



RSPCA Australia Standard
Turkeys

December 2020 | V1.2

RSPCA 

RSPCA AUSTRALIA STANDARD

TURKEYS

DECEMBER 2020

v1.2

This RSPCA Australia Standard applies to turkeys raised in Australia for meat production. The Standard must be read in conjunction with the RSPCA *Certified Operations Manual* which contains information about the program's processes and operation.

ADDENDUM

The *RSPCA Australia Standard – Turkeys 2020 v1.1* underwent review of the following clause: 13.26 Where the average live weight is >10kg or where the shackling system may cause injury or severe distress, an alternative stunning method that does not require shackling of conscious birds must be used.

The *RSPCA Australia Standard – Turkeys 2020 v1.2* reflects the following change: 13.26 Where individual birds' programmed live weight at slaughter is >10kg and the flocks' maximum average live weight at slaughter is >12kg, an alternative stunning method that does not require shackling of conscious birds must be used.

Previous editions: May 2013, December 2020 v1.1



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THE STANDARD

1 STAFF TRAINING AND ANIMAL MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

Training and competency (on-farm, during catching, during transport, at the abattoir)

- 1.01 Persons responsible for the management and/or handling of birds must be appropriately trained and **competent** in their required tasks of:
- a) recognising signs of ill-health
 - b) appropriate care and/or treatment of injury, disease, or distress
 - c) maintaining the housing environment
 - d) general management and husbandry
 - e) observing birds and identifying normal and abnormal behaviour
 - f) **euthanasia** of birds, including observing all signs of death
 - g) catching, handling, loading, transport and unloading of birds
 - h) slaughter of birds, including observing **signs of unconsciousness**
 - i) accurate record keeping.
- 1.02 Staff induction/training programs and standard operating procedures must include the requirements of the Standard.
- 1.03 Records of staff training must be maintained.
- 1.04 Staff must be available to respond **promptly** to problems that arise.
- 1.05 Instances of animal neglect, cruelty or other breaches of animal welfare legislation must be reported immediately to the relevant regulatory authority and RSPCA Certified.

Internal assessment

- 1.06 All **sites** must have internal assessment systems in place to facilitate on-going compliance with the Standard.
- 1.07 Records of all completed internal assessments must be maintained.

Animal Care Statement

- 1.08 An Animal Care Statement must be completed and implemented.
- 1.09 The Animal Care Statement must specify general management and standard operating procedures as relevant, including but not limited to:
- a) procedures for reporting breaches of animal welfare legislation
 - b) internal assessment systems, including regularity of assessments
 - c) contingency plans and procedures to manage **shed** conditions in the event of power failure, equipment failure or other breakdowns, fire, flood, drought, **extreme weather** conditions, or other **major reportable events**
 - d) supply and **placement** of birds
 - e) maximum bird **placement** number for each **shed**
 - f) maintaining **stocking density** so as not to exceed the maximum **stocking density** at any point in time, including weighing techniques
 - g) feed and water, including contingency plans for problems with supply and/or formulation issues and changes to feed provision during **extreme weather** conditions
 - h) environment and housing, including **perches**, **environmental enrichment** and **visual barriers**
 - i) maintaining appropriate internal **shed** temperatures
 - j) litter treatment, including processes where litter is treated and/or composted for re-use
 - k) lighting program, including dark periods and changes to lighting provision during **extreme weather** conditions
 - l) husbandry and animal management procedures, including bird observations, and management and monitoring of **injurious pecking** and **lameness**
 - m) bird handling
 - n) catching, including depopulation
 - o) transport, including emergency arrangements and measures to minimise the risk of **heat stress** and **cold stress**
 - p) slaughter.
- 1.10 The Animal Care Statement must be reviewed on an annual basis.
- 1.11 The current Animal Care Statement must be provided to RSPCA Certified upon request.

Record keeping

- 1.12 All records required to be maintained must be:
- a) available on **site** at the time of an assessment (applicable to facility and live bird records only)
 - b) provided to RSPCA Certified upon request
 - c) retained for at least one (1) year (applicable to bird records only).

2 HEALTH

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

Veterinary Health Plan

- 2.01 A Veterinary Health Plan must be completed and implemented.
- 2.02 The Veterinary Health Plan must specify bird health management and monitoring procedures, including but not limited to:
- a) biosecurity, including quarantine, cleaning and sanitation
 - b) routine health monitoring, including identification and treatment of weak, ill or injured birds
 - c) the vaccination program, including vaccinations received at the hatchery
 - d) the use of veterinary medicines, including **antimicrobials**
 - e) the use of any other treatments or additives including probiotics
 - f) the **euthanasia** of birds and signs of death, including emergency mass euthanasia
 - g) physical injury, including the **trigger levels** for **foot pad lesions** and **lameness**
 - h) minimising **injurious pecking**, including the **trigger levels** for **feather cover**
 - i) the identification and treatment of disease
 - j) the control of internal and external parasites
 - k) mortalities and the **trigger levels**
 - l) pest animal control.
- 2.03 The Veterinary Health Plan must be reviewed on an annual basis and authorised by the designated registered veterinarian.
- 2.04 The current Veterinary Health Plan must be provided to RSPCA Certified upon request.

Vaccination

- 2.05 The Veterinary Health Plan must incorporate a vaccination program to protect birds from diseases for which an effective vaccine is available and which may represent a risk to the birds at a particular **site** as determined by **veterinary advice**.

Medicines

- 2.06 **Antimicrobials** must only be administered under **veterinary advice**.
- 2.07 Any **antimicrobial** classified by the Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance as being of 'high' or 'medium' importance for human medicine is not permitted for use in turkeys, unless **veterinary advice** indicates that the only effective treatment option is an **antimicrobial** from these categories.
- 2.08 Where **antimicrobials** are used, an Antimicrobial Stewardship Plan must:
- a) be completed and implemented
 - b) specify current type, quantity and nature (therapeutic or preventative) of **antimicrobial** use in a format to be agreed with by RSPCA Certified

- c) consider available evidence of **antimicrobial** resistance in the Australian turkey flock
- d) specify a year-on-year strategy which considers the reduction, refinement and/or replacement of preventative **antimicrobial** use
- e) specify husbandry, management strategies and any alternative preventative treatments, where used, to manage disease risk during any planned reduction, refinement and/or replacement of **antimicrobials**
- f) be reviewed on an annual basis in order to inform the following year's strategy
- g) be authorised by the designated registered veterinarian
- h) be provided to RSPCA Certified as part of the Veterinary Health Plan.

Additives

- 2.09 The use of **growth promotants** is not permitted.
- 2.10 The use of **beta-adrenergic agonists** is not permitted.

Health monitoring

- 2.11 Quarantine and biosecurity procedures must be in place to minimise the risk of introducing and spreading disease among birds.
- 2.12 Birds that have been injured must be appropriately treated or **euthanased** immediately.
- 2.13 Where the cause and/or appropriate treatment of ill health or disease in the **flock** is unable to be identified, **veterinary advice** must be sought immediately and followed accordingly.
- 2.14 Dead birds must be removed **promptly** from the **shed** and disposed of in a safe and hygienic manner.
- 2.15 Any **major reportable event** must be reported to RSPCA Certified within 24 hours of observation.
- 2.16 Where a **major reportable event** is identified, records must be maintained specifying the:
 - a) nature of the problem
 - b) date the problem was identified
 - c) nature of **correction** undertaken
 - d) date **correction** was undertaken
 - e) nature of the **corrective action**.
- 2.17 Health records for each **flock** must be maintained containing details of:
 - a) vaccinations
 - b) treatments or medicines administered, including **antimicrobials** for both preventative and therapeutic use
 - c) diseases
 - d) injuries
 - e) dates of any veterinarian visits, notes of any problems identified and **correction** taken
 - f) incidences of any **trigger level** reached, including **foot pad lesions, lameness, feather cover** condition and mortalities, notes of problems identified and the **corrective action** taken
 - g) incidences of any bird-related **trigger level** reached from the **abattoir's** internal animal-based welfare assessment system, notes of problems identified and the **corrective action** taken.

- 2.18 Where birds are temporarily segregated from the **flock** for treatment or recovery, a record must be maintained of:
- a) the reason for segregation
 - b) treatment where applicable
 - c) length of stay
 - d) outcome for each bird.
- 2.19 Daily records of bird mortality, from **placement** to final **pick-up**, must be maintained with details of:
- a) total mortalities
 - b) mortalities separated into deaths and birds **euthanased**
 - c) the main reasons for **euthanasia**
 - d) the type of injury if any birds are **euthanased** due to injury.

3 SOURCING, PLACEMENT AND REARING OF BIRDS

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 3.01 Where **brood-and-move systems** are used, only rearing and grow-out **sheds** that have been routinely assessed by RSPCA Certified and shown to comply with the Standard may be used.
- 3.02 For each placement of birds, records must be maintained for the:
- name of the hatchery from which the birds are sourced
 - date and time birds depart the hatchery
 - date and time each truck load of birds arrives at the **farm**
 - date and time that bird **placement** in each **shed** is completed from each truck load
 - total number of birds placed in each **shed**
 - total number of bird transport mortalities for each **flock**
 - genetic strain.

Egg storage and hatching

- 3.03 For each flock, records must be maintained for:
- age of donor (breeder) flock
 - egg storage time.**

Pre-placement activities

- 3.04 The **shed** must be prepared prior to the arrival of the birds by:
- being cleaned and sanitised
 - flushing the water lines
 - checking water and feed availability and quality
 - the provision of litter
 - demarcation of the **brood area (brooder barriers and/or paper)** where applicable
 - maintaining appropriate temperature, air quality and ventilation
 - appropriate operation of lighting and provision of **light intensity.**
- 3.05 Records specifying completion of pre-**placement shed** preparation must be maintained.

Bird placement

- 3.06 All birds must be removed from transport trays and placed in the **shed** without delay or breaks after arrival of the transport vehicle.
- 3.07 Where **split placement** of birds occurs, all birds must be placed in the **shed** within 72 hours of the first bird being placed.
- 3.08 When emptying birds from transport trays onto the **shed** floor:
- the tray must be tipped carefully
 - birds must not be tipped from a height >30cm.

3.09 Where **split placement** of birds occurs:

- a) lighting period and **light intensity** adjustment between light and dark periods must be managed to accommodate the oldest birds
- b) **light intensity** must be managed to accommodate the youngest birds
- c) ammonia levels must be managed to accommodate the youngest birds
- d) birds must have access to litter to accommodate the youngest birds
- e) **perches, environmental enrichment** and **visual barriers** must be provided by the time the oldest birds are 7 days of age
- f) **veranda** and **outdoor area** access, where available, must be managed to accommodate the youngest birds.

Rearing of birds

- 3.10 Where **brooder barriers** are used, they must be removed by the time birds (or oldest birds in the case of **split placement**) are 14 days of age.

4 FEED AND WATER

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 4.01 Birds must have continuous access to feed and water from when they are placed in the **shed**, unless:
- a) being treated under **veterinary advice**
 - b) during catching or preparation for catching
 - c) when necessary during litter management activities.
- 4.02 Where feed and/or water are withheld, the date, duration and reason for withdrawal must be recorded.
- 4.03 Feeding and drinking equipment must be operating to ensure that birds' daily requirements for feed and water are met.
- 4.04 Feeding and drinking equipment design, distribution, position and height must allow all birds to access feed and water with minimal effort.

Feed

- 4.05 Feed must be palatable and available in sufficient quantity and quality to meet birds' requirements.

Water

- 4.06 Water must be suitable for drinking and available in sufficient quantity to meet birds' requirements.

5 ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

Shed facilities

- 5.01 All birds must have continuous access to a **shed**.
- 5.02 Floors, surfaces, fittings, equipment and other facilities in and around the **shed** must be designed, constructed, operated and maintained to minimise the risk of smothering, injury, **entrapment**, escaping or disease.
- 5.03 Floors must be maintained to provide a level surface.
- 5.04 Where **barriers** or **visual barriers** are used, they must not prevent access to feed, water, **perches**, **environmental enrichment** and any other resources required for the birds within that part of the **shed**.
- 5.05 A maintenance program must identify and rectify any facility defects.
- 5.06 Facilities, including feed and litter storage areas, must be maintained to limit the entry of pathogens, pests, and animals that could cause distress or transmit diseases to birds.
- 5.07 Pest animal control programs must:
 - a) use the most humane effective techniques that are applicable to the situation
 - b) reduce the risk of impact on non-target species.

Temperature and ventilation

- 5.08 Equipment for ventilation, heating or cooling must be designed, constructed, operated and maintained to:
 - a) manage air exchange, air quality, humidity, dust and bird comfort within the **shed**
 - b) minimise the risk of **heat stress** or **cold stress**.
- 5.09 Where present, automatic equipment for ventilation, heating or cooling must:
 - a) be inspected daily when in use
 - b) be fitted with automatic alarms that warn immediately of equipment failure
 - c) have a back-up power supply that is tested weekly
 - d) have date of alarm checks, any problem identified and the **correction** and the **corrective action** taken recorded
 - e) have staff available to respond to alarms **promptly**.
- 5.10 Minimum and maximum **shed** temperatures must be recorded daily at bird head height.
- 5.11 For birds ≤ 14 days of age, **shed** conditions in the **brood area** must be managed so that ammonia levels do not exceed 10ppm at bird head height.
- 5.12 For birds > 14 days of age, **shed** conditions must be managed so that ammonia levels do not exceed 15ppm at bird head height.

- 5.13 Where litter is re-used in other areas of the **shed** while birds are confined to the **brood area**, **ammonia readings** must be recorded in the **brood area** within 24 hours prior to **placement** and each morning.
- 5.14 **Ammonia readings** must be taken in each **shed**:
- a) at least twice per week upon first entering the **shed** in the morning, and
 - b) within one (1) hour after any litter maintenance activities have ceased.
- 5.15 Records of **ammonia readings** must be maintained.

Litter (in the shed and veranda where applicable)

- 5.16 Only fresh litter must be used in the **brood area**.
- 5.17 Birds must have continuous access to litter, unless for birds <7 days of age in **sheds** where chick paper is in use.
- 5.18 Records of litter supplies with documentation specifying source, type and volume must be maintained.
- 5.19 The floor of the **shed** from day of **placement** must be covered in litter:
- a) completely and continuously
 - b) to a minimum average depth of 100mm at brooding and 75mm during the grower phase
 - c) that allows birds to dust bathe, scratch and forage
 - d) that allows birds to maintain thermal comfort
 - e) that is in a dry and friable condition.
- 5.20 Litter management equipment must be available on **farm**.
- 5.21 Where litter is re-used, it must be treated to address pathogen loads and ammonia concentrations. The type of treatment and date the treatment was applied must be recorded.

Lighting

- 5.22 Birds ≤ 3 days of age must be provided with a minimum period of continuous darkness at night of at least one (1) hour in every 24-hour period.
- 5.23 Birds > 3 days of age, in each 24-hour period, must have a minimum of:
- a) eight (8) hours continuous light
 - b) eight (8) hours continuous darkness at night, unless during a night catch where at least four (4) hours continuous darkness that night is permitted.
- 5.24 For birds > 7 days of age, **light intensity** between light and dark periods must be adjusted gradually (using dimmers or switching individual lights on/off) over at least 15 minutes. Gradual adjustment of **light intensity** must not be included as part of the dark or light period.
- 5.25 For birds ≤ 7 days of age, the **light intensity** in the **brood area** at bird head height, must ensure that, during the light period, no area of the **brood area** floor is lit at < 50 lux.

- 5.26 For birds >7 days of age, the **light intensity** in the **shed** at bird head height, must ensure that, during the light period and unless during catching, that:
- a) no area of the **shed** floor is lit at <10 lux
 - b) the average **light intensity** across the entire **shed** floor is ≥ 20 lux.
- 5.27 Flickering lights must be replaced or repaired **promptly**.
- 5.28 Artificial lighting must provide at least the broad spectrum visible to humans, unless during catching.

Perches

- 5.29 Birds ≥ 7 days of age must have access to **perches** in all **usable areas**.
- 5.30 **Perches** must be provided at a minimum length of 10m per 1000 birds based on **shed placement** number, unless:
- a) for birds in a **brood area**, where minimum **perch** length must at least equal the total **perch** length required based on **shed placement** number multiplied by the proportion of the **shed** represented by the **brood area**.
- 5.31 **Perches** must:
- a) be evenly distributed throughout the **shed**
 - b) provide a permanent flat surface
 - c) support the whole of the bird's foot
 - d) be positioned and of a height to allow birds to perch on the minimum required length at all ages ≥ 7 days of age
 - e) be accessible at all times, unless the **shed** is being prepared for catching or where temporary removal is required for litter maintenance.

Environmental enrichment

- 5.32 Birds ≥ 7 days of age must be provided with at least two (2) different types of **environmental enrichment** in all **usable areas**.
- 5.33 At least two (2) **environmental enrichment** objects must be provided for every 1000 birds based on **shed placement** number, unless:
- a) for birds in a **brood area**, where minimum **environmental enrichment** amount must at least equal the total **environmental enrichment** amount required based on **shed placement** number multiplied by the proportion of the **shed** represented by the **brood area**.
- 5.34 **Environmental enrichment** must be provided, maintained, replaced or changed to ensure continuous easy access for all birds, unless the **shed** is being prepared for catching or where temporary removal is required for litter maintenance.

Visual barriers

- 5.35 Birds ≥ 7 days of age must be provided with **visual barriers** in all **usable areas**.
- 5.36 **Visual barriers** must be maintained and replaced as necessary to ensure birds are provided refuge from other birds.

6 VERANDA

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

The Standard does not require that birds have access to a veranda, however, where the veranda is included in the calculation of usable area, the following additional standards must be met.

- 6.01 The total available **usable area** in the **veranda** must be at least $\frac{1}{3}$ the size of the total **shed** floor area.
- 6.02 The **veranda** must be designed and constructed to provide:
- a) shade and shelter, including protection from weather
 - b) natural light
 - c) adequate air exchange to manage airflow, temperature, humidity, and dust.
- 6.03 The **veranda** must be actively managed and maintained to:
- a) encourage birds to access all areas
 - b) control disease and parasites
 - c) avoid injury or mortality.
- 6.04 The floor of the **veranda** must be entirely covered in litter.
- 6.05 The design, number and position of openings that provide access to the **veranda** must:
- a) allow birds to pass through easily and unhindered using normal posture
 - b) give birds a clear view of the **veranda** from within the **shed**
 - c) avoid injury to birds.
- 6.06 Any ramps for birds to access the **veranda** must:
- a) be of a minimal slope to allow birds to walk up and down the ramp with normal gait
 - b) provide a non-slip surface.

7 OUTDOOR AREA

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

The Standard does not require that birds have access to an outdoor area, however, where the product label indicates that birds have had access to an outdoor area, the following standards must be met.

- 7.01 Birds must be given the choice to access the **outdoor area** during daylight hours for a minimum of eight (8) hours per 24-hour period as soon as they are reasonably feathered or by 42 days of age at the latest, unless:
- under direct **veterinary advice** for treatment of injury or disease
 - extreme weather** requires birds to be temporarily kept indoors.
- 7.02 Records must be maintained daily and include:
- date and times that openings to the **outdoor area** were opened and closed
 - dates and reasons where fewer than eight (8) hours access per 24-hour period was provided.
- 7.03 The total available **outdoor area** must be:
- at least 1.5 times the size of the total shed floor area where the available **outdoor area** is not limited by the overall **farm** footprint
 - at least the size of the total **shed** floor area where the available **outdoor area** is limited by the overall **farm** footprint.
- 7.04 The **outdoor area** must be designed and actively managed and maintained to:
- encourage birds to go outside and access all areas
 - provide birds with palatable vegetation
 - provide **overhead cover**
 - be well drained to avoid muddiness and the accumulation of water
 - control disease and parasites
 - avoid injury or mortality
 - minimise the risk of fire.
- 7.05 The design, number and position of openings that provide access to the **outdoor area** must:
- allow birds to pass through easily and unhindered using normal posture
 - give birds a clear view of the **outdoor area** from within the **shed**
 - avoid injury to birds
 - take into account prevailing weather conditions.
- 7.06 Any ramps for birds to access the **outdoor area** must:
- be of a minimal slope to allow birds to walk up and down the ramp with normal gait
 - provide a non-slip surface.
- 7.07 At least 30m² of **overhead cover** per 1000 birds based on **shed placement** number must be provided.

OUTDOOR AREA

7.08 **Overhead cover** must be:

- a) distributed evenly across the **outdoor area**
- b) of sufficient height for birds to stand under it using normal posture
- c) constructed, placed and maintained to encourage bird access and use.

7.09 Where used, fences in or around the **outdoor area** must not be electrified.

8 STOCKING DENSITY

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 8.01 **Stocking density per flock** must not exceed:
- a) 35kg per m² for **tunnel ventilated or extractive systems**
 - b) 30kg per m² for **other mechanically ventilated systems**
 - c) 28kg per m² for **other non-mechanically ventilated systems**.
- 8.02 Records of the size of the **usable area/s** within the **shed** must be maintained.
- 8.03 Records of each **flock** must be maintained specifying the:
- a) number of birds (daily)
 - b) age and weight of birds (weekly)
 - c) final bird slaughter program, including **pick-up** dates.

9 ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND MANAGEMENT

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 9.01 Where beak-trimmed birds are sourced, the procedure must be:
- performed at the hatchery by a **competent** operator using an infrared technique and appropriately calibrated equipment
 - limited to tipping of the beak only
 - even, rounded and consistent across the **flock**.
- 9.02 Where it is identified that birds have been incorrectly beak-trimmed, the hatchery and RSPCA Certified must be **promptly** notified.
- 9.03 Beak-trimming procedures not specified in the Standard must not be performed unless prior consent has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.
- 9.04 Vision impairing devices must not be used.
- 9.05 Desnooding, dewinging and toe trimming procedures must not be performed on birds.
- 9.06 Other management or husbandry procedures that directly impact bird welfare and are not specified in the Standard must not be performed unless prior consent has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.

Bird observation

- 9.07 Birds must be observed at least four (4) times in each 24-hour period for the first three (3) days following **placement**. Any abnormal observations must be addressed and recorded for:
- appearance, vocalisations and behaviour, including **wounds** and **aggression**
 - lameness**, including **gait score**.
- 9.08 Birds (except in the first three (3) days following **placement**) must be observed at least three (3) times in a 24-hour period. Any abnormal observations must be addressed and recorded for:
- appearance, vocalisations and behaviour, including **wounds** and **aggression**
 - injurious pecking**, including **feather cover** condition
 - lameness**, including **gait score**.
- 9.09 Bird observations must be increased during periods of adverse environmental conditions (including during hot weather), disease outbreak, and any other circumstances where bird health or welfare may be compromised.
- 9.10 From 21 days to 7 weeks of age, weekly assessments must be made on a sample of at least 25 birds representative of the **flock** per **shed**, recording **foot pad lesions** for each bird.

10 ANIMAL HANDLING (on-farm, during catching, during transport, at the abattoir)

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 10.01 Movements and activities by people in the **shed** must be:
- slow and predictable
 - in a manner that avoids fear and injury in birds.
- 10.02 Bird handling time must be kept to a minimum.
- 10.03 Birds must be approached and handled:
- calmly and quietly
 - with an awareness of the bird's natural **flight zone**
 - in a manner that minimises pain, suffering and/or distress and avoids injuries and/or mortalities.
- 10.04 Birds must be lifted up and carried individually by securely holding both legs in one (1) hand, and providing support to the body while restraining the wings appropriately for the size of the bird, unless:
- in a **brood-and-move system**, where young birds may be caught by one (1) or both legs, then lifted up and carried by both legs with no more than four (4) birds in each hand
 - caught for slaughter, where birds $\leq 5\text{kg}$ may be caught by one (1) leg then lifted up and carried holding both legs in one (1) hand, with no more than one (1) bird in each hand
 - caught for slaughter, where birds $> 5\text{kg}$ may be caught by grasping the shoulder of the wing furthest away from the catcher and using the other hand to hold the legs, and carried individually
 - during shackling at slaughter, where birds may be caught by one (1) or both legs, then gently lifted up by both legs and each leg then gently inserted into the shackle.
- 10.05 Catching aids which may cause injury, entanglement, or result in birds being dragged must not be used.
- 10.06 Other bird handling techniques not specified in the Standard must not be performed unless prior consent has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.

11 EUTHANASIA (on-farm, during catching, during transport, at the abattoir)

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 11.01 Birds must be **euthanased** in a manner that avoids pain, suffering or distress.
- 11.02 Birds must be **euthanased** immediately if they:
- are sick, injured or have some other physical impediment and are not able to respond to treatment or recover
 - have a **gait score** of 2.
- 11.03 The permitted methods for **euthanasia** of birds are:
- for birds \leq 5kg: manual cervical dislocation, captive bolt device or carbon dioxide controlled atmosphere killing
 - for birds $>$ 5kg: captive bolt device or carbon dioxide controlled atmosphere killing.
- 11.04 **Euthanasia** equipment suitable for birds $>$ 5kg must be available on **farm** , unless where birds are part of a **brood-and-move system** and are transferred prior to reaching 5kg live weight.
- 11.05 Birds **euthanased** by cervical dislocation must be confirmed to be dead by checking for complete severance between the brain and the spinal cord, evident by feeling a gap between the first neck vertebrae and cranium (where cervical dislocation has been performed).
- 11.06 For all **euthanasia** methods (cervical dislocation, captive bolt device or carbon dioxide controlled atmosphere killing) birds must have unconsciousness and death confirmed by checking for the absence of the **nictitating membrane reflex** , and at least two (2) of the following signs:
- no **corneal reflex**
 - no **pupillary light reflex**
 - no rhythmic breathing
 - no neck tension
 - no vocalisation.
- 11.07 Where the **euthanasia** method has not resulted in immediate loss of consciousness and subsequent death:
- the method must be immediately repeated or another permitted method must be immediately applied
 - equipment and/or method which resulted in failure must be checked and adjusted to correct any fault.
- 11.08 The following methods of **euthanasia** are not permitted:
- killing pliers or other equipment that crushes the neck
 - methods of cervical dislocation that require spinning or flicking of the bird
 - decapitation (unless as an unintended result of applying a permitted **euthanasia** method).
- 11.09 Other **euthanasia** methods not specified in the Standard must not be performed unless prior consent has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.

Cervical dislocation

11.10 Cervical dislocation must be performed:

- a) manually and without the use of objects or equipment to assist
- b) holding the bird with both legs in one (1) hand and the head in the other, unless the bird is being **euthanased** for poor leg health or the bird has apparent leg problems, in which case the base of both wings must be held in one (1) hand instead of the legs, with the weight of the bird supported against the person's body
- c) using a single, quick and controlled stretching motion that dislocates the first neck vertebrae from the cranium and severs the spinal cord, causing death at the first attempt.

Captive bolt

11.11 Captive bolt devices must be designed, manufactured, maintained and operated to be:

- a) appropriate for the size of the bird
- b) fit for purpose
- c) able to achieve death at the first attempt.

11.12 The operator of a captive bolt device must:

- a) appropriately restrain the bird to enable accurate positioning of the device so that it is in contact with the bird's head
- b) aim and discharge the device straight down on the midline of the head, between the eyes and ears where the brain is located.

Carbon dioxide controlled atmosphere killing

11.13 Where carbon dioxide controlled atmosphere killing is used, a detailed standard operating procedure including gas concentration calculations, must be submitted and prior consent obtained from RSPCA Australia.

11.14 Carbon dioxide controlled atmosphere killing must take place in a purpose-built container that is designed, manufactured, maintained and operated to ensure rapid unconsciousness and death, while:

- a) avoiding injury and discomfort to birds
- b) being of sufficient floor space and height to allow birds to sit and stand comfortably in a single layer
- c) allowing visual observation of birds inside the container
- d) having monitors that indicate the temperature of gas that birds are exposed to in the container
- e) using gas concentrations and temperatures that are non-aversive until birds have lost consciousness
- f) being used in accordance with the submitted and agreed to standard operating procedure outlining the method.

11.15 Carbon dioxide gas concentrations must not exceed 40% until birds have lost consciousness, followed by concentrations of $\geq 40\%$ until death.

12 CATCHING AND TRANSPORT

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in bold within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 12.01 All persons involved in the catching, loading, transport and unloading of birds must:
- a) meet on **farm** biosecurity procedures
 - b) be aware of and be able to implement emergency arrangements.
- 12.02 Action must be taken to minimise the risk of **heat stress** or **cold stress** to birds at catching, loading, unloading, during transport and while the vehicle is stationary.
- 12.03 The timing of catching, transport and slaughter must be coordinated to minimise the time birds spend on the transport vehicle.
- 12.04 Birds must not be off feed or water for more than 18 hours prior to slaughter.

Pick-up

- 12.05 **Pick-ups**, including final depopulation, must not take place on more than five (5) occasions per **shed**.
- 12.06 Where birds are transferred between **sheds** as part of a **brood-and-move system**, this transfer must not take place on more than one (1) occasion per **flock**.
- 12.07 **Pick-ups** must not occur on two (2) consecutive days in the same **shed**.

Preparation for catching

- 12.08 Water facilities must not be removed until immediately before catching commences.
- 12.09 Removal of **perches**, **environmental enrichment** and **visual barriers** must coincide with removal of feed or water to minimise disturbance to the birds.
- 12.10 A visual assessment of birds must be made before catching commences to confirm birds are **fit for the intended journey**.
- 12.11 Any birds not **fit for the intended journey** must be treated or **euthanased** immediately.

Catching

- 12.12 At least one (1) senior member of the catching team must be made responsible for supervising and maintaining the Standard throughout the catching process.
- 12.13 Birds that do not meet slaughter specifications, including those that are too small, must not be caught or loaded.
- 12.14 Loading birds into transport modules and crates must take place inside the **shed**.
- 12.15 Transport modules and crates must:
- a) be clean and intact
 - b) not be able to cause injury to birds during loading, transport or unloading
 - c) provide sufficient floor space to allow all birds to sit comfortably at the same time
 - d) be of a height and have openings of sufficient size to avoid injury to birds

- e) not be tilted at an angle that may impact bird welfare by piling or smothering
- f) be closed in a manner that avoids **entrapment** of any birds.

12.16 Birds must be placed onto the floor of the crate or module one (1) at a time, unless being caught as part of a **brood-and-move system**.

Post catching

12.17 Where part of a **flock** is removed prior to final depopulation, the remaining birds in the **shed** must:

- a) be checked and encouraged to re-distribute evenly throughout the **usable area promptly** after catching
- b) be provided with feed and water **promptly** after catching
- c) have all **perches, environmental enrichment** and **visual barriers** redistributed within the **shed promptly**.

Transport

12.18 Only **transporters** that have been routinely assessed by RSPCA Certified and shown to comply with the Standard may be used to transport RSPCA Certified birds.

12.19 **Transporters** must provide information relevant to the Standard **promptly** to RSPCA Certified upon request.

12.20 **Transporters** must have emergency arrangements in place that include out of hours contacts and standard operating procedures for protecting bird welfare in the case of breakdowns, unexpected delays, accidents, and other circumstances that may affect the welfare of the birds during the journey.

12.21 Access roads and pick-up pads must be kept clear and be well-maintained to provide a level and compacted surface.

12.22 Transport modules and crates must be placed onto the transport vehicle at a speed and angle that minimises tilting and avoids injury to birds.

12.23 Records must be maintained for each **pick-up** of:

- a) the source **farm** and **shed**
- b) the name of the person and company responsible for the birds at catching
- c) time and date feed and water are withdrawn
- d) time and date catching commenced and concluded
- e) number of birds caught
- f) time and date of birds' departure from **farm**
- g) time and date of birds' arrival at the **abattoir**
- h) any problems identified and **correction** taken.

13 SLAUGHTER

NOTE: Words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within a standard form part of the requirement/s of the relevant standard and are defined in the GLOSSARY.

- 13.01 Only **abattoirs** that have been routinely assessed by RSPCA Certified and shown to comply with the Standard may be used to slaughter RSPCA Certified birds.
- 13.02 **Abattoirs** must provide information relevant to the Standard **promptly** to RSPCA Certified upon request.
- 13.03 The **abattoir** must nominate a designated person (or persons) who is:
- responsible for the oversight of animal welfare at the facility
 - responsible for ensuring that animal-based welfare assessment and monitoring of animal handling and slaughter is part of the **abattoir** quality assurance system
 - on **site** when live birds are being unloaded, handled and slaughtered
 - knowledgeable in all facets of handling and slaughter
 - responsible for monitoring adherence to the Standard
 - responsible for ensuring that breaches of animal welfare legislation are reported to the relevant regulator and RSPCA Certified.
- 13.04 A Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) system must be installed and operational to allow a clear, unobstructed view and recording of live birds at:
- unloading from transport vehicles into **lairage** area
 - loading of transport modules and crates onto the system prior to **stunning**
 - removal from transport modules and crates prior to **stunning** where applicable
 - all shackling points prior to **stunning** where applicable
 - electrical waterbath **stunning** at **stunning** unit entry and exit and along the entire waterbath
 - gas **stunning** at the point where birds lose consciousness during the **stunning** process and at gas **stunning** unit exit
 - neck cutting, including back-up.
- 13.05 Procedures for the use and review of CCTV footage must be in place and have:
- routine reviewing of footage at least once per shift covering a representative sample of bird sizes and shift times
 - availability for viewing (both stored and real-time footage) by RSPCA Certified
 - storage of footage for a minimum of 14 days
 - dates for routine monitoring with notes of any problems identified and the **corrective action** taken recorded.
- 13.06 **Stunning** and slaughter equipment must be:
- designed, manufactured, maintained and operated to provide effective restraint, **stunning** and killing
 - checked at least at the start of each shift
 - checked and adjusted to accommodate bird size when required.
 - checked and adjusted after a breakdown or line stoppage.

- 13.07 Procedures must be in place to manage equipment failure and other breakdowns that may impact bird welfare and must:
- ensure that effectively **stunned** birds are processed or **euthanased**
 - ensure other birds are managed until the issue has been rectified
- 13.08 Methods of **stunning** and/or killing not specified in the Standard must not be performed unless prior consent has been obtained from RSPCA Australia.
- 13.09 Daily records must be maintained for the:
- source **farm** of birds
 - hourly checks of the birds in **lairage** to monitor bird welfare and signs of **heat stress, cold stress** or other signs of distress
 - number of birds dead on arrival and mortality rate
 - reason/s for death on arrival, if mortality **trigger level** reached
 - slaughter date
 - holding time (time in **lairage**)
 - number of birds slaughtered
 - segregation of RSPCA Certified birds.

Lairage

- 13.10 Upon arrival at the **abattoir**, birds must be placed in a **lairage** area that is:
- covered to provide shelter and shade
 - fitted with fans and misting equipment
 - designed and operated to provide adequate air exchange between and within transport modules and crates
 - able to allow effective inspection of all birds.
- 13.11 Birds must be checked on arrival and hourly to identify any birds suffering from injury, **heat stress, cold stress** or other signs of distress.
- 13.12 Where transport mortalities exceed set **trigger levels**:
- they must be reported **promptly** to the consignor with any problems identified
 - corrective action** must be taken by the consignor to address problems identified.
- 13.13 Records where any problem is identified during bird checks in the **lairage** area, must be maintained specifying the:
- nature of the problem
 - date and time the problem was identified
 - nature of **correction** undertaken
 - date and time **correction** was undertaken
 - nature of the **corrective action**.
- 13.14 Where birds are tipped from transport modules, the system must be fitted with slides to minimise the distance between the transport module and the conveyor belt.
- 13.15 Transport modules and crates must be inspected following unloading of birds, and any modules or crates that may cause injury to birds must be disposed of or repaired.

Stunning

13.16 Birds must be **stunned** prior to slaughter using one (1) of the following methods:

- a) electrical waterbath **stunning**
- b) controlled atmosphere **stunning**.

13.17 Birds must be checked for **signs of unconsciousness** post **stunning**.

13.18 Where birds are identified as ineffectively **stunned**, **correction** must be taken immediately.

13.19 Persons must be available at all times when the **stunning** system is in operation to immediately make adjustments when required.

Shackling – Electrical waterbath stunning systems

13.20 The shackling line and shackles must be an appropriate size for processing turkeys.

13.21 Transport modules and crates must be checked for birds that remain behind and any remaining birds immediately removed.

13.22 The shackling line must be designed and operated to minimise wing-flapping, head-raising, or disturbance to birds at any stage on the line.

13.23 A breast comforter must be present from the point at which the bird is shackled to the stunner entry and:

- a) be operating effectively to minimise wing-flapping and head-raising
- b) maintain contact with the breast of the bird in a manner that does not cause injury, discomfort or distress.

13.24 Any birds that are too small, have leg abnormalities or have severe visible injuries must:

- a) not be shackled
- b) be **euthanased** immediately.

13.25 Birds must be shackled to ensure that groups of birds that are consistent in size are **stunned** together.

13.26 Where individual birds' programmed live weight at slaughter is >10kg and the flocks' maximum average live weight at slaughter is >12kg, an alternative stunning method that does not require shackling of conscious birds must be used.

13.27 Shackling crews must place both of the bird's legs simultaneously in the shackles:

- a) firmly but gently
- b) in a manner that minimises disturbance and wing-flapping
- c) in a manner that avoids excessive swinging in the shackles
- d) in a manner that birds cannot fall from the shackle line
- e) only if shackles are clear of obstructions.

13.28 Birds must not be suspended from the shackle line for more than 90 seconds prior to **stunning**.

13.29 Shackles must:

- a) be wet at the point where the bird's feet touch the shackle
- b) have water applied prior to the bird being placed in the shackles.

13.30 The shackling area must be checked regularly to ensure that no birds have been left behind.

Electrical waterbath stunning systems

13.31 Equipment, calibration, and procedures for electrical waterbath **stunning** must have as their primary purpose that:

- a) **electrical waterbath stunning parameters** are effective for the size of the birds
- b) birds do not receive pre-stun shocks
- c) the bird's head is in immediate contact with the electrified water
- d) the bird's head is submerged in the electrified water for the entire length of the waterbath
- e) current settings are accurately displayed and monitored
- f) deviations from current setting is immediately rectified.

13.32 Birds must have their neck cut within 15 seconds of **stunning**.

Controlled atmosphere stunning systems

13.33 Any birds fallen from or **entrapped** within the transport module unloader must be placed into the entry of the controlled atmosphere **stunning** system or **euthanased** immediately.

13.34 Where conveyor systems are used, unloading of birds from transport modules onto the conveyor must be managed to avoid birds being on top of other birds within the controlled atmosphere **stunning** system.

13.35 Gas concentration monitors must:

- a) accurately indicate the gas concentrations at different phases
- b) be calibrated regularly, as per the manufacturer's recommendations
- c) have dates of calibration with notes of any problems identified and **correction** taken recorded.

13.36 The controlled atmosphere **stunning** system must be fitted with a visual or audible alarm which is automatically triggered when the equipment is not functioning effectively.

13.37 Birds must not be exposed to carbon dioxide gas concentration $\geq 40\%$ until they have lost consciousness.

13.38 Where used, the shackling carousel area outside the controlled atmosphere **stunning** system must be constructed and managed to avoid birds exiting the **stunning** unit falling to the floor.

13.39 Birds must have their neck cut within 60 seconds after leaving the controlled atmosphere **stunning** system.

Bleeding out

13.40 **Stunned** birds must be cut effectively in a manner that severs both carotid arteries to ensure bleed out without regaining consciousness.

13.41 Bleeding out time prior to scalding must be at least 120 seconds.

13.42 Manual and automated cutting systems must at all times have at least one (1) back-up knife-hand ensuring that all birds are cut effectively to bleed out without regaining consciousness.

13.43 Where any **red birds** are identified:

- a) **correction** and **corrective action** must be taken to rectify the problem and avoid reoccurrence of birds being cut ineffectively
- b) the **correction** and the **corrective action** taken must be recorded
- c) the total number of **red birds** must be recorded.

Animal-based welfare assessment

13.44 The **abattoir** must have an internal animal-based welfare assessment system in place that:

- a) describes an objective and daily protocol for measuring bird welfare outcomes
- b) establishes and records **trigger levels** associated with these welfare outcomes
- c) ensures feedback is provided to the **farm** or **abattoir** as relevant when a **trigger level** is reached
- d) ensures **correction** is undertaken when a **trigger level** relating to handling, **stunning** and/ or bleeding out of birds at the **abattoir** is reached
- e) records the nature of **correction** and date/time the **correction** was undertaken
- f) ensures **corrective action** is undertaken to avoid reoccurrence of a **trigger level** being reached.

13.45 For a random sample of at least 100 RSPCA Certified birds processed, the number of birds with the following must be recorded at least daily using the protocol described in the **abattoir's** internal animal-based assessment system:

for birds from a randomly selected **farm**:

- a) source **farm** of birds
- b) **foot pad lesions**
- c) hock lesions
- d) breast lesions (blisters or buttons)
- e) the severity of the lesions
- f) broken and dislocated bones and bruises, including leg damage and leg injuries
- g) scratches.

following each calibration of equipment and at least daily:

- h) number of birds receiving pre-stun shocks (electrical waterbath **stunning** systems only)
- i) number of birds where the head is not in contact with the electrode for the entire length of the waterbath (electrical waterbath **stunning** systems only)
- j) number of birds at stunner exit (at point of shackling for gas **stunning** systems) not effectively **stunned**
- k) number of birds not effectively cut.

Traceability

13.46 RSPCA Approved birds must be separated from other birds at all times.

13.47 All carcasses and products must be clearly identified as RSPCA Certified and checked for this identification before leaving the **abattoir**.

13.48 Supporting documentation and evidence of physical separation of RSPCA Certified birds, carcasses and products from other birds and products must be demonstrated.

13.49 The total live weight and number of birds supplied to the **Licensee** must be recorded.

Glossary

NOTE: The glossary defines words/phrases highlighted in **bold** within the Standard and which form part of the requirement(s) of the relevant standard.

abattoir	A facility where animals are slaughtered for the purpose of food for human consumption.
aggression	Exhibited behaviour often associated with dominance and the establishment of a pecking order. Signs of aggression include aggressive attacks from birds directed at the head, neck or snood of another turkey, aggressive pecking, loud vocalisation and chasing or fighting other birds. Aggression is assessed by the total number of birds showing aggression and the specific type of behaviours observed.
ammonia readings	Measurements of ammonia concentration at bird head height using an ammonia meter or ammonia test paper at locations representative of litter condition in the shed.
antimicrobial	An agent that kills or stops the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria, viruses, fungi, and parasites. Antimicrobials may be used therapeutically for the treatment of a diagnosed disease or they may be used to prevent the occurrence or spread of disease. Ionophores and non-ionophore coccidiostats are a subcategory of antimicrobials used in turkey production to kill or inhibit protozoal infections. For the purpose of the Standard, the term ‘antimicrobial’ excludes anthelmintics, antiseptics, disinfectants, essential oils, feed enzymes, prebiotics, probiotics, and organic acids.
barrier	Partition within the shed designed to prevent bird movement between or across the sections of the shed separated by the partition.
beta-adrenergic agonists	A compound used to increase muscle mass and break down fat in finishing turkeys. Ractopamine hydrochloride is included in this category.
brood area	Area in the shed in which birds are placed and contained for at least the first 7 days and no longer than 14 days and in which an appropriate brooding environment and temperature is provided.
brooder barrier	Temporary partitions within the shed which are used to contain birds within the designated brood area, with the purpose of achieving an appropriate brooding environment and temperature.
brood-and-move system	A housing system whereby birds at 0 days of age are placed and reared in one shed and then transferred at an older age to another shed for grow-out.
cold stress	A condition in which a bird is unable to maintain core body temperature within the normal range during periods of cold ambient temperature resulting in core body temperature falling below the normal range. Signs of cold stress include huddling, shivering, feather fluffing, pale comb, lethargy and collapse.
competent	Having the necessary knowledge, experience, skill and ability to undertake a task successfully.

corneal reflex	Blinking in response to touching the bird's eye.
correction	Immediate action taken to address an identified problem.
corrective action	The action taken to eliminate the root cause of an identified problem and prevent its reoccurrence.
egg storage time	The period of time that an egg is held in storage from point of lay at the breeder farm up to the point of setting at the hatchery.
electrical waterbath stunning parameters	Factors that affect the outcome of an electrical stun including voltage (V), total current (mA), frequency (Hz), current type (AC or DC), average current per bird (mA), stun duration (secs) at x birds/min, and number of birds in the waterbath.
entrapment/ entrapped	A situation in which a bird's body or part of its body is trapped, and the bird is unable to free themselves.
environmental enrichment	Improvement of the environment of the birds, which increases their behavioural opportunities (e.g. pecking and ground scratching) and the opportunity to experience positive affective states. Environmental enrichment (either fixed or able to be moved around by birds) may include, but is not limited to, organic and non-organic manipulable materials such as pecking blocks, balls and other moveable objects, food items such as broccoli and cabbage, and bales of straw.
euthanasia/ euthanased	Humanely ending the life of an animal when it is in the interest of the animal's welfare and using a technique that avoids further pain, suffering or distress.
extreme weather	A weather event which can include heavy and/or prolonged rain, hail, snow, wind, or extremely high or low temperatures that may affect the welfare of the exposed bird.
farm	The site at which birds are raised.
feather cover	The amount of feathers a bird has over its body, in particular on the back and wings. Feather cover condition is assessed by the following scoring method: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 = no deterioration of feathers, skin completely covered by feathers and flight feathers intact. • 1 = minor deterioration of feathers, skin completely covered by feathers and flight feathers intact. • 2 = obvious deterioration of feathers with feather loss, some small areas of bare skin visible and broken or separated flight feathers. • 3 = heavily damaged feathers with areas of feather loss, areas of bare skin visible and many flight feathers missing or broken.
fit for the intended journey	A bird that satisfies all the criteria for catching, loading and transport which includes being strong enough to undertake the journey, can walk normally and bear weight on both legs, is not emaciated or visibly dehydrated, is not blind in both eyes, is not in a condition that could cause it increased pain or distress during transport, and is not suffering from visible distress or injury.

flight zone	The area around an animal that if encroached upon by a potential threat, will trigger escape behaviour. This is the distance a bird will let a person approach before moving away.
flock	A group of birds of the same or similar age raised together within the same usable area of a shed. No more than two (2) groups of birds (flocks) that are separated by a barrier can be housed within the same shed.
foot pad lesion	Necrotic lesions on the plantar surface of a bird's foot pads. An assessment of foot pad lesions is based on the following scoring method: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 = no external signs of foot pad burn. The skin of the foot pad feels soft to the touch and no swelling or necrosis is evident. • 1 = the pad feels harder and denser than a non-affected foot. The central part of the pad is raised, reticulate scales are separated and scale shaped black necrotic areas may be present. • 2 = swelling is evident and the total foot pad size is enlarged. Reticulate scales are pronounced, increased in number and separated from each other. The amount of necrosis is half or more of the total area of the foot pad.
gait score	An assessment of walking ability and lameness based on the following scoring method: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0 = normal (has uniform regular and even strides and is well-balanced). • 1 = abnormal (irregular and uneven stride and is unbalanced). • 2 = unacceptable (bird is reluctant to move and is unable to walk).
growth promotant	Any agent, typically an antimicrobial, which is administered to increase an animal's growth and production efficiency. This may be achieved through an improved efficiency of feed conversion, weight gain, and/or growth rate. For the purpose of the Standard, the term 'growth promotant' excludes anthelmintics, antiseptics, disinfectants, essential oils, feed enzymes, prebiotics, probiotics, and organic acids.
heat stress	A condition in which a bird is unable to maintain core body temperature within the normal range during periods of hot ambient temperature resulting in core body temperature exceeding the normal range. Signs of heat stress include loss of appetite, increased respiration rate, excessive drinking, open mouth breathing, lethargy, and reluctance to move.
injurious pecking	Severe feather pecking behaviour directed at other birds. Signs of injurious pecking include pecking directed at the body feathers of other birds around the back, tail and wings, feather eating, feather damage or removal, or bare areas around the tail or vent. Injurious pecking does not include preening or gentle pecking of other birds, which is a normal social, investigatory behaviour.
lairage	Designated area at the abattoir used for the purpose of holding birds prior to slaughter.
lameness	Impaired movement or abnormal gait usually caused by bone, foot, tendon, joint, or muscle issues and/or pain. Signs of lameness include birds that are reluctant to walk or stand up or put weight on their legs, birds that have difficulty walking, and birds with an abnormal gait.

Licensee	An entity that has entered into a Trademark Licence Agreement with RSPCA Australia and is permitted to use the RSPCA Certified Farming Scheme logo on product sourced from RSPCA Certified farms.
light intensity	The illuminance expressed in lux emitted by a light source.
major reportable event	A circumstance that has a significant adverse impact on the welfare of the birds. A major reportable event includes sustained at or above trigger level mortality rate/s or unusual/unexpected incidences of high mortality; injury or disease including those resulting from endemic and/or exotic disease outbreaks; natural events; predator incursions; infrastructure or equipment failure; poor bird management (including ammonia toxicity, severe foot pad lesions and injurious pecking); feed supply and/or formulation issues; transportation; bird handling; or other circumstance deemed reportable by company/producer standard operating procedures. In the case of a suspected exotic animal disease, the relevant state/territory government department must be notified.
nictitating membrane reflex	The third eyelid slides across horizontally in response to touching the bird's eye.
non-mechanically ventilated systems	Housing systems that rely on natural airflow to manage air exchange, air quality and bird comfort within the shed. Stirring fans may be used to assist with air movement within the shed.
other mechanically ventilated systems	Housing systems, other than tunnel ventilated or extractive systems, that rely on the use of air inlets (curtains or vents), stirring fans, water-based cooling (not including evaporative cooling pads) and at least two (2) extraction fans to manage air exchange, air quality and bird comfort within the shed.
outdoor area	An outside space immediately adjacent to the shed. Netting may be used to cover or enclose the outdoor area.
overhead cover	Artificial or natural shade and shelter (not including the shed) that is provided in an outdoor area and offers birds protection from overhead predators and the sun, and is safe and easily accessible for birds. Overhead cover is measured as the area directly underneath the artificial structure or natural feature. Shade cast by the shed or eaves is not included as satisfying the requirement for overhead cover.
perches	Structures above the floor on which birds, depending on age, step up or jump on to sit, stand or roost. Typically, perches are rigid horizontal structures on which birds balance, although perches may be provided in the form of platforms to facilitate use.
pick-up	Removal of live birds from the shed. This includes partial or full depopulation for slaughter, or transfer of birds in a brood-and-move system.
placement	The action of putting a group of birds which arrive at the farm together into a shed for brooding or grow-out. On day of placement, birds arriving from the hatchery are considered to be 0 days of age.
promptly	To make a priority and address with little or no delay.

pupillary light reflex	The pupil constricting in response to a bright light shining into the bird's eye.
red bird	A bird carcass which is red in colour at exit of scalding and has not had the neck cut effectively.
shed	A housing structure consisting of at least four (4) walls and a roof that provides all birds with protection from cold, heat, wind, and rain.
signs of unconsciousness	Indicators used at the abattoir after stunning which demonstrate that a bird is no longer aware of its surroundings and able to feel pain. Signs of unconsciousness may include, but are not limited to, an absence of spontaneous blinking, lack of nictitating membrane reflex, lack of pupillary light reflex, lack of corneal reflex, no rhythmic breathing, no vocalising, no wing-flapping, no swallowing, no head-shaking, no reaction to comb pinch, and no muscle tone.
site	The location at which one or more facilities for housing or slaughtering birds is situated.
split placement	The placing of more than one (1) group of birds (usually two(2)) into the same shed.
stocking density	Space allowance expressed in kg/m ² calculated on the basis of bird live weight and the usable area available per flock of birds.
stun/stunned/ stunning	A procedure (or the act of carrying out a procedure) that has as its primary purpose to render a bird unconscious and insensible to pain. A stun is effective where, following the stunning procedure, the bird is unconscious and will not (or be allowed to purposely) regain consciousness prior to neck cutting (bleed out) and prior to entering the scalding.
transporter	The company responsible for a livestock transport vehicle and its driver.
trigger level	A predetermined threshold which sets in motion a course of action to investigate and address the cause of a breach of that threshold.
tunnel ventilated or extractive systems	Housing systems that rely on the use of air inlets, evaporative cooling and extraction fans capable of at least one (1) air exchange per minute and an air speed of at least 2.5m per second to manage air exchange, air quality and bird comfort within the shed. Stirring fans may be used to assist with air movement within the shed.
usable area	Littered floor area available to the birds.
veranda	A roofed area attached to a shed in which birds can forage and dust bathe. A veranda provides natural light and ventilation, through a combination of solid and permeable walls.
veterinary advice	Recommendation/s provided by a registered veterinarian with expertise in poultry health.
visual barriers	A partition or obstacle behind which birds can seek refuge and or rest out of sight from other birds. Visual barriers may include, but are not limited to, straw bales, free-standing boards, half barrels or plastic crates.
wounds	Visible fresh or older injuries, including bleeding. Wounds are assessed by the total number of birds with wounds and the location of wounds. Wound locations are categorised as head (includes head, beak, snood and neck areas), back (end of neck to the beginning of the tail) and tail/vent wounds.

END OF THE STANDARD



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