Animal Welfare (Broiler Chickens: Fully Housed) Code of Welfare 2003

A code of welfare issued under the Animal Welfare Act 1999

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National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
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Preface

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 came into force on 1 January 2000. It establishes the fundamental obligations relating to the care of animals. These obligations are written in general terms however. The detail is found in codes of welfare. Codes set out minimum standards and recommendations relating to all aspects of the care of animals. They are developed following an extensive process of public consultation and reviewed every 10 years, or sooner if necessary.

I recommend that all those who care for animals become familiar with the relevant codes. This is important because evidence of a failure to meet a minimum standard may be used to support a prosecution for an offence under the Act.

I issue codes on the recommendation of the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee. The members of this Committee collectively possess knowledge and experience in veterinary science; agricultural science; animal science; the commercial use of animals; the care, breeding, and management of companion animals; ethical standards and conduct in respect of animals; animal welfare advocacy; the public interest in respect of animals; and environmental and conservation management.

The Animal Welfare (Broiler Chickens: Fully Housed) Code of Welfare 2003 is issued by me, by a notice published in the *Gazette* on 26 June 2003, under section 75 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999. This code comes into force on 25 July 2003.

This code is deemed to be a regulation for the purposes of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989 and is subject to the scrutiny of Parliament's Regulations Review Committee.

Hon Jim Sutton
Minister of Agriculture

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction, Purpose and Interpretation of Code

1.1 History

The original codes of recommendations and minimum standards for the welfare of animals were prepared by the Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC), which was established in 1989 by the Minister of Agriculture to advise him on matters concerning animal welfare. The codes were of a voluntary nature and had no legal standing under the Animals Protection Act 1960.

The Animal Welfare Act 1999 (the Act) established the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC), which replaced AWAC, and provided for the issue of codes of welfare with legal effect. One of the responsibilities of NAWAC is to advise the Minister on the content of codes of welfare following a process of public consultation.

1.2 Legal Status of Codes of Welfare

Codes of welfare are deemed to be regulations for the purposes of the Regulations (Disallowance) Act 1989. As such they are subject to the scrutiny of the Regulations Review Committee of Parliament.

Codes of welfare contain minimum standards and may also contain recommended practice and recommended best practice. Only minimum standards have legal effect and in two possible ways:

- evidence of a failure to meet a relevant minimum standard may be used to support a prosecution for an offence under the Act (see Appendix I)
- a person who is charged with an offence against the Act can defend himself/herself by showing that he/she has equalled or exceeded the minimum standards (see Appendix I)

Recommendations for ideal husbandry practice under New Zealand conditions set out standards of care and conduct over and above the minimum required to meet the obligations in the Act. They are included for educational and information purposes.

Any person or organisation aggrieved at the operation of a code of welfare has a right to make a complaint to the Regulations Review Committee, Parliament Buildings, Wellington.

This is a Parliamentary select committee charged with examining regulations against a set of criteria and drawing to the attention of the House of Representatives any regulation that does not meet the criteria. Grounds for reporting to the House include:

- the regulation trespasses unduly on personal rights and freedoms

- the regulation is not made in accordance with the general objects and intentions of the statutes under which it is made, or
- it was not made in compliance with the particular notice and consultation procedures prescribed by statute.

Any person or organisation wishing to make a complaint should refer to the publication *Making a Complaint to the Regulations Review Committee* which can be obtained from the website:

http://www.clerk.parliament.govt.nz/Publications/Other/

or by writing to:

Clerk of the Committee
Regulations Review Committee
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON.

1.3 Process for Code Development

A draft code may be developed by anyone including NAWAC or the Minister. It is then submitted to NAWAC. Provided the draft meets criteria in the Act for clarity, compliance with the purposes of the Act, and representatives of persons likely to be affected by the code have been adequately consulted, NAWAC publicly notifies the code and calls for submissions. NAWAC is then responsible for recommending the form and content of the code to the Minister after having regard to the submissions received, good practice and scientific knowledge, available technology and any other relevant matters.

NAWAC may recommend draft standards that do not fully meet the obligations in the Act if certain criteria specified in the Act are met.

The Minister issues the code by notice in the *Gazette*.

1.4 Scope

This code applies to all persons responsible for the welfare of broiler chickens in controlled environment broiler production systems. The pre-hatched chick that is in the last half of development is also covered by this code. In controlled environment broiler production systems, broiler chickens are kept in enclosed housing and are reliant on human management for all their daily requirements.

The rearing of broiler chickens, if it is to be done well, requires both experience and the observance of high standards. Unless that work is done well, the welfare of the birds cannot be adequately protected. This code is intended to encourage all those responsible for its implementation to adopt the highest standard of husbandry, care and handling, to equal or exceed the minimum standards.

Under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 the "owner" of an animal and the "person in charge" is responsible for meeting the legal obligations to animal welfare. In the case of broiler chickens the owner of the animal(s) may place the broiler chickens in the care of others for the purpose of rearing (grow-out), transport and slaughter.

Responsibility for meeting the minimum standards relating to the provision, design and maintenance of the facilities and equipment, the allocation of operational responsibilities and the competence and supervision of performance of employees will lie with the owner of the broiler chickens, and may also lie with the person in charge of the broiler chickens, depending on the role of that person.

Advice is given throughout the code and is designed to encourage owners/operators to strive for a high level of welfare. Explanatory material is provided where appropriate.

Responsibility for meeting minimum standards during operation of particular tasks will lie with the person responsible for carrying out that particular task. That person is "in charge" of the animals at that particular point in time. Generally, a stockhandler is the person in charge of the animals in that stockhandler's care. In practice, the identification of the person in charge will depend on the minimum standard in question.

This code provides for the general principles of the care and use of broiler chickens. The incorporation of the code in quality assurance programmes will ensure its success *(*see section 5 - Quality Management*).*

Other codes that are relevant, and that are either being produced for the first time, or are in the process of being reviewed, include codes concerned with the transport of animals, emergency slaughter and species specific codes. Where relevant these other codes should be consulted (see Appendix II).

The draft was written by a working group established by the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand Inc. and has been reviewed by representatives of the industries, veterinarians, advisors, animal scientists, welfarists and members of the general public. As required by the Act, NAWAC publicly notified the draft code of welfare on 1 November 2001.

1.5 Contents of this Code

Section 69 of the Act provides that a code of welfare may relate to one or more of the following:

- a species of animal
- animals used for purposes specified in the code
- animal establishments of a kind specified in the code
- types of entertainment specified in the code (being types of entertainment in which animals are used)

- the transport of animals
- the procedures and equipment used in the management, care, or killing of animals or in the carrying out of surgical procedures on animals.

In deciding to issue a code of welfare, the Minister must be satisfied as to the following matters set out in section 73(1) of the Act:

- that the proposed standards are the minimum necessary to ensure that the purposes of the Act will be met; and
- that the recommendations for best practice (if any) are appropriate.

Despite the provisions of section 73(1), section 73(3) of the Act allows NAWAC, in exceptional circumstances, to recommend minimum standards and recommendations for best practice that do not fully meet the obligations of:

- sections 10 and 11 - obligations in relation to physical, health and behavioural needs of animals
- section 12(c) - killing an animal
- section 21(1)(b) - restriction on performance of surgical procedures
- section 22(2) - providing comfortable and secure accommodation for the transport of animals
- sections 23(1) and 23(2) - transport of animals
- section 29(a) - ill-treating an animal.

In making a recommendation under section 73(3), section 73(4) requires NAWAC to have regard to:

- the feasibility and practicality of effecting a transition from current practices to new practices and any adverse effects that may result from such a transition
- the requirements of religious practices or cultural practices or both
- the economic effects of any transition from current practices to new practices.

This code provides for the physical, health, and behavioural needs of animals. These needs include:

- proper and sufficient food and water
- adequate shelter
- opportunity to display normal patterns of behaviour
- physical handling in a manner which minimises the likelihood of unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress

- protection from, and rapid diagnosis of, any significant injury or disease - being a need, which, in each case is appropriate to the species, environment, and circumstances of the animal (section 4 Animal Welfare Act 1999).

This code also takes account of:

- good practice
- scientific knowledge
- available technology.

Good practice is taken to mean the carrying out of a customary or expected procedure in a manner which meets the required purpose, is sound and thorough, and which is recognised by others carrying out the practice. In addition good practice meets the legal obligations of the Act, and failure to comply could result in a prosecution.

1.6 Revision of the Code

This code is based on the knowledge and technology available at the time of publication, and will be reviewed in the light of future advances and knowledge. In any event this code will be reviewed no later than 25 July 2013 (being 10 years from the date on which this code was issued by the Minister).

Comments on this code are always welcome and should be addressed to:

The Secretary
National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee
PO Box 2526
Wellington.

Further information can be obtained from the MAF website:

http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/animal-welfare

1.7 Deemed Codes of Welfare and Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards

Deemed codes of welfare, and codes of recommendations and minimum standards and guidelines that were endorsed by AWAC prior to the commencement of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, are listed in Appendix II of this code. The deemed codes of welfare are valid until 31 December 2003 unless revoked prior to that date, or further extended under the Act.

On 19 December 2002 the Animal Welfare Amendment Act 2002 amended the Animal Welfare Act 1999 to deem the regulations and circular listed in Appendix II to be a code of welfare known as the Animal Welfare (Commercial Slaughter) Code of Welfare 2002.

The *Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Broiler Chickens* is revoked on 25 July 2003 under section 191(1) and 76(1)(a) of the Act, by a notice published in the *Gazette* on 26 June 2003.

1.8 Interpretation and Definitions

Minimum Standards

Minimum standards are identified in the text by a heading and use the word "must" or similar words. They are highlighted in boxes within the text.

Recommended Best Practice

The Act provides that codes of welfare may contain recommendations for best practice.

Recommended best practice is taken to mean:

The best practice agreed at a particular time, following consideration of scientific information and accumulated experience and public opinion. It is usually a higher standard of practice than the minimum standard, except where the minimum standard is best practice. It is a practice that can be varied as new information comes to light.

Recommendations for best practice will be particularly appropriate where it is desirable to promote or encourage better care for animals than is provided as a minimum standard.

Recommended best practices are identified by a heading and, generally, use the term "should".

"Act" means the Animal Welfare Act 1999.

"Animal"

(a) Means any living member of the animal kingdom that is:

(i) A mammal; or

(ii) A bird; or

(iii) A reptile; or

(iv) An amphibian; or

(v) A fish (bony or cartilaginous); or

(vi) Any octopus, squid, crab, lobster, or crayfish (including freshwater crayfish); or

(vii) Any other member of the animal kingdom which is declared from time to time by the Governor-General, by Order in Council, to be an animal for the purposes of this Act; and

(b) Includes any mammalian foetus, or any avian or reptilian pre-hatched young, that is in the last half of its period of gestation or development; and

(c) Includes any marsupial pouch young; but

(d) Does not include:

(i) A human being; or

(ii) Except as provided in paragraph (b) or paragraph (c) of this definition, any animal in the pre-natal, pre-hatched, larval, or other such developmental stage.

Broiler chickens, being birds, are animals for the purposes of the Act.

Food and Feed

The words “food” and “feed” are used interchangeably.

1.9 Glossary

Advisory livestock personnel	experienced or trained personnel such as broiler advisors, technical advisors, and hatchery managers in commercial companies and also includes independent avian specialists, and advisory personnel from hatcheries and poultry breeding companies
Biosecurity	protection from the introduction of potential disease organisms
Bleeding cone	stainless steel cone used to contain individual broiler chickens for slaughter and bleeding
Broiler chicken	a male or female chicken kept primarily for meat production
Brooding	day-old to seven days of age
Caking	undesirable compaction of surface of litter possibly due to excess moisture
Chicken	broiler chicken
Chicks	newly hatched broiler chickens
Cull	chicken humanely killed for health or welfare reasons

Euthanase/euthanasia	an easy or painless death
Fully-housed	enclosed housing (in sheds or barns) where the environment is controlled and the broiler chickens are reliant on human management for all their daily requirements
Grow-out	day-old chick to harvest/catching
Load-out	catching and loading for transport at harvest
Lux	an international measure of light intensity (not to be confused with watts)
Instantaneous fragmentation	mechanical method of humane destruction of eggs/day-old chicks (may also be known as maceration)
Placement	placing of day-old chicks in broiler shed
Runt	a stunted chicken
Thinning	partial harvest of a population in a broiler shed

2. Obligations of Owners and Persons in Charge of Animals

The owner or person in charge of the broiler chickens has overall responsibility for the welfare of the animals held in his or her care. The legal obligations set out below are not an exhaustive list of the obligations in the Act.

(1) The owner or person in charge of broiler chickens must:

(a) ensure that the physical, health, and behavioural needs of the broiler chickens are met in a manner that is in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge

(b) ensure that a broiler chicken that is ill or injured receives treatment that will alleviate any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the broiler chicken or that it is killed humanely.

(2) The owner or person in charge of a broiler chicken must not without reasonable excuse:

(a) keep a broiler chicken alive when it is in such a condition that it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress

(b) sell, attempt to sell, or offer for sale, otherwise than for the express purpose of it being killed, a broiler chicken, when it is suffering unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress

(c) desert a broiler chicken in circumstances in which no provision is made to meet its physical, health and behavioural needs.

(3) No person may:

(a) ill-treat a broiler chicken

(b) release a broiler chicken that has been kept in captivity, in circumstances which the broiler chicken is likely to suffer unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress

(c) perform any significant surgical procedure on a broiler chicken unless that person is a veterinarian

(d) perform on a broiler chicken a surgical procedure that is not significant in such a manner that the broiler chicken suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Defences are set out in Appendix I. The Act contains specific procedural requirements before these defences can be relied on, and these requirements are described in Appendix I.

3. Management of Broiler Chickens

3.1 Hatchery Management

Introduction

The key issues in hatchery management which affect the welfare of newly hatched chicks include cleaning and hygiene procedures, promptness of removing chicks after hatching, grading of day-old chicks, destruction of cull chicks and unhatched eggs, and holding room conditions.

The methods used for handling the chicks must be humane. Hatching trays with live chicks should be moved smoothly and levelly and precautions taken to prevent chicks falling onto the floor. When chicks are being sexed or handled individually their bodies should be supported, as distinct from lifting the chicks by the head.

Instantaneous fragmentation units should be routinely maintained and serviced for adequate and efficient functioning. Care should be taken not to overload the gassing chambers. In the case of equipment failure emergency euthanasia of individual chicks can be performed by neck dislocation.

Minimum Standard No. 1 – Hatchery Management

(a) Holding room conditions for newly hatched chicks must provide for control of temperature and airflow so as to protect the welfare of the chicks.

(b) All hatcheries must have a documented cleaning, sanitising and hygiene programme.

(c) Euthanasia protocols must be documented.

(d) All staff carrying out euthanasia must be trained in the proper use of the relevant protocols.

(e) All unhatched eggs at the time of day-old chick removal must be destroyed by instantaneous fragmentation.

(f) Cull or surplus chicks must be euthanased by instantaneous fragmentation or gassing with gases such as CO_2 or a mixture of 70% CO_2 and 30% argon, to achieve a rapid and irreversible unconsciousness.

(g) With gas euthanasia methods, smothering before the loss of consciousness must not be allowed to occur.

(h) If CO_2 is used it must be delivered as a gas rather than a liquid into the chamber that is used for euthanasing the chicks.

Minimum Standard No. 1 Continued:

(i) If a gas system is used for euthanasing the chicks, the chicks must not be removed from the gas unit until they are either dead or irreversibly unconscious.

(j) Instantaneous fragmentation equipment must be designed, operated and maintained to ensure instantaneous destruction of eggs or chicks.

(k) Instantaneous fragmentation units and gas chambers must not be overloaded so as to avoid incomplete fragmentation.

(l) All equipment used for euthanasia must be monitored when it is being used to euthanase the chicks and any problems rectified immediately.

Recommended Best Practice

The time interval from when the first chick hatches to removal of chicks from the hatcher, should be managed to ensure that the period between hatching and the first drink or feed is as short as possible.

Where chicks are moved on conveyor belts, the maximum height between consecutive conveyor belts should not exceed 40 cm.

3.2 Broiler Chicken Rearing and Growing

3.2.1 Food and Water

Introduction

Animals should receive a daily diet in adequate quantities and containing adequate nutrients to meet their requirements for good health and welfare.

When considering the amount of food and nutrients animals require, a number of factors need to be taken into account:

- physiological state
- extensive or intensive management systems
- nutritional composition of feed
- age
- sex
- size
- state of health
- quality of diet

- growth rate
- previous feeding levels
- feeding frequency
- terrain (in extensive systems)
- genetic effects of strain or breed
- level of activity and exercise
- maximum periods of food deprivation (e.g. during transportation)
- introduction of new feeds
- climatic factors e.g. inclement weather, droughts (in extensive systems).

Due to the above factors and the considerable variation that occurs between individual animals, food and nutrient requirements vary from one individual to another. Therefore it is not appropriate to specify a complete range of the quantities of food and nutrients required as minimum standards.

Food and water supplied to the broiler chickens are important components of maintaining good standards of broiler chicken welfare. Nutrient composition, frequency and quantity of feed, contaminants within the feed and water, and access to the feeders and drinkers are all-important parameters. Requirements for the quality and composition for the feed supplied to the broiler chickens are mandated under the Agricultural Compounds and Veterinary Medicines Act 1997 through the MAF Director-General's approved New Zealand Code of Good Manufacturing Practice for Compound Feeds, Premixes and Dietary Supplements.

All water should be tested for mineral content and microbiological contamination and advice should be obtained on suitability for poultry as the composition of water from bores, dams or water holes may change with changes in flow and rainfall or evaporation. Where necessary the water may require more frequent monitoring for suitability for use.

Monitoring of food and water consumption will provide an early warning of sudden changes in the performance, health and condition of the broiler chickens.

The adequacy of the ration to meet the requirements of the flock can be assessed by monitoring the body weight of the broiler chickens and measuring against a recognised body weight standard for a particular breed, sex and production system.

Advice on body weight standards for the production systems can be obtained from the relevant breeding companies in New Zealand.

Minimum Standard No. 2 – Food and Water

(a) Feed must be provided to all broiler chickens each day, except on the day of slaughter (see minimum standard 12(a)).

(b) Feed must be provided in such a way as to prevent undue competition and injury.

(c) Broiler chickens must receive adequate quantities of food and nutrients to:

- **(i) enable each bird to maintain good health;**
- **(ii) enable each bird to meet its physiological demands; and**
- **(iii) enable each bird to avoid metabolic and nutritional disorders.**

(d) All broiler chickens must have continuous access to water that is palatable and not harmful to health.

(e) The size of feed particle must be appropriate for the size of bird.

(f) Representative samples (minimum 0.5%) of the broiler chicken flock must be weighed weekly and these weights recorded and compared against a recommended growth chart for their appropriate management systems, issued by the poultry breeding companies in New Zealand.

(g) If the sample growth rate varies 10% or more from the recommended growth chart then advice must be promptly sought from appropriate advisory livestock personnel.

(h) Runts and culls that cannot access food and water must be removed during daily inspections and immediately euthanased, or raised separately.

3.3 Housing and Other Facilities

3.3.1 Housing

Introduction

Provision of appropriate housing and other facilities is essential to the health and welfare of broiler chickens.

Advice from qualified persons on welfare aspects should be sought when new buildings are planned, existing buildings modified or equipment purchased.

Any new systems that may be developed through new knowledge and changes in technology should be examined and considered for incorporation into any future amendments of this code.

Broiler shed designs should take the following two features into account. First, there should be adequate protection to prevent chicks from inadvertently moving to a non-heated region in the broiler shed during the brooding phase. Second, there should be adequate control of movement of broiler chickens with the use of appropriate barriers, if necessary, to prevent overcrowding and smothering.

Minimum Standard No. 3 – Housing and Other Facilities

(a) All reasonable precautions must be taken to secure the site and buildings at all times against unauthorised entry in order to protect the health and welfare of broiler chickens and to comply with biosecurity requirements.

(b) Housing systems:

- **(i) must take into account insulation, ventilation, heating, lighting, sanitation and hygiene requirements, and must allow for easy inspection; and**
- **(ii) must be vermin (e.g. feral birds, mustelids, rodents) proof; and**
- **(iii) must have sufficient height, width and space and entrance size to ensure the humane placement of day-old chicks and to allow for catching methods that minimise stress to the broiler chickens.**

(c) All surfaces in broiler sheds and enclosures must be designed, constructed and maintained to minimise the risk of injury and disease to broiler chickens.

(d) All broiler sheds must be sited to facilitate drainage of storm water away from the sheds, to minimise risks of natural and environmental hazards such as extreme winds and allow for appropriate management of dust.

(e) Broiler sheds must have automatic alarm systems:

- **(i) to warn of power failure (including phase failure) and temperature variance; and**
- **(ii) that will operate through alternative power sources (e.g. batteries).**

Minimum Standard No.3 Continued:

(f) Broiler sheds must have alternative power systems available sufficient to maintain ventilation and lighting in the event of a failure in the primary power supply.

(g) All housing systems must contain suitable fire fighting equipment and have a documented emergency plan to be followed in the case of fire.

Information on suitable fire fighting equipment can be obtained from:

Standards New Zealand
Private Bag 2439
Wellington.

Recommended Best Practice

It is recommended that a service annex be provided to minimise sudden disturbance to the broiler chickens and avoid sudden changes in light, temperature and humidity.

3.3.2 Equipment

Introduction

Equipment used for rearing broiler chickens can have an adverse welfare effect if used, maintained or designed inadequately.

All equipment used for raising broiler chickens should be sited and operated efficiently and reliably to provide for their main purpose whilst avoiding injury to broiler chickens.

When purchasing new equipment the animal welfare aspects of the equipment need to be taken into consideration.

Minimum Standard No. 4 – Equipment

(a) Broiler sheds must have backup systems and alarms in case of equipment failure and these must be checked and tested at least once in each grow-out cycle.

(b) All equipment used for rearing broiler chickens (feeders, drinkers, air vents, fans, heaters) must be inspected a minimum of four times daily for correct operational functions and if required appropriate remedial action undertaken immediately.

3.4 Husbandry Practices

These practices include all aspects of care, handling and livestock management, from the time day-old chicks are received until they are caught and processed.

3.4.1 Stocking Densities

Introduction

In selecting densities animal welfare obligations must be viewed in a holistic way. Animal welfare as it relates to stocking density should take into consideration disease status and control measures, management skills and attitude, nutrition, housing, facilities and environment.

Appropriate stocking densities are one of the key factors in determining the provision of adequate animal welfare. Stocking densities are defined in this code as the maximum live weight per unit area. With broiler chicken production, stocking density will change daily as the broiler chickens grow and there is no one static density level.

It is recommended that at individual farms the stocking density is reviewed regularly and if necessary adjusted to maintain adequate welfare of the broiler chickens. The appropriate stocking density should take into account such conditions as dirtiness of the broiler chickens, hockburn and scabby hips. Before a broiler shed is stocked with day-old chicks, the risk of those conditions occurring must be assessed from previous experience at the farm or of the flock manager. If stocking density within the current flock is leading to welfare problems this can be managed by thinning or depopulating the whole flock.

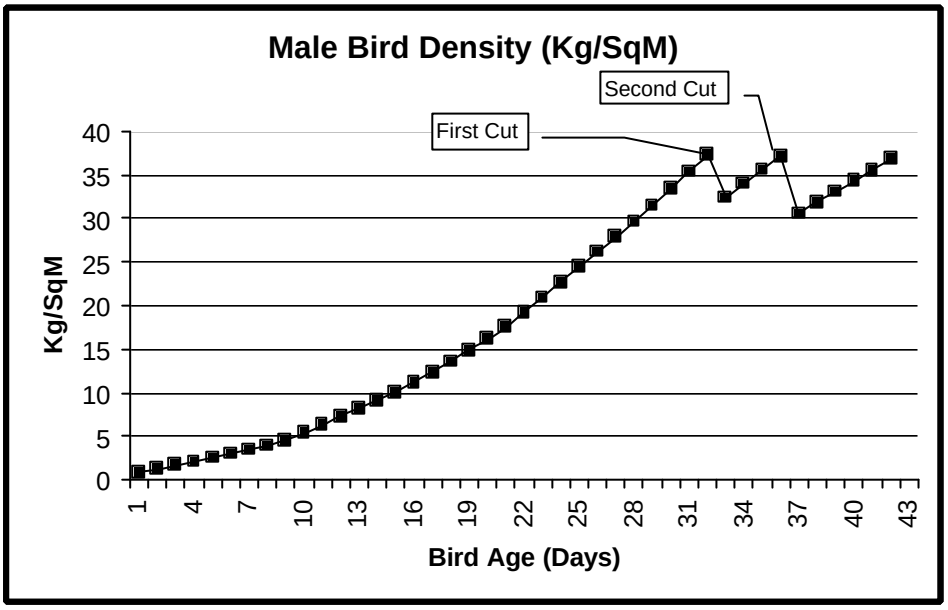
In addition to those problems itemised above, there are other production and welfare problems that can be exacerbated by high stocking densities. These include mortality and culls, leg disorders, suppressed individual broiler chicken growth rate, breast blisters and poor quality litter. Further problems include excessive ammonia release into the atmosphere and obvious difficulty for broiler chickens manoeuvring about the broiler shed and expressing normal patterns of behaviour without excessive disturbance.

Where several of these problems occur together it is likely that the stocking density is too high for either the genotype of the broiler chicken or the standard of bird management, and so the stocking density should be reduced if possible in the current flock and in subsequent flocks. Setting limits on the stocking density may also protect the broiler chickens from potential risk of psychological problems that result from overcrowding. However it is acknowledged that there is a poor understanding of the nature of those problems and of the maximum stocking densities that would protect against them. Nevertheless it is helpful to set stocking rate limits based on the maximum density, and apply those limits to control the risks outlined above.

The maximum stocking density that is achieved in a flock can occur either at the time of the first harvest or at the time the broiler shed is depopulated. Due to the continuous and rapid growth rate of the broiler chickens, the maximum density occurs for a short period of time only in one 24-hour period. This is illustrated in the following graphs A and B.

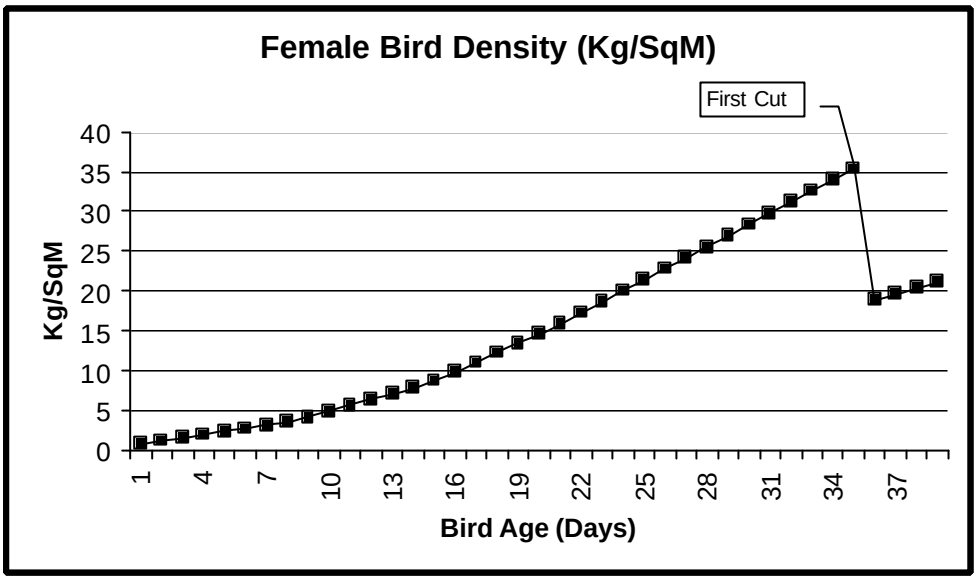
Graph A represents average data for male flocks from over 100 individual flock results for a major New Zealand processing plant over the first six months of 2001. The first two maximum stocking density points on the graph are where 'cuts' of broilers are taken from the flock for processing and the final point is where the remainder of the flock is harvested for processing.

Graph A



Graph B represents average data for female flocks from over 100 individual flock results for a major New Zealand processing plant over the first six months of 2001. The maximum stock density point on the graph is where the first 'cut' of broilers is taken from a flock for processing.

Graph B



Minimum Standard No. 5 – Stocking Densities

(a) Placements of broiler chicks in individual broiler sheds must be scheduled so that the planned maximum stocking density does not exceed 38 kg of live weight of broiler chickens per m².

(b) If unforeseen situations (such as processing plant breakdowns and industrial disruptions) occur which result in the maximum stocking density being temporarily exceeded, the stocking rate during the grow-out period must not exceed 40 kg of live weight of broiler chickens per m².

(c) In the event of a natural disaster and the stocking density goes over 40 kg of live weight of broiler chickens per m², the welfare of the broiler chickens must be monitored continuously and steps taken to reduce stocking density below 40 kg per m² as soon as possible in order to protect animal welfare.

(d) Specifications that relate to stocking densities of broiler sheds must be available for auditing purposes. Such records must be kept for a minimum of two years.

Recommended Best Practice[y]

It is recommended that at individual farms the stocking density is reviewed regularly and if necessary adjusted to maintain adequate welfare of the broiler chickens. The appropriate stocking density should take into account such conditions as dirtiness of the broiler chickens, hockburn and scabby hips.

When problems including those outlined above occur consistently, substantial reductions (e.g. 20-30%) in stocking density should occur in the following placement.

[1]Ψ There are no published studies of the incidence of welfare problems in the New Zealand broiler industry. Further, there is no published information for New Zealand production on broiler behaviour, on the status of the key environmental parameters (such as air and litter quality and temperature/humidity) which influence broiler welfare, or on the relationship of such measures to changes in stocking density. NAWAC recognises the research and development, and the commercial trials, that are being conducted internationally with respect to stocking densities, and that they may have relevance to the New Zealand broiler industry. However, before any changes can be introduced, there needs to be independently driven research and development carried out in New Zealand conditions.

Accordingly, NAWAC strongly recommends that such research and development be initiated and completed five years of the issue of this code. NAWAC will review the maximum stocking density noted in this minimum standard and any other related issues, no later than five years from the issue of this code.

3.4.2 Lighting

Introduction

All buildings shall have light levels sufficient to allow broiler chickens to see one another, to investigate their surroundings visually and to be seen clearly.

Broiler chicks require sufficient light intensity to allow them to find food and water.

During the growing period following brooding when lights are on, lighting may be reduced to around 10 lux (measured at broiler chicken head height). Lighting needs to be increased to a minimum of 20 lux during inspection to stimulate an appropriate level of activity and thereby more easily revealing any welfare problems. This will also provide sufficient lighting for the inspection of the broiler chickens and equipment. Natural and artificial lighting should be evenly distributed so as to avoid overcrowding.

Intermittent or modified lighting patterns can be utilised to benefit broiler chicken welfare, particularly in cases where a leg disorder or sudden death syndrome (flip-over) problem develops.

After placement the lights are generally left on for up to 23 hours each day. This ensures that the chicks can become familiar with their surroundings and enables them to locate the feeders and waterers. After the first four days various lighting patterns are introduced depending on the facility. Lighting programmes may vary from a programme which mimics a diurnal light pattern e.g. 16 hours light and eight hours dark, through to light programmes that are intermittent and supply alternate periods of light and dark throughout the day e.g. three hours light followed by three hours dark. Lighting programmes that provide regular periods of darkness can be used to encourage bird activity and can have a beneficial effect on leg health. Lighting patterns may also vary throughout the grow-out period, depending on the facility.

Minimum Standard No. 6 – Lighting

(a) After placement, there must be a maximum training period of no more than four days of one hour continuous darkness per day, to train the broiler chickens to blackout conditions to prevent panic should lighting fail.

(b) After the training period in 6(a), intermittent light patterns must be introduced which provide a total minimum daily blackout period of four hours per day.

(c) In the last two to three days before the broiler chickens are harvested for processing the lighting programme may be reverted to a programme providing a minimum period of one hour continuous darkness per day.

Minimum Standard No. 6 Continued:

(d) For at least three days after placement, during the period of light, broiler chicks must have lighting intensity of a minimum of 20 lux measured at chick head height, to assist the chicks to find food and water.

(e) After the first three days, a minimum of 10 lux measured at chick head height must be provided during the period of light.

(f) During inspections a minimum of 20 lux of light must be provided.

3.5 Ventilation

Introduction

Ventilation is required to provide fresh air, and to assist in the control of temperature, moisture, and litter quality. The accumulation of water vapour, heat, noxious gases and dust particles may cause discomfort or distress to the chickens and predispose them to the development of disease and skin problems.

Ammonia problems are more likely to occur in the winter and early morning periods. As a guide to the level of ammonia within the broiler shed, 10-15ppm of ammonia in the air can be detected by smell and an ammonia level over 25 ppm will cause eye and nasal irritation in people.

Air humidity can be determined by both external factors and internal factors within the broiler shed. Examples of internal factors within the broiler shed are stocking density, liveweight of the birds, ventilation rate, indoor temperature, malfunction of technical equipment, disease and litter quality.

Dust is a potentially harmful air contaminant, mainly in combination with ammonia and other gases and may directly affect the respiratory tracts of the broiler chickens, as well as act in the transmission of bacterial and viral infections.

Minimum Standard No. 7 – Ventilation

(a) All ventilation systems must have the ability to prevent the build-up of harmful concentrations of gases, such as ammonia and CO_2.

(b) Where levels of 25 ppm or more of ammonia within the broiler shed are detected, immediate and appropriate action must be taken to increase ventilation or reduce litter moisture, or both, to ensure a return to levels which do not cause eye and nasal irritation in people and to reduce ammonia levels below 25 ppm.

Recommended Best Practice

Ammonia levels should not consistently exceed levels that can be detected by smell (i.e.10-15 ppm).

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

3.5.1 Temperature

Introduction

Temperature requirements for broiler chickens vary considerably from day-old to point-of-harvest and all production systems need to be able to handle the changing requirements of the broiler chicken over time.

Newly hatched broiler chickens have a reduced capacity to maintain adequate body temperatures and thus additional heat input is required. For older broiler chickens housing systems should have facilities to provide cooling or remove heat.

After the first few days of age, temperatures within the broiler shed should be reducing from around 30ºC by 2–3ºC per week until an appropriate desirable temperature between 17 and 23ºC is reached. Broiler chickens should be protected from draughts and thermal stress.

In hot weather adequate cool water and ventilation should be available.

Where high temperatures are causing distress, roof sprinklers, fans, cooling pads, or other systems should be used to control heat build-up within buildings. If foggers are used care should be taken to monitor relative humidity within the broiler shed.

In the absence of the above options in emergency situations, the temperature of the broiler shed may be reduced by opening all possible vents. Care should be taken to ensure that airflow at the level of the broiler chickens is not reduced. Physical activity of the broiler chickens should be minimised. However broiler chickens should be encouraged to stand from time to time to release heat build up under their bodies and from the litter.

Minimum Standard No. 8 – Temperature

(a) Temperature control systems must have the ability to both add and remove heat in order to maintain desired temperatures compatible with broiler chicken health and welfare.

(b) Facilities must be preheated for receiving of day-old chicks to ensure that chick welfare is not compromised.

(c) When 5% or more of broiler chickens in a flock show persistent panting behaviour during flock inspection then prompt action must be taken to reduce environmental temperature.

(d) Temperature recordings must be taken at least daily to note any adverse or potentially stressful temperature fluctuations and any such fluctuations must be addressed and rectified promptly.

Recommended Best Practice

If daily temperature conditions are fluctuating then more frequent temperature recordings should be taken.

3.5.2 Litter Management

Introduction

The physical properties of the litter are important. Key features of litter management are control of quality, moisture, dust, ammonia production, caking, bedding thickness, fungal proliferation and frequency of use.

The optimum minimum depth of litter material depends on the choice of litter material.

Minimum Standard No. 9 – Litter Management

(a) Litter material -
- **(i) must not result in levels of dustiness or dampness that could cause respiratory or other health problems; and**
- **(ii) must not contain levels of toxic agents such as tanalising agents and fungi that could cause respiratory and other health problems.**

(b) Broiler shed floors must be completely covered with litter material.

(c) Attention must be given to water ingress and leaking drinkers to avoid excessive moisture, caking and ammonia production and any such problems must be remedied promptly.

Minimum Standard No. 9 Continued:

(d) All litter must be inspected daily and maintained to achieve the above standards.

(e) Litter must be used for one growing cycle only and then replaced, except for (f).

(f) In the exceptional circumstance that replacement fresh litter cannot be obtained, litter may be used again but only under the following conditions:

- **(i) no more than one growth cycle**
- **(ii) birds must only be stocked at a maximum stocking density of 35 kg per m^2, and**
- **(iii) there must be increased frequency of monitoring of the birds and steps taken immediately to ensure fouled litter does not cause adverse animal welfare problems.**

Recommended Best Practice

At placement time the minimum depth of wood-shavings litter should be 50-75 mm and the depth of shredded paper should be sufficient to provide a minimum of 20 mm when packed down by the broiler chickens.

Litter that has caked should be removed or turned and the underlying cause should be remedied.

3.6 Disease and Injury Control

Introduction

Disease control is essential to ensure that broiler chicken welfare is maintained at optimal levels. Appropriate programmes to control disease include:

- vaccination
- preventative medication
- biosecurity; and
- hygiene.

All persons responsible for the care and management of poultry need to be aware of the signs of disease. They should be trained beforehand or supervised if they are not competent in recognising the signs of disease. Signs may include a reduction in feed and water intake, reduced rate of body weight gain, changes in faeces and litter quality, increases in odour, changes in appearance, activity or behaviour, or increase in mortality.

At all inspections general broiler shed conditions should be observed, to make sure broiler chickens are evenly spread, are calm and demonstrating normal behavioural patterns.

Abnormal patterns include undue competition at feeders or drinkers or both, excessive use of drinkers, abnormal noise level, unusual vocalisation or aggression, irritability, panting, lethargy, and feather erection condition. Where these abnormal conditions are observed the cause should be identified and appropriate remedial action taken.

The production system should be assessed regularly for the likelihood of infectious and parasitic disease and appropriate control systems put in place to prevent them.

Minimum Standard No. 10 – Disease and Injury Control

(a) Mortalities and culls must be monitored and recorded daily, and dead broiler chickens removed from the flock daily.

(b) Broiler chickens (including runts and culls) that develop a disease or other condition that may affect their ability to compete over the long term or that may ultimately lead to death, must be killed by a humane method as soon as they are identified, or raised separately.

(c) Daily checks must be made of broiler chickens described in 10(b).

(d) Medication must be used only in accordance with registration conditions, manufacturers' instructions or professional advice.

(e) If the early signs of a disease outbreak are recognised, or suspected, or mortalities are greater than expected then advice on appropriate treatment must be promptly sought from a veterinarian or advisory livestock personnel.

(f) A detailed inspection of the flock in each broiler shed must be undertaken at least once a day. To achieve this, the owner or person in charge must walk up and down the total length of the broiler shed between each drinker and feeder line and external walls.

(g) Broiler sheds must be viewed or inspected a further four times daily during which broiler chicken behaviour, temperature, light levels, availability of feed, feeding systems, water and all air vents must be checked, and if required, appropriate remedial action must be taken to protect the welfare of the broiler chickens.

3.7 Humane Destruction

Introduction

Destruction of birds may be carried out on individuals, such as culls and runts, or on large numbers in the case of a disease outbreak. There are various methods of destruction and their use will depend on the situation.

Minimum Standard No. 11 – Humane Destruction

(a) Humane destruction when necessary must be carried out by the use of concussion and neck dislocation, or electrical stunning and neck dislocation, or neck dislocation, or euthanasia with at least 70% CO_2 gas or a mixture of CO_2 70% and argon gas 30%, or at processing plants.

(b) When humane destruction is carried out by gassing, then the procedure must be sufficient to ensure collapse of every broiler chicken within 35 seconds of exposure to the gas, and broiler chickens must remain in the gas for at least a further two minutes following collapse.

(c) Following humane destruction, the broiler chickens must be carefully inspected to ensure that they are dead.

(d) Persons undertaking humane destruction must be appropriately trained and must ensure that the broiler chickens are managed carefully and calmly at all stages of the process.

(e) Any equipment used to undertake humane destruction must be well maintained in order to operate efficiently.

4. Catching, Loading, and Transport

4.1 Pre-loading Requirements

Introduction

Day-old chicks

In order to reduce the risk of spreading disease with day-old chicks, transport crates and trucks should be appropriately cleaned and sanitised prior to use.

Broiler chickens

Feeders and drinkers should be hoisted or removed before the catching team enters the broiler shed.

With the exception of day-old chicks, broiler chickens should not be held in crates for longer than 12 hours.

When a delay is anticipated and the holding time is likely to exceed 12 hours, either the broiler chickens should be released into a broiler shed where they have access to food and water, or immediate slaughter should be arranged in another slaughterhouse. The time spent in crates is calculated from the time the broiler chickens are first placed in them, not from when the journey begins.

Minimum Standard No. 12 – Pre-loading

(a) Food must not be withheld from broiler chickens for more than 12 hours prior to arrival at the processing plant.

(b) Broiler chickens must not be deprived of water prior to preparation for catching and loading.

4.2 Catching and Loading

Introduction

Planning the catching and loading procedure well in advance will allow adequate time for broiler chickens to be handled quietly in a way that does not cause injury. Frenzied, noisy behaviour can cause distress and lead to smothering. Rough catching and handling can injure the broiler chickens.

During catching, the lighting should be dimmed to control excitement and movement of the broiler chickens.

When the catchers enter the broiler shed they should drive the broiler chickens away from the entrance in a calm manner.

The catcher should kneel or stoop close to the ground when catching the broiler chickens. This allows the broiler chickens to be bunched in one hand whilst they are resting on their breasts on the litter. Holding the leg of a broiler chicken in the hand whilst the other leg is bearing weight may lead to hip damage.

The number of broiler chickens carried at any one time by a catcher should be no more than four per hand although this should be fewer for heavy broiler chickens, or when placing into transport crates or modules with narrow openings.

If a broiler chicken starts flapping its wings while being carried to the transport crates, it should be brought under control by either resting it against the catcher's leg or by resting it on the ground. This will help to reduce the risk of hip dislocation. Broiler chickens should be loaded into the crates in a smooth, controlled action that minimises the force exerted on the hip.

Crates of broiler chickens should be moved so that broiler chickens remain in an upright position. If a conveyor is used for loading crates of live broiler chickens, the conveyor angle should not be excessive causing broiler chickens to pile up. Crates should not be thrown or dropped. They should be moved smoothly during loading, transport and unloading.

Care should be taken when using the forklift truck in the broiler shed, and the driver should be well trained in its use.

Minimum Standard No. 13 – Catching and Loading

(a) All members of catching and transporting crews must be correctly trained and supervised in the handling of broiler chickens.

(b) Broiler chickens must be handled with care at all stages of the procedure so as to avoid injury.

(c) Broiler chickens that are injured during the catching and loading procedures must be destroyed immediately.

(d) The maximum number of broiler chickens that may be carried at any one time in each hand of a catcher must be no more than four.

(e) The broiler chickens about to be carried to the crates must all be held with their hocks and shanks aligned in the same manner within the hand.

Minimum Standard No.13 Continued:

(f) Broiler chickens must be placed into the crates in such a way that they can rapidly attain an upright position.

(g) Broiler chickens must be placed carefully into the crates.

(h) Crates containing broiler chickens must be handled with care.

Recommended Best Practice

Techniques for the catching and loading of broiler chickens should be described in each facility's quality assurance system.

4.3 Loading Density of Broiler Chickens

Introduction

The number of broiler chickens per crate that is appropriate depends on available floor space in the crates, the body size of the broiler chickens and environmental conditions at the time of transport.

A visual assessment should be made in judging the loading densities of any particular consignment. Weather conditions should be considered when determining loading densities.

Minimum Standard No. 14 – Loading Densities

(a) Maximum density in crates used to transport broiler chickens must not exceed 65 kg per m^2.

(b) All broiler chickens must be able to rest on the floor of the crate at the same time.

Recommended Best Practice

The maximum density allowance should be decreased during summer, if weather conditions are such that they compromise animal welfare.

4.4 Transport Crates

Introduction

There should be no protrusions, including hinges or latches, or sharp edges on the interior framework of the crates. Crates should be ventilated and have sufficient headroom to allow the birds to move about during transport.

Since there are gaps in the crates there is the possibility that heads, feet or legs of broiler chickens may protrude.

Minimum Standard No. 15 – Transport Crates

(a) Crates must be designed and maintained to allow broiler chickens to be put in and taken out without causing injury and to prevent escape.

(b) Crates must be designed and managed to avoid head, neck, toe and foot damage to broiler chickens when they are withdrawn, and when the crates are dragged, stacked or opened.

(c) Crates must comply with the following minimum heights:

Category	Minimum Height of Crate
Day-old chicks	10 cm
Broiler chickens	21 cm

4.5 Transport

Special care needs to be taken in transporting broiler chickens. Broiler chickens should be transported in accordance with the code of welfare for the transport of animals.

5. Quality Management

5.1 Quality Assurance Systems

Recommended Best Practice

To help ensure that standards of animal welfare and husbandry are maintained, each commercial broiler chicken facility should implement a quality assurance system that provides for written procedures.

The elements of the quality assurance system should provide for the minimum standards and recommendations for best practice of this code.

The quality assurance system should require continual review of existing systems and procedures that could enhance the welfare of broiler chickens. Producers and the Poultry Industry Association of New Zealand should encourage ongoing debate and assessments of management practices that may improve the welfare of broiler chickens. Where improvements to current practice are identified, these should be communicated to producers via appropriate technology transfer methods such as seminars, workshops, and industry newsletters.

The quality assurance system should provide for all incidents resulting in significant sickness, injury or death of birds to be fully investigated and documented. Where the results of an investigation may have implications for current industry management practices, a report outlining the incident and implications should, as soon as it is available, be forwarded to the appropriate industry body for consideration.

5.2 Records

Information

The maintenance of good records is an integral part of a quality assurance system and good farm management.

6. Stockmanship

Information

Broiler chickens kept in controlled environment production systems are entirely reliant on the provision of their needs by human management.

The care of broiler chickens, at whatever stage of production, therefore requires both experience and the observance of high standards.

Under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 the "owner" of an animal and the "person in charge" is responsible for meeting the legal obligations to animal welfare. In the case of broiler chickens the owner or person in charge may place the broiler chickens in the care of others for the purpose of rearing, transport and slaughter.

This code establishes minimum standards of care for broiler chickens, and is intended to encourage all owners and persons in charge of broiler chickens to adopt the highest standard of husbandry, care and handling, based on the recommended best practices. While this code is based on current knowledge and technology available at the time of issue, it does not replace the need for experience and common sense in the handling of broiler chickens.

The importance of good stockmanship cannot be over-emphasised. Those responsible for the care of broiler chickens should be competent and well trained. Personnel should be appropriately instructed in the care and maintenance of broiler chickens and how their actions may affect the chickens' welfare. Knowledge of the normal appearance and behaviour of broiler chickens is essential for their health and welfare. It is important that those in charge of the broiler chickens should be able to recognise early signs of distress or disease so that prompt action is taken or advice sought.

Owners and persons in charge of broiler chickens should ensure that their personnel have either the relevant knowledge and training or appropriate supervision to ensure that the health and welfare needs of the birds in their care are met. Personnel should undergo training either formally or on the job by experienced supervisors. Handling techniques should be included as written procedures in the quality assurance system, which should be easily accessible to all personnel.

Any contract or temporary staff should be trained and competent in the relevant activity.

Quality assurance programmes should emphasise the importance of training of personnel.

The Agriculture Industry Training Organisation lists a number of training qualifications for those involved in the poultry industry.

Information on these qualifications and accredited training providers is available from the:

Agriculture Industry Training Organisation
PO Box 10 383
Wellington.

or from the NZQA web site:

http:/www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/

Minimum Standard No. 16 – Stockmanship

Broiler chickens must be cared for by a sufficient number of personnel who possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence to maintain their health and welfare in accordance with the minimum standards listed in this code.

Appendix I: Strict Liability and Defences

Introduction

Strict Liability

In the prosecution of certain offences under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 committed after 19 December 2002, evidence that a relevant code of welfare was in existence at the time of the alleged offence and that a relevant minimum standard established by that code was not complied with is rebuttable evidence that the person charged with the offence failed to comply with, or contravened, the provision of the Animal Welfare Act to which the offence relates. [See sections 13(1A), 24(1) and 30(1A) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, as amended by the Animal Welfare Amendment Act 2002].

Defences

It is a defence in the prosecution of certain offences under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 if the defendant proves that there was in existence at the time of the alleged offence a relevant code of welfare and the minimum standards established by the code of welfare were in all respects equalled or exceeded. [See sections 13(2)(c), 24(2)(b) and 30(2)(c)].

If a defendant in a prosecution intends to rely on the defence under sections 13(2)(c) or 30(2)(c), the defendant must, within seven days after the service of the summons, or within such further time as the Court may allow, deliver to the prosecutor a written notice. The notice must state that the defendant intends to rely on section 13(2) or 30(2) as the case may be, and must specify the relevant code of welfare that was in existence at the time of the alleged offence, and the facts that show that the minimum standards established by that code of welfare were in all respects equalled or exceeded. This notice may be dispensed with if the Court gives leave. [See sections 13(3) and 30(3)].

The strict liability provisions and the defence of equalling or exceeding the minimum standards established in a code of welfare apply to the following offences:

Failing to provide

Section 12 (a) A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or person in charge of, an animal, fails to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 10 (which provides that the owner of an animal, and every person in charge of an animal, must ensure that the physical, health, and behavioural needs of the animal are met in a manner that is in accordance with both good practice and scientific knowledge).

Suffering animals

Section 12(b) A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or person in charge of, an animal fails, in the case of an animal that is ill or injured, to comply, in relation to the animal, with section 11 (which provides that the owner of an animal that is ill or injured, and every person in charge of such an animal, must, where

practicable, ensure that the animal receives treatment that will alleviate any unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress being suffered by the animal).

Section 12(c) A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or person in charge of, an animal kills the animal in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Surgical procedures

Section 21(1)(b)(1) A person commits an offence who, without reasonable excuse, acts in contravention of or fails to comply with section 15(4) (which provides that no person may, in performing on an animal a surgical procedure that is not a significant surgical procedure, perform that surgical procedure in such a manner that the animal suffers unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress).

Transport

Section 22(2) A person commits an offence who fails, without reasonable excuse, to comply with any provision of subsection (1) (which provides that every person in charge of a ship, vehicle or aircraft, and the master of, or if there is no master, the person in charge of, a ship being a vehicle, aircraft or ship in or on which an animal is being transported, must ensure that the welfare of the animal is properly attended to, and that, in particular, the animal is provided with reasonably comfortable and secure accommodation and is supplied with proper and sufficient food and water).

Section 23(1) A person commits an offence who, without reasonable excuse, confines or transports an animal in a manner or position that causes the animal unreasonable or unnecessary pain or distress.

Section 23(2) A person commits an offence who, being the owner of, or the person in charge of, an animal, permits that animal, without reasonable excuse, to be driven or led on a road, or to be ridden, or to be transported in or on a vehicle, aircraft or a ship while the condition or health of the animal is such as to render it unfit to be so driven, led, ridden or transported.

Ill-treatment

Section 29(a) A person commits an offence who ill-treats an animal.

Inspection of Premises

Inspectors appointed under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 have the power to enter any land or premises (with the exceptions of dwellings and marae), or any vehicle, aircraft or vessel, at any reasonable time, for the purpose of inspecting any animal. [See section 127 (1)].

Inspectors include officers of MAF Special Investigation Group, inspectors from approved organisations appointed by the Minister, and the Police.

Appendix II: Codes of Welfare

Code of Welfare (given transitional status)

- Codes of Recommendation for the Welfare of Circus Animals and Information for Circus Operators
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals Used in Rodeo Events
- Code of Recommendation and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Exhibit Animals and Information for Exhibit Animal Operators
- Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Pigs
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Layer Hens
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Broiler Chickens (replaced by this code)

List of Regulations and Circular deemed to be the Animal Welfare (Commercial Slaughter) Code of Welfare 2002

- Clauses 1(a) and 2, and the heading preceding clause 2, of Part 7 of the Schedule 1 of the Fish Export Processing Regulations 1995 (SR 1995/54):
- Regulation 80(1) of the Game Regulations 1975 (SR 1975/174):
- Regulation 76 of the Meat Regulations 1969 (SR 1969/192):
- The Slaughter of Stock, Game, and Poultry Regulations 1969 (SR 1969/194):
- New Zealand Fishing Industry Agreed Implementation Standards 003.4 Live Eels and Rock Lobsters Circular 1995.

Published Codes of Recommendations and Minimum Standards

- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Sea Transport of Sheep from New Zealand, September 1991 Code No. 2
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Sheep, July 1996 Code No. 3
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Dairy Cattle, June 1992 Code No. 4
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Deer During the Removal of Antlers, July 1992 Code No. 5, Amendments August 1994, August 1997
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Horses, February 1993 Code No. 7
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Bobby Calves, July 1997 Code No. 8

- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for Care of Animals in Boarding Establishments, August 1990 Code No. 9
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals at the Time of Slaughter at Licensed and Approved Premises, July 1996 Code No. 10
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Sale of Companion Animals, April 1994 Code No. 11
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals Transported within New Zealand, November 1994 Code No. 15, Amendments May 1996, August 1998
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Animals at Saleyards, June 1998 Code No. 16
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Emergency Slaughter of Farm Stock, December 1996 Code No. 19
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Dogs, May 1998 Code No 20
- Code of Recommendations and Minimum Standards for the Welfare of Ostrich and Emu, June 1998 Code No. 21.

Published Guidelines

- Guidelines for the Welfare of Stock from which Blood is Harvested for Commercial and Research Purposes, April 1996
- Guidelines for the Welfare or Yearling Fallow Deer During the Use of Rubber Rings to Prevent Antler/Pedicle Growth, September 1997
- Guidelines for the Welfare of Red and Wapiti Yearling Stags During the Use of Rubber Rings to Induce Analgesia for the Removal of Spiker Velvet, September 1998.

Codes and Guidelines may be obtained from:	or can be inspected at:
Executive Co-ordinator Animal Welfare MAF Biosecurity Authority Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry P O Box 2526 WELLINGTON Tel: 04 474 4129 E-mail: animalwelfare@maf.govt.nz	ASB House Reception Level 3 101 – 103 The Terrace WELLINGTON

Codes and Guidelines are available on MAF's website. The web page address is:
http://www.maf.govt.nz/biosecurity/animal-welfare