**Chicks**

GB5.9 To avoid injury to the chicks, separation of the hen or chicks should occur before the first chicks hatch.

GB5.10 Chicks should be given access to an outside run from 2 days of age depending on climatic conditions.

GB5.11 Outdoor areas for chicks under 4 weeks old should be covered to protect chicks from predation.

**Equipment**

GB5.12 Feeders and waterers should be located well away from fence lines to avoid injury if conflicts occur while eating or drinking.

GB5.13 Automated hatchery equipment should have adequate back-up systems, which should include an alarm system or generator in case of power failure.

**Temperature**

GB5.14 Heating should be a minimum of 20°C and a mean temperature of 25°C is provided in the first 4 weeks of life.

**Lighting**

GB5.15 Where emus do not have access to daylight, they should be exposed to artificial light for at least 8 hours per day.

GB5.16 A blackout training period from one day of age should occur each day to customise the birds in the event of a lighting failure.
For the first few days after hatching, young chicks reared away from their father should be provided with a high light intensity of 40 Lux on the food and water so they can learn to find it.

Handling

Emus should be picked up by supporting the body and not lifted solely by the legs.

When birds are herded, actions should be taken to ensure birds remain calm and injuries, aggression and stress are minimised. This may include darkening the yard entrance by covering raceways or the use of corrals or partitions.

Experienced handlers can use the wings and pressure on the rump to help guide emus. Care should be taken with handling by the wings as the limbs are easily damaged.

Introducing non-socialised birds into such groups should be minimised to avoid the potential for aggression and injury.

Toe trimming should be done by a skilled operator at 3 to 5 days of age.

Hatchery management

Soiled eggs should not be placed into an incubator.

Emu chicks should be brooded within 24 hours of hatching.

Chicks in brooders should be inspected at least once every 12 hours and action taken to correct problems as they occur.

Waste should not be stored or allowed to accumulate in the vicinity of the incubators.

Incubators should be thoroughly disinfected between batches.

When necessary, chicks should be humanely killed by an experienced person by dislocating the cervical spine.

The following should be used as recommended methods for humane killing:

- for adult birds — a firearm, or sedation followed by captive bolt or decapitation
- for young birds — stunning by blunt trauma followed by decapitation or bleeding to ensure death.

A shotgun should be used as the preferred firearm for humane killing where close restraint is not possible.

Note: Emus and ostriches can be shot by firearm using the temporal method: the projectile is aimed to enter the skull midway between the eye and the base of the ear on the same side of the head. The projectile should be directed horizontally (position A in Figure B5.1 and Figure B5.2).

The diagrams are representational and individual anatomical differences should be taken into account.
Figure B5.1 & B5.2 Humane killing of emus
Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of geese.

SB6.1 A person in charge must ensure geese are not force fed for any reason including pate production.
SB6.2 A person must not catch geese by the legs or feet.
SB6.3 A person must not lift or carry geese by the head, neck, legs or feet, wings, feathers or tail feathers unless otherwise supported by the breast.
SB6.4 A person in charge must ensure shelters provide 1 m²/bird floor space.
SB6.5 A person in charge must ensure a single pair of geese are kept in an area of a minimum of 3 m².
SB6.6 A person must ensure the maximum recommended stocking densities for geese are according to housing type and under good management conditions and as follows;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Housing (indoors)</th>
<th>Runs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goslings – to 10 days 12 birds/m²</td>
<td>Goslings - at 8 weeks 1,250 birds/ha or 500/acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Goslings – at 8 weeks 2 birds/m²</td>
<td>Breeders 250 birds/ha or 100/acre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Breeders 2 birds/3 m²</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of geese.

Feed

GB6.1 Geese should be provided with food supplementation for growth and reproduction.

Management Practices

GB6.2 Geese should always be caught by the neck.
GB6.3 Handling aids such as a catching crook should be used to catch geese.
GB6.4 The use of dogs and handling aids should be limited to the minimum needed to complete the task.
GB6.5 Effective but not excessive restraint should be used to minimise movement, and to enable the task to be done quickly and efficiently.

GB6.6 Temporary catching pens should be used where appropriate.

GB6.7 Light breeds should be lifted and carried by the base of both wings and neck.

GB6.8 Heavy breeds should only be lifted from two points, base of both wings, neck or supported under the breast. Heavy breeds should only be carried short distances when using this method.
Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of guinea fowl.

| SB7.1 | A person must not lift or carry guinea fowl by the head, legs, neck, wings, feathers or tail feathers unless otherwise supported by the breast. |
| SB7.2 | A person must ensure the maximum stocking densities for guinea fowl are according to housing type and under good management conditions and as follows; |
| Bird type | Age | Number |
| Growing stock | 0 - 4 weeks | 20 birds/m² |
| | 5 - 10 weeks | 14 birds/m² |
| | 11-14 weeks | 10 birds/m² |
| Adult birds | | 4 birds/m² |
| Adult birds – cages | | 10 birds/m² |
| Range area | | 1000 birds/ha |

Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of guinea fowl.

Housing

| GB7.1 | Pens and houses should be constructed using small gauge wire mesh. |

Temperature

| GB7.2 | Adult guinea fowl should be kept at 22°C. |
| GB7.3 | Guinea fowl keets should be kept at a brooding temperature of 37°C for the first 3 weeks followed by a 1°C reduction for each of the next 2 weeks. |
| GB7.4 | Guinea fowl keets should be provided heat for the first 6 weeks. |

Feed

| GB7.5 | Guinea fowl should be provided with a high protein diet. |
Standards
General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of ostriches.

SB8.1 A person must ensure where a bird has suffered leg rotation it must be managed. If the bird has difficulty in rising or walking and has significant heat, pain and swelling, the bird must be humanely killed.

Guidelines
General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of ostriches.

Handling
GB8.1 Ostriches should only be picked up by supporting the body and not lifted solely by the legs.
GB8.2 Chicks should be brooded within 24 hours of hatching.
GB8.3 Hooding of the head should be practiced as a safe and reliable method of restraint for ostrich over 6 months of age. When hooded, birds should be restrained and attended at all times.
GB8.4 A shepherd’s type crook should be used with care to restrain the head and bring it into position for applying a hood to adult birds, particularly to mature males.

Housing
GB8.5 Where ostriches are held as breeding pairs, they should be kept in a well-fenced pen of at least 25 m x 60 m.
GB8.6 Where breeding trios are kept, the minimum pen size of 30 m x 70 m should be adopted.
GB8.7 When breeding pairs are housed under free-range conditions, the birds on the range should be monitored regularly.
GB8.8 Where chicks and juveniles are reared in groups, feed points should be located to enable all birds to eat at the same time.
GB8.9 Fencing should be sufficient to ensure that ostriches cannot escape.
GB8.10 Chicks after brooding should have access to outside runs at an early age, paying due respect to the climatic conditions.
GB8.11 Ammonia levels should not be allowed to exceed 20 ppm of air, measured at bird level, in enclosed buildings without immediate corrective action being taken.
GB8.12 Yards should be designed so that birds can be readily evacuated in case of emergency.
GB8.13 When planning new buildings consideration should be given to the use of construction materials with a high fire resistance. All electrical and fuel installations should be planned and fitted to minimise fire risk.

Feed and Water

GB8.14 Chicks under 8 weeks of age should have food available for at least 10 hours per day.

Fencing and yards

GB8.15 Fencing should be sufficiently close to the ground to prevent birds pushing under the wire. Where possible on fences, wire should be fixed on the inside of the posts.

GB8.16 All fences in handling yards and transportation facilities should preferably be solid sided and high enough to block the ostriches’ vision if possible. Ostriches will be calmer when placed in such an environment.

Humane killing

GB8.17 When necessary, chicks should be humanly killed by dislocating the cervical spine by a person experienced in this technique. Alternatively chicks can be decapitated.

GB8.18 Chicks in the brooder should be inspected several times throughout the day.

GB8.19 Where a firearm is used a .22 calibre rifle long rifle or magnum should be used for the humane killing of ostriches.

GB8.20 A shotgun should be used as the preferred firearm for humane killing where close restraint is not possible.

Note: Emus and ostriches can be shot by firearm using the temporal method: the projectile is aimed to enter the skull midway between the eye and the base of the ear on the same side of the head. The projectile should be directed horizontally (position A in Figure B8.1 and Figure B8.2).

The diagrams are representational and individual anatomical differences should be taken into account.
Figure B8.1 and B8.2 Humane killing of ostriches
### Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of partridge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SB9.1</th>
<th>A person must not lift or carry partridge by the head, legs, neck, wings, feathers or tail feathers unless otherwise supported by the breast.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Space allowances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SB9.2</th>
<th>A person must ensure the maximum stocking densities for partridge are 10 kg/m².</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of partridge.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GB9.1</th>
<th>The yards should have a soft roof e.g. grapevine netting, to avoid damage to any birds in flight.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GB9.2</td>
<td>Yards should be well drained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB9.3</td>
<td>Pens and houses should be constructed using small gauge wire mesh.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of pheasants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SB10.1</th>
<th>A person must not lift or carry pheasants by the head, legs, neck, wings, feathers or tail feathers unless otherwise supported by the breast.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Space allowances

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SB10.2</th>
<th>A person must ensure the maximum stocking densities for pheasants are 10 kg/m².</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of pheasants.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GB10.1</th>
<th>The yards should have a soft roof e.g. grapevine netting, to avoid damage to any birds in flight.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GB10.2</td>
<td>Yards should be well drained.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB10.3</td>
<td>Wire grids should be fitted to drinkers to prevent drowning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GB10.4</td>
<td>Pens and houses should be constructed using small gauge wire mesh.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of pigeons.

SB11.1 A person in charge must ensure every effort is made to avoid aggression from male birds towards both hen birds and immature nestlings by the appropriate selection of breeding stock coupled with appropriate housing.

SB11.2 A person must not lift or carry pigeons by the head, legs, neck, wings, feathers or tail feathers unless otherwise supported by the breast.

SB11.3 A person in charge must ensure pigeons are not weaned before they are capable of feeding and drinking independently of their parents.

SB11.4 A person in charge must ensure that at all times there are more perches, either box or V shaped, available in the loft than resident pigeons.

Racing

SB11.5 A person in charge must ensure racing pigeons are not released away from the home loft for racing into extreme weather conditions or if there is fog in any portion of the return journey.

Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of pigeons.

Housing

GB11.1 Stock bird lofts should be roofed to maintain dry nesting areas.

GB11.2 Perches should be provided at several levels.

GB11.3 Nest boxes should have provision for two sections in the event of the hen needing to seek refuge from the cock bird.

GB11.4 Nest bowls should be lined with a non-slip material or nesting material supplied.

GB11.5 Wherever possible mated pairs should be housed in a nest box.

Space allowances

GB11.6 Each breeding pair of pigeons should be provided with a minimum of 0.725 m$^2$ of floor space including 0.275 m$^2$ nesting area.

GB11.7 The minimum space available to each bird in the racing loft should be 0.092 m$^3$ or 450 mm x 450 mm x 450 mm.

GB11.8 If wire floors are used, mesh should be of not less than 18 gauge and 25 mm x 25 mm or its equivalent.
Racing pigeons

GB11.9 With the exception of birds housed in rural and semi-rural areas or, returning from racing and training, free flight exercise should be in accordance with a plan, and for at least 30 minutes duration per day and not exceeding 180 minutes per day during both pre-training and the race programme.

GB11.10 Other than for planned free flight and non-flight times, all racing pigeons should be confined within their home loft.

GB11.11 During the months of June to August pigeons should be released from race/training points as follows:
- under clear sky conditions – release a minimum of 15 minutes after gazetted sunrise for the area
- under over-cast sky conditions – release a minimum of 30 minutes after gazetted sunrise for the area.

During the months of September and October pigeons should be released from race/training points as follows:
- under clear sky conditions – release at the discretion of the person responsible for the birds
- under over-cast sky conditions – release a minimum of 30 minutes after gazetted sunrise for the area.

GB11.12 All off the ground lofts should have a minimum clearance height from the ground to floor level of 200 mm, allowing for a free flow of air under floor.

GB11.13 Off the ground loft flooring should be either trafficable;
- mesh grating floor, allowing droppings to pass though for collection below floor level
- timber floor with moisture absorptive qualities and for regular ease of scrape cleaning e.g. chipboard, or plywood.

GB11.14 All on ground lofts should have a concrete slab floor and have a heavy duty plastic moisture barrier laid underneath at pouring. Adequate floor level ventilation should be provided.

GB11.15 External open aviaries and or sun yards which are exposed to the elements should be off the ground otherwise well drained, sanitary and vermin proof.

GB11.16 All metal housing roofs should be insulated.

GB11.17 Lofts should be lined with insulating materials e.g. plywood or chipboard.

GB11.18 Pigeons should be fed after exercise.
Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of quail.

| SB12.1 | A person in charge must ensure that the flooring provides secure footing and prevents leg injuries. |
| SB12.2 | A person must not lift or carry quail by the head, legs, neck, wings, feathers or tail feathers unless otherwise supported by the breast. |

Space allowances

<p>| SB12.3 | A person must ensure the maximum recommended stocking densities for quail are according to housing type and under good management conditions and as follows: |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 2 weeks</td>
<td>16 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 - 6 weeks</td>
<td>20 – 24 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breeders</td>
<td>20 – 24 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of quail.

| GB12.1 | To assist in preventing leg injuries and to allow secure footing, suitable material such as corrugated cardboard, wood shavings or coarse paper should be used over the floor surface, particularly in the first 10 days of life. |
| GB12.2 | Mesh squares should be small enough to prevent chicks escaping through side walls. |
| GB12.3 | Pens and houses should be constructed using small gauge wire mesh. |
| GB12.4 | The yards should have a soft roof e.g. grapevine netting, to avoid damage to any birds in flight. |
| GB12.5 | Yards should be well drained. |
B13 Turkeys

Standards

General standards in Part A also apply to minimise risk to the welfare of turkeys.

SB13.1 A person performing artificial breeding procedures on turkeys must have the relevant knowledge, experience and skills, or be under the direct supervision of a person who has the relevant knowledge, experience and skills.

SB13.2 A person performing artificial breeding procedures on turkeys must take reasonable actions to minimise pain, distress or injury.

SB13.3 A person must not lift or carry turkeys by the head, neck, wings, feathers or tail feathers unless otherwise supported by the breast. Except when lifted by the tail feathers and neck or by a leg and a wing or by the base of both wings for vaccination.

SB13.4 A person in charge must ensure nest boxes are provided for turkey breeders when in lay.

Stocking Density

SB13.5 A person must ensure the maximum recommended stocking densities for turkeys are according to housing type and under good management conditions and as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Live weight</th>
<th>Bird density in useable area</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 kgs</td>
<td>30 kg/m²</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-10 kgs</td>
<td>35 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-13 kgs</td>
<td>42 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13+ kgs</td>
<td>46 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Intensive sheds to be equipped with fans and foggers

Note: Density of open-sided sheds should be less than the above intensive densities.

Guidelines

General guidelines are also recommended in Part A to minimise the risk to the welfare of turkeys.

Feed and water

GB13.1 Turkeys should be observed to be drinking and action taken if drinking is insufficient or excessive.

GB13.2 The provision of whole grain or coarse cereal fragments as part of grower and finisher feeds should be provided to aid with development of the digestive tract.

GB13.3 Feed and drinking water should not be provided in the outdoor area.
Housing
GB13.4 Part of the floor area for adult turkeys should be solid and, in case of adult breeding stock, the whole of the floor area should be solid.
GB13.5 A nesting area of at least 1900 cm², per 5 breeding hens per nest should be provided.

Temperature
GB13.6 During brooding at day old, a temperature of 37°C measured 8 cm above the floor just under the rim of the brooder should be provided with general shed temperature of at least 21°C in the bird area.
GB13.7 With space-heated brooding systems, an environmental temperature of 33°C at day old should be provided.

Lighting
GB13.8 Poults up to 7 days old should be provided with a minimum light intensity of 50 Lux (measured at bird height level) across the full floor area of the brooding space to stimulate activity.
GB13.9 Lighting in sheds should provide a minimum period of 6 hours continuous artificial lighting per day (unless birds have access to natural daylight which provides at least the minimum required intensity) and a minimum period of 6 hours continuous darkness (with all lights off) to be provided at night, in every 24-hour period.
GB13.10 After 7 days of age, the light levels in the shed (measured at bird head height) should ensure that; during the light period no area of the shed floor is lit at less than 10 Lux except during catching.

Management Practices
GB13.11 Every effort should be made to avoid beak trimming by the appropriate selection of birds and the provision of conditions which reduce the tendency for adverse traits, such as cannibalism, to occur.
GB13.12 Beak trimming should be performed only by an experienced operator or under the direct supervision of an experienced operator.
GB13.13 Before hens are mated naturally they should be fitted with strong saddles (made from canvas, for example) to prevent injury to the backs and sides by the males.
GB13.14 Do not over stimulate toms during semen collection, or injury may result. Any toms that have shown cloacal bleeding during collection should be rested for 3-4 days.
GB13.15 Where beak trimming is considered necessary to prevent feather pecking or cannibalism the following should be used:
- infrared technique and appropriately calibrated equipment
- the trim should be even, rounded and consistent across the flock.
GB13.16 If there are a large number of turkeys that are pecking or cannibalising other birds, action should be taken to adjust management practices and to seek further technical or veterinary advice.

GB13.17 Feather condition (as a result of pecking) should be monitored at the end of the growing period to enable management decisions to be made accordingly.

Handling

GB13.18 When performing management procedures the turkeys should be handled in the following ways:

- by 2 legs with a minimal time upside down e.g. artificial insemination and weighing
- for breeder stags, opposing wing and leg and protecting the breast for picking up at AI
- for vaccination in the back of the neck, hold by both wings very close to the body of the bird.

GB13.19 When catching poults, the catching technique should ensure;

- poults are caught by both legs
- no more than 8 poults should be carried at once.

GB13.20 If catching into crates, the approved methods for catching individual birds are:

- birds weighing 5 kg or less should be caught and carried by both legs with no more than 1 bird in each hand
- birds over 5 kg should be caught by grasping the shoulder wing furthest away from the catcher and using the other hand to hold both legs.

GB13.21 If catching into modules, turkeys should be caught by grasping the shoulder of the wing furthest from the catcher, and using the other hand to hold both legs before lifting the bird up and into the drawer.

GB13.22 Turkeys should be placed onto the floor of the crate or module one at a time.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Glossary</strong></th>
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<td><strong>artificial breeding procedures</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>beak trimming</strong></td>
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<td><strong>bleeding out</strong></td>
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<td><strong>broiler</strong></td>
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<td><strong>cage systems</strong></td>
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<td><strong>cages</strong></td>
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<td><strong>cannibalism</strong></td>
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<td><strong>chicks</strong></td>
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<td><strong>cock</strong></td>
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<td><strong>colony cages</strong></td>
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<td>competency</td>
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<td>construction</td>
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<tr>
<td>controlled environment housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>conventional cages</td>
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<td>cull</td>
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<td>direct supervision</td>
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<td>egg production</td>
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<td>emergency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>extremes of weather</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| facilities                          | Any yard, raceway, ramp, building or enclosure used for the purposes of housing or handling poultry, including portable facilities and equipment.  
                                        | Includes; fences, yards, sheds, raceways, feed and water troughs, portable yards, ramps, insulation, ventilation, cooling, heating and lighting. |
| fielding                            | Allowing birds to roam in property other than their owner’s.                                                                                   |
| flock                               | A number of birds of the same origin (genotype) age and managed in the same way.                                                             |
| free-range systems (non-cage systems)| Birds in free-range systems are often housed in shedding and have access to an outdoor range. Except Ratites which may not include sheds.  |
| furnished cages                     | Cages that contain furnishing such as nest boxes, perches and/or scratch-pads.                                                               |
| hen                                 | A female after the first moult. It is often used to describe females after they have started to lay.                                            |
| hock                                | The joint of the leg between the lower thigh and the shank. It is most commonly the region where the feathered portion of the leg ends and the scaly shank of the lower leg starts. |
| housing systems (non-cage systems)  | Birds in housing systems are free to roam within a shed which may have more than one level. The floor may be based on litter and/or other material such as slats or wire mesh. |
| incubator                           | The machine used to incubate fertile eggs.                                                                                                   |
| induced moulting                    | The process of a flock shedding and renewing feathers at one time.                                                                             |
| insoluble grit                      | Hard, insoluble material such as granite, flint or bluestone chips consumed by the birds to aid in the grinding of the food in the gizzard. |
| inspection                          | The visual check of the health and welfare of poultry on an individual or bird group basis.                                                     |
| layer                               | A female in lay. Usually used to refer to females kept solely for egg production for human consumption.                                         |
| lift                                | ‘Lifting off the ground’. Handling of the head, neck, or tail feathers to control or steady an animal in a supported lift or other manoeuvre, is  |
permitted where the major effort is whole body support, and not using one or a combination of the above body parts for the major effort.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lighting (artificial)</td>
<td>The use of controlled artificial light to regulate the day length under which the stock are kept.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>litter</td>
<td>A mixture of the source material used for the initial bedding placed on the floor of a clean shed, and the excreta, feathers and other detritus from the chickens plus wasted feed and water.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lux</td>
<td>A unit of illumination equal to one lumen per square metre. Used to measure the brightness or intensity of light.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>moult</td>
<td>The process whereby the bird sheds its feathers and ceases egg production. It is usually initiated by hormonal influences but is often triggered by stress.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pop hole</td>
<td>A small opening that provides access between indoor and outside areas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poultry</td>
<td>Following bird species reared or bred in captivity: chickens, ducks, emus, geese, guinea fowl, ostriches, partridges, pheasants, pigeons, quail and turkeys. Birds that are kept in captivity for any reason, including those that are kept for shows, races, exhibitions, competitions or for breeding or selling.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>racing loft</td>
<td>Becomes the home of those pigeons bred for racing purposes. Ample perches are provided to enable each pigeon to select and occupy its specific perch. From the time of weaning the birds are trained to return to the loft which provides security for them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rearing</td>
<td>Management of the layer chicken from day-old to point of lay (approximately 18 weeks of age).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>routinely</td>
<td>Part of a regular procedure rather than for a special reason.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sexing</td>
<td>The act of dividing the flock into its component males and females.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>skip-a-day feeding</td>
<td>Removing feed for 8-24 hour periods during the starter period which reduces early rapid growth and meat yield in broiler chickens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>slatted floor system</td>
<td>A system of housing similar to the litter system except that where wooden slats approximately 2 cm wide with a similar gap between are used instead of litter. The faeces pass through the gaps and out of reach of the birds housed therein.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| stock bird loft | Used for housing pigeons selected to breed future racing pigeons. Ample perches are provided to enable each pigeon to select and
occupy its specific perch. Male and female birds are kept in separate sections of the stock loft in the non-breeding season.

A breeding compartment within the stock loft is provided for each mated pair at the commencement of the breeding season.

The offspring of the stock birds are transferred to the racing loft when able to fend for themselves—generally at about 30 days of age.

| supervision | A person (the supervised person) is acting under the supervision of another person (the supervisor) if the supervisor:
|             | (a) provides instructions and guidance to the supervised person in relation to the subject activity; and
|             | (b) oversees and evaluates the performance of the activity by the supervised person; and
|             | (c) is contactable by the supervised person.
|             | See ‘direct supervision’.

| surgical procedure | Any procedure that exposes tissues normally covered by skin or mucosa.

| take off | The removal of recently hatched chicks from the incubator into a container for transport etc usually done 12hrs after commencement of hatching.

| vent | The common external opening from the cloaca for the digestive system, urinary system and reproductive system.

| veranda | A roofed platform along the outside of a dwelling eg. shed, level with the ground floor, designed to give shade/shelter.