



British Egg Industry Council

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To: BEIC Subscribers, PHA subscribers, PRA subscribers
for distribution to all Lion Code registered sites

cc BEA, PHA, PRA, Council, NSF

Lion Code of Practice (version 7) – updates to Biosecurity requirements

Implementation date – Immediate advisory

We have been working on incorporating various amendments to the Lion Code of Practice (version 7). However, as a result of the recent H5N8 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreaks, the timeline to get these circulated for consultation has somewhat slipped.

We intend to do this in the coming weeks via document control. However, with the Avian Influenza Prevention Zones already lifted in Wales and Scotland, and with England to lift the AIPZ (apart from areas in the NW of England) on 15th May (and with NI likely to lift the AIPZ on 31st May), we wish to ensure continuity on maintaining biosecurity measures.

The key point is that as each site/farm is unique, there is no 'one size fits all' approach to implementing the following measures. However, Lion Code auditors' will expect each site/farm to consider their own set-up and put in place measures that can clearly define a 'General' and 'Specific' biosecure area.

The following is therefore intended to act as advisory requirements relating to biosecurity, following which the measures will be consolidated (following consultation) into the Lion Code of Practice.

They are designed to replace the following sections of the Lion Code;

Section 2 – L

Section 3 – M

Section 4 – I (to be finalised)

Section 5 – L

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Section 6 – N
Section 7 – C (additional points)
Annex M (to be finalised)

(Please note that **bold** text will be a Code requirement and guidance will be provided in *italic* text).

Sections: 2, 3, 5, 6

1. Visitors must be kept to a minimum and those allowed access to poultry houses, (including service staff) must wear clean protective clothing that is kept on the farm.

Clean overalls or coat, plus feet and head covering, must be available on site.

2. During periods of increased risk from a Notifiable Avian Disease (e.g. when an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone is declared), only essential visitors are to be allowed access to poultry houses (including service staff). All visitors must be provided with clean protective clothing, that is kept on the site/farm.

Clean overalls, plus feet and head covering, must be available on the site/farm.

3. A visitors' book (including full name, address and contact mobile and landline contact telephone numbers, vehicle registration number, including if the visitor had access to the 'Specific' biosecure area (poultry house/birds) shall be available and maintained on the site/farm.

Ask to see visitors book. Sign it. Look for evidence of use. The 'Specific' biosecure area is defined in 5 below. The anteroom (and the egg collecting room in the case of BL and LF sites) shall be considered to be part of the poultry house (See Annex M as an example).

4. Control measures must be in place to minimise the spread of disease within the site/farm and between other sites/farms.

It is the responsibility of senior management of the site to ensure that effective control measures are in place and enforced at all times.

5. There must be a minimum of two levels of biosecurity; a defined 'General' biosecure area and defined 'Specific' biosecure area on each site/farm.

Two levels of biosecurity shall be defined;

A 'General' area of biosecurity which may refer to the site/farm at large (e.g. inside the perimeter), depending on the individual site. This may exclude any property not associated with the poultry enterprise, e.g. car park, dwelling house, other farm buildings and other farm areas.

There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the 'General' biosecure area.

Personnel and vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area must use foot-dips/baths and disinfect vehicles respectively.

For site/farm operatives, this will require the use of protective clothing.

A 'Specific' area of biosecurity refers to each poultry house where birds are housed on the site/farm.

Entry to a 'Specific' biosecure area requires further measures (noting that a poultry house may have more than one entrance/exit) including a change of footwear (to 'indoor' footwear) over a barrier arrangement, and the wearing of protective clothing.

A 'Specific' biosecure area therefore requires a higher level of biosecurity.

Clear signage showing the 'General' and 'Specific' biosecure areas shall be in place.

A site plan shall clearly show all biosecure areas and their perimeters, with an identifiable key.

6. The site must have an area of concrete, metalled surface or rolled stone which is large enough for a delivery/collection vehicle, or feed lorry, to stand.

For concrete, a wash with a hose to remove debris would demonstrate 'clean'.

7. Consideration should be given to any vehicles and equipment which enter the 'General' biosecure area. Are they visually clean?

Consideration should be given to where vehicles have come from. Are they visually clean? If not, disinfection of the vehicle, focussing on wheels and wheel arches, to be undertaken.

Possible means of vehicle disinfection include disinfectant mats, vehicle washers and wheel troughs. Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from 'cab to ground'.

8. Foot-dip/bath facilities must be provided at the entrance to the 'General' biosecure area and must be used by all who enter (and exit/leave) it.

Footwear must be able to be fully dipped in the foot dip/bath.

9. The foot-dip/bath facility shall be replenished with fresh disinfectant at a minimum frequency of once weekly. Only disinfectants on the BEIC list of Defra approved disinfectants shall be used. Records of disinfectants in use, including dilution, and when changed, are to be kept. Only Defra approved disinfectants (on the BEIC list) must be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Disinfectant solutions must also be replaced on a regular basis (a minimum weekly, or earlier if contaminated by debris/dirt, or if affected by the weather) and this recorded. The foot-dip/bath must have a cover in place to prevent dilution by rain or sunlight. An additional foot-scrub is to be provided so that organic matter can be removed prior to dipping, as it is always good practice to remove debris before dipping footwear. Check disinfectants against the BEIC list of Defra approved disinfectants (Annex N).

10. A physical barrier footwear system, with dedicated footwear, must be provided at the entrance to each 'Specific' biosecure bird area. Hand sanitisers are to be provided at the entrance to the 'Specific' biosecure area.

A barrier system is to be established at the entry to the 'Specific' biosecure area. All staff and visitors must change into colour coded house dedicated footwear (or use new robust disposable overshoes) upon each entry / exit.

As poultry houses can have more than one entrance, each entry point must provide for a physical barrier footwear system, with dedicated footwear, at the entrance to each 'specific' biosecure bird area.

Such a barrier to be: no less than 30cm high; the area inside the barrier is considered to be the 'Specific' biosecure area; staff remove outdoor footwear on the external side of the barrier; staff then put on dedicated biosecure footwear in the internal area of the barrier; provision to be seated, or supported, when changing footwear.

The auditor will look to see that debris from the 'General' biosecure area is not getting into the 'Specific' area and vice versa. Both areas should be maintained in a tidy state, e.g. cleaned daily.

The use of farm dedicated protective clothing is required to be worn when in the 'Specific' biosecure area. This shall be changed and laundered regularly. 'Regularly' is defined as a minimum of twice weekly. Protective clothing shall not be taken home. The use of disposable protective clothing is allowed.

11. On a free range and organic unit, the range area is normally considered to be part of the 'General' biosecure area.

12. Birds must be effectively contained within the defined 'Specific' biosecure area and in the 'General' biosecure area for where ranges are present. Remedial action must be taken to prevent hens leaving these areas.

Birds must be prevented from having access to service areas and aprons. Suitable fencing must be in place.

13. There should not be a pond or areas of standing water on the premises. Poultry must not have access to a pond or 'open' water. There shall be no areas of standing water on the premises.

If ponds are present, steps must be taken to prevent access to the pond by the birds.

Where possible, ponds should be filled in. Where this is not possible, fencing-off and netting is required. Steps should be taken to discourage waterfowl from the premises (i.e. not encourage them onto the premises).

Whilst it is accepted that during periods of heavy rain, puddles may appear, there must be no persistent standing water on the site/farm.

Ask what action senior management have taken (to assess the risk) to minimise contact between wild birds / waterfowl and poultry.

14. A written biosecurity plan, including at least the minimum measures provided for in the DEFRA, SG, WG, DAERA biosecurity guidance for protection against Avian Influenza is to be available.

Useful information can be obtained from: <https://www.gov.uk/poultry-health>

Also: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/farmingrural/Agriculture/animal-welfare> or: <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/?lang=en> or: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/>

15. A policy notice shall be displayed stating 'no unauthorised recording equipment/camera/mobile phones'

The use of photographic equipment by the accredited Monitoring Agency is authorised to record non-conformances

Section 7: Packing Centres

16. A visitors' book (including full name, address and contact mobile and landline contact telephone numbers, vehicle registration number, including if the visitor had access to the egg processing, handling and storage areas) shall be available and maintained on site.

Ask to see visitors book. Sign it. Look for evidence of use. (See Annex M as an example).

17. All transit packaging must be visibly clean and free of debris.

Transit packaging includes plastic keyes trays, dividers and pallets.

Where plastic trays are used, suitable provision to wash plastic keyes trays must be available on the premises or available elsewhere. The tray washer should be checked for effectiveness and that packaging is clean. A non-conformance can be issued if dirty trays are found easily post cleaning e.g. soiling can be seen by the auditor without moving or lifting packaging to check for cleanliness.

18. If using fibre keyes trays, only new trays may be brought into the system by the packer.

The purchase of used or second-hand fibre keyes trays and boxes to be used as packaging to top up the system is not permitted. Only new keyes trays can be used.

19. Consideration should be given to egg vehicles and pallet trucks. Are they visually clean?

Consideration should be given to where vehicles have come from. Are they visually clean? If not, provision must be made to be able to clean and disinfect egg vehicles and pallet trucks.

20. Egg collection drivers shall demonstrate competence in the implementation of effective biosecurity measures.

Ask for written evidence of the biosecurity training plan. Relevant staff should attend a refresher training course every 3 years.

Where appropriate, conduct visual assessment of the biosecurity measures.

21. A policy notice shall be displayed stating 'no unauthorised recording equipment/camera/mobile phones'

The use of photographic equipment by the accredited Monitoring Agency is authorised to record non-conformances.

22. Before any new site/farm is built, the senior management of the packing centre should conduct an assessment of the laying farm.

The senior management of the packing centre should undertake a full risk assessment which considers the proximity of (as a minimum): ponds, lakes, open water, or other watercourses and the associated risks from migratory wildfowl.

In terms of logistics, please ensure that this memo is forwarded on to all your registered sites immediately.

BEIC