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Clarification on Auditing Requirements of Step 3-5+ Poultry Operations

Issued & Effective October 28, 2019

Please note that the following clarification regarding auditing requirements of Step 3-5+ poultry operations was originally issued as part of the G.A.P. Replacement Policy on Avian Influenza published on April 5, 2017. However, we've had a number of inquiries lately related to this topic and are recirculating to address the question. This uses the same language as the earlier clarification and reflects how G.A.P.-accredited certifiers are currently handling audit requirements.

The clarification applies to all certified operations or operation seeking G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Certified certification for Meat Chickens, Turkeys, Laying Hens and Pullets regardless of geographic location.

1. New operations, and operations previously certified but without a current certificate seeking re-certification, cannot be certified unless they have a physical on-farm audit and can show evidence that they meet all standards for the applicable Step-level at the time of the audit including continuous daily access to the outdoors or pasture.
2. Any operation seeking to upgrade to a Step 3-5+ (either mid-cycle or at re-certification) cannot do so unless they meet the same requirements laid out in bullet 1).