



ACCREDITATION CRITERIA FOR OVERSEAS BROILER, LAYER, BREEDER FARMS AND HATCHERIES

A. DEFINITION

<i>Biosecurity plan</i>	A plan that identifies potential pathways for the introduction and spread of disease in the premise, and describes the measures which are being or will be applied to mitigate the disease risks.
<i>Cracked egg</i>	An egg with damaged shell, but with intact membrane.
<i>Dirty egg</i>	An egg with foreign matter on the shell surface, including egg yolk, manure or soil.
<i>Flock</i>	A number of animals of one kind kept together under human control. A flock is usually regarded as an epidemiological unit.
<i>Premises</i>	Refers to broiler, layer, breeder farms and hatcheries.
<i>Production area</i>	Refers to the poultry houses and the ranges used for free-range production.

B. LOCATION AND CONSTRUCTION

- 1) Premises shall be:
 - At a suitably isolated location, taking into consideration the location of other poultry and livestock establishments, wild bird concentrations and the distance from roads used to transport poultry.
 - Surrounded by a barrier (e.g. fence) to prevent the entry of unwanted animals and people.
 - Located and constructed to provide adequate drainage for the site.
- 2) Poultry houses and hatcheries shall be designed and constructed in a manner that facilitates effective cleaning and disinfection.
- 3) Poultry houses, and buildings used to store feed, eggs or other material, shall be constructed and maintained to prevent the entry of wild birds, rodents, arthropods and other animals.
- 4) Buildings, facilities and equipment shall be well-maintained and kept in good condition and working order.

Additional measures applicable to hatcheries

In addition to Section B, (1) to (4), the following shall apply:

- 5) The design of the hatchery shall allow unidirectional movement of eggs, day-old-chicks and airflow, in the same direction.
- 6) The hatchery building shall include physical separation of areas used for the following:
 - personnel changing, showering and sanitary facilities;
 - receipt, storage and transfer of eggs;
 - incubation;
 - hatching;
 - sorting, sexing and other handling of day-old birds;

- storage of egg boxes and boxes for day-old birds, egg flats, chick box liners, chemicals and other items;
- equipment washing;
- waste disposal;
- dining facilities for personnel;
- office space.

C. FARMING PRACTICE

- 1) Only single species and a single production type of poultry (i.e. broiler/layer) shall be reared in the farm.
- 2) The farm shall practise all-in-all-out system, of a single age group, on a house basis. Alternatively, each flock shall be managed as a separate epidemiological unit.
- 3) There shall be effective disinfection and spelling between production cycles.
- 4) The farm shall adopt good animal husbandry practices, which is preferably under a programme recognised by the Competent Authority of the country.
- 5) Drinking water supplied to poultry shall be potable in accordance with the World Health Organisation or to the relevant national standard, and microbiological quality should be monitored if groundwater is used.
- 6) The farm shall ensure the feed supplied to poultry is free from contamination.

D. BIOSECURITY PROCEDURES

- 1) All farms and hatcheries shall have a written biosecurity plan.
- 2) There shall be effective communication between persons involved in the production chain to ensure that steps are taken to minimise the introduction and dissemination of infectious agents.
- 3) The premises shall be well kept and clean, free from unwanted vegetation and debris that could attract or harbour pests.
- 4) Access to the premises shall be controlled and entry of visitors and vehicles shall be registered.
- 5) All persons entering the premises shall follow the farm's biosecurity procedure.
- 6) All persons entering the production area shall not have had recent contact with other poultry, poultry waste, or poultry processing plant(s).
- 7) There shall be effective measures for segregation between production and non-production areas (e.g. physical barriers, disinfection facilities).
- 8) Visitors and personnel entering the production area should shower and change into clean clothes and footwear provided by the farm. Where this is not practical, clean outer garments (i.e. coveralls or overalls, head covering and footwear) shall be provided.
- 9) All vehicles entering the premises shall be cleaned and disinfected via a covered wheel-dip with automated sprayer or in accordance with the biosecurity plan.
- 10) Facilities shall be available for disinfecting crates, vehicles and equipment associated with the transport of birds.
- 11) There shall be an effective programme to control pests and wild animals (e.g. birds, rodents and flies).

Additional measures applicable to broiler, layer and breeder farms

In addition to Section D, (1) to (11), the following shall apply:

- 12) The farm shall obtain its replacement birds from a breeder farm/ hatchery that is regulated by the overseas Competent Authority.
- 13) Birds used to stock a poultry house shall be obtained from breeder flocks and hatcheries that are free from vertically transmitted infectious agents.
- 14) Personnel and visitors shall change footwear, use a boot spray or use a properly maintained disinfectant footbath before entering each poultry house. The disinfectant solution shall be changed on a regular basis to ensure its efficacy, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- 15) Any equipment shall be cleaned and sanitised before being taken into a poultry house.
- 16) Where litter is used in the poultry house, it shall be kept dry and in good condition.
- 17) Spilled feed shall be cleaned up immediately to remove attractants for wild birds and rodents. The movement of feed between flocks shall be avoided.
- 18) The farm shall practise a systematic disposal of dead birds and wastes, including manure and litter.
- 19) Poultry houses shall be effectively bird-proofed. For free-range farms, refer to section on "Additional measures for free-range farms".
- 20) Hatching eggs shall be collected at frequent intervals, at least daily, and placed in new or clean and disinfected packaging materials (for breeder farms only).

Additional measures applicable to free-range farms

In addition to Section D, (1) to (18), the following shall apply:

- 21) Free-range area shall not have environmental and amenity factors that attract congregations of large number of wild birds and waterfowl. There shall be control programmes that reduce and eliminate presence of wild birds and waterfowl on free-range areas.
- 22) Poultry shall not be allowed access to sources of contamination, such as household waste, litter storage areas, other animals, stagnant water and water of unknown quality.
- 23) Feeders, feed and other items which may attract wild birds shall be kept indoors.
- 24) The nesting area shall be inside the poultry house.

Additional measures applicable to hatcheries

In addition to Section D, (1) to (11), the following shall apply:

- 25) Dead-in-shell embryos shall be removed from hatcheries as soon as possible and disposed of in a safe and effective manner.
- 26) All hatchery waste, garbage and discarded equipment shall be contained or at least covered while on site and removed from the hatchery and its environs as soon as possible.
- 27) After use, hatchery equipment, tables and surfaces should be promptly and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected with an approved disinfectant.
- 28) Egg handlers and sexers and handlers of day-old birds shall wash their hands with soap and water before commencing work and between working with batches of hatching eggs or day-old birds from different breeder flocks.
- 29) Hatching eggs and day-old birds from different breeder flocks shall be identifiable during incubation, hatching, sorting and transportation.
- 30) Day-old birds shall be delivered to the farm in new containers or in clean, disinfected containers.
- 31) The cracked, broken and/or dirty eggs shall not be used as hatching eggs.

- 32) Hatching eggs shall be cleaned and sanitised after collection and stored in a dedicated room as soon as possible.

E. ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAMMES

- 1) The farm shall be subjected to national disease monitoring and control programmes, particularly on *Salmonella enteritidis* (SE) and Avian Influenza (AI). Health management shall be implemented under supervision of a veterinarian.
- 2) No prohibited drugs shall be used. Where medication is used the farm shall adhere to the recommended withdrawal period stipulated by the manufacturer.
- 3) Sick / dying birds shall be culled.
- 4) The farm shall immediately investigate any serious outbreaks of diseases as well as any occurrence of high mortality in birds (e.g. more than 5% mortality in one house in one day). Where necessary, the Competent Authority shall be notified.

F. EGG MANAGEMENT

- 1) Handling and storage of eggs shall be hygienic. Eggs shall be stored in well-ventilated areas.
- 2) Cracked, broken and/or dirty eggs shall be identified and segregated from clean and intact eggs.
- 3) Egg collecting equipment and containers, if used, shall be well-maintained, cleaned and disinfected regularly.
- 4) The egg grading and packing amenities shall have facilities to individually label eggs for traceability purposes.

G. FARM RECORDS

- 1) The farm shall maintain a farm layout detailing the location of all houses and structures on the premises.
- 2) The farm shall maintain complete records of farm management protocol and health programmes, this includes :
 - Vaccination regime
 - Disease diagnosis
 - Use of veterinary drugs/medicine and vaccines
 - Production records (including poultry population, mortality and culling)
 - Source of poultry
 - Feed and feed additives used by the farm
 - Cleaning and disinfection records
 - Laboratory reports
 - Pest control records
 - Traceability records

H. OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1) The farm shall be regulated by the Competent Authority of the country.
- 2) Imports of eggs, broilers and day-old chicks are subjected to the Veterinary Conditions for the Importation of Table Hen Eggs, broilers and day-old chicks.

All other principles as stated in the international guidelines below will apply:

1. OIE Biosecurity Procedures in Poultry Production
2. Codex Code of Hygienic Practice for Eggs and Egg Products

Disclaimer: where necessary, additional relevant requirements may be imposed.