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Global Animal Partnership 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Specialty Meat Birds (Pekin Pekin ducks, Geese, Quail and Guinea Fowl)

About Global Animal Partnership's (G.A.P.) Animal Welfare Certified™ Program

Founded in 2008, G.A.P. is a nonprofit charitable organization that unites a diverse group of stakeholders, including farmers, scientists, ranchers, retailers, manufacturers, food service providers, and animal advocates, all committed to improving the lives of farm animals. G.A.P.'s mission is to drive meaningful, continuous improvement of farm animal welfare through multi-level standards development, application, and verification across the supply chain.

G.A.P.'s Animal Welfare Certified™ program evaluates animal welfare across three key areas: on-farm practices, transportation, and slaughter. Designed as a multi-tiered system, the program encourages continuous improvement in animal agriculture, engages a wide range of producers, offers diverse product options for consumers, provides detailed insights into farm animal welfare levels, and helps consumers make informed choices about the production systems they support.

The tiered standards, ranging from Step 1 to Step 5+, include specific requirements that must be met to achieve certification at each level. As the standard-setting organization, G.A.P. does not conduct audits or determine Step-level certifications. Instead, independent third-party certification companies carry out audits and issue certification upon compliance determination. This structure ensures fairness, accuracy, and the absence of conflicts of interest, giving producers, consumers, and retailers confidence in the integrity of Step-level certifications.

For more information, contact us at info@globalanimalpartnership.org or 877.427.5783.

About G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Specialty Meat Birds

Version 1.0 of G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Specialty Meat Birds is a new Standards document. Effective June 1, 2025, all operations audited will be assessed against this version. The development of Version 1.0 involved extensive consultation with animal welfare scientific experts, poultry producers, industry representatives, public feedback, and approval by the Global Animal Partnership Board of Directors.

The standards will undergo a comprehensive review and revision after no more than four (4) certification cycles. This process will incorporate expert input from scientists and producers, public comments, field testing, and a thorough evaluation before a draft revision is submitted to the Board of Directors for final approval. This review cycle ensures that the standards are applied across all seasons before undergoing a detailed update. G.A.P. may amend or clarify specific parts of the standard within this period as necessary, responding to implementation challenges, emerging technologies, or new scientific advancements.

Program Overview

The diagram presented illustrates the correlation between the step level and animal welfare. As the step level increases, it more closely replicates the animal’s natural habitat and behaviors. This tiered approach signifies a commitment to enhancing the living conditions of farm animals, aligning them more with their innate tendencies and surroundings.

Step Level	Brief Description
	Poultry in Step 1 systems live in an indoor environment with space to express natural behaviors.
	Poultry in Step 2 systems live in an indoor environment with more environmental enrichment and some natural light.
	Poultry in Step 3 systems have continuous access to outdoors during the day; poultry may be housed indoors during inclement weather.

 ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFIED CertifiedGAP.org STEP 4	Poultry in Step 4 systems have continuous access to pasture from fixed housing during the day or are housed continuously on pasture in mobile coops; during winter, poultry may be housed indoors but must continue to have continuous access to the outdoors during the day.
 ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFIED CertifiedGAP.org STEP 5	Poultry in Step 5 systems have access to pasture during the day and may only be housed indoors at night and during extreme weather conditions.
 ANIMAL WELFARE CERTIFIED CertifiedGAP.org STEP 5+	Poultry in Step 5+ systems have access to pasture during the day and may only be housed indoors during extreme weather conditions. Poultry are hatched, raised and slaughtered on-farm.

Program Requirements

The following is applicable to each operation applying for certification to Global Animal Partnership's 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Pekin ducks, Geese, Quail and Guinea Fowl ("Specialty Meat Birds").

1. General

- a. The standards in this document are requirements.
- b. The operation must have read the standards and prepared for the audit or they cannot be certified.
- c. Standards for breeding poultry are not included in this document but may be developed in the future.
- d. Unless otherwise specified, standards in this document pertain to poultry of any age.
- e. The term "flock" is defined as a barn/house of poultry. In the event of split slaughter ages – for example if the flock is thinned – lameness and foot pad dermatitis assessments must be carried out in the oldest birds to be slaughtered.
 - i. An example of a single flock could be one house of 10,000 hatchlings that are brooded together and then reared through to slaughter all on the same date.
 - ii. If hatchlings are brooded together but are subsequently raised to different Step levels, they would be considered two flocks and would require two sets of records.
 - iii. If 10,000 hatchlings are brooded together then split into two separate houses for this would be two flocks.
 - iv. If an operation has a single barn with two floors and the birds on the top floor are placed on one day and the birds on the bottom floor are placed 5 days later this would be two flocks.
- f. The term "operation" is defined as either (i) a single farm or (ii) a farm with more than one location, that meets all of the following criteria:
 - i. all staff and poultry are under the direct supervision* of the main farm;
 - ii. the main farm owns all of the poultry; and
 - iii. the main farm owns, rents or leases, all the land and/or buildings where the poultry are raised.

An individual operation can include a farm that is under contract to raise poultry for a larger business OR a farm that owns their own poultry and markets them under their own brand(s).

**Direct supervision is defined as being when an employee of the main certified farm business is responsible for the poultry on the farm that is at a separate location to the main farm. If the person responsible for the management and care of the poultry at a separate location to the main certified farm business is a contract farmer and not an employee, then that site is a separate operation for the purposes of determining the number of audits – even if there is routine oversight from an employee of the main operation.*

- g. In order to achieve certification to a particular Step-level, the operation must meet all applicable standards. For example, all standards specified for Step 3 must be met in order to become certified to Step 3.
- h. The G.A.P. Policy Manual is a companion document to the standards, and details additional program requirements and terms of certification beyond that which is included in the standards (see www.globalanimalpartnership.org for a copy of the Policy Manual).
- i. G.A.P. is developing a supply chain verification program that, once finalized, will require certification of identified supply chains. This certification will focus on ensuring transparency and compliance throughout the entire supply chain, from production to market.
- j. Each operation must follow a chain of custody program (see Section 2.C) that is also maintained by the slaughter facility and any further processor.

The chain of custody program can be developed and implemented by an affiliated group (e.g., a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) or created with the aid of external consultation.

- k. A glossary defining specific terms and terminology used in these standards is located at the end of this document.
- l. No standard in this document supersedes governmental regulations or laws, whether local, regional, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other.

2. Applications

- a. Each operation is required to submit a completed G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Specialty Meat Birds application for each certification cycle prior to audit.
- b. Each operation must identify all sites (either owned, leased, and/or shared) used to raise meat poultry by the operation on their G.A.P. application.
- c. Applications, this document, and other program documents, can be downloaded at www.globalanimalpartnership.org/ or by contacting your G.A.P.-accredited certifier.

3. Audit and Certification

- a. Each operation must submit a completed G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Specialty Meat Birds application and be audited and certified prior to marketing any product(s) as "G.A.P. Certified".
- b. Each operation must be audited once every 12-month certification cycle.
- c. Each operation must have poultry on-site at the time of on-site audit, but not all houses at an operation must have poultry in them at the time of the on-site audit.
- d. At initial audit, the operation must have poultry on-site that are over 21 days old.
- e. At the time of on-site audit, the person(s) responsible for managing the operation and/or an animal caretaker must be present. A designated representative affiliated with a supplier group may also be present at the time of the on-site audit but cannot be the only person present.
- f. Each operation applying for G.A.P. certification is responsible for ensuring that all required records and documents are available, and that all applicable standards are met, including actions that may be contracted or managed by another entity (e.g. catching and loading, transport, rodent control).
- g. All applicable standards, including those that may be controlled or managed by, or contracted to, another (e.g. the hatchery; a catching and loading crew; a transporter; a producer group, co-operative, or marketing entity; slaughter facility), will be assessed for compliance by the certification company and incorporated into its overall assessment of the operation prior to the final Step determination.
- h. G.A.P. supports the use of video or other electronic monitoring records for the review of brooding (for individual operations that market their own poultry, see n. ii. below) and catching and loading poultry. Use of video technology is not a requirement but can be used in place of certain observations listed in G.A.P.'s Policy Manual. Please refer to G.A.P.'s Policy Manual for additional details about how this must be conducted.
- i. Auditors do not make Step-level determinations nor provide consultative service to producers on meeting standards requirements; reviewers of authorized certification companies make Step-level determinations.
- j. Operations are only considered seasonal if they produce poultry for a portion of the year (e.g. flocks raised from July to November). If an operation produces poultry year-round, but only produces G.A.P. Certified poultry seasonally (e.g. for the holidays), the operation is not considered a seasonal

operation.

- k. For operations that (1) only raise poultry seasonally, or (2) are new operations, the issue date of the G.A.P. certificate will be the date of the on-site audit, rather than the date the final Step-level decision is made.
- l. If poultry are not raised on a single operation and different stages of production are conducted by different operations (e.g. poultry are brooded and raised to 4 weeks at location A, and then transported to location B where from 4 weeks onwards they are raised to slaughter age), each operation must submit a completed G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Specialty Meat Birds application and be audited and certified prior to product being marketed as G.A.P. Certified.
- m. Step-wise differentiation cannot be awarded on the basis of season. For example, a Step 3 operation cannot market their poultry as Step 3 during the time of year when poultry would typically be outdoors, and as a Step 2 when poultry would typically be kept indoors.
- n. Specifics for Individual Operations that Market Their Own Poultry
 - i. An operation that markets its own poultry must have at least 1 flock inspected when poultry are within 14 days of slaughter.
 - ii. At least 1 flock must be observed during brooding (up to 21 days) (this can be observed using video technology – see 3 h. above; G.A.P.'s Policy Manual; and check and confirm certifier's protocols for further details).
 - iii. If the operation has more than 4 flocks, then a minimum of 50% of the flocks will be selected by the auditor for inspection while on-site with preference given to the oldest flocks. If the operation has multiple locations, the 50% requirement must include at least one inspection at each location.
 - iv. Catching and loading must be observed and audited at least once each certification cycle (this can be observed using video technology – see 3 h. above; G.A.P.'s Policy Manual; and check and confirm certifier's protocols for further details).
 - v. The catching and loading observation referenced above can be of non-G.A.P. Certified poultry, provided all aspects of the catching and loading process are the same for all flocks, including those to be marketed as G.A.P. Certified.
- o. Specifics for Operations that are Part of an Affiliated Group
 - i. For operations that market poultry through an affiliated group (e.g. producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) rather than under the operation's own name or brand, 30% of the operations must have 1 flock inspected when poultry are within 14 days of slaughter; 5% at less than 21 days of age; and the remaining 65% when the poultry are over 21 days of age.
 - ii. If an individual operation within an affiliated group has more than 4 flocks, then a minimum of 50% of the flocks will be selected by the auditor for inspection while on-site. If the operation has multiple locations, the 50% requirement must include at least one inspection at each location.
 - iii. Catching and loading must be observed and audited at least once each certification cycle. If the affiliated group controls catching and loading for multiple operations, the auditor may observe and inspect the catching and loading process for the group rather than on each applicant's own operation, provided that (1) the assessment is performed at least once per certification cycle, and (2) all aspects of the catching and loading process are the same for all operations. (This can be observed using video technology – see 3 a. vii. Above; G.A.P.'s Policy Manual; and check and confirm certifier's protocols for further details).
 - iv. The catching and loading observation referenced above can be of non-G.A.P. Certified poultry, provided all aspects of the catching and loading process are the same for all flocks, including those to be marketed as G.A.P. Certified.

4. Non-conformances

Note: This section provides a brief overview of the provisions of the G.A.P. Policy Manual relating to non-conformances. For further details please refer to that document.

- If an operation fails to meet a standard, it will be considered a non-conformance. There are three categories of non-conformance: minor, major and critical (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual).
- If an operation receives a repeat non-conformance at the time of the next audit – the designation of minor, major and critical impacts the certification decision (see Repeat Non-conformances in G.A.P.'s Policy Manual).

In the example below, the **C** indicates that failure to meet the standard would be considered a critical non-conformance and the operation would be denied certification (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual for further information).

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
4.G Handling – All Species							
4.G.1	C Pekin ducks, geese, quail and guinea fowl must be handled properly and respectfully – see Appendix VI.	●	●	●	●	●	●

In the example below, the **M** indicates that failure to meet the standard would be considered a major non-conformance. If at recertification, this standard was still not in compliance, then it would be considered a critical non-conformance and the operation would be denied certification (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual for further information).

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.A Source/Breed							
2.A.1	M Genetically modified or cloned poultry are prohibited.	●	●	●	●	●	●

In the example below, as there is no **M** or **C** beside the standard, this means that the standard is classified as a minor non-conformance if it fails to be met. If at recertification, this standard was still not in compliance, then it would be considered a major non-conformance (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual for further information).

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
6.F Stocking Density – All Species							
6.F.1	Poultry must have enough space to express natural behavior, including standing, turning around, and preening, without touching another bird.	●	●	●	●	●	●

- c. If an operation is issued a critical non-conformance, certification will be denied.
- d. If an operation is issued a major or minor non-conformance, it needs to be addressed and the response submitted to the certifier by the operation within 3 weeks from the date the certifier issues the audit report and be accepted by the certifier as an acceptable response to the non-conformance, before a certificate is issued. If the operation does not respond to the non-conformance within 3 weeks, it will result in a shortened certificate once an acceptable response is received (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual).

5. Step Differentiation within the Standards

- a. Each Step level—Step 1 through Step 5+—has its own requirements that must be met to be certified to that level. If an operation, for example, meets some, but not all Step 2 (or higher) requirements, but 100% of the requirements for Step 1, the G.A.P. certification will be Step 1.
- b. Step differentiator standards are those that do not apply to all steps. Specialty Meat Birds can achieve Step-levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 5+. Any standard that does not apply to all of those levels is a Step differentiator standard. In the example below Standard 3.H.2 to 3.H.4 differs according to Step level.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
3.H Mortality – All Species							
3.H.2	M Annual average flock mortality must not exceed 6%	•					
3.H.3	M Annual average flock mortality must not exceed 5%		•	•			
3.H.4	M Annual average flock mortality must not exceed 4%				•	•	•

- c. At renewal, if an operation fails to meet a standard that is specific to their level, it will drop to the applicable Step level, or lose certification as appropriate, unless the Certifier applies their discretion to issue a non-conformance **if and only if**:
 - i. the standard that is out of conformance is not a repeat from the previous audit; and
 - ii. the Certifier is confident the operation will be able to achieve and maintain the level specified in the standard; and
 - iii. the operation is only out of conformance with one standard relating to the Step level the operation is looking to achieve.

6. Step-levels

- a. Step-level certification information (see Standard 2.C.3) must travel with poultry whenever they are being moved off the operation if they are to be marketed as G.A.P. Certified.
- b. All locations must carry the same Step-level or the lowest Step-level is applied to the marketed product.
 - i. For example, suppose there are five operations owned by different operators that produce meat poultry marketed under a single brand and poultry are not segregated according to operation. Prior to marketing poultry as G.A.P. Certified, all 5 operations need to be audited. Of these five operations four are certified to Step 3 and one is certified to Step 2. Because poultry are not segregated by operation, all poultry from all five operations would have to be marketed as Step 2.

- ii. As a second example, suppose there are six operations owned by different operators that raise poultry marketed by a single producer group with poultry segregated according to operation. Prior to marketing product as G.A.P. Certified, all six operations need to be audited. Of those six operations, four are certified as Step 3 and two are certified as Step 1. As the poultry are segregated according to operation, the poultry from the Step 1 operations can be marketed as Step 1 and the poultry from the Step 3 operations can be marketed as Step 3.
- iii. If poultry to be marketed as G.A.P. Certified are not raised on a single operation and different stages of production are conducted by different operations, each operation must submit a completed G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Specialty Meat Birds application and be audited and certified, and the lowest Step-level achieved will be assigned to the marketed product. For example, hatchlings are brooded at Farm A, which sells the poultry to Farm B for grow-out. Farm A achieves a Step-level of Step 2, and Farm B is certified to Step 3. The final product will be labeled as Step 2.
- c. If an operation produces both G.A.P. Certified poultry and non-G.A.P. Certified poultry on the same site (e.g. where there are multiple houses managed to different programs), this is defined as a split operation. In order to qualify as a split operation, a strict segregation protocol must be in place and approved by the certifier prior to a G.A.P. certification decision being issued. The segregation protocol must include all of the following components (see G.A.P.'s Policy Manual):
 - i. A written policy describing how birds from G.A.P. Certified flocks are segregated from birds from non-G.A.P. Certified flocks; AND
 - ii. How poultry are physically separated (for example packed on dedicated lines); OR
 - iii. How poultry are identified using a method that allows for instant visual identification.
- d. As outlined in the G.A.P. Policy Manual, split operations will not be issued certification to the operation as a whole, rather certificates will specify the certified G.A.P. Certified portion of the split operation.

7. Additional Standards Documents

Note: The most current versions of the documents listed below can be downloaded at www.globalanimalpartnership.org.

- a. As noted above, G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Standards for Specialty Meat Birds v1.0 is accompanied by G.A.P.'s Policy Manual.
- b. As per bullet 2a above, each operation is required to complete G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Specialty Meat Birds application each certification cycle.

8. Labeling

- a. Prior to labeling any poultry as G.A.P. Certified, the marketing entity must ensure that they meet labeling regulations for the country in which they are selling.
- b. The use of the G.A.P. label/logo must meet the requirements of G.A.P.'s Labeling Guide and be approved by G.A.P. prior to use.
- c. Before retail-ready packaged products are labeled as G.A.P. Certified, operations must contact G.A.P.'s Labeled Products Authorization Program at lpa@globalanimalpartnership.org for details of the application, fee schedule and approval process.

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Minimum Standards for Certification

Section 1: Plans, Protocols, Procedures, Training, Records and Documents

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
1.A General Records Requirements							
1.A.1	M Each operation must maintain and, at the time of the audit, provide the inspector full access to records sufficient to document compliance with all applicable Global Animal Partnership 5-Step® Animal Welfare standards. Informal records such as those written on calendars or notepads are acceptable but must be presented in an organized manner at inspection.	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.A.2	All records, formal and informal, must be presented in an organized manner.	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.A.3	All records, reports, Step certificates, and other materials and correspondence relating to Step certification must be kept for at least 12 months following the expiration of the certificate (i.e., 1 certification cycle).	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.B Operation Plan							
1.B.1	Each operation must have a written plan that identifies practices implemented to ensure compliance with all applicable sections of the Global Animal Partnership 5-Step® Animal Welfare standards: a. A written operation plan must exist. b. It must be current and updated as needed to reflect any changes. c. It must address all relevant areas covered by these standards. d. It must reflect actual practices on the operation. e. It must detail all physical locations where poultry will be raised during the certification cycle. The plan may be a hard paper copy or stored digitally, as long as it is readily accessible.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	①(1.B.1) <i>Your operation plan should be a description of the goals and methods of your farming operation. By describing your actual practices, you may satisfy the requirements for this standard. The intent is to assist you in putting down your practices in writing and can act as a “how-to” manual if someone has to step into your operation in an emergency. An important benefit of developing an operation plan is that often helps to focus the goals that you are trying to achieve. Importantly, writing down what is second nature to you will allow you, and others, to appreciate the good work that you do and the magnitude of what you know, do, and accomplish throughout the day, the month, and the year.</i>						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
1.C Animal Health Plan & Biosecurity Measures							
1.C.1	Each operation must plan for the health of the birds, which also includes biosecurity measures. The operation must have a written plan describing: a. an overview of the operation, including size, location, typical climatic conditions. b. operational practices and policies (i.e., SOP's) for poultry; including i. provision for daily feed and water, including ration details for the different stages of production. ii. preventative health strategies (e.g., supplementation, vaccination). iii. monitoring programs. iv. routine husbandry procedures. v. care of sick, ill and/or injured poultry, including on-farm euthanasia policies. vi. management of outdoor areas and pasture (if applicable). vii. rodent, wild bird and predator control practices. viii. housing management (e.g., litter, pen cleaning, ventilation). ix. environmental management (i.e. to reflect how various environmental challenges are handled such as large fluctuations in temperature, excessive humidity, etc.).						
	①(1.C.1) <i>The Farm and Animal Health Plan can be provided by an affiliated group (e.g., a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) or created with the aid of external consultation (e.g., extension agents, veterinarians, peers), but must include information specific and relevant to the operation applying for G.A.P. certification.</i>						
1.C.2	Each operation must have a documented and implemented biosecurity program that covers, at a minimum: a. procedures for bringing any poultry onto the site, including new hatchlings and any returning poultry (e.g. show birds). b. procedures and policies for caretakers (e.g. dress code and footwear requirements, policies concerning pets and/or the keeping of poultry off-site). c. procedures and policies for visitors to the operation (e.g. minimizing visitors, provision of foot baths, booties, and protective clothing; visitor logs). d. feed trucks and equipment delivery to the operation. e. shared borders with neighboring operations, if applicable. a. clean-out procedures of housing units between flocks.						
	①(1.C.2) <i>G.A.P. has specific protocols in the event of an avian influenza or similar disease outbreak. Please check with your certifier in the event a localized outbreak impacts your operation's biosecurity procedures.</i>						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
1.D Emergency Procedures							
1.D.1	There must be procedures to follow in case of emergency. Anyone engaged in poultry management must be aware of the emergency procedures and trained to take action should an emergency occur. Instructions should be detailed enough to ensure the safety and well-being of birds and workers during an emergency. An emergency action plan should include: a. all potential natural disasters for their area (e.g., hurricane, tornado, flood, wildfire, drought and/or blizzard). b. animal disease outbreak (including enhanced biosecurity). c. Tier 1 (AVMA Guidelines on Depopulation) methods of mass euthanasia should depopulation be required (see Section 3.G). d. management of animals if disease outbreak reduces availability of human resources (e.g., COVID-19 pandemic). e. fire(s) on-site. f. water shut off (if applicable). g. power failure.	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.D.2	If power is essential to the operation of heating, cooling, ventilation, watering, and/or feeding systems, each operation must have: a. an alternative power supply; and/or fail-safe device in working condition; and b. a method of notification in the event of power failure.	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.D.3	The alternative/fail-safe power supply must be checked monthly and recorded.	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.E Training							
1.E.1	Each operation must provide training to all staff and/or managers who are responsible for birds (whether full-time, part-time, seasonal or contractual) that: a. is written and/or hands-on. b. is presented in all necessary languages. c. includes instruction on recognizing signs of normal and abnormal bird appearance and behavior. d. includes instruction on euthanasia. e. describes all aspects of the individual's responsibilities. f. describes emergency procedures. g. describes any biosecurity protocols. h. is provided prior to the individual's handling of any poultry on the operation. i. covers all requirements of this version of the G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Specialty Meat Birds. j. is on-going as necessary and, at a minimum, when any changes affecting the care and management of poultry are implemented.	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.E.2	Each operation must keep a record of each stockperson's training (whether full-time, part-time, seasonal or contractual), including dates of training and topics covered. Records must be signed by both the attendee of the training and the administrator of the training. A Training Template is available here.	•	•	•	•	•	•
①(1.E.2) Training includes initial, re-training and on-going training. This record-keeping standard applies to all employees including all family members.							

Section 2: Animal Source, Traceability and Chain of Custody

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
2.A Source/Breed							
2.A.1	M Genetically modified or cloned poultry are prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.A.2	Breeds/lines/strains must be chosen for good welfare outcomes, according to animal-based welfare measures as listed in Section 3.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.B Bird Identification							
2.B.1	Any 'fall-out' birds are prohibited from being marketed under G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Pilot Standards for Specialty Meat Birds. All fall-out birds must be physically segregated or identified using a method that allows for instant visual identification as non-G.A.P. Certified animals. Fall-out animals may include birds given antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, growth hormones, and/or sulfa drugs. ①(2.B.1) All treatment records for fall-out birds/flocks must be made accessible to auditors.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.C Traceability and Chain of Custody							
2.C.1	M Each operation must have individual flock records that can trace the source of all G.A.P. Certified birds on the operation, including all locations where each bird has been kept since hatching.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.C.2	All animals to be marketed as G.A.P. Certified must be identified and recorded as such on arrival to the operation.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.C.3	Each G.A.P. Certified operation must have a chain of custody system with written records. For each shipment of poultry transported within the operation, or off the operation, whether to another operation or to a slaughter facility, the records must include: a. date of transport. b. loading start and end times for each vehicle. c. departure and arrival times for each vehicle. d. reasons for any stops or delays en route. e. the number of poultry transported. f. step-level. g. certificate number. h. certificate expiry date. i. indicate if transport is within operation, operation-to-operation, or operation-to-slaughter facility. j. any temporary variances granted including the standard number and length of approval. k. any mortality during transport. ①(2.C.3a) Chain of custody can be organized by the individual operation or by an affiliated group (e.g. a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity). A Transport Chain of Custody record Template is located here. ①(2.C.3b) Chain of custody records for fall-out birds/flocks must also be kept and inspected to ensure segregation and marketing as non-G.A.P. Certified birds.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.C.4	A copy of the chain of custody record from each shipment of poultry must be kept (for every G.A.P. Certified bird) for review by the auditor at re-inspection.	•	•	•	•	•	•

Section 3: Animal Health

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
3.A Treatment of Ill or Injured Birds – All Species							
3.A.1	M Sick or injured poultry must receive immediate individual treatment (or euthanasia) designed to minimize pain and suffering, including veterinary attention if relief cannot be promptly provided by the farmer.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.A.1) <i>Treatment may include herbal or homoeopathic remedies when these have been shown to be effective.</i>						
3.A.2	Sick or injured poultry that are not responding to treatment must be euthanized according to Section 3.G, including fall-out poultry and non-G.A.P. poultry if the operation is split.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.A.3	Records must be kept of any treatment (medication, vaccinations, herbal and homeopathic remedies, probiotics etc.) to any individual bird or group of poultry, including:						
	a. any substance administered (product).	●	●	●	●	●	●
	b. method of administration.						
	c. flock or bird identification.						
	d. date of administration.						
	e. outcome (recovery/euthanasia).						
	①(3.A.3a) <i>A Treatment Record Template is located here.</i>						
	①(3.A.3b) <i>A Daily Observation, Mortality, Culling and Air Quality Record Template is located here.</i>						
	①(3.A.3c) <i>A fillable Excel Daily Observation, Mortality, Culling and Air Quality Smart Sheet Template with instructional video is located here.</i>						
	①(3.A.3d) <i>All treatment records must be accessible to auditors, including those for fall-out birds/flocks.</i>						
3.A.4	Veterinarian-prescribed treatments must be administered according to veterinarian guidance.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.A.5	Any sick and/or injured poultry must be segregated from healthy poultry when necessary and provided with feed and water.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.A.5) <i>Pekin ducks, geese, quail and guinea fowl are flock birds and in cases of minor health problems are more likely to recover when they can be treated within the flock setting. However, if the bird is unable to function as a normal member of the flock, e.g. are unable to eat or drink without special provision or if they are infectious, it will be necessary to segregate them from the rest of the flock.</i>						
3.A.6	Any area designated for sick or injured poultry, such as a hospital pen or designated area within an existing pen, must meet the space requirements and housing conditions detailed in Section 6.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.A.7	Segregated sick or injured poultry must be monitored at least twice daily.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.B Medication Use – All Species							
3.B.1	Poultry that are given antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, growth hormones, arsenic-based drugs and/or sulfa drugs are prohibited from being marketed as G.A.P. Certified.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.B.1a) <i>This standard applies whether these products (or medications) are given therapeutically or sub-therapeutically or as growth promoters.</i>						
	①(3.B.1b) <i>See Standard 3.A.1 for prompt treatment of poultry.</i>						
3.B.2	A written protocol must be in place to identify and ensure that any poultry treated with antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, arsenic-based drugs, and/or sulfa drugs are not marketed as G.A.P. Certified.	●	●	●	●	●	●

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
3.B Medication Use – All Species <i>Continued</i>							
3.B.3	Off-label / extra-label use of medicines is prohibited unless prescribed by a veterinarian.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.B.3a) <i>Veterinarian prescription documentation may be acquired via email or fax.</i> ①(3.B.3b) <i>Parasiticides including coccidiostats and vaccines are not included in this standard.</i>						
3.B.4	Off-label/extra-label medicines must be identified with the prescribing veterinarian's label affixed over the manufacturer's label and detailing the prescribed method of usage, duration of administration, and withholding time, if any.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.B.5	All medications must be discarded after the expiration date.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.C Footpad Dermatitis – All Species							
<i>See Appendix I for footpad scoring. Note: the sums below are not based only on prevalence, but rather a calculation that accounts for both prevalence and severity of the footpad lesions</i>							
3.C.1	M Each operation must have a footpad dermatitis monitoring program (per Appendix I) that is conducted either at the slaughter facility OR on-farm.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.C.1a) <i>See Appendix I: Identifying and Scoring Footpad Dermatitis for charts of the scoring protocol. A template is located here and an Excel Smart Sheet here.</i> ①(3.C.1b) <i>If poultry are scored on-farm, this must occur during the final week prior to slaughter.</i> ①(3.C.1c) <i>If scoring is carried out at the slaughter facility the same representative sample of birds must be scored as would be scored on-farm. See Appendix I for further details and examples.</i>						
3.C.2	Records of footpad dermatitis and the corresponding footpad dermatitis sum from the monitoring sample must be kept for each flock. FPD record template is available here .	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.C.2a) <i>See Appendix I: Identifying and Scoring Footpad Dermatitis for specifications on calculating the flock's total footpad dermatitis sum.</i> ①(3.C.2b) <i>Only scores collected during the final week prior to slaughter can be used in determining the sum for each flock.</i>						
3.C.3	Footpad dermatitis sums must not exceed an annual average score of 20.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.C.4	Footpad dermatitis sums must not exceed an annual average score of 15.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.C.5	Footpad dermatitis sums must not exceed an annual average score of 5.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.C.6	Footpad dermatitis sums must not exceed an annual average score of 2.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.C.7	If the incidence of FPD exceeds the scores above for any individual flock, an intervention plan, as detailed in Appendix II, that addresses, at a minimum, feed composition, litter management, humidity control, and stocking density must be implemented immediately to reduce levels in subsequent flocks. An intervention plan template is located here .	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.C.7a) <i>Operations may find it useful to check footpads earlier in the growing period, but checks done before slaughter do not replace the requirements in 3.C.1.</i> ①(3.C.7b) <i>An annual average score is used in 3.C.3 to 3.C.6 to accommodate seasonal variability in footpad dermatitis scores; however, operations are required to manage each individual flock that exceeds the relevant score.</i>						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
3.D Lameness – All Species							
3.D.1	M Lameness evaluations (Appendix III) must be conducted on the operation during the final week prior to slaughter.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.D.1) See Appendix III: 3-Category Lameness Evaluation for scoring protocol, sample size, and specification on calculating the flock's total lameness sum. A template is located here and an Excel Smart Sheet is located here .						
3.D.2	Lameness records for each flock and the corresponding lameness sum from the monitoring sample for each flock are required.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.D.3	Lameness score for each individual flock must not exceed 20.	●					
3.D.4	Lameness score for each individual flock must not exceed 15.		●	●			
3.D.5	Lameness score for each individual flock must not exceed 5.				●		
3.D.6	Lameness score for each individual flock must not exceed 2.					●	●
3.D.7	If the lameness evaluation conducted during the final week prior to slaughter exceeds the Step-differentiation total detailed above, a written intervention plan , as detailed in Appendix II, is required to reduce levels in subsequent flocks.	●	●	●	●	●	●
PEKIN DUCKS & GEESSE							
3.E Eye Condition							
3.E.1	M Eye Condition evaluations must be conducted on the operation, as described in Appendix IV, during the final week prior to slaughter. A template is located here .	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.E.1) See Appendix IV: 3-Category Eye Condition Evaluation for scoring protocol, sample size, and specification on calculating the flock's total eye condition sum.						
3.E.2	Eye condition records for each flock and the corresponding eye condition sum from the monitoring sample for each flock are required.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.E.3	Eye condition score for each individual flock must not exceed 20.	●					
3.E.4	Eye condition score for each individual flock must not exceed 15.		●	●			
3.E.5	Eye condition score for each individual flock must not exceed 5.				●		
3.E.6	Eye condition score for each individual flock must not exceed 2.					●	●
3.E.7	If the eye condition evaluation conducted during the final week prior to slaughter exceeds the Step-differentiation total detailed above, a written intervention plan , as detailed in Appendix II, is required to reduce levels in subsequent flocks.						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
PEKIN DUCKS & GEESE							
3.F Nostril Cleanliness							
3.F.1	M Nostril cleanliness evaluations must be conducted on the operation, as described in Appendix V, during the final week prior to slaughter.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.F.1) See Appendix V: 3-Category Nostril cleanliness Evaluation for scoring protocol, sample size, and specification on calculating the flock's total nostril cleanliness sum. A template is located here .						
3.F.2	Nostril cleanliness records for each flock and the corresponding Nostril cleanliness sum from the monitoring sample for each flock are required.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.F.3	Nostril cleanliness score for each individual flock must not exceed 20.	●					
3.F.4	Nostril cleanliness score for each individual flock must not exceed 15.		●	●			
3.F.5	Nostril cleanliness score for each individual flock must not exceed 5.				●		
3.F.6	Nostril cleanliness score for each individual flock must not exceed 2.					●	●
3.F.7	If the nostril cleanliness evaluation conducted during the final week prior to slaughter exceeds the Step-differentiation total detailed above, a written intervention plan , as detailed in Appendix II, is required to reduce levels in subsequent flocks.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.G Euthanasia – All Species							
3.G.1	All on-farm euthanasia must be performed by a veterinarian or other trained person(s).	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.G.1) Producers will not be required to demonstrate the ability to euthanize a bird in order to show compliance with this standard, but they must be able to describe the training they have received whether this is experiential or formal, and articulate to the auditor the visual indicators of unconsciousness, and the physical parameters that confirm death.						
3.G.2	M Timely euthanasia is critical. Any bird identified as requiring euthanasia must be euthanized within 4 hours of discovery.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.G.2) Ideally any bird identified as requiring euthanasia will be euthanized immediately; however, G.A.P. understands that it may take time for a trained person or the correct equipment to get to the operation.						
3.G.3	M Euthanasia technique(s) must cause rapid and irreversible insensibility and be immediately followed by death.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.G.4	The person performing euthanasia must remain with the bird(s) until death is confirmed.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.G.5	Euthanasia equipment must be maintained according to manufacturer’s specifications.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.G.6	All euthanized poultry must be removed immediately from housing and/or outdoor areas and pasture.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.G.6) It is the responsibility of the operation to dispose of dead animals according to local, state, provincial, territorial, and/or federal or national regulations. Removal can include burial, or composting in a designated area that will not put other birds or livestock at risk from transmission of diseases and predation.						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
3.G Euthanasia – All Species <i>Continued</i>							
3.G.7	Methods of euthanasia are listed below, where ✓ indicates an acceptable method and ✕ indicates an unacceptable method. Poultry must be appropriately held or restrained as necessary to ensure the euthanasia method can be properly and safely administered.	•	•	•	•	•	•

STANDARD			Step Level																																														
			1	2	3	4	5	5+																																									
3.G Euthanasia – All Species <i>Continued</i>																																																	
3.G.8	Methods of mass depopulation, as recommended and placed in Tier 1 in AVMA Guidelines for Depopulation, are listed below, where ✓ indicates an acceptable method and ✕ indicates an unacceptable method. Birds must be appropriately held or restrained as necessary to ensure the euthanasia method can be properly and safely administered.		•	•	•	•	•	•																																									
		<table><thead><tr><th>METHOD</th><th>ACCEPTABILITY</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Commercial or private humane slaughter processing</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>Whole House Inert Gassing</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning (LAPS)</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>Non-penetrating captive bolt pistol¹</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>Barbiturates and barbituric acid derivatives</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Penetrating Captive Bolt (NPCB)</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>Cervical Dislocation</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">① <i>No more than 70 birds/person/day may be euthanized by this method due to human fatigue</i></td></tr><tr><td>Gun shot</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>High Expansion Nitrogen -Filled Foam</td><td>✓</td></tr><tr><td>CO2 containerized and whole house</td><td>✕</td></tr><tr><td>Containerized gassing</td><td>✕</td></tr><tr><td>Whole house gassing with gas mixtures</td><td>✕</td></tr><tr><td>Manual blunt force trauma</td><td>✕</td></tr><tr><td>Medium and Low-Density Foams (Firefighter water-based foam without PFAS)</td><td>✕</td></tr><tr><td>Ventilation Shutdown Plus Heat and Humidity (VSD+)</td><td>✕</td></tr><tr><td>Potassium Chloride and Magnesium Salts</td><td>✕</td></tr><tr><td>Exsanguination</td><td>✕</td></tr><tr><td>Compressed Air Foams CAFs</td><td>✕</td></tr><tr><td>Ventilation shutdown alone (VSD)</td><td>✕</td></tr></tbody></table>	METHOD	ACCEPTABILITY	Commercial or private humane slaughter processing	✓	Whole House Inert Gassing	✓	Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning (LAPS)	✓	Non-penetrating captive bolt pistol ¹	✓	Barbiturates and barbituric acid derivatives	✓	Non-Penetrating Captive Bolt (NPCB)	✓	Cervical Dislocation	✓	① <i>No more than 70 birds/person/day may be euthanized by this method due to human fatigue</i>		Gun shot	✓	High Expansion Nitrogen -Filled Foam	✓	CO2 containerized and whole house	✕	Containerized gassing	✕	Whole house gassing with gas mixtures	✕	Manual blunt force trauma	✕	Medium and Low-Density Foams (Firefighter water-based foam without PFAS)	✕	Ventilation Shutdown Plus Heat and Humidity (VSD+)	✕	Potassium Chloride and Magnesium Salts	✕	Exsanguination	✕	Compressed Air Foams CAFs	✕	Ventilation shutdown alone (VSD)	✕					
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3.G.9	Each operation must keep records of mortality, and reason for death if known, e.g. physical injury, respiratory illness, lameness, unthrifty, enteric illness, etc. The record must distinguish between natural deaths and euthanasia.		•	•	•	•	•	•																																									
3.G.10	Each operation must keep records of all culls, and the reason for culling.		•	•	•	•	•	•																																									

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
3.H Mortality – All Species NOTE: Flock mortality (from placement) thresholds in Standard 3.H.2 to 3.H.4 do not include predated poultry or culls. NOTE: There are four categories of mortality: (a) poultry found dead through natural causes, (b) poultry found dead through predation, (c) poultry that are missing (poultry lost or suspected to be predated) and (d) poultry that are culled (see Standard 3.G.10). NOTE: Though all categories of mortality must be recorded, the percentages used to calculate the flock mortality thresholds in Standard 3.H.2 to 3.H.4 include only poultry that die through natural causes - point (a) above. Losses due to predation and/or lost or missing poultry are not included in this calculation. NOTE: Missing birds - point (c) above - are only recorded once for each flock, at removal for slaughter.							
3.H.1	Daily records that separately identify poultry that die, are culled and are predated are required for each flock.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.H.1a) A Daily Observation, Mortality, Culling and Air Quality Record Template is located here .						
	①(3.H.1b) A fillable Excel Daily Observation, Mortality, Culling and Air Quality Smart Sheet Template with instructional video is located here .						
3.H.2	M Annual average flock mortality must not exceed 6%.	●					
3.H.3	M Annual average flock mortality must not exceed 5%.		●	●			
3.H.4	M Annual average flock mortality must not exceed 4%.				●	●	●
3.H.5	If individual flock mortality exceeds the percentage above for any one flock throughout the year, a written intervention plan, as detailed in Appendix II, is required to reduce levels in the existing and subsequent flocks.	●	●	●	●	●	●
3.J Culling – All Species							
3.J.1	Any poultry meeting the following criteria must be culled according to acceptable euthanasia methods and recorded: a. Runts. b. Exhibiting a lameness score of 2. c. Sick or injured without chance for recovery (for example sick or injured such that the bird is unable to reach food and water).	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(3.J.1) See Appendix III: 3-Category Lameness Evaluation for details on scoring lameness, and Section 3.G for euthanasia requirements.						

Section 4: Animal Care and Management

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
4.A Daily Flock Management – All Species							
4.A.1	Each flock must be observed and monitored at least twice daily. Records of observation and any health or welfare issues that occur must be kept.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(4.A.1a) Each inspection, whether twice daily or more, must be recorded to meet this standard.						
	①(4.A.1b) See also standard 3.A.7 for the observation of individual chickens that have been segregated from the flock.						
4.B Hatchlings and Brooding – All Species							
4.B.1	Placement of hatchlings must begin within 2 hours of delivery to the operation.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(4.B.1) Hatchling delivery boxes should be kept low to the ground and tipped in a manner that does not cause injury during unloading.						
PEKIN DUCKS							
4.C Ducklings and Brooding							
4.C.1	Houses must be pre-warmed prior to duckling arrival, or brooders provided, to accommodate their thermal needs.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(4.C.1) At duckling height, a target temperature of 90°F (32°C) is recommended on placement, dropping by 1°F (0.6°C) per day over 2-3 weeks but duckling behavior should be the ultimate determinant of their thermal comfort.						
GEESE							
4.D Goslings and Brooding							
4.D.1	Houses must be pre-warmed prior to gosling arrival, or brooders provided, to accommodate their thermal needs.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(4.D.1) At gosling height, the following schedule is recommended: Week 1 – 90°F/32°C; Week 2 – 85°F/29°C; Week 3 – 80°F/27°C; Week 4 – 75°F/24°C; Week 5 - 70°F/21°C. However, gosling behavior should be the ultimate determinant of their thermal comfort.						
QUAIL							
4.E Chicks and Brooding							
4.E.1	Houses must be pre-warmed prior to chick arrival, or brooders provided, to accommodate their thermal needs.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(4.E.1) At chick height, the following schedule is recommended: Week 1 – 98°F/37°C; Week 2 – 93°F/34°C; Week 3 – 82°F/28°C; Week 4 – 75°F/24°C. However, chick behavior should be the ultimate determinant of their thermal comfort.						
GUINEA FOWL							
4.F Keets and Brooding							
4.F.1	Houses must be pre-warmed prior to keet arrival, or brooders provided, to accommodate their thermal needs.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(4.F.1) At keet height, the following schedule is recommended: Week 1 – 95°F/35°C; Week 2 – 90°F/32°C; Week 3 – 86°F/30°C; Week 4 – 79°F/26°C. However, keet behavior should be the ultimate determinant of their thermal comfort.						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
4.G Handling – All Species							
4.G.1	C Pekin ducks, geese, quail and guinea fowl must be handled properly and respectfully – see Appendix VI.		●	●	●	●	●
	①(4.G.1a) G.A.P. has a zero-tolerance policy to kicking, throwing, striking, punching, hitting and any other actions or omissions in care that could cause harm or injury to poultry.						
	①(4.G.1b) Proper and respectful handling extends to all poultry – healthy, sick, injured and/or dead.						
4.H Physical Alterations – All Species							
4.H.1	M All physical alterations are prohibited, including, but not limited to: a. beak trimming / beak conditioning / bill trimming. b. pinioning. c. dubbing. d. caponization. e. de-spurring. f. toe trimming/toe clipping/de-toeing/toe conditioning.		●	●	●	●	●
4.J Live Plucking – Pekin ducks and Geese							
4.J.1	C There must be no live plucking of down and feather from Pekin ducks and geese.		●	●	●	●	●
4.J.2	C There must be no molt harvesting, forced molting or assisted molting of Pekin ducks and geese.		●	●	●	●	●
4.J.3	M No Pekin ducks or geese must be outsourced or sold to operations that will conduct live plucking.		●	●	●	●	●
4.K Thermal Comfort – All Species							
4.K.1	The thermal comfort of poultry must be maintained at all times through management and the provision of supplemental heating and/or cooling, as necessary.		●	●	●	●	●
	①(4.K.1) The auditor will assess whether poultry show signs of thermal discomfort at audit.						
4.L Feather Pecking and Feather Picking – All Species							
4.L.1	Any evidence of feather pecking (other bird) and feather picking (self) must be promptly addressed and managed.		●	●	●	●	●
4.L.2	Records of any evidence of feather pecking and feather picking incidences are required, including: a. date of incidence. b. percentage of affected poultry per flock (injured poultry, poultry with feather loss, poultry that die from injurious pecking). c. actions taken to address the incidence. d. outcomes of the actions taken to address the incidence.		●	●	●	●	●
	①(4.L.2) Records are required only if incidence(s) occur. A record template is located here .						
4.L.3	The use of goggles, blinkers, contact lenses, or any other artificial devices is prohibited.		●	●	●	●	●

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
4.M Parasite Control – All Species							
4.M.1	Operations must develop an internal and external parasite control program that can be implemented for any parasites impacting bird health and welfare.	●	●	●	●	●	●
4.M.2	Organophosphates, or any product containing organophosphates, cannot be applied directly to poultry. Buildings, equipment and/or pastures treated with organophosphates should be inaccessible to the birds for 48h after treatment.	●	●	●	●	●	●
4.N Hazard Management – All Species							
4.N.1	Equipment, fittings, openings, protrusions, housing, outdoor areas, fences, and any other structures must be designed and maintained to prevent injury.	●	●	●	●	●	●
4.N.2	Poultry must be kept from contact with any potentially toxic or injurious substances (e.g., those used for maintenance, sanitation, cleaning, insect and rodent control).	●	●	●	●	●	●
4.P Domestic Animals on the Operation – All Species							
NOTE: Domestic animals include dogs, cats, horses, or any other animals on the operation, including both pets and working animals.							
4.P.1	C Neglect or abuse of domestic animals is prohibited.	●	●	●	●	●	●
4.P.2	All domestic animals on the operation must be provided with: a. food and water on a daily basis, as evidenced by healthy body condition score. b. surroundings that do not cause them injury. c. an environment that allows for freedom of movement and exercise. d. a comfortable resting area that provides protection from temperature extremes. e. veterinary attention, if required.	●	●	●	●	●	●
4.Q Other Commercially Raised Animals on the Operation							
4.Q.1	All species of animals raised commercially on the operation (for which G.A.P.'s 5-Step® Animal Welfare Standards exist) must be raised and handled according to Step 1 standards or higher.	●	●	●	●	●	●
①(4.Q.1) Animals kept as pets, show animals or other non-commercial situations are excluded from this standard.							

Section 5: Feed and Water

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
5.A Water Availability – All Species							
5.A.1	M All poultry must have free and continuous access to drinking water. In systems where poultry can move between indoors and outdoors at all times, water need only be continuously accessible indoors. In systems where poultry may be restricted to outdoors or indoors, both areas need water to be continuously available. ①(5.A.1a) <i>The flow rate of drinkers must be able to keep up with the number of poultry within each pen to ensure continuous access to drinking water</i> ①(5.A.1b) <i>Water may be withheld for up to 2 hours for the purposes of then delivering supplements and/or medication such as vaccines in water.</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Waterers must be checked daily, be clean and free of debris or foreign objects.	●	●	●	●	●	●
5.A.2	①(5.A.2) <i>Cleaning out debris could include removal of dirt or waste matter from bell or pan waterers or flushing nipple lines (as required)</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●
PEKIN DUCKS & GESE							
5.A Water Availability – see Appendix VII							
5.A.3	Waterers must have water depth of 2 in 5 cm to allow Pekin ducks and geese to dabble/sieve, clean their nostrils and carry out limited wet preening	●	●	●	●	●	●
5.A.4	Water source must be sufficiently deep (4 in, 10 cm) to allow head dipping, wet preening and incomplete bathing	●	●	●	●	●	●
5.A.5	Water source must be sufficiently deep (Pekin ducks; 10 in, 25 cm; geese; 16 in, 40 cm) to allow head dipping, wet preening, bathing and swimming	●	●	●	●	●	●
5.A.6	Pekin ducks and geese must have access to a water source (pool) sufficient to allow bathing, swimming and diving	●	●	●	●	●	●
5.B Feeding Requirements – All Species							
5.B.1	C Force feeding is prohibited.	●	●	●	●	●	●
5.B.2	M All poultry must have <i>ad-libitum</i> access to feed during daylight hours.	●	●	●	●	●	●
5.B.3	M All poultry must be provided with a full ration that supplies optimal nutrition at each specific stage of life	●	●	●	●	●	●
5.B.4	Feeders must be designed and distributed to allow poultry to eat without restriction.	●	●	●	●	●	●
5.B.5	Poultry fed whole grains and/or given pasture access must be provided with insoluble grit.	●	●	●	●	●	●
5.C Feed Safety and Hygiene – All Species							
5.C.1	Feed in storage bins and feeders must not become moldy, mildewed, or otherwise compromised in quality.	●	●	●	●	●	●
5.C.2	Feed must not be contaminated by rodents	●	●	●	●	●	●
5.C.3	Feeders must be clean and free of debris or foreign objects	●	●	●	●	●	●

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
5.D Additives or Ingredients in Feed or Water – All Species							
5.D.1	M Mammalian by-products or wastes are prohibited	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(5.D.1) <i>By-products include animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including meat, bone, blood and fat.</i>						
5.D.2	M Avian by-products are prohibited	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(5.D.2) <i>By-products include animal waste, poultry litter and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including meat, bone, blood, fat and feather.</i>						
5.D.3	M Fish and fish by-products are prohibited	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(5.D.3) <i>This includes whole fish, parts of fish, fish meal, fish by-products from the processing industry and other aquatic species and/or products (does not include seaweed or oyster shell)</i>						
5.D.4	Each operation must keep up-to-date feed ration ingredient lists, or tags, including mineral/vitamin mixes whether using purchased or home mixed feed. Lists and tags need to be made available to the auditor.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(5.D.4) <i>If the operation is part of an affiliated group which determines the feed ration, the group can provide the auditor with this potentially confidential and proprietary information. Upcycled bakery waste, containing egg and dairy products is acceptable as an ingredient.</i>						

Section 6: Housing Conditions

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
6.A Housing Systems – All Species							
6.A.1	M All cage systems are prohibited	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(6.A.1a) A cage is a fully enclosed structure made of mesh, bars, or wires that prevents full range of motion and the ability to express natural behavior, such as roosting, foraging, and exercising (e.g., battery cage, enriched or furnished cage, caged meat poultry systems). Cages do not include fenced-in verandas and outdoor enclosures provided they allow for full range of motion and the ability to express natural behavior. Transport containers are also excluded from the definition of cages.						
	①(6.A.1b) This standard does not preclude the use of netted mobile/moveable coop systems.						
6.A.2	Group size must not exceed 2000 poultry	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(6.A.2) A group is defined as a number of poultry associated with either i) a mobile house; ii) a single flock in a stationary house; or iii) a subdivision of poultry within a larger stationary house.						
6.B Access to Shelter – All Species							
6.B.1	All poultry must have continuous access to shelter, whether mobile or permanent, large enough to provide all birds at the same time, protection from the elements and predation	●	●	●	●	●	●
6.C Litter and Flooring – All Species							
6.C.1	Floors of all houses, including mobile houses that are stationary for more than 3 days, must be covered and maintained with a minimum total of 3 in (7.5 cm) of non-toxic litter. Where houses have concrete floors, these floors may be covered and maintained with a minimum total of 2 in (5 cm) of non-toxic litter.	●	●	●	●	●	●
6.C.2	Litter must be managed so it is friable and no more than 10% of the littered area is caked (see Appendix IX). This is especially important for Pekin ducks and geese near the water sources.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(6.C.2) Caked litter areas directly under feed and water lines are included in the 10% allowable caked area						
6.C.3	If litter is not completely removed (i.e. cleaned out) between flocks, all caked litter must be removed between flocks, and top dressed as necessary so that the entire floor is covered to a total minimum litter depth of 3 in (7.5 cm), or 2 in (5.0 cm) as indicated, with conditions, in 6.C.1.	●	●	●	●	●	●
6.C.4	Litter must be of quality and quantity to: a. provide a comfortable environment. b. allow for dust-bathing behavior in quail and guinea fowl, and foraging/scratching in all species.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(6.C.4) Quail prefer fine material such as sand for dustbathing and if provided separately, may constitute enrichment – see Section 6.L and Appendix XII						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
6.C Litter and Flooring – All Species Continued							
6.C.5	A Soiled Feather Assessment (see Appendix VIII) must be conducted for each flock at the half-way point of the production cycle: a. at 3-4 weeks (Pekin ducks) b. at 8-10 weeks (geese) c. at 2-3 weeks (quail) d. at 8-10 weeks (guinea fowl) Records must be kept.						
	①(6.C.5) The operation must conduct the assessments as required by the standards. At the time of audit, auditors will perform an assessment of soiled feathers as an additional indicator of litter conditions (NB: the birds assessed by the auditor will not necessarily be at the half-way point of the production cycle). See Appendix VIII: Soiled Feather Assessment. A record template is located here.						
6.C.6	A Litter Quality Assessment (see Appendix IX) must be conducted for each flock at the half-way point of the production cycle: a. at 3-4 weeks (Pekin ducks) b. at 8-10 weeks (geese) c. at 2-3 weeks (quail) d. at 8-10 weeks (guinea fowl) Records must be kept.						
	①(6.C.6) The operation must conduct the assessments as required by the standard. At the time of audit, auditors will additionally perform a Litter Quality Assessment. (NB: the birds assessed by the auditor will not necessarily be at the half-way point of the production cycle). A record template is located here.						
6.C.7	If the assessment detailed in Standard 6.C.5 shows that more than 10% of sampled birds are severely soiled OR the litter score detailed in Standard 6.C.6 is more than 1, a written intervention plan, as detailed in Appendix II, designed to improve litter quality and ensure that feather soiling does not deteriorate further must be implemented the same day.						
	①(6.C.7) Litter quality and feather cleanliness are linked, therefore if either or both measures are outside the limits set by this standard an intervention plan to remediate the situation must be put into place.						
6.C.8	If the assessments detailed in Standards 6.C.5 and 6.C.6 show that more than 10% of sampled birds are severely soiled OR the litter score is more than 2, an additional <u>Soiled Feather Assessment</u> must be conducted for the same flock a week prior to slaughter. Records must be kept.						
6.C.9	If the assessments detailed in standards 6.C.5 and 6.C.6 show that more than 10% of sampled birds are severely soiled OR the litter score is more than 2, an additional <u>Litter Quality Assessment</u> must be conducted for the same flock a week prior to slaughter. Records must be kept.						
6.C.10	Slatted and/or wire floors are prohibited, except in tropical climates where dust-bathing boxes must be provided.						
	①(6.C.10) Tropical climates are defined by a monthly average temperature of 18 °C (64 °F) or higher in the coolest month, featuring hot temperatures and high humidity all year-round. Annual precipitation is often abundant in tropical climates, and shows a seasonal rhythm but may have seasonal dryness to varying degrees. There are normally only two seasons in tropical climates, a wet (rainy/monsoon) season and a dry season.						

STANDARD		Step Level										
		1	2	3	4	5	5+					
6.D Air Quality – All Species												
6.D.1	If poultry are shut in housing or structures for any part of the day, air quality must be assessed at least once each day, using calibrated meters or testing strips, or sensory evaluation and records must be kept.						●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(6.D.1a) See Appendix X: Sensory Evaluation of Air Quality protocol.											
	①(6.D.1b) For systems where poultry have access to the outdoors/pasture, air quality must be assessed before popholes are opened.											
	①(6.D.1c) A Daily Observation, Mortality, Culling and Air Quality Record Template is located here .											
	①(6.D.1d) A fillable Excel Daily Observation, Mortality, Culling and Air Quality Smart Sheet Template with instructional video is located here .											
6.D.2	Air quality measures must not exceed the following levels when calibrated meters or testing strips are used: a. dust: 10 mg per cubic meter; b. ammonia: 20 ppm; OR score more than 1 on the air quality scale in Appendix X.						●	●	●	●	●	●
6.D.3	If air quality is found to exceed the levels in Standard 6.D.2, a written intervention plan , as detailed in Appendix II, designed to improve air quality must be implemented that same day.						●	●	●	●	●	●
6.E Light Intensity – All Species												
6.E.1	Light intensity in housing during daylight hours, either from artificial or natural light or a combination of artificial and natural light, must average 50 lux (4.6 foot candles) over 80% of the floor space used by the birds (see Appendix XI – Lighting Quality Assessment). A Light Intensity record template is located here .						●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(6.E.1a) For Steps 2, 3, 4, 5 and 5+, this only applies if natural light area is equal to or greater than 1.0% of floor area – see Standard 6.E.5.											
	①(6.E.1b) For Steps 2, 3, 4, 5 and 5+, if natural light area is between 0.5% and 1.0% of floor area, light intensity must average 50 lux (4.6 foot candles) over 100% of the floor space used by the birds – see Standard 6.E.5.											
6.E.2	By day 3 after placement (except when raised under natural lighting conditions and dark periods are shorter), poultry must be provided daily with at least 8 hours of continuous light and at least 6 hours of continuous darkness (<1 lux) throughout their lives.						●	●				
6.E.3	By day 3 after placement (except when raised under natural lighting conditions and dark periods are shorter), poultry must be provided daily with at least 8 hours of continuous light and at least 8 hours of continuous darkness (<1 lux) throughout their lives.								●	●		
6.E.4	From placement (except when raised under natural lighting conditions and dark periods are shorter), poultry must be provided with a daily minimum of 8 hours of continuous darkness throughout their lives.										●	●
6.E.5	All operations with poultry housed continuously, seasonally, or during brooding, must be provided with natural light through insulated windows, solar tubes or semi-transparent roofing placed evenly throughout barns/houses so that the combined area through which natural light enters is equal or greater than 1.0% of the floor space occupied by the birds. Buildings with a combined area of natural light between 0.5-1.0% may be acceptable provided that light intensity averaging 50 lux is recordable over 100% of the floor space used by the birds during the whole daylight period (see Appendix XI). A Light Intensity record template is located here .							●	●	●	●	●
	①(6.E.5) Operations utilizing curtain barns meet this standard providing the curtain area is equal or greater than 1.0% of the total floor space.											

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
6.E Light Intensity – All Species <i>Continued</i>							
6.E.6	When curtain barns are used to house poultry there must be a method of providing natural light to meet the requirement of Standard 6.E.5 if the curtains block the light completely when they are closed.		•	•	•	•	•
	①(6.E.6a) <i>This could be through having windows or solar tubes in the roof of the curtain barn, areas of semi-transparent roofing or use of translucent curtains.</i> ①(6.E.6b) <i>Additional natural light need not be provided if curtains are closed for no more than seven consecutive days per flock for the purposes of acclimatizing birds to cold weather in the winter.</i>						
6.F Stocking Density – All Species							
6.F.1	Poultry must have enough space to express natural behavior, including standing, turning around, and preening, without touching another bird.	•	•	•	•	•	•
PEKIN DUCKS							
6.G Stocking Density							
6.G.1	M Stocking density must not exceed 3.5 lbs/ft ² (17 kg/m ²).	•	•	•			
	①(6.G.1) <i>Stocking density must be calculated using the final target weight of all poultry per flock per area at the time of catching plus a maximum of 4% variation to calculate the number of poultry to be placed within a given barn/house. Expected liveability must not be included in the calculation.</i>						
6.G.2	M When housed without access to outdoors, including mobile coops, stocking density must not exceed 3.1 lbs/ft ² (15 kg/m ²)				•	•	•
	①(6.G.2) <i>Stocking density must be calculated using the final target weight of all poultry per flock per area at the time of catching plus a maximum of 4% variation to calculate the number of poultry to be placed within a given barn/house. Expected liveability must not be included in the calculation.</i>						
6.G.3	If confinement of the flock needs to take place due to a disease outbreak, Standards 6.G.1 and 6.G.2 may be waived if the conditions or circumstances require them to take action guided by a veterinarian or regulatory official.	•	•	•	•	•	•
GEESE							
6.H Stocking Density							
6.H.1	M Stocking density must not exceed 4.1 lbs/ft ² (20 kg/m ²).	•	•	•			
	①(6.H.1) <i>Stocking density must be calculated using the final target weight of all poultry per flock per area at the time of catching plus a maximum of 4% variation to calculate the number of poultry to be placed within a given barn/house. Expected liveability must not be included in the calculation.</i>						
6.H.2	M When housed without access to outdoors, including mobile coops, stocking density must not exceed 3.3 lbs/ft ² (16 kg/m ²)				•	•	•
	①(6.H.2) <i>Stocking density must be calculated using the final target weight of all poultry per flock per area at the time of catching plus a maximum of 4% variation to calculate the number of poultry to be placed within a given barn/house. Expected liveability must not be included in the calculation.</i>						
6.H.3	If confinement of the flock needs to take place due to a disease outbreak, Standards 6.H.1 and 6.H.2 may be waived if the conditions or circumstances require them to take action guided by a veterinarian or regulatory official.	•	•	•	•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
QUAIL							
6.J Stocking Density							
6.J.1	M Stocking density must not exceed 4.1 lbs/ft ² (20 kg/m ²).	●	●	●			
	①(6.J.1) Stocking density must be calculated using the final target weight of all poultry per flock per area at the time of catching plus a maximum of 4% variation to calculate the number of poultry to be placed within a given barn/house. Expected liveability must not be included in the calculation.						
6.J.2	M When housed without access to outdoors, including mobile coops, stocking density must not exceed 3.1 lbs/ft ² (15 kg/m ²)				●	●	●
	①(6.J.2) Stocking density must be calculated using the final target weight of all poultry per flock per area at the time of catching plus a maximum of 4% variation to calculate the number of poultry to be placed within a given barn/house. Expected liveability must not be included in the calculation.						
6.J.3	If confinement of the flock needs to take place due to a disease outbreak, Standards 6.J.1 and 6.J.2 may be waived if the conditions or circumstances require them to take action guided by a veterinarian or regulatory official.	●	●	●	●	●	●
GUINEA FOWL							
6.K Stocking Density							
6.K.1	M Stocking density must not exceed 4.1 lbs/ft ² (20 kg/m ²)	●	●	●			
	①(6.K.1) Stocking density must be calculated using the final target weight of all poultry per flock per area at the time of catching plus a maximum of 4% variation to calculate the number of poultry to be placed within a given barn/house. Expected liveability must not be included in the calculation.						
6.K.2	M When housed without access to outdoors, including mobile coops, stocking density must not exceed 3.3 lbs/ft ² (16 kg/m ²).				●	●	●
	①(6.K.2) Stocking density must be calculated using the final target weight of all poultry per flock per area at the time of catching plus a maximum of 4% variation to calculate the number of poultry to be placed within a given barn/house. Expected liveability must not be included in the calculation.						
6.K.3	If confinement of the flock needs to take place due to a disease outbreak, Standards 6.K.1 and 6.K.2 may be waived if the conditions or circumstances require them to take action guided by a veterinarian or regulatory official.	●	●	●	●	●	●

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
6.L Environmental Enrichments – All Species							
NOTE: Examples of enrichments that qualify for this section (and those that do not) are shown in Appendix XII. This Appendix outlines that one enrichment is defined as either one item from Section A or two (2) items from Section B. As poultry raised in Step 5 & Step 5+ systems may only be housed at night and during extreme weather conditions, indoor enrichments are not applicable.							
6.L.1	Indoor enrichments must be provided by the time the ducklings, goslings, chicks and keets are 10 days old.	●	●	●	●		
6.L.2	Indoor enrichments must be maintained throughout the life of the poultry.	●	●	●	●		
6.L.3	The indoor environment must contain at least 1 type of enrichment (See Appendix XII) that is used by the poultry.	●					
6.L.4	The indoor environment must contain at least 2 different types of enrichment (See Appendix XII) that is used by the poultry.		●	●	●		
6.L.5	M For every 1,000 birds, or part 1000 birds, there must be a minimum of 1 enrichment.	●					
	①(6.L.5) For example, for a house that has 1200 birds, 2 enrichments must be provided and for a house that has 2100 birds, 3 enrichments would be required .						
6.L.6	M For every 750 birds, or part 750 birds, there must be a minimum of 1 enrichment.		●	●			
	①(6.L.6) For example, for a house that has 1500 birds, 2 enrichments must be provided, for a house that has 1800 birds, 3 enrichments would be required and for a house that has 3000 birds, 4 enrichments would be required .						
6.L.7	M For every 500 birds, or part 500 birds of indoor space, there must be a minimum of 1 enrichment.				●		
	①(6.L.7) For example, for a house that has 1000 birds, 2 enrichments must be provided, for a house that has 1600 birds, 4 enrichments would be required and for a house that has 2200 birds, 5 enrichments would be required.						
6.L.8	For houses that contain fewer than 1,000 birds, there must be a minimum of 2 enrichments.	●	●	●	●		
6.L.9	Indoor enrichments must be distributed throughout the house.	●	●	●	●		
6.M Safety – All Species							
6.M.1	If electricity is required for ventilation, water, feeding, or lighting, a back-up power supply (with power failure alarm) must be operational and periodically tested – see 1.D.2 and 1.D.3	●	●	●	●	●	●
GUINEA FOWL							
6.N Perches							
6.N.1	Perches must be provided at a minimum of 80 in (200 cm) of perch space per 1000 birds	●	●	●	●	●	
	①(6.N.1) Perches are to be elevated off the floor, be easily used by the poultry, and positioned at heights to allow for use by poultry from an early age throughout their lives.						
6.N.2	Perches must be provided wherever birds roost – whether this is in the housing structure or outside on pasture - at a minimum of 7 in (18 cm) of perch space per bird to enable all poultry to perch simultaneously						●
6.N.3	Perches must be provided by 4 weeks of age.	●	●	●	●	●	●

Section 7: Outdoor and/or Pasture Requirements

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
PEKIN DUCKS							
7.A Outdoor Access							
NOTE: <i>Outdoor access is defined as an unroofed, open, outdoor area such as a dry lot, concrete pad, or pasture, but does not have to be pasture.</i>							
7.A.1	Access to outdoors or pasture is not required	•	•				
7.A.2	All Pekin ducks from 3 weeks of age must be given continuous outdoor access during daylight hours unless climatic conditions pose a welfare risk. ①(7.A.2) <i>Pekin ducks in Step 3 systems may have seasonal outdoor access.</i>			•			
7.A.3	The following records are required (an Outdoor Access Record template is located here): a. date Pekin ducks are first given outdoor access. b. any date that outdoor access is denied. c. reasons for any denial of outdoor access.			•			
7.A.4	Any Pekin ducks slaughtered before 7 weeks of age must have access to the outdoors during daylight hours for a minimum of 3 weeks, otherwise the maximum Step-level that is possible for those flocks is Step 1.			•			
7.A.5	Openings from the house, whether stationary or mobile, must allow Pekin ducks free access to the outdoors during daylight hours. ①(7.A.5) <i>As houses are constructed in a variety of designs and dimensions, this standard does not designate a minimum number of access points or the dimensions of each opening. Rather, it requires that there are sufficient entry / exit points so that Pekin ducks are readily able to access the outdoors. A house may have several smaller openings spaced along one or more walls (e.g., pop holes) or a single large opening (e.g., a door or wall segment).</i>			•			
PEKIN DUCKS							
7.B Pasture Access							
NOTE: <i>Pasture includes rangeland, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, and any other areas where poultry have access to vegetation. Pasture has higher qualitative properties than “outdoors” and may be accessed by poultry kept in roofed and enclosed mobile coops.</i>							
NOTE: <i>FSIS has clarified when the term “Pasture Raised” can be used in the August 2024 version of its FSIS Guideline on Substantiating Animal-Raising or Environment-Related Labeling Claims.</i>							
7.B.1	All Pekin ducks from 4 weeks of age must be given continuous access to the pasture during daylight hours. If the risk from climatic conditions is considered extreme, access to outdoor areas may be restricted as long as the restriction does not exceed 5 consecutive days. Seasonal housing due to inclement climatic conditions is prohibited. ①(7.B.1a) <i>Pekin ducks may be confined to housing during extreme weather conditions (e.g. heavy precipitation, tornadoes, hurricanes, monsoons, blizzards, floods or non-typical weather for the season such as large swings in temperature), during disease outbreak under veterinary direction or during any other circumstance that may jeopardize their welfare.</i> ①(7.B.1b) <i>Standard 7.B.1 may be waived if the conditions or circumstances require confinement guided by a veterinarian or regulatory official.</i>				•	•	•
7.B.2	The following records are required (a Pasture Access Record template is located here): a. date Pekin ducks are first given pasture access. b. any date that pasture access is denied. c. reasons for any denial of pasture access.				•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
PEKIN DUCKS							
7.B Pasture Access <i>Continued</i>							
7.B.3	Any Pekin ducks slaughtered before 7 weeks of age must have access to pasture during daylight hours for a minimum of 4 weeks, otherwise the maximum Step-level that is possible for those flocks is Step 1.				•	•	•
7.B.4	Openings from the house, whether stationary or mobile, must allow Pekin ducks free access to the pasture during daylight hours. ①(7.B.4) <i>As houses are constructed in a variety of designs and dimensions, this standard does not designate a minimum number of access points or the dimensions of each opening. Rather, it requires that there are sufficient entry / exit points so that Pekin ducks are readily able to access the outdoors. A house may have several smaller openings spaced along one or more walls (e.g., pop holes) or a single large opening (e.g., a door or wall segment).</i>				•	•	•
7.B.5	To be eligible for additional certification and labeling as “Pasture Raised”, each duck must be raised in accordance with the FSIS Guideline on Substantiating Animal-Raising or Environment-Related Labeling Claims for “Pasture Raised” claims. Each duck must spend not less than 51% of its life on qualifying pasture, which means not less than 51% rooted vegetative cover. If a substantial and substantiated welfare risk exists, Pekin ducks may be removed from qualifying pasture, provided that each duck has continuous access to an outdoor area. If, as a result of removal, those Pekin ducks do not spend the majority of their lives on pasture, they must not be labeled as pasture raised. ①(7.B.5) <i>Pekin ducks may be confined to housing during extreme weather conditions (e.g. heavy precipitation, tornadoes, hurricanes, monsoons, blizzards, floods or non-typical weather for the season such as large swings in temperature), during disease outbreak under veterinary direction or during any other circumstance that may jeopardize their welfare.</i> NOTE: <i>If, as a result of removal, those Pekin ducks do not spend the majority of their lives on pasture, they must not be labeled as pasture raised.</i>	•	•	•	•	•	•
GEESE							
7.C Outdoor Access							
NOTE: <i>Outdoor access is defined as an unroofed, open, outdoor area such as a dry lot, concrete pad, or pasture, but does not have to be pasture.</i>							
7.C.1	Access to outdoors or pasture is not required	•	•				
7.C.2	All geese from 6 weeks of age must be given continuous outdoor access during daylight hours unless climatic conditions pose a welfare risk. ①(7.C.2) <i>Geese in Step 3 systems may have seasonal outdoor access.</i>			•			
7.C.3	The following records are required (an Outdoor Access Record template is located here): a. date geese are first given outdoor access. b. any date that outdoor access is denied. c. reasons for any denial of outdoor access.			•			
7.C.4	Any geese slaughtered before 14 weeks of age must have access to the outdoors during daylight hours for a minimum of 7 weeks, otherwise the maximum Step-level that is possible for those flocks is Step 1.			•			

STANDARD		Step Level										
		1	2	3	4	5	5+					
GEESE												
7.C Outdoor Access <i>Continued</i>												
7.C.5	Openings from the house, whether stationary or mobile, must allow geese free access to the outdoors during daylight hours.								•			
	①(7.C.5) As houses are constructed in a variety of designs and dimensions, this standard does not designate a minimum number of access points or the dimensions of each opening. Rather, it requires that there are sufficient entry / exit points so that geese are readily able to access the outdoors. A house may have several smaller openings spaced along one or more walls (e.g., pop holes) or a single large opening (e.g., a door or wall segment).											
GEESE												
7.D Pasture Access												
NOTE: Pasture includes rangeland, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, and any other areas where poultry have access to vegetation. Pasture has higher qualitative properties than “outdoors” and may be accessed by poultry kept in roofed and enclosed mobile coops.												
NOTE: FSIS has clarified when the term “Pasture Raised” can be used in the August 2024 version of its FSIS Guideline on Substantiating Animal-Raising or Environment-Related Labeling Claims.												
7.D.1	All geese from 6 weeks of age must be given continuous access to the pasture during daylight hours. If the risk from climatic conditions is considered extreme, access to outdoor areas may be restricted as long as the restriction does not exceed 5 consecutive days. Seasonal housing due to inclement climatic conditions is prohibited.									•	•	•
	①(7.D.1a) Geese may be confined to housing during extreme weather conditions (e.g. heavy precipitation, tornadoes, hurricanes, monsoons, blizzards, floods or non-typical weather for the season such as large swings in temperature), during disease outbreak under veterinary direction or during any other circumstance that may jeopardize their welfare.											
	①(7.D.1b) Standard 7.D.1 may be waived if the conditions or circumstances require confinement guided by a veterinarian or regulatory official.											
7.D.2	The following records are required (a Pasture Access Record template is located here): a. date geese are first given pasture access. b. any date that pasture access is denied. a. reasons for any denial of pasture access.									•	•	•
7.D.3	Any geese slaughtered before 14 weeks of age must have access to the pasture during daylight hours for a minimum of 7 weeks, otherwise the maximum Step-level that is possible for those flocks is Step 1.									•	•	•
7.D.4	Openings from the house, whether stationary or mobile, must allow geese free access to the outdoors during daylight hours.									•	•	•
	①(7.D.4) As houses are constructed in a variety of designs and dimensions, this standard does not designate a minimum number of access points or the dimensions of each opening. Rather, it requires that there are sufficient entry / exit points so that geese are readily able to access the outdoors. A house may have several smaller openings spaced along one or more walls (e.g., pop holes) or a single large opening (e.g., a door or wall segment).											

STANDARD		Step Level										
		1	2	3	4	5	5+					
GEESE												
7.D Pasture Access <i>Continued</i>												
7.D.5	To be eligible for additional certification and labeling as “Pasture Raised”, each goose must be raised in accordance with the FSIS Guideline on Substantiating Animal-Raising or Environment-Related Labeling Claims for “Pasture Raised” claims. Each goose must spend not less than 51% of its life on qualifying pasture, which means not less than 51% rooted vegetative cover. If a substantial and substantiated welfare risk exists, geese may be removed from qualifying pasture, provided that each goose has continuous access to an outdoor area. If, as a result of removal, those geese do not spend the majority of their lives on pasture, they must not be labeled as pasture raised.						●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(7.D.5) <i>Geese may be confined to housing during extreme weather conditions (e.g. heavy precipitation, tornadoes, hurricanes, monsoons, blizzards, floods or non-typical weather for the season such as large swings in temperature), during disease outbreak under veterinary direction or during any other circumstance that may jeopardize their welfare.</i>											
	NOTE: <i>If, as a result of removal, those geese do not spend the majority of their lives on pasture, they must not be labeled as pasture raised.</i>											
QUAIL												
7.E Outdoor Access												
NOTE: <i>Outdoor access is defined as an unroofed, open, outdoor area such as a dry lot, concrete pad, or pasture, but does not have to be pasture.</i>												
7.E.1	Access to outdoors or pasture is not required						●	●				
7.E.2	All quail from 3 weeks of age must be given continuous outdoor access during daylight hours unless climatic conditions pose a welfare risk.								●			
	①(7.E.2) <i>Quail in Step 3 systems may have seasonal outdoor access.</i>											
7.E.3	The following records are required (an Outdoor Access Record template is located here): a. date quail are first given outdoor access. b. any date that outdoor access is denied. c. reasons for any denial of outdoor access.								●			
7.E.4	Any quail slaughtered before 8 weeks of age must have access to the outdoors during daylight hours for a minimum of 3 weeks, otherwise the maximum Step-level that is possible for those flocks is Step 1.								●			
7.E.5	Openings from the house, whether stationary or mobile, must allow quail free access to the outdoors during daylight hours.								●			
	①(7.E.5) <i>As houses are constructed in a variety of designs and dimensions, this standard does not designate a minimum number of access points or the dimensions of each opening. Rather, it requires that there are sufficient entry / exit points so that quail are readily able to access the outdoors. A house may have several smaller openings spaced along one or more walls (e.g., pop holes) or a single large opening (e.g., a door or wall segment).</i>											

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
QUAIL							
7.F Pasture Access							
7.F.1	All quail from 3 weeks of age must be given continuous access to the pasture during daylight hours. If the risk from climatic conditions is considered extreme, access to outdoor areas may be restricted as long as the restriction does not exceed 5 consecutive days. Seasonal housing due to inclement climatic conditions is prohibited.						
	①(7.F.1a) Quail may be confined to housing during extreme weather conditions (e.g. heavy precipitation, tornadoes, hurricanes, monsoons, blizzards, floods or non-typical weather for the season such as large swings in temperature), during disease outbreak under veterinary direction or during any other circumstance that may jeopardize their welfare. ①(7.F.1b) Standard 7.F.1 may be waived if the conditions or circumstances require confinement guided by a veterinarian or regulatory official.						
7.F.2	The following records are required (a Pasture Access Record template is located here): c. date quail are first given pasture access. d. any date that pasture access is denied. e. reasons for any denial of pasture access.						
7.F.3	Any quail slaughtered before 8 weeks of age must have access to the pasture during daylight hours for a minimum of 4 weeks, otherwise the maximum Step-level that is possible for those flocks is Step 1.						
7.F.4	Openings from the house, whether stationary or mobile, must allow quail free access to the pasture during daylight hours.						
	①(7.F.4) As houses are constructed in a variety of designs and dimensions, this standard does not designate a minimum number of access points or the dimensions of each opening. Rather, it requires that there are sufficient entry / exit points so that quail are readily able to access the outdoors. A house may have several smaller openings spaced along one or more walls (e.g., pop holes) or a single large opening (e.g., a door or wall segment).						
7.F.5	To be eligible for additional certification and labeling as “Pasture Raised”, each quail must be raised in accordance with the FSIS Guideline on Substantiating Animal-Raising or Environment-Related Labeling Claims for “Pasture Raised” claims. Each quail must spend not less than 51% of its life on qualifying pasture, which means not less than 51% rooted vegetative cover. If a substantial and substantiated welfare risk exists, quail may be removed from qualifying pasture, provided that each quail has continuous access to an outdoor area. If, as a result of removal, those quail do not spend the majority of their lives on pasture, they must not be labeled as pasture raised.						
	①(7.F.5) Quail may be confined to housing during extreme weather conditions (e.g. heavy precipitation, tornadoes, hurricanes, monsoons, blizzards, floods or non-typical weather for the season such as large swings in temperature), during disease outbreak under veterinary direction or during any other circumstance that may jeopardize their welfare. NOTE: If, as a result of removal, those quail do not spend the majority of their lives on pasture, they must not be labeled as pasture raised.						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
GUINEA FOWL 7.G Outdoor Access NOTE: <i>Outdoor access is defined as an unroofed, open, outdoor area such as a dry lot, concrete pad, or pasture, but does not have to be pasture.</i>							
7.G.1	Access to outdoors or pasture is not required	•	•				
7.G.2	All guinea fowl from 6 weeks of age must be given continuous outdoor access during daylight hours unless climatic conditions pose a welfare risk. ①(7.G.2) <i>Guinea Fowl in Step 3 systems may have seasonal outdoor access.</i>			•			
7.G.3	The following records are required (an Outdoor Access Record template is located here): a. date guinea fowl are first given outdoor access. b. any day that outdoor access is denied. c. reasons for any denial of outdoor access			•			
7.G.4	Any guinea fowl slaughtered before 12 weeks of age must have access to the outdoors during daylight hours for a minimum of 6 weeks, otherwise the maximum Step-level that is possible for those flocks is Step 1.			•			
7.G.5	Openings from the house, whether stationary or mobile, must allow geese free access to the outdoors during daylight hours. ①(7.G.5) <i>As houses are constructed in a variety of designs and dimensions, this standard does not designate a minimum number of access points or the dimensions of each opening. Rather, it requires that there are sufficient entry / exit points so that guinea fowl are readily able to access the outdoors. A house may have several smaller openings spaced along one or more walls (e.g., pop holes) or a single large opening (e.g., a door or wall segment).</i>			•			
GUINEA FOWL 7.H Pasture Access NOTE: <i>Pasture includes rangeland, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, and any other areas where poultry have access to vegetation. Pasture has higher qualitative properties than “outdoors” and may be accessed by poultry kept in roofed and enclosed mobile coops.</i> NOTE: <i>FSIS has clarified when the term “Pasture Raised” can be used in the August 2024 version of its FSIS Guideline on Substantiating Animal-Raising or Environment-Related Labeling Claims.</i>							
7.H.1	All guinea fowl from 6 weeks of age must be given continuous access to the pasture during daylight hours. If the risk from climatic conditions is considered extreme, access to outdoor areas may be restricted as long as the restriction does not exceed 5 consecutive days. Seasonal housing due to inclement climatic conditions is prohibited. ①(7.H.1a) <i>Guinea fowl may be confined to housing during extreme weather conditions (e.g. heavy precipitation, tornadoes, hurricanes, monsoons, blizzards, floods or non-typical weather for the season such as large swings in temperature), during disease outbreak under veterinary direction or during any other circumstance that may jeopardize their welfare.</i> ①(7.H.1b) <i>Standard 7.H.1 may be waived if the conditions or circumstances require confinement guided by a veterinarian or regulatory official.</i>				•	•	•
7.H.2	The following records are required (a Pasture Access Record template is located here): f. date guinea fowl are first given pasture access. g. any date that pasture access is denied. a. reasons for any denial of pasture access.				•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level						
		1	2	3	4	5	5+	
GUINEA FOWL								
7.H Pasture Access <i>Continued</i>								
7.H.3	Any guinea fowl slaughtered before 12 weeks of age must have access to the pasture during daylight hours for a minimum of 6 weeks, otherwise the maximum Step-level that is possible for those flocks is Step 1.					•	•	•
7.H.4	Openings from the house, whether stationary or mobile, must allow guinea fowl free access to the pasture during daylight hours.					•	•	•
	①(7.H.4) As houses are constructed in a variety of designs and dimensions, this standard does not designate a minimum number of access points or the dimensions of each opening. Rather, it requires that there are sufficient entry / exit points so that guinea fowl are readily able to access the outdoors. A house may have several smaller openings spaced along one or more walls (e.g., pop holes) or a single large opening (e.g., a door or wall segment).							
7.H.5	To be eligible for additional certification and labeling as “Pasture Raised”, each guinea fowl must be raised in accordance with the FSIS Guideline on Substantiating Animal-Raising or Environment-Related Labeling Claims for “Pasture Raised” claims. Each guinea fowl must spend not less than 51% of its life on qualifying pasture, which means not less than 51% rooted vegetative cover. If a substantial and substantiated welfare risk exists, guinea fowl may be removed from qualifying pasture, provided that each guinea fowl has continuous access to an outdoor area. If, as a result of removal, those guinea fowl do not spend the majority of their lives on pasture, they must not be labeled as pasture raised.		•	•	•	•	•	•
	①(7.H.5) Guinea fowl may be confined to housing during extreme weather conditions (e.g. heavy precipitation, tornadoes, hurricanes, monsoons, blizzards, floods or non-typical weather for the season such as large swings in temperature), during disease outbreak under veterinary direction or during any other circumstance that may jeopardize their welfare. NOTE: If, as a result of removal, those guinea fowl do not spend the majority of their lives on pasture, they must not be labeled as pasture raised.							
7.J Vegetation and Foraging Materials – Outdoor Access – All Species								
NOTE: There is no set square footage for outdoor space per bird, but operations must provide sufficient space such that the vegetative cover conditions in Section 7.J can be met throughout the life of the flock. The actual area per bird that is required to meet the requirements of Section 7.N throughout the life of the flock will depend on the region and/or climate where the poultry are kept.								
7.J.1	At least 25% of each occupied outdoor area must be covered with vegetation and/or forage.				•			
	①(7.J.1) This standard can be met by placing cut or harvested vegetation and/or forages, such as alfalfa hay, in the outdoor area). Litter cannot be used as a foraging material for this standard.							
7.K Vegetation and Foraging Materials – Pasture Access – All Species								
NOTE: There is no set square footage for pasture space per bird, but operations must provide sufficient space such that the vegetative cover conditions in Section 7.K can be met throughout the life of the flock. The actual area per bird that is required to meet the requirements of Section 7.K throughout the life of the flock will depend on the region and/or climate where the poultry are kept.								
7.K.1	At least 51% of each occupied pasture area must be rooted in vegetative cover with grass or other plants accessible at bird height throughout the life of the flock.					•		
	①(7.K.1a) See Appendix XIII for a definition and illustration of “at bird height”. ①(7.K.1b) The requirements must be met by growing vegetation and cannot be met by placing cut or harvested vegetation and/or forages in the pasture area.							

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
7.K Vegetation and Foraging Materials – Pasture Raised – All Species <i>Continued</i>							
7.K.2	If poultry are removed from pasture during conditions or circumstances to protect their welfare, the outdoor area must include materials that encourage foraging behavior.				●		
	①(7.K.2) <i>Materials that encourage foraging behavior include, but are not limited to, whole grains, hay and straw.</i>						
7.K.3	At least 75% of each occupied pasture area must be rooted in vegetative cover with grass or other plants accessible at bird height throughout the life of the flock.					●	●
	①(7.K.2a) <i>See Appendix XIII for a definition and illustration of “at bird height”.</i>						
	①(7.K.2b) <i>The requirements must be met by growing vegetation and cannot be met by placing cut or harvested vegetation and/or forages in the pasture area.</i>						
7.K.4	Denuded areas cannot extend more than 10 ft (3 m) from the house.					●	●
7.K.5	If stationary housing is used, there must be at least two pasture areas accessible to the poultry, such that one may be rested while the other is in use.					●	●
7.L Space Requirements for Outdoor Access – All Species							
7.L.1	The outdoor area must be equal to or greater than 75% of the total indoor floor space of the house			●			
7.M Space Requirements for Pasture Access – All Species							
7.M.1	If removed from pasture during conditions or circumstances to protect their welfare, the outdoor area must be equal to or greater than 100% of the total indoor floor space of the house.				●	●	●
7.N Provisions to Encourage Outdoor and Pasture Area Use							
7.N.1	Each occupied outdoor area must contain features that encourage the poultry to range (see Appendix XIV)			●	●	●	●
	①(7.N.1) <i>Examples include, but are not limited to, bushes, shrubs, shade cloth, A-frame structures, and perches. The house, whether stationary or mobile, including the roof and typical 12” overhang, does not qualify as meeting the requirement of this standard. Any structures attached to the house, such as verandas or awnings, may be counted towards a percentage of the requirements in 7.T.3 as long as they provide free access to the outdoors, and are not the only provision provided (see 7.T.3 for more details). The provisions should be dispersed throughout the outdoor area to encourage roaming and foraging</i>						
7.N.2	Provisions not attached to the house, must be distributed in a way that encourages poultry to range, and must start within 15 ft (4.5 m) of the house.			●	●	●	●
PEKIN DUCKS							
7.P Provisions to Encourage Outdoor and Pasture Area Use							
7.P.1	Provisions that encourage poultry to range must provide a cumulative total of at least 20 ft ² (1.85 m ²) of cover for every 100 birds in the flock.			●	●	●	●
	①(7.P.1a) <i>These requirements apply to the total number of birds in the flock, not the number of birds that are using the outdoor or pasture area at any one time.</i> ①(7.P.1b) <i>Verandas or awnings attached to houses/barns may count towards a maximum of 50% of the total square footage required (e.g. a flock of 2,000 birds requires 400 ft² (18.6m²) of outdoor provisions - 200 ft² (9.3m²) of the 400 ft² (18.6m²) may be a veranda attached to the house. The remaining balance of the square footage required (200 ft² (9.3m²)) must be natural or other artificial items not attached to the house.</i>						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
GEESE							
7.Q Provisions to Encourage Outdoor and Pasture Area Use							
7.Q.1	Provisions that encourage poultry to range must provide a cumulative total of at least 25 ft ² (2.3 m ²) of cover for every 100 birds in the flock.			•	•	•	•
	⑦(7.Q.1a) These requirements apply to the total number of birds in the flock, not the number of birds that are using the outdoor or pasture area at any one time. ⑦(7.Q.1b) Verandas or awnings attached to houses/barns may count towards a maximum of 50% of the total square footage required (e.g. a flock of 2,000 birds requires 500 ft ² (46.4m ²) of outdoor provisions - 250 ft ² (23.2m ²) of the 500 ft ² (46.4m ²) may be a veranda attached to the house. The remaining balance of the square footage required (250 ft ² (23.2m ²)) must be natural or other artificial items not attached to the house.						
QUAIL							
7.R Provisions to Encourage Outdoor and Pasture Area Use							
7.R.1	Provisions that encourage poultry to range must provide a cumulative total of at least 1.5 ft ² (0.14 m ²) of cover for every 100 birds in the flock.			•	•	•	•
	⑦(7.R.1a) These requirements apply to the total number of birds in the flock, not the number of birds that are using the outdoor or pasture area at any one time. ⑦(7.R.1b) Verandas or awnings attached to houses/barns may count towards a maximum of 50% of the total square footage required (e.g. a flock of 2,000 birds requires 30 ft ² (2.8m ²) of outdoor provisions - 15 ft ² (1.4m ²) of the 30 ft ² (2.8m ²) may be a veranda attached to the house. The remaining balance of the square footage required (15 ft ² (1.4m ²)) must be natural or other artificial items not attached to the house.						
GUINEA FOWL							
7.S Provisions to Encourage Outdoor and Pasture Area Use							
7.S.1	Provisions that encourage poultry to range must provide a cumulative total of at least 8 ft ² (0.75 m ²) of cover for every 100 birds in the flock.			•	•	•	•
	⑦(7.S.1a) These requirements apply to the total number of birds in the flock, not the number of birds that are using the outdoor or pasture area at any one time. ⑦(7.S.1b) Verandas or awnings attached to houses/barns may count towards a maximum of 50% of the total square footage required (e.g. a flock of 2,000 poultry requires 160 ft ² (15m ²) of outdoor provisions - 80 ft ² (7.5m ²) of the 160 ft ² (15m ²) may be a veranda attached to the house. The remaining balance of the square footage required (80 ft ² (7.5m ²)) must be natural or other artificial items not attached to the house.						

Section 8: Insect, Mice & Rat, Predator, and Wild Bird Control

NOTE: The standards in this Section are applicable to any control efforts, whether contracted or arranged by an outside third party.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
8.A Insect and Parasite Control							
8.A.1	The use of organophosphates or any product containing organophosphates in any manner in which a bird might ingest or absorb them is prohibited.	●	●	●	●	●	●
8.B Mice and Rat Control							
8.B.1	The producer must minimize risk to poultry posed by mice and rats.	●	●	●	●	●	●
8.B.2	Good sanitation including exclusion of rodents from feed storage areas or other non-lethal methods must be the first level of protection. Buildings must be constructed and/or maintained in such a manner as to prevent the intrusion of rodents	●	●	●	●	●	●
8.B.3	If good sanitation is ineffective, an integrated rodent control program must be implemented. This program must include: a. methods of control that only target rodents. b. an assessment of different methods of lethal control that are commercially available. c. if traps are used they must be species specific, appropriately located, and must be designed to cause rapid death. d. licensed rodenticides are only used in areas where traps will be ineffective (traps are most effective in enclosed spaces and rodent pathways) OR when monitoring is required, e.g. as part of salmonella reduction protocols. e. Poisons for the control or elimination of mice and rats are permitted only after exclusion has failed.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(8.B.3) <i>Methods used to control mice and rats should be swift and efficient, and not cause unnecessary suffering. Glue traps are unacceptable – see Section 8.E. Currently, poison used to control or eliminate mice & rats is unavoidable in certain farming models, and it is acknowledged that poison does cause suffering. The ultimate goal is to prohibit its use entirely. One of the unwanted side effects of using poisoned bait is that it can attract mice and rats to the area and exacerbate the problem. It is essential to design any baiting procedures to attract only mice and rats already posing a danger and to avoid attracting more mice and rats to the area</i>						
8.B.4	Multiple catch traps (e.g. tin cats) used for monitoring rodent populations must be baited with rodenticide.	●	●	●	●	●	●
8.C Predator Control							
NOTE: Control of predators must not violate any local, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other laws.							
NOTE: Note that certain mammals and avian species of the orders Falconiformes, Accipitriformes, Strigiformes and Cathartiformes are strictly protected and any exceptions require approval by relevant wildlife permitting authorities.							
8.C.1	When predators are considered to be a problem, each operation must have a predator control program in place	●	●	●	●	●	●
8.C.2	Exclusion of predators from housing and outdoor areas or other non-lethal methods must be the first level of defense	●	●	●	●	●	●
8.C.3	If non-lethal methods are ineffective and poultry are at risk, shooting is the only method of lethal control allowed and is only allowed if the shooter is skilled and the shot kills immediately. Lethal means of predator control must target the offending animal(s) only	●	●	●	●	●	●
8.C.4	Poisons for the control or elimination of predators that are posing a risk to poultry are prohibited with the exception of where it is undertaken by a relevant authority or required under the relevant authority legislation to control populations of feral animals.	●	●	●	●	●	●

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
8.D Wild Bird Control							
8.D.1	Wild birds must be excluded from housing as much as possible depending on housing system design	●	●	●	●	●	●
8.E Methods of Control for Rodents, Predators and Wild Birds							
8.E.1	All varieties of leg-hold traps, including egg traps, neck snares, conibear traps, glue boards, and drowning traps, are prohibited	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(8.E.1) <i>Box traps that capture animals alive without restricting them from movement are permitted.</i>						
8.E.2	Live traps without monitors must be checked at least daily. If live trap monitors are used, they must be acted upon within 24 hours of an alert	●	●	●	●		
	①(8.E.2) <i>Live traps, also known as humane traps, cannot contain poison or maim, in any other way result in lethal control.</i>						
8.E.3	Any live traps without monitors must be checked at least twice daily and acted upon within 24 hours					●	●

Section 9: Loading and Transport

NOTE: The Standards in this Section apply to any transport of poultry onto, within or off the operation.

NOTE: Transportation companies that are currently Poultry Handling and Transportation Certified are automatically in compliance with Standards 9.C.1 to 9.C.4, 9.C.6, 9.C.7 and 9.D.1.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
9.A Condition of Poultry – All Species							
9.A.1	M Transporting unhealthy, non-ambulatory, or injured poultry is prohibited.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.A.2	All unhealthy, non-ambulatory, injured, or small poultry (runts) who are not loaded for slaughter must be euthanized the same day that poultry from the same flock are transported or slaughtered on-site. ①(9.A.2) See Section 3.G for euthanasia requirements.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.B Water and Feed Withdrawal – All Species							
9.B.1	All poultry must have continuous access to drinking water: a. until loading begins if water lines do not need to be elevated prior to catching and loading; or b. until 1 hour before loading begins if water lines must be elevated prior to catching and loading.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.B.2	Feed must not be withheld for more than 6 hours prior to transport.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.C Catching and Loading							
9.C.1	Lights must be dimmed throughout the catching and loading process.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.C.2	Poultry must be caught calmly to minimize stress and risk of injury.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.C.3	C Kicking, throwing, striking, punching, hitting, or otherwise causing injury to poultry is prohibited.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.C.4	M Poultry must never be lifted or carried by the head, neck, one or both wings, or tail. ①(9.C.4) G.A.P. discourages the carrying of poultry by a single leg and urges industry to move away from this practice.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.C.5	Each bird must be caught by the body with both hands and carried upright (see Appendix VI)	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.C.6	Mechanical loaders and conveyor belts are not permitted for catching and loading poultry	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.C.7	Poultry must be loaded into transport containers without causing injury	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.D Transport Containers for Poultry – All Species							
9.D.1	Containers, whether modules, coops, drawers, or other, must be in clean and sound operational condition, and of a design that does not cause injury to the poultry. ①(9.D.1) A container does not necessarily have to be washed in order for it to be clean.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.D.2	All poultry must be able to sit on the floor of the container at the same time.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.D.3	Containers must be of adequate height to allow the poultry to move their heads freely while sitting.	●	●	●	●	●	●

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
9.E Transport of Ducklings, Goslings, Chicks and Keets							
9.E.1	■ A record of the total number of birds received from the hatchery for each flock is required.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.E.2	A record of the total number of dead-on-arrivals (DOAs) for each flock is required.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.E.3	Mortality during transport must not exceed 0.5% per shipment.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.E.4	The thermal comfort of hatchlings must be maintained at all times through management and the provision of supplemental heating and/or cooling, as necessary.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.E.5	Each duckling, gosling and keet must be provided a minimum of 4 in ² (26 cm ²) floor space within the delivery box. Each quail chick must be provided with a minimum of 2 in ² (13 cm ²) floor space within the delivery box.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.E.6	Each delivery box must be designed with holes for ventilation.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.E.7	Each delivery box must contain a new, absorbent floor pad or be constructed in such a way that birds stay dry and do not slip.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.E.8	Birds delivered via the mail or courier service must be in boxes prominently labelled "LIVE POULTRY."	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.E.9	Birds must be delivered to the operation within 48 hours of removal from the hatcher. ①(9.E.9) <i>The purpose of this standard is to ensure chicks get feed and water before the resources from their yolk sac run out. Hatcheries that use the Hatch Tech system and provide food and water immediately on hatching do not have to meet this requirement.</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.E.10	Documentation of each shipment of birds from the hatchery is required that includes: a. time birds were removed from the hatcher. b. time of arrival onto the operation applying for certification to this standard. c. time of placement.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.F Equipment and Vehicles for Poultry – All Species							
9.F.1	Equipment (e.g., a trailer) and vehicles must be managed to provide for the thermal comfort of poultry at all times.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.F.2	If equipment (e.g., a trailer) or vehicles have open sides or tops, they must have cover(s) that can be fitted securely and adjusted as necessary to protect poultry from inclement weather.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.G Transport Personnel Responsibilities and Procedures – All Species							
NOTE: <i>If the farm conducts or contracts transport, Subsection 9.G applies to the farm. If a producer group, cooperative, or other organization conducts or contracts transport, Subsection 9.G applies to the producer group, cooperative, or other organization. The ranch/farm must adhere to producer group policies and practices</i>							
9.G.1	There must be a clear, written procedure for the driver to follow that includes actions to follow and contact numbers, to ensure the highest welfare of the birds in case of an accident or emergency en route. This must be made available to the auditor and/or certification company. ①(9.G.1) <i>These should include actions that can be taken by the driver and a clear point at which he/she should call for assistance. The driver must have an emergency number that will reach the staff field agent, or farmer who can initiate logistical actions that could include getting a replacement truck to the scene, getting a crew to the scene to reload the birds, and designating a person responsible for euthanizing or separating injured birds</i>	●	●	●	●	●	●

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
9.G Transport Personnel Responsibilities and Procedures – All Species <i>Continued</i>							
9.G.2	Personnel involved with transport must be licensed to drive the type of truck used for transport, thoroughly trained, and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.G.3	The driver is responsible for the birds during all aspects of loading, delivery, & unloading that are under his/her control.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.G.4	If the vehicle is transporting poultry from more than one operation and/or source, each different group of poultry must be segregated in identifiable containers.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.G.5	If poultry are transported or moved with other species on the same vehicle, they must be placed in separate compartments.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.G.2	Personnel involved with transport must be licensed to drive the type of truck used for transport, thoroughly trained, and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.H Transport Duration – All Species							
NOTE: <i>Transport duration is calculated as follows for the following occurrences:</i> <i>a. Operation to Operation: Time from first bird loaded into the container at the originating operation to time vehicle arrives at the receiving operation.</i> <i>b. Operation to Processing plant: Time from first bird loaded into the container at the originating operation to time vehicle arrives at the processing plant.</i> <i>Transport duration is calculated on an individual truck basis. Independent trips are not cumulative for the above calculation. In the review of transport duration records, the certifier will take into account cases of unexpected inclement weather, vehicle accidents or malfunction, or other unforeseen circumstances that result in a delay.</i>							
9.H.1	M Transport must not exceed 6 hours	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(9.H.1) No bird may be subjected to a journey longer than this duration unless that journey is specifically intended to improve or safeguard their welfare						
9.H.2	Poultry must be slaughtered on-farm using an on-farm slaughter facility or a mobile slaughter unit.						●
	①(9.H.2a) Poultry raised in Step 5+ systems must only be moved to on-site or mobile slaughter.						
	①(9.H.2b) Step 5+ poultry may be crated for movement to the on-site or mobile slaughter facility.						
	①(9.H.2c) Poultry must only be transported or moved off the operation in cases of veterinary emergency or extreme weather conditions posing immediate risk to their survival. Transport or movement off the operation for either of these two reasons will not result in non-compliance with the standard.						
9.J Transport Records							
9.J.1	Transport records must be kept for each vehicle, made available for review, - see S.P. 2.C.3.	●	●	●	●	●	●
	①(9.J.1a) It is the operation's responsibility to keep all copies of transport records, whether the operation transports animals themselves or contracts transport. ①(9.J.1b) A Transport Chain of Custody record Template is located here.						
9.J.2	Separate transport documentation, whether a bill of lading, delivery note, or other, is required for each operation if the vehicle is scheduled to pick up poultry from more than one operation.	●	●	●	●	●	●
9.J.3	The following records are required for all poultry slaughtered on site: a. date of transport. b. starting and ending times for catching and loading poultry. c. arrival time at the place where poultry will be slaughtered. d. number of poultry moved and slaughtered on-site.						●

Section 10: Slaughter Requirements

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
10.A General Requirements – All Species NOTE: Operations, or the affiliated group (e.g. a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity), must provide a complete copy of the current third-party animal welfare audit for all slaughter facilities used by the Operation or affiliated group to the certifier to verify this Section. G.A.P. certifiers will review the core criteria of the current audit and assess eligibility to meet this standard (i.e. a desk audit of a current third-party animal welfare audit). NOTE: The animal welfare slaughter audit does not have to be conducted by a G.A.P. approved certification company. Operations and suppliers are encouraged to check with their retail partners to ensure the certifier used for their slaughter audit is in compliance with the retailer's buying requirements. A Robust Systematic Humane Handling and Slaughter Plan is not equivalent to a 3rd-party animal welfare audit and does not replace the need for such an audit.							
10.A.1	All operations holding a current G.A.P. certificate, where birds will be marketed as G.A.P. Certified, must be slaughtered at a slaughter facility that has passed and holds a current annual third-party animal welfare audit with a minimum score of 90% <u>and</u> pass all core criteria listed below: a. at least 99% of the poultry must be properly stunned (on a sample of 500). b. no more than 1% broken or dislocated wings (more than 5 in 500 is a failure). c. if hung live, both legs must be shackled (more than 2 in 500 is a failure). d. no more than 2 leg injuries per 500 birds. e. no live poultry entering the scalders. Source: adapted from the National Chicken Council Broiler Welfare Guidelines and Audit Checklist (2022) ① Any bird found with a broken leg or wing should be euthanized immediately, rather than shackled.	•	•	•	•	•	•
10.A.2	M All poultry must be stunned and rendered insensible prior to slaughter.	•	•	•	•	•	•
10.A.3	Poultry that are dead-on-arrival (DOA) must not exceed 0.4%	•	•	•	•	•	•
10.A.4	M No live bird must be discarded as DOA	•	•	•	•	•	•
10.A.5	In addition to the criteria listed in 10.A.1 – 10.A.4, third-party slaughter facility audits must include, at a minimum, the following information as part of the audit form(s): a. auditor name. b. audit date. c. full name, address, and contact information of slaughter facility. d. establishment number. e. name of slaughter facility representative who accompanied the auditor on the audit. f. summary table of audit findings by section (i.e. lists and scores for core criteria such as effective stunning, insensibility on the bleed rail, vocalization etc. as well as secondary criteria). g. type of slaughter system (e.g. electrical water bath, CAS etc.). h. typical line speed of slaughter facility (if applicable).	•	•	•	•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
10.B Segregation and In-Plant Traceability							
10.B.1	All slaughter facilities used by the operation or affiliated group must provide a copy of their written in-facility segregation and traceability protocol outlining how G.A.P. Certified poultry, and differing Step-levels if applicable, are kept segregated from non-G.A.P. Certified poultry and product	•	•	•	•	•	•
10.B.2	Poultry must be slaughtered on-farm using an on-farm slaughter facility or a mobile slaughter unit.						•



Appendix I: Identifying and Scoring Footpad Dermatitis

Section 3.C requires a footpad dermatitis monitoring program, conducted at the slaughter facility or on-farm in the last week prior to slaughter, that includes random sampling. One foot is assessed from each selected bird. The total number of poultry selected depends on the number of flocks being sent to slaughter on a particular day – see ‘Determining the Sample Group’ below. The identification and scoring protocol below considers both the size and severity of lesions. If 100 birds are assessed the total maximum footpad dermatitis score would be 200 (i.e., all 100 feet scoring ‘2’). The maximum thresholds for a flock’s total footpad dermatitis sum are listed in standards 3.C.3 – 3.C.6 according to Step level.

Standard 3.C.3 sets limits for footpad dermatitis as an annual average. This means that an operation with some seasonal variation in footpad dermatitis may be within the standards on an annual basis. For example, a Step 2 operation sends one flock to slaughter every month. The scores for each flock were as follows: January = 20; February = 18; March = 15; April = 15; May = 10; June = 10; July = 10; August = 10; September = 12; October = 12; November = 14; December = 14. The annual average score is therefore 13.5. Standard 3.C.4 requires Step 2 operations to have an annual average footpad score of 15 so the operation is in compliance with this standard.

However, standards 3.C.3 – 3.C.6 require an intervention plan (see Appendix III) to be written and implemented for each individual flock that exceeds the level set in Standards 3.C.3 – 3.C.6. This operation must therefore have written a plan to reduce their risk of footpad dermatitis in January of the example year above and created a new plan, updating their progress and detailing any new actions, in February of the example year.

PROTOCOL

Step 1: Determining the Sample Groups

- At the slaughter facility: Determine how many flocks were sent from each operation. The minimum sample size is 100 birds if only one flock is sent to slaughter. If more than one flock is sent to slaughter an additional 25 birds for each additional flock must be assessed; for example, if 5 flocks are sent to slaughter on the same day the sample group must be 100 plus 25, plus 25, plus 25, plus 25 for a total of 200 birds assessed with one foot for each bird scored. Once the sample size is set, randomly collect a total of different legs to meet the sample size, and score the footpads at a convenient time during the day.
- On-farm: Determine how many flocks will go to slaughter on the same day. The minimum sample size is 100 birds if only one flock is sent to slaughter. If more than one flock is sent to slaughter an additional 25 birds for each additional flock must be assessed; for example if 3 flocks are sent to slaughter on the same day the sample group must be 100 plus 25, plus 25 for a total of 150 birds assessed with one foot for each bird scored. Once the sample size is set, in the last week before those birds go to slaughter, randomly catch poultry in 4 different locations in each house to meet the required sample size, examine their feet and score the footpads. A representative sample of birds across all flocks must be assessed. If three flocks are sent to slaughter and 150 in total must be scored, 50 should be scored in each house.

Step 2: Scoring

- Use the following chart to score the feet from each flock with a footpad dermatitis score of '0,' '1,' or '2.'

Step 3: Calculating the Flock's Total Footpad Dermatitis Sum

- $(\# \text{ of feet scoring '0'} \times 0) + (\# \text{ of feet scoring '1'} \times 1) + (\# \text{ of feet scoring '2'} \times 2) / (\text{number of feet scored}/100) = \text{Total Footpad Dermatitis Sum}$
- In the above calculation, the Total Footpad Dermatitis Sum is determined as follows:
 - a foot scoring '0' does not get any points
 - a foot scoring '1' gets 1 point
 - a foot scoring '2' gets 2 points
- For example:
 - Of 100 feet from 100 poultry assessed: 65 score '0,' 30 score '1,' and the remaining 5 score '2.'
 - $(65 \times 0) + (30 \times 1) + (5 \times 2) / (100/100) = 0 + 30 + 10 / 1$, for a Total Footpad Dermatitis Sum of 40
 - Of 500 feet from 500 poultry assessed 320 score '0', 140 score '1' and the remaining 40 score '2'
 - $(320 \times 0) + (140 \times 1) + (40 \times 2) / (500/100) = 0 + 140 + 80 / 5$ for a Total Footpad Dermatitis Sum of 44

Photos (below) - Adapted and reprinted with permission: "Foot-pad dermatitis in broilers: a photo guide to broiler foot health classification." Dr Lotta Berg, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

Score: 0	Score: 1	Score: 2
(0 points each for score of 0)	(1 point each for score of 1)	(2 points each for score of 2)
• No lesions or very small • No discoloration or slight on a limited area • No hyperkeratosis or mild • Old or no scars	• Mild and/or superficial lesions • Substantial discoloration on the footpad • Dark papillae, no ulceration	• Severe and significant lesions • Ulceration • Dark papillae and ulceration • Abscesses and/or swollen feet (bumble foot)
No lesion 	Mild lesion 	Severe lesion 
		
Small discoloration 	Substantial discoloration 	Dark papillae and ulceration 
Completely healed scar 	Dark papillae, no ulceration 	Abscess, swollen (bumble foot) 

Appendix II: Intervention Plans

Standards 3.C.7, 3.D.7, 3.E.7, 3.F.7, 3.H.5, 6.C.5, 6.C.7, and 6.D.3 all require written intervention plans to be put into effect if the levels of foot pad dermatitis, lameness, eye condition, nostril cleanliness, flock mortality, soiled feather assessment, litter quality and air quality, do not meet the requirements of the standards. The intervention plan template below must be completed and implemented for each flock when this occurs. G.A.P. Certifiers will review these plans at audit.

Template:

Intervention plan questions	Operation's response
Which standard does the flock not meet and what level of foot pad dermatitis/lameness /mortality/air quality has been found?	
Why has the problem occurred?	
What actions have been put in place to resolve the issue now?	
What actions have been put in place to ensure this does not happen again with future flocks?	

Example of completed template:

Intervention plan questions	Operation's response
Which standard does the flock not meet and what level of foot pad dermatitis/lameness /mortality/air quality has been found?	<i>Standard 3.C.5 – the foot pad dermatitis score for one of our Step 4 flocks was 10</i>
Why has the problem occurred?	<i>We had a water leak in the house and litter quality was reduced with some areas of wet and capped litter over a wide area.</i>
What actions have been put in place to resolve the issue now?	<i>We repaired the water leak and checked water systems in our other houses. We added plenty of fresh clean litter to improve litter quality.</i>
What actions have been put in place to ensure this does not happen again with future flocks?	<i>We already make sure our ventilation program keeps temperature and humidity at acceptable levels to help maintain litter quality. Our feed program is checked by a nutritionist and we are sure this incidence of higher than usual FPD is not related to nutrition. We are slightly lower stocked than permitted by G.A.P. standards so we do not think stocking density is a contributory factor in this case either. We are taking more care of water line maintenance and adjusting the height of water lines as birds grow to reduce spillage and water wastage.</i>

Appendix III: 3-Category Lameness Evaluation

Standard 3.D.1 requires a lameness evaluation conducted on-farm during the final week prior to slaughter. This 3-category lameness evaluation assesses and scores the mobility of poultry observed in 4 different locations within each house, on each floor if multi-level, or in each outdoor area. If 100 birds are assessed, the total maximum lameness sum possible is 200 (i.e., all 100 poultry scoring '2'). The maximum thresholds for a flock's total lameness sum are listed in Standard 3.D.3-5 according to Step level.

PROTOCOL

Step 1: Determining the Sample Groups

- Determine how many flocks will go to slaughter on the same day. The minimum sample size is 100 birds if only one flock is sent to slaughter. If more than one flock is sent to slaughter an additional 25 birds for each additional flock must be assessed; for example, if 3 flocks are sent to slaughter on the same day the sample group must be 100 plus 25, plus 25 for a total of 150 birds assessed for lameness.
- Once the sample size is set, in the last week before those birds go to slaughter, assess groups of poultry in 4 different locations in each house to meet the required sample size. A representative sample of birds across all flocks must be assessed. If three flocks are sent to slaughter and 150 in total must be scored, 50 should be scored in each house.

Step 2: Scoring and Suggested Best Practices

- Use the following chart to score poultry from each flock with a lameness score of '0,' '1,' or '2.'
- Watch one bird at a time for at least 15 seconds.
- Each bird's mobility must be assessed and scored from the side in order to observe foot placement and length of stride.
- Gentle nudging may be necessary to encourage movement.
- Poultry must always be approached from behind, if movement must be encouraged.
- Once the bird is moving, back away to assess the gait and assign a lameness score of '0,' '1,' or '2' according to the chart below.

Step 3: Calculating the Flock's Total Lameness Sum

- $(\# \text{ of poultry scoring '0'} \times 0) + (\# \text{ of poultry scoring '1'} \times 1) + (\# \text{ of poultry scoring '2'} \times 2) / (\text{number of assessed birds}/100) = \text{Total Lameness Sum}$
- In the above calculation, the Total Lameness Sum is determined as follows:
 - a bird scoring '0' does not get any points
 - a bird scoring '1' gets 1 point each
 - a bird scoring '2' gets 2 points each

- For example:
 - Of 100 poultry assessed: 62 score '0,' 23 score '1,' and the remaining 15 score '2'
 - $(62 \times 0) + (23 \times 1) + (15 \times 2) / (100/100) = 0 + 23 + 30 / 1$, for a Total Lameness Sum of 53
 - Of 300 poultry assessed: 200 score '0', 88 score '1' and the remaining 12 score '2'
 - $(200 \times 0) + (88 \times 1) + (12 \times 2) / (300/100) = 0 + 88 + 24 / 3$ for a Total Lameness Sum of 37.3

Score: 0	Score: 1	Score: 2
(0 points each for score of 0)	(1 point each for a score of 1, if one or more of the descriptions below are seen)	(2 points each for a score of 2, if one or more of the descriptions below are seen)
• Foot may or may not curl when lifted by the bird • Smooth gait typically with even steps that may be uneven at times • Well-balanced • Able to walk quickly and/or run • Difficult to identify any abnormality when walking or running	• Uneven gait • Foot does not curl when lifted by the bird • Irregular, short strides • Poor balance • The bird: ○ may use one or both wings to help balance while walking ○ squats within 15 seconds of standing or being forced to move by gentle nudging ○ may lie down after several steps	The bird: • is reluctant or unable to move, or shuffles on the ground if forced to move by gentle nudging • uses wings to help with movement • takes at most a few steps, if any
Normal	Moderately Lamé	Severely Lamé

Appendix IV: 3-Category Eye Cleanliness Evaluation

Standard 3.E.1 requires an eye condition evaluation conducted on-farm during the final week prior to slaughter. This 3-category eye condition evaluation assesses and scores the eyes of Pekin ducks and geese in 4 different locations within each house, on each floor if multi-level, or in each outdoor area. If 100 birds are assessed, the total maximum Eye Condition sum possible is 200 (i.e., all 100 poultry scoring '2'). The maximum thresholds for a flock's total eye condition sum are listed in Standard 3.E.3-5 according to Step level.

PROTOCOL

Step 1: Determining the Sample Groups

- Determine how many flocks will go to slaughter on the same day. The minimum sample size is 100 birds if only one flock is sent to slaughter. If more than one flock is sent to slaughter an additional 25 birds for each additional flock must be assessed; for example, if 3 flocks are sent to slaughter on the same day the sample group must be 100 plus 25, plus 25 for a total of 150 birds assessed for eye condition.
- Once the sample size is set, in the last week before those birds go to slaughter, assess groups of poultry in 4 different locations in each house to meet the required sample size. A representative sample of birds across all flocks must be assessed. If three flocks are sent to slaughter and 150 in total must be scored, 50 should be scored in each house.

Step 2: Scoring and Suggested Best Practices

- Use the following chart to score poultry from each flock with an eye condition score of '0,' '1,' or '2.'

Step 3: Calculating the Flock's Total Eye Condition Sum

- $(\# \text{ of poultry scoring '0'} \times 0) + (\# \text{ of poultry scoring '1'} \times 1) + (\# \text{ of poultry scoring '2'} \times 2) / (\text{number of assessed birds}/100) = \text{Total Eye Condition Sum}$
- In the above calculation, the Total Eye Condition Sum is determined as follows:
 - a bird scoring '0' does not get any points
 - a bird scoring '1' gets 1 point each
 - a bird scoring '2' gets 2 points each
- For example:
 - Of 100 poultry assessed: 62 score '0,' 23 score '1,' and the remaining 15 score '2'
 - $(62 \times 0) + (23 \times 1) + (15 \times 2) / (100/100) = 0 + 23 + 30 / 1$, for a Total Eye Condition Sum of 53
 - Of 300 poultry assessed: 200 score '0,' 88 score '1' and the remaining 12 score '2'

- $(200 \times 0) + (88 + 1) + (12 \times 2) / (300/100) = 0 + 88 + 24 / 3$ for a Total Eye Condition Sum of 37.3

Score: 0	Score: 1	Score: 2
(0 points each for score of 0)	(1 point each for a score of 1, if one or more of the descriptions below are seen)	(2 points each for a score of 2, if one or more of the descriptions below are seen)
• Eyes are clear and bright • Normal color • No Inflammation	• Presence of slight crust around eye • Weeping slightly • Maybe some feather loss around the eye	• Eyes are wet and weepy, and severely red-rimmed • There may be active infection • In extreme cases, the eyes not able to open fully
		
Healthy Eye	Slightly Affected Eye	Inflamed and/or Infected eye

Source: Red Tractor Assurance for Meat and Poultry- Processing Scheme, Appendix PW.a.8 – Protocol for duck welfare outcome scoring, and O'Driscoll & Broom (2011) Does access to open water affect the health of Pekin Pekin ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*)? <https://doi.org/10.3382/ps.2010-00883>

Appendix V: 3-Category Nostril Cleanliness Evaluation

Standard 3.E.1 requires a nostril cleanliness evaluation conducted on-farm during the final week prior to slaughter. This 3-category nostril cleanliness evaluation assesses and scores the nostrils of Pekin ducks and geese in 4 different locations within each house, on each floor if multi-level, or in each outdoor area. If 100 birds are assessed, the total maximum nostril cleanliness sum possible is 200 (i.e., all 100 poultry scoring '2'). The maximum thresholds for a flock's total eye condition sum are listed in Standard 3.E.3-5 according to Step level.

PROTOCOL

Step 1: Determining the Sample Groups

- Determine how many flocks will go to slaughter on the same day. The minimum sample size is 100 birds if only one flock is sent to slaughter. If more than one flock is sent to slaughter an additional 25 birds for each additional flock must be assessed; for example, if 3 flocks are sent to slaughter on the same day the sample group must be 100 plus 25, plus 25 for a total of 150 birds assessed for nostril cleanliness.
- Once the sample size is set, in the last week before those birds go to slaughter, assess groups of poultry in 4 different locations in each house to meet the required sample size. A representative sample of birds across all flocks must be assessed. If three flocks are sent to slaughter and 150 in total must be scored, 50 should be scored in each house.

Step 2: Scoring and Suggested Best Practices

- Use the following chart to score poultry from each flock with a nostril cleanliness score of '0,' '1,' or '2.'

Step 3: Calculating the Flock's Total Nostril Cleanliness Sum

- $(\# \text{ of poultry scoring '0'} \times 0) + (\# \text{ of poultry scoring '1'} \times 1) + (\# \text{ of poultry scoring '2'} \times 2) / (\text{number of assessed birds}/100) = \text{Total Lameness Sum}$
- In the above calculation, the Total Nostril Cleanliness Sum is determined as follows:
 - a bird scoring '0' does not get any points
 - a bird scoring '1' gets 1 point each
 - a bird scoring '2' gets 2 points each
- For example:
 - Of 100 poultry assessed: 62 score '0,' 23 score '1,' and the remaining 15 score '2'
 - $(62 \times 0) + (23 \times 1) + (15 \times 2) / (100/100) = 0 + 23 + 30 / 1$, for a Total Nostril Cleanliness Sum of 53
 - Of 300 poultry assessed: 200 score '0,' 88 score '1' and the remaining 12 score '2'

- $(200 \times 0) + (88 + 1) + (12 \times 2) / (300/100) = 0 + 88 + 24 / 3$ for a Total Nostril Cleanliness Sum of 37.3

Score: 0	Score: 1	Score: 2
(0 points each for score of 0)	(1 point each for a score of 1, if one or more of the descriptions below are seen)	(2 points each for a score of 2, if one or more of the descriptions below are seen)
• Clean and clear • May be able to see through the beak.	• Some blockage visible when viewed from the side	• Nostrils entirely blocked on at least 1 side • Birds may have their bill open (difficulty breathing due to blockage)
		
Clear and Clean Nostrils	Slightly blocked Nostrils	Severely Blocked Nostrils

Source: Red Tractor Assurance for Meat and Poultry- Processing Scheme, Appendix PW.a.8 – Protocol for duck welfare outcome scoring, and O'Driscoll & Broom (2011) Does access to open water affect the health of Pekin Pekin ducks (*Anas platyrhynchos*)? <https://doi.org/10.3382/ps.2010-00883>

Appendix VI: Correct Handling

Pekin ducks

Poor catching and handling can easily lead to Pekin ducks becoming lame, therefore they should only be carried individually and never be caught by the leg as there is a high risk of hip dislocation.



When catching Pekin ducks, place one hand either side of the body, over the wings, and lift the bird. Alternatively, Pekin ducks may be caught and gently lifted by the base of the neck for a minimal time before transferring the bird to your hand and arm. Holding briefly by the neck minimizes flapping and therefore reduces injury. Take care not to apply excessive pressure when lifting Pekin ducks by the base of the neck. Pekin ducks should never be caught by the legs only.



Once you have hold of the bird, slide one hand under the body and firmly clench the legs between your outstretched fingers (positioning one or two fingers between the legs) and support the bird's breast on the palm of the same hand. The wings can then be controlled by your opposite hand or by holding the bird against your body, under your arm. Pekin ducks tend to wriggle more than hens, so it is important to have control of the legs. Once held securely against your body, the bird's head is accessible for stunning, if the duck is being handled for euthanasia.

Geese



To handle geese safely, it is important to have control of the head to avoid being bitten. Geese may be caught from behind by the neck, taking care not to apply excessive pressure. Most geese will sit down once caught in this way, preventing the wings from hitting the handler's legs.



Once you have hold of the neck, slide your other hand under the body and firmly clench the legs between your outstretched fingers (positioning one or two fingers between the legs) and support the bird's breast on the forearm of the same hand. The head and neck can then be tucked under your armpit of the supporting arm and the bird lifted against your body. The wings can then be controlled by your free hand. Once held in this position, the bird's head is accessible for stunning

Quail and Guinea Fowl



Particular care must be taken to avoid injuring these birds. With two hands placed securely over the wings, lift the birds bodily with the legs hanging free. Alternatively, guinea fowl may be caught and carried by both legs. These birds must never be caught by one leg as there is a high risk of hip dislocation or bone breakage. Guinea fowl and quail must never be lifted or carried by the head, neck, wing(s) or tail. For quail, there is a high risk of bone breakage so they must never be caught or carried by the legs.

Once you have hold of the bird, slide one hand under the body and firmly clench the legs between your fingers (positioning one finger between the legs) and support the bird's breast on the palm of the same hand. The wings can then be controlled by your opposite hand or by holding the bird against your body, under your arm.

From: Humane Slaughter Association: <https://www.hsa.org.uk/catching-and-handling/catching-and-handling>

Appendix VII: Water Sources

Pekin ducks and Geese

Type of Water Source	Example	Behaviors possible
1) Nipple drinker without drip tray Not Acceptable at all Step Levels	 ©Qingdao RS-World Machinery Co., Ltd.	• Drinking • Limited wet preening
2) Nipple drinker with drip tray Not Acceptable at all Step Levels	 ©LUBING Maschinenfabrik	• Drinking • dabbling/sieving • Limited wet preening

Type of Water Source	Example	Behaviors possible
3) Nipple drinker with deep cup Acceptable at Step Levels 1 & 2	 © Big Dutchman - Pekino	• Drinking • Dabbling/sieving • Nostril cleaning • Limited wet preening
4) Bell drinker Acceptable at Step Levels 1 & 2	 © Duck-Tec Bruterei GmbH	• Drinking • Dabbling/sieving • Nostril cleaning • Limited wet preening
5) Deep open bell drinker (only usable from about 3 weeks of age onwards) Acceptable at Step Levels 1 & 2	 © Kuster (2007)	• Drinking • Dabbling/sieving • Nostril cleaning • Head dipping • Limited wet preening

Type of Water Source	Example	Behaviors possible
6) Drinker trough Acceptable at Step Levels 1 & 2	 © BEC automatic duck drinker	• Drinking • Dabbling/sieving • Nostril cleaning • Head dipping • Limited wet preening
7) Shallow bathing trough Acceptable at Step Levels 1, 2, 3 & 4 Counts as Enrichment at Step Levels 1 & 2 only		• Drinking • Dabbling/sieving • Nostril cleaning • Head dipping • Wet preening • Incomplete bathing • Swimming and diving attempts
8) Stock trough Acceptable at Step Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 Counts as Enrichment at Step Levels 1, 2, 3 & 4 only	 © Cappers Farm	• Drinking • Dabbling/sieving • Nostril cleaning • Head dipping • Wet preening • Bathing

Type of Water Source	Example	Behaviors possible
9) Pool Acceptable at Step Levels 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 5+ Counts as Enrichment at Step Levels 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 only	 © EFSA (2023)	• Drinking • Dabbling/sieving • Nostril cleaning • Head dipping • Wet preening • Incomplete bathing • Bathing • Swimming • Diving

Source: EFSA (2023) Welfare of Pekin ducks, geese and quail on farm. doi: 10.2903/j.efsa.2023.7992

Appendix VIII: Soiled Feather Assessment

Standard 6.C.4 requires that litter within housing structures to be of quality and quantity to (1) provide a comfortable environment and (2) allow for dust-bathing behavior in quail and guinea fowl. At the time of audit, auditors will perform the following Soiled Feather Assessment as an additional indicator of litter conditions by observing a minimum of 100 poultry in the flock. In addition, as part of Standard 6.C.5, operations must perform this same assessment along with a Litter Quality Assessment (see Standard 6.C.6 and Appendix IX) when the flock is approximately half-way through the production cycle.

If the Soiled Feather Assessment at the half-way point shows that more than 10% of sampled birds are severely soiled; OR the Litter Quality Assessment carried out at the same time shows that litter scores 2 or 3, Standard 6.C.7 requires that a written intervention plan is put into place to improve litter quality and Standards 6.C.8 and 6.C.9 require that subsequent Soiled Feather and Litter Quality Assessments are carried out in the same flock in the week before slaughter.

Protocol for Operations:

- a. Assess each flock between
 - i. 3-4 weeks (Pekin ducks)
 - ii. 8-10 weeks (geese)
 - iii. 2-3 weeks (quail)
 - iv. 8-10 weeks (guinea fowl)
- b. For each assessment randomly select 10 poultry from 5 different locations throughout the house or pasture area for a total of 50 poultry.
- c. Use the scoring system below and visually assess the back and top of the bird, not including the legs and feet. IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR BIRDS TO BE PICKED UP TO CARRY OUT THIS ASSESSMENT.
- d. Record the assessments. For your convenience, a template score sheet has been created in case it is needed¹.
If any flock has an assessment where more than 10% of sampled birds are severely soiled; OR if the Litter Quality Assessment in Appendix IX gives litter scores of more than 1, each flock must additionally be assessed during the week prior to slaughter.

Scoring	0 =	Clean The bird is clean or has light soiling
	1 =	Significantly soiled Feathers have large areas of dirt and/or feathers are wet and dirty on up to 50% of the back/top
	2=	Severely soiled Feathers have large areas of dirt and/or feathers are wet and dirty on over 50% of the back/top

¹ Scoring sheets illustrated below can be downloaded from www.globalanimalpartnership.org.

Score 0: Clean to Lightly Soiled	Score 1: Significantly Soiled	Score 2: Severely Soiled
The bird is clean or has minor areas of dirtiness	Feathers have large areas of dirt and/or feathers are wet and dirty on up to 50% of the back/top	Feathers have large areas of dirt and/or feathers are wet and dirty on over 50% of the back/top
		

Appendix IX: Litter Quality Assessment

Litter serves several important functions. For example, it absorbs excess moisture from drinkers and the birds' droppings; it dilutes fecal matter so reducing contact between birds and manure – so promoting bird cleanliness; and, it provides a protective cushion between the birds and the floor. Good litter management is therefore crucial for poultry welfare.

At the time of audit, auditors will perform the following Litter Quality Assessment. In addition, as part of Standard 6.C.6, operations must perform this same assessment along with a Soiled Feather Assessment (see Standard 6.C.5 and Appendix VIII).

If the Soiled Feather Assessment at flock age of 3-4 weeks (Pekin ducks), 8-10 weeks (geese), 2-3 weeks (quail) or 8-10 weeks (guinea fowl) shows that more than 10% of sampled birds are severely soiled; OR the Litter Quality Assessment carried out at the same time shows that litter scores more than 2, Standard 6.C.7 requires that a written intervention plan is put into place to improve litter quality and Standards 6.C.8 and 6.C.9 require that subsequent Soiled Feather and Litter Quality Assessments are carried out in the same flock in the week before slaughter.

Protocol for Operations:

- a. Assess each flock between 3-4 weeks (Pekin ducks), 8-10 weeks (geese), 2-3 weeks (quail) and 8-10 weeks (guinea fowl) of age.
- b. For each assessment pick up three litter samples from three different areas in the house – one from each end of the house and one in the middle. There is no need to dig out a sample – it can be collected from the surface.
- c. Use the scoring system below to assess litter quality. The worst score of the three samples must not exceed 2.
- d. Record the assessments. For your convenience, a template score sheet has been created in case it is needed.
- e. If any flock has an assessment where litter scores are more than 2; OR if the Soiled Feather Assessment in Appendix V shows that more than 10% of sampled birds are severely soiled, an intervention plan as described in Standard 6.C.7 must be implemented AND that flock must additionally be assessed during the week prior to slaughter.

Litter quality



Source: Schreiter & Freick (2023) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psj.2023.102705>

Scoring Litter Quality			Action Required?
0	VERY DRY	Litter very dry and flaky, easy to move with the foot	No action required for this standard, but note this could be causing dusty conditions
1	DRY	Litter dry, not easy to move with the foot	No action required for this standard, but note this could be causing dusty conditions
2	MOIST	Litter has some moisture, leaves imprint of foot. Litter can be formed into a ball if compacted, but it falls apart	No - this is the target score
3	WET	Forms a ball when compressed that holds form when released from compression	Yes – needs work to improve litter quality
4	VERY WET	Litter is noticeably wet, moisture comes out of it on compression.	Yes – needs work to improve litter quality

Other resources: <https://www.poultryventilation.com/sites/default/files/tips/2011/vol23n3.pdf> <http://www.thepoultrysite.com/articles/388/litter-quality-and-broiler-performance/> <http://extension.uga.edu/publications/detail.cfm?number=B1267>

Appendix X: Sensory Evaluation of Air Quality

Section 6.D requires assessment of air quality using ammonia meters, testing strips or sensory evaluation. Most operations do not use calibrated equipment to assess air quality on a daily basis. While this type of specialized equipment is an accurate way to measure air quality, it's typically too costly for everyday use. Sensory evaluation or testing strips are more commonly used. Protocols for all three methods are shown below.

Option 1: Sensory Evaluation

Below is a subjective score that can be used to assess air quality during daily monitoring.

Scores 2-5 (Moderate, Strong, Very Strong, and Overpowering) indicate that ammonia and dust are excessive and need to be addressed immediately for both human safety and animal health.

1. Once each day during flock monitoring, score and record the air quality just prior to leaving the house.
2. Record your air quality score.
3. If action is required (score 2-5), make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).

Scoring Air Quality			Action Required?
0	ZERO	odor and dust not noticeable (easy to breathe)	No - acceptable air quality
1	WEAK	odor and dust hardly noticeable	
2	MODERATE	odor and dust distinct, annoying (watery eyes and/or coughing)	Yes – needs work to improve air quality
3	STRONG	odor and dust irritating (stinging eyes and mouth, and/or excessive coughing)	
4	VERY STRONG	odor and dust bearable (stinging eyes and mouth, excessive coughing, and/or pain when swallowing)	
5	OVERPOWERING	odor and dust unbearable, you need to leave the barn (hurts to breathe in)	

Option 2a: Use of ammonia test strip papers

1. Once each day during flock monitoring, score air quality just prior to leaving the house.
2. Wet the test strip with distilled water (tap water contains impurities that can affect the test result). Wave the strip in the air at bird height for 15 secs.
4. Compare the color of the exposed test strip to the calibrated color chart provided by the manufacturer to find the ppm of ammonia in the air.
5. Record the ammonia level found.
6. If action is required (score more than 20 ppm), make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).

Option 2b: Use of continuous ammonia sensor papers

Some types of ammonia sensor use a detection system similar to paper test strips, but rather than testing each day these are designed to provide readings for up to two months. These sensors provide a 3-hour time-weighted average of ammonia levels on a continuous basis. The visual sensor changes color (from golden yellow to blue) depending on the ammonia concentration in the surrounding environment.

1. Note expiration date (two months from the date of first use) on the sensor.
2. Attach sensor centrally & directly above the area to be monitored with string or twine. (It is recommended to have one sensor every 5,000 ft² - approximately 70ft x 70ft).
3. Once each day during flock monitoring, score air quality just prior to leaving the house.
4. Compare sensor color (center square) to surrounding color chart (outer circle) and record the ammonia level found.
5. If action is required (score more than 20 ppm), make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).
6. Replace after two months of use.

Option 3a: Use of electronic ammonia meters

1. Once each day during flock monitoring, turn the ammonia meter on outside the house.
3. Go inside and walk through the house for at least 2.5 minutes.
4. Read the result from the meter.
5. Record the ammonia level found.
6. If action is required (score more than 20 ppm), make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).

Option 3b: Use of ammonia detection tube meters

1. Once each day during flock monitoring, score air quality just prior to leaving the house.
2. Break the ends of the single use glass tube provided with the gas detection meter.
3. Place the tube inside the hand-operated pump.
4. Pull back the handle of the pump and draw a 100 mL sample of air into the glass tube from bird height. The ammonia in the air reacts to chemicals in the tube, changing the color of the chemicals the length of the tube from purple to beige.
5. The higher the level of ammonia in the house, the longer the color change down the length of the tube. Read the result from the graduated scale on the outside of the detection meter.
6. Record the ammonia level found.
7. If action is required (score more than 20 ppm), make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).
8. For a more accurate reading multiple samples should be taken

Appendix VIII: Lighting Quality Assessment

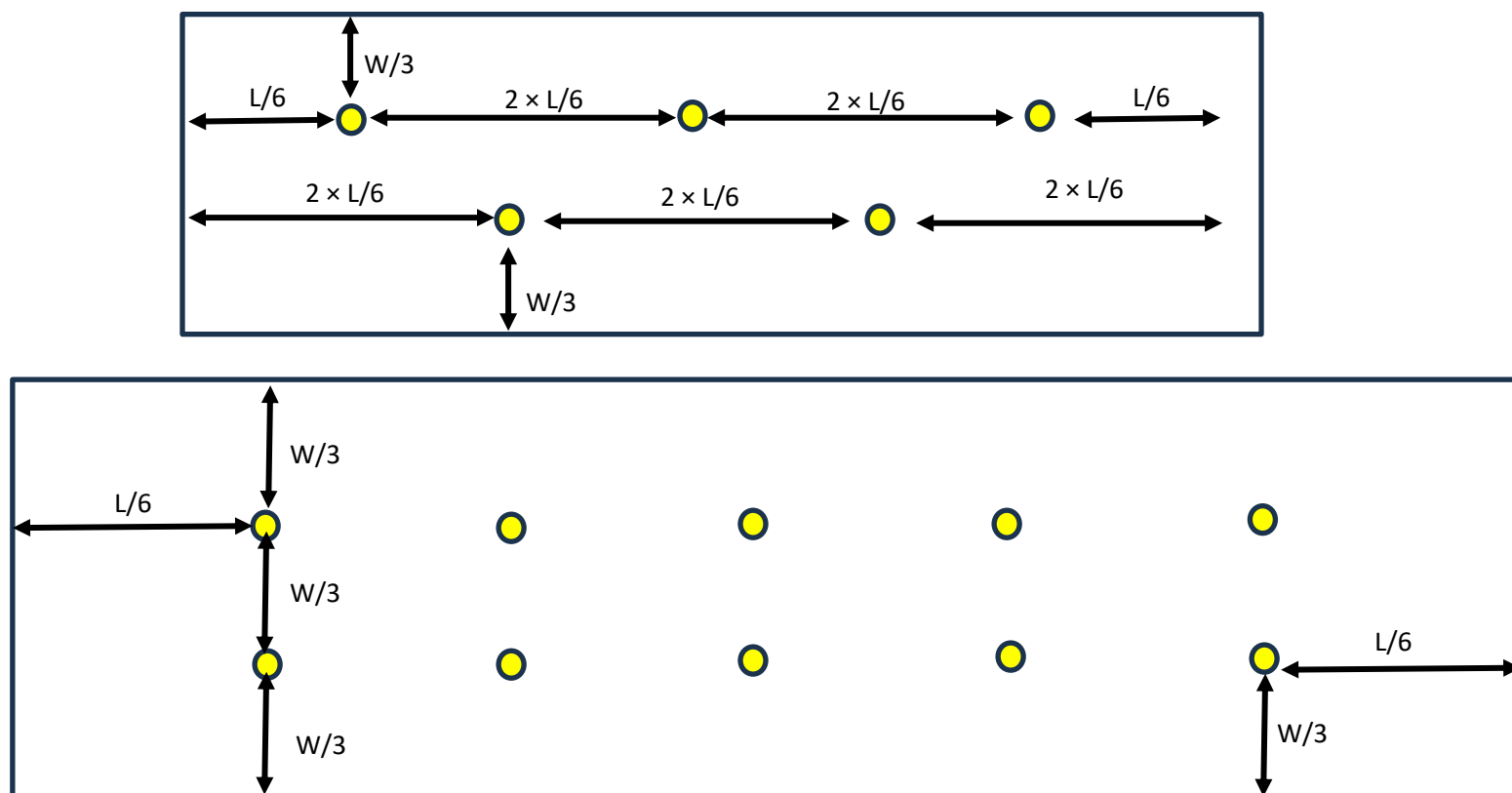
Section 6.E Standard requirements: Light intensity must average 50 lux during the lighting periods, measured at bird eye level and illuminating at least 80% of the usable area.

Description of the method

The method recommended involves measurements of a resource-based animal welfare indicator, namely light intensity. For the measurements to be valid and reliable, the method requires a measuring device, i.e. a lux meter that measures the light intensity in the unit “lux” (e.g. Kimo LX 100).

During the inspection

- Do the measurements when the birds are the least disturbed to avoid dust being stirred up by the birds, as dust will reduce the light intensity.
- If arriving during a dusk/dawn phase, make sure not to start the measurements of light intensity before full light intensity is gained.
- For buildings with width less than 33 ft (10 m), 5 measurements must be taken. For buildings with width greater than 33 ft (10 m), 10 measurements must be taken. Divide the width by 3 ($W/3$). Divide the length by 6 ($L/6$). Measurements should then be taken at these points:



- During measurement:
 - Place the sensor of the lux meter at eye level of the birds.
 - The sensor has to point in the direction of the roof.
 - Make sure nothing shadows (e.g. birds, inspector or equipment).
 - Wait until the measuring stabilizes before noting the light intensity.
 - Interpreting the data

To analyze the data for a building less than 33 ft (10 m) wide:

1. If the combined area through which natural light enters is equal or greater than 1.0% of the floor space occupied by the birds, remove the lowest of the five measurements (i.e. taking the standard threshold of 80% of the usable area into account).
 - Take the average of the four remaining measurements to decide whether the light intensity complies with the standard.
2. If the combined area through which natural light enters is 0.5 to 1.0% of the floor space occupied by the birds, the average of all 5 measurements must be used.
 - Use the average to decide whether the light intensity complies with the standard.

To analyze the data for a building more than 33 ft (10 m) wide:

3. If the combined area through which natural light enters is equal or greater than 1.0% of the floor space occupied by the birds, remove the two lowest of the 10 measurements (i.e. taking the standard threshold of 80% of the usable area into account).
 - Take the average of the eight remaining measurements to decide whether the light intensity complies with the standard.
4. If the combined area through which natural light enters is 0.5 to 1.0% of the floor space occupied by the birds, the average of all 10 measurements must be used.
 - Use the average to decide whether the light intensity complies with the standard.

Appendix XII: Environmental Enrichments

Poultry, like other animals, benefit from a rich environment that is stimulating and allows for them to engage in natural behavior; particularly foraging behavior and exercise. Providing enrichments can improve the welfare of poultry in a commercial setting. Section 6.G requires Step 1-3+ poultry to be provided with environmental enrichments. The following document details the importance of these items, as well as outlining enrichments that count towards the requirements of the Standards as well as those that do not.

Enrichments are an addition to the poultry' environment that encourages the expression of natural behavior such as ground scratching, pecking, and foraging. As well, enrichments that increase physical activity and promote exercise can minimize undesirable and even harmful behavior, including aggression, feather- pecking, cannibalism, flightiness, and distress. (Items that are fundamental to the welfare, including health, of the poultry, such as dust-baths and litter are not considered to be enrichments as they are basic requirements). Of course, enrichments should also ensure they do not put poultry at risk of injury or stress.

The *aim* of an enrichment, however, is to:

1. add stimuli and long-term novelty to the poultry's environment;
2. evoke – and maintain – their interest, and;
3. improve their physical, behavioral, and/or mental well-being.

Enrichments can benefit poultry raised in any setting, whether exclusively indoors, with outdoor access, or on pasture. By introducing these interactive elements, the lives of poultry can most certainly be enhanced. However, not all enrichments are the same in terms of how well they actually do “enrich” the poultry' environment.

EXAMPLES OF ENRICHMENTS THAT COUNT AND DO NOT COUNT TOWARDS THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 5.7

The tables below list enrichments that count towards the requirements of Section 6.G and those that do not, and are by no means exhaustive. The examples and discussion on why, or why not they are enrichments that count towards the requirements of Section 6.G are intended to help understand what provisions are most meaningful to poultry.

The enrichments that count towards the requirements of the Section 6.G are categorized into two different sections – A and B depending on the size of the enrichment and the number of ways that the poultry can interact with it, so that there is equivalence between the different choices for enrichment.

For enrichments where dimensions have been listed, operations are able to utilize smaller sized enrichments as long as the cumulative total of enrichment square footage or linear space is provided to the birds.

ENRICHMENTS FOR POULTRY THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 6.L – SECTION A

1 enrichment = one item from the enrichments listed in this section (See also Section 6.L for further details on number of enrichments by size of house)

Water Sources for Pekin ducks and Geese



What is the product:

Water sources offering different behavioral opportunities (see Appendix VII)

What are the criteria for acceptable use as an enrichment:

Water sources can only act as enrichment if they enable behaviors above and beyond those enabled by devices at their current Step Level. For example, a shallow bathing trough enables wet preening, incomplete bathing, and swimming and diving attempts – required for Step Levels 3 & 4. If given to birds at Step Levels 1 & 2 – where it is not required – it can count as enrichment. (see Appendix VII for examples of water sources acting as enrichment)

Bales



What is the product?

Bales of straw or hay

Why is it an enrichment?

Bales of straw or hay promote physical activity, encourage pecking and foraging behavior, provide a roosting area, stimulate the birds' curiosity, and more. Poultry are able to improve their leg health by jumping on and off the bales, as well as satisfy their pecking and foraging needs, as they interact with and manipulate the bales with their beaks. These enrichments provide an interesting addition to the birds' environment and encourage them to explore and investigate.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

Straw bales (minimum size 2.5 ft x 1.5 ft) can be placed directly on the litter and left to be pulled apart by the poultry. Leaving the bales with their original ties (2-3 strings wrapped around the bale) typically results in longer use by the poultry. In order to count as 1 enrichment, bales must remain their original size and not be untied with flakes scattered throughout the barn (i.e. a straw bale of 10 flakes = 1 enrichment, not 10).

**Spreading whole grains
(laying hens pictured)**



What is the product:
Scattering whole grains.

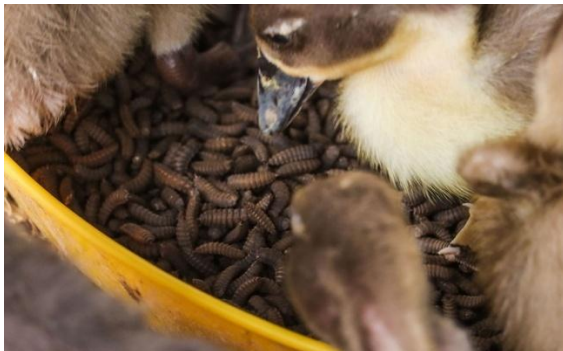
Why is it an enrichment:

Poultry enjoy a wide range of foods and have a strong drive to forage, scratch, and peck. Introducing grains through a number of different ways—such as scattered loosely allows poultry to actively engage in seeking out food in a more natural way.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

At least 1% of the poultry' total daily diet must be provided in this form and given once a day. For example, if 100lbs (45kg) of feed is given to the flock daily, at least 1lb (0.45kg) of grains must be scattered so large numbers of birds can access them each day.

Grubs and other insects



What is the product:
Offering grubs and other insects to the poultry.

Poultry enjoy a wide range of foods and have a strong drive to forage, scratch, and peck. Grubs and insects are part of the natural diet of poultry and have the additional benefit of providing essential amino acids. Black soldier fly larvae can be raised on waste vegetables and other organic matter.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

Whole grubs or insects must be made available to poultry at least daily for this to be an acceptable enrichment. At least 1% of the poultry' total daily diet must be provided in this form. For example, if 100lbs (45kg) of feed are given to the flock daily at least 1lb (0.45kg) of grubs must be provided.

The grubs can either be scattered or must be presented in a way that large numbers of poultry can access the grubs.

Perches



What is the product:

Providing perches. (quail and guinea fowl)

Why is it an enrichment:

Perching is a natural behavior for poultry and providing perches encourages the birds to exercise and can help strengthen their legs.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

A length equivalent to at least 2m (6.56 ft) linear perch for every 1000 birds counts as a single enrichment.

Steps 1, 2, and 3: Perches must not be sited more than 10 inches above ground level.

Steps 4, 5, and 5+: Multi-level (>10 inches) perches can be used where birds are able to use perches for the duration of their life.

Edible, destructible hangers



What is the product:

Hanging vegetation or small bales.

Why is it an enrichment:

These materials are edible and are something that the poultry can peck at and manipulate.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

The hanging bales or plants need to be hung at head height and be replaced regularly.



Structures – indestructible boxes



What is it:

Wooden or plastic boxes that birds can get in or perch on.

Why is it an enrichment:

Poultry will utilize these types of structures mostly to escape from more dominant or aggressive poultry (i.e. as 'blinds'), to sleep/rest against, and to a limited extent, for exercise.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

Any indestructible box has to be similar in size to a straw bale (minimum of 2.5 ft x 1.5 ft) so that multiple poultry can use it at one time, when at market weight.

Structures - destructible boxes



What is it:

Cardboard boxes.

Why is it an enrichment:

Poultry will utilize these types of structures mostly to escape from more dominant or aggressive poultry (i.e. as 'blinds'), to sleep/rest against or underneath, and to a limited extent, for exercise.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

Any destructible box has to be similar in size to a straw bale (minimum of 2.5 ft x 1.5 ft) so that multiple poultry can use it at one time, and must be strong enough to support birds that choose to sit on top of it.

The box must be tall enough, and must have a way for birds to easily get underneath it (e.g. the hole cut in the box at the front in the picture to the left) so that poultry can go inside until at least one week prior to slaughter.

The box must be replaced if it collapses or is otherwise destroyed by the birds.

Structures – ramps



What is it:

Wooden, plastic or plastic-coated metal ramps.

Why is it an enrichment:

Poultry will utilize these types of structures mostly to escape from more dominant or aggressive poultry (i.e. as 'blinds'), to sleep/rest against or underneath, and to a limited extent, for exercise.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

Any ramp has to be similar in size to a straw bale (minimum of 2.5 ft × 1.5 ft) so that multiple poultry can use it at one time, when at market weight.

Ramps must have slatted or mesh tops AND the slope of the ramp must be shallow enough so that poultry can easily walk up and perch on them until they are at least one week prior to slaughter.

Ramps must be stable and allow multiple birds at market weight to use them.

The height of a ramp must allow multiple birds to sit underneath them until they are at least one week prior to slaughter.

Vegetation as cover



What is it:

Vegetation planted or hung to provide shelter/cover

Why is it an enrichment:

Poultry are fearful of aerial predators and so provision of cover provides perceived protection

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

Area of cover has to be similar in size to a straw bale (minimum of 2.5 ft × 1.5 ft) so that multiple poultry can use it at one time, when at market weight.

Vegetation can also act as forage if low enough for birds to reach it.

Structures - half barrels and tunnels



Sand box for Dust Bathing



What is it:

Plastic barrels or large pipes laid horizontally so poultry can enter the tube or sit on top of it. Or tunnels constructed of other materials.

Why is it an enrichment:

Poultry will utilize these types of structures mostly to escape from more dominant or aggressive poultry (i.e. as 'blinds'), to sleep/rest against/inside, and to a limited extent, for exercise.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

Any barrel or pipe has to be a minimum of 2.5 ft. long and tall enough that birds can get inside until at least one week prior to slaughter, but not so tall that birds are discouraged from sitting on top of it

A pipe or barrel that is a circle in cross section (rather than cut in half to give a semi-circular cross section) must be secured in the litter (e.g. partly buried) so it does not roll when poultry go inside.

Any pipe or barrel that is a circle in cross section must either have a corrugated or similar surface that birds can grip (see picture, left), or must have litter inside the pipe.

See table on enrichments for poultry that do not meet the requirements of Section 6.G for uses of barrels that would not count as an enrichment.

What is it:

Separate box filled with sand

Why is it an enrichment:

With pasture systems or systems with coarse litter floors, fine sand can better meet dust bathing needs

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

Any box must have minimum dimensions of 3 ft² (0.3 m²)

ENRICHMENTS FOR POULTRY THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 6.L – SECTION B

1 enrichment = at least two (2) items (either 2 of the same, or one (1) of one type and 1 of another) from the enrichments listed in this section
(See also Section 6.G for further details on number of enrichments by size of house)

Edible pecking blocks



What is it:

Hanging edible blocks for poultry to peck at.

Why is it an enrichment:

Poultry enjoy a wide range of foods and have an extremely strong drive to forage, scratch, and peck. Supplying “grain blocks” or “mineral pecking blocks” allows poultry to actively engage in seeking out food in a more natural way.

(NOTE: Any foodstuffs given to the birds, including enrichments, must meet the G.A.P. standards, which prohibit mammalian, avian (including eggs), and fish by- products. See Standards 5.D.1 to 5.D.3.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

Blocks must be replaced as poultry eat them.

NOTE: Concrete blocks are not acceptable as pecking blocks.

Bundles of strings/ropes and paper twists



What is the product:

Hanging inedible items for poultry to peck at.

Why is it an enrichment:

Poultry have a desire to investigate and peck at items in their environment. String is one of the simplest pecking objects used on farms. In addition, paper twists can encourage exploratory behavior in poultry and stimulate activity levels.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

String or rope made of natural fibers is preferred. The individual strands of string or twists of paper must be presented in a bundle that is at least 1” (2.5cm) in diameter when it is first given to the poultry.

Paper twists must not be made from newspaper, magazines or any other paper containing dyes.

Small edible hangers



What is the product:

Hanging edible items for poultry to peck at.

Why is it an enrichment:

Given poultry' strong desire to investigate, explore, peck and forage, edible hangers are also effective enrichments. Suspending broccoli, heads of lettuce, corncobs, cabbages, alfalfa or oat hay bunches, and other foods has the added benefit of stimulating physical activity.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

The edible item needs to be hung at bird head height and must be replaced as soon as they are consumed.

Shelters



What is it:

An object that allows a bird to go underneath it to shelter.

Why is it an enrichment:

Poultry will utilize these types of structures mostly to escape from more dominant or aggressive poultry (i.e. as 'blinds'), to sleep/rest against or underneath.

What are the criteria for acceptable use:

Any shelter should be at least 2.5 ft long.

The height of a shelter must allow multiple birds to sit underneath them until they are at least a week prior to slaughter.

Note: The wooden shelter in the picture to the left may look, at first glance, like the "Structures – ramps" that are listed in Section B above.

However, the surface of the ramp is smooth – not meshed or slatted as required in Section A. Poultry might perch on this shelter when they are young, but will not continue to do so at older ages, as the smooth surface does not offer sufficient traction. This is therefore classified only as a shelter and not a ramp.

ENRICHMENTS FOR POULTRY **THAT DO NOT MEET** THE REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION 6.L

Enrichments listed in this table do not count towards the requirements of Section 6.L; but operations may choose to use them in addition to enrichments selected from the tables above. For example, some operations like to play music to mask background noise that might startle the birds, and this can still be done, but it would not count as an enrichment to meet the requirements of Section 6.G.

Non-edible hangers



What is the product:

CDs, aluminum cans, plastic bottles, pieces of rubber hose or PVC tubing, plastic colored keys.

Why isn't it suitable as an enrichment:

While these non-edible hangers may hold the birds' interest initially, poultry of all ages quickly become indifferent to these types of hanging objects and materials that cannot be consumed.

Plastic barrels cut in half with solid ends



What is the product:

Plastic drums (e.g. 55 gallon drums) that are cut in half, with the ends left on.

Why doesn't it meet the requirements of Section 6.L:

Although poultry might in theory get into barrels when placed cut side up; or get on top of barrels when placed cut side down, the smoothness of the curved sides will not make this attractive, and small birds could get trapped inside.

If the ends of the drums were removed, they could possibly be used as tunnels and meet the requirements of Section 6.L – see Section B above.

Music and radio

No photo available

What is the product:

Leaving a radio or music playing in the background.

Why doesn't it meet the requirements of Section 6.L:

Although some believe that playing music or the radio can be interesting to poultry, neither specifically encourages poultry to perform natural behavior and is not considered to be an enrichment for the purposes of Section 6.L.

Feeders and waterers

No photo available

Feeders and waterers are designed exclusively for maintaining nutrition and hydration, and do not serve as enrichments. Using feeder lids/egg flats filled with grain does not count as an acceptable enrichment.

Certainly birds may hop onto feeders or waterlines, but these essentials are not considered to be enrichments that allow birds to engage in a broader range of natural behavior.

Visual Barriers	Barriers include plywood sheets, shade cloth or similar material hung vertically. While the use of these barriers can provide places for birds to hide from other birds they do not encourage natural behaviors such as foraging and pecking and are not things that poultry can interact with in any way.
Diatomaceous earth 	Some producers may give diatomaceous earth (also known as diatomite or D.E.), a light-colored, soft, and friable sedimentary rock, to poultry in their litter or in feed mixtures. However, this is not an enrichment for the purposes of Section 6.L as it does not stimulate the birds' environment or activity levels.
Weigh scales 	What is the product: Weigh scales Why isn't it suitable as an enrichment: The weigh scale is only ~1" off the ground so that it can easily weigh birds as they move around the barn. While the number of times a scale weighs birds may be a good indicator of the overall activity of a flock, it is not considered an enrichment. Photo: http://www.opticonagri.com/sites/default/files/portfolio/bird-scales-weighingbreeder-broilers.jpg

Part structures



What is the product:

Plastic frames or stools

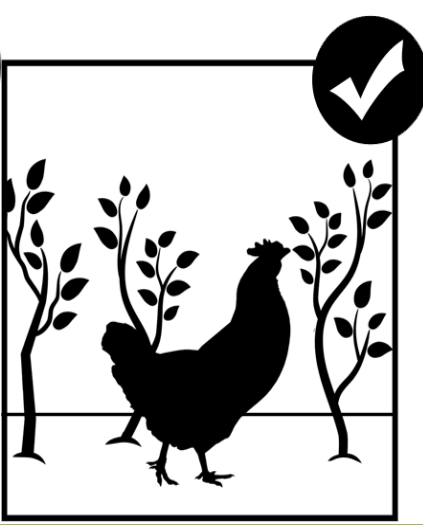
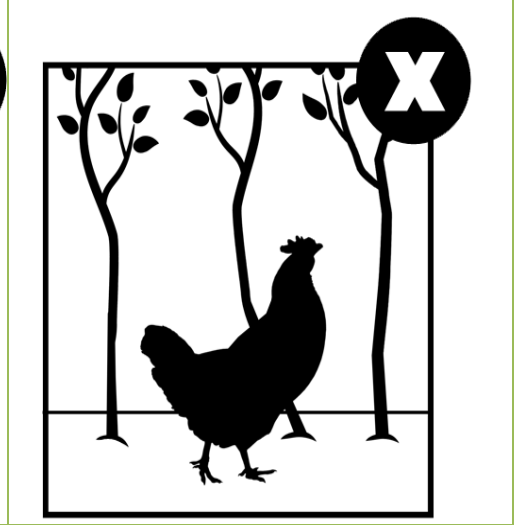
Why isn't it suitable as an enrichment:

None of the items pictured encourages poultry to perform natural behavior and is not considered to be an acceptable enrichment.

Appendix XIII: Illustration of “At Bird Height”

For vegetation to be acceptable as vegetative cover (see also Section 7.K) it must be available at “bird height”. This is illustrated below.

Note: Vegetation in Picture 3 is inaccessible at bird height and therefore not eligible to meet the requirements of Section 7.K. However this tall vegetation is acceptable as a provision to encourage poultry to go onto pasture, if it is within 15 ft (4.5 m) of the house. See Section 7.N.

Picture 1: Bird can forage in grass or other short plants. Vegetation is accessible at bird height.	Picture 2: Bird can reach leaves on shrubs or tall grasses without having to jump or fly up. Vegetation is accessible at bird height.	Picture 3: Bird cannot reach leaves on shrubs or tall grasses without having to jump or fly up. Vegetation is NOT accessible at bird height and could not be included as vegetative cover under Section 6.2
		

Appendix XIV: Provisions to Encourage Pasture Use

TREE COVER		
Wooded areas provide acceptable cover. ACCEPTABLE. 	Young trees planted on pasture (arrow). The young trees DO NOT provide enough cover yet, so the operation would need to provide additional provisions. NOT ACCEPTABLE. 	Mature trees providing enough cover to meet the standard. ACCEPTABLE 
Large, leafy, bushy trees provide acceptable cover. ACCEPTABLE. 	These young saplings will provide cover in a few years – but in the meantime the operation needs to provide additional provisions. NOT ACCEPTABLE unless more manmade structures are added. 	These trees are close to the house and provide cover along the whole side of the house. ACCEPTABLE. 

ARTIFICIAL COVER

Shade cloth is an acceptable provision.
ACCEPTABLE.



This manmade structure is an acceptable Provision as long as there are enough to meet area Standards 7.P-7.S. **ACCEPTABLE.**



These A-frames are acceptable but there needs to be enough of them to meet area Standards 7.P-7.S. **ACCEPTABLE.**



This arc is acceptable but there need to be enough of them to meet area Standards 7.P-7.S. **ACCEPTABLE.**



This structure is acceptable but there need to be enough of them to meet area Standards 7.P-7.S. **ACCEPTABLE.**



This structure is acceptable but there need to be enough of them to meet area Standards 7.P-7.S. Note the bushes and shrubs also provide additional cover. **ACCEPTABLE.**



TALL PLANT COVER

While this pasture meets the vegetative cover requirements, these grasses are not tall enough. **NOT ACCEPTABLE.**



Tall corn stalks provide overhead cover. However, corn stalks may not last year-round and additional provisions may need to be provided during the winter to meet the standard. **ACCEPTABLE.**



Cover that is tall and dense, allowing birds to hide and explore the whole pasture. **ACCEPTABLE.**



Tall, leafy plants provide overhead cover. **ACCEPTABLE.**



Dense brambles provide cover opportunities even in winter. **ACCEPTABLE.**



These rushes are not tall enough to provide cover. **NOT ACCEPTABLE.**



Definitions

Term	Definition
Brooding	<i>Special provision of food, water and warmth for young chicks.</i>
By-product	<i>Animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including blood or any of it's components, meat, bone, bristles, flesh, hair, hides, hooves, horns, offal, skins, wool, fat, and/or feathers. Fish includes whole fish, parts of fish, fish meal, fish by-products from the processing industry and other aquatic species and/or products (does not include seaweed or oyster shell).</i>
Cull	<i>A bird that has been removed by a caretaker and killed as a management decision.</i>
Environmental enrichment	<i>Materials that are provided to poultry to add complexity to their environment, encourage the expression of natural behavior (such as ground scratching, pecking, and foraging), and decrease the expression of abnormal and deleterious behavior.</i>
Euthanasia	<i>The act of killing individual poultry on-farm in response to an irrecoverable illness or injury.</i>
Flock	<i>A barn/house of poultry. The group can be kept together or divided into smaller groups but would be considered one flock. See also Program Requirements 1e.</i>
Genetically modified	<i>Poultry who have been genetically altered (modified, engineered). This does not include poultry that are genetically selected for certain traits.</i>
Lameness	<i>The inability to use one or both legs in a normal manner.</i>
Litter	<i>Bedding materials.</i>
Loading	<i>Putting poultry into transport crates/containers whether manually or mechanically.</i>
Mobile coop	<i>A structure that is both moveable and moved, where poultry are confined within the structure at all times.</i>
Mobile housing	<i>A structure that is both moveable and moved, at a minimum, between flocks of poultry. Mobile housing also allows poultry access to pasture.</i>
Mobile slaughter	<i>A slaughter facility that travels from operation to operation so poultry may be slaughtered on-farm.</i>
Off-label / extra-label medication	<i>Off-label use is the use of pharmaceutical drugs for an unapproved indication or in an unapproved age group, unapproved dosage, or unapproved form of administration.</i>
Operation	<i>A farm keeping poultry (see definition under Program requirements 1.f).</i>
Organophosphates	<i>Chemical compounds often used as pesticides, which have been shown to have adverse effects on the nervous system of humans and animals.</i>
On-farm slaughter facility	<i>A permanent structure or building located on the farm; designed to slaughter and process poultry.</i>
Pasture	<i>Access to rangeland, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, and any other land where poultry have access to vegetation.</i>
Placement	<i>The act of removing birds from the transport container and placing into their living accommodation.</i>
Roost	<i>The place where poultry congregate to rest at night.</i>
Sub-therapeutic	<i>Administering treatment in a preventative manner when poultry are not sick; this includes low doses of medication over an extended period of time or using medication routinely.</i>
Veranda	<i>A roofed structure, without solid side walls, along the outside of a house, level with the ground floor.</i>