

Downloaded Red Tractor Standards Manual

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Poultry Catching & Transport

Key – Those standards which have greater significance (all other standards are normal)

Recommendation – Those which do not affect certification

New - A completely new standard which the member must now adhere to

Revised – A standard that has changed and requires the member to take some different or additional action to before Upgraded – The standard has been upgraded to a Key standard or from a Recommendation to a full standard Appendix – this is referenced in the 'How you will be measured' column and indicates that additional information is provided in the Appendices.





AIM: DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES (TC)



Standards

Catchers must have a copy of the Red Tractor Assurance for Farms – Catching and Transport Standards available

How you will be measured

Up-to-date hard or electronic copy of the standards



Standards

Systems must be in place for recording, investigating and resolution of any complaints received that are relevant to the requirements of the Catching and Transport Standards

How you will be measured

- Complaints made by Local Authority, general public, customers (e.g. processing plant feedback) or other
- System includes recording the:
 - o complaint
 - o investigation result
 - o action taken to prevent the issue happening again



· Complaints record



Standards

A nominated member of the catching team is responsible for the catching operation and bird welfare during the catching process

How you will be measured

This person is on-farm during catching



Standards

A Standard Operating Procedure is in place for catching which takes into account biosecurity, health and safety, hygiene and bird welfare requirements and a hard copy must be accessible to staff

How you will be measured

• The hard copy must be dated and reviewed bi-annually



Standards

There must be a catching schedule

How you will be measured

 The schedule takes bird weight and biosecurity (e.g. final depops vs. partial depops) into consideration and allows sufficient breaks between loads



Standards

All catching companies must be registered with the Red Tractor Poultry Scheme

AIM: DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES (KC)



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AIM: STAFF AND LABOUR PROVIDERS (CC)



Standards

Systems must be in place to ensure that all new staff are effectively trained and deemed competent to carry out the activities they are employed to do

How you will be measured

- Nobody starts work without an induction, supervision or explanation of the tasks they will carry out
- For any specific tasks referenced within the Standards (e.g. welfare, responsibility for cleanliness and disinfection of catching equipment) additional training is given prior to being left to complete the task unsupervised



Standards

The performance and competence of staff must be regularly reviewed and refresher training implemented as required

How you will be measured

- Staff are observed at least annually and the output of their work reviewed
- · Refresher training is implemented immediately if issues are found



Standards

Records of training must be kept

How you will be measured

- A training record is available for all, including:
 - o name
 - o start date (if applicable)
 - o training given/ events attended/ experience
 - date of training
 - who provided the training
- Where staff are trained to undertake specific tasks this is listed in the record
- Records kept for two years after staff member has left employment



Staff training record



Standards

All members of the catching team must adopt British Poultry Training - Poultry Passport or poultry training record as the formal route for industry training and training recognition.

How you will be measured

 The mandatory training requirement specified on the Poultry Passport is delivered by providers or in-house tutors that have been approved by British Poultry Training



Where labour providers are used to supply temporary or permanent staff an agreement must be in place to ensure competent persons are provided

How you will be measured

- Agreement in place where labour providers are used regularly or on an ad-hoc basis
- Agreement confirms that labour provided is competent and that a current, valid Gangmasters Licence is held



• Labour provider agreement

AIM: STAFF AND LABOUR PROVIDERS (TC)



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AIM: STAFF AND LABOUR PROVIDERS (KC)



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AIM: TRACEABILITY AND ASSURANCE STATUS (CC)



Standards

Birds must be identified and records kept to maintain traceability throughout the catching and transport operation

How you will be measured

• Farm scheme registration number is included on dispatch notes



Traceability records

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• Traceability records

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How you will be measured

• Farm scheme registration number is included on dispatch notes



• Traceability records

AIM: BIOSECURITY AT CATCHING (CC)



Standards

Catching teams must sign-in immediately on arrival at the farm

How you will be measured

- The nominated member of the catching team signs in each member of the team on arrival recording date, time of arrival, name of each member and a reference code of the catching team, company and Red Tractor Assurance number
- Each member of the catching team also certifies that they are not suffering from any enteric illnesses



Standards

Catching teams must maintain records of all farms visited within the past 6 months



 Records detailing farm addresses, members of catching team who attended/ regerence code of the catching team, vehicles and catching equipment used



Standards

Immediately after signing in catching teams must make themselves aware of the defined biosecure areas on the farm

How you will be measured

· Only after this has been done do members of the catching team begin to enter the biosecure area



Standards

Dedicated clothing and footwear must be worn by all on entry to each bird area at partial depopulation

How you will be measured

- disposable clothing or clothing which is washed between farms is worn
- dedicated boots must be worn and cleansed and disinfected between bird houses using a Defraapproved disinfectant



Standards

Dedicated clothing and footwear must be worn by all on entry to the biosecure area at full depopulation

How you will be measured

- · disposable clothing or clothing which is washed between farms is worn
- boots are able to be cleaned and disinfected (i.e. are rubber) and are thoroughly washed, scrubbed and disinfected using a Defra-approved disinfectant between farms



Standards

Footdips must be used by all on each entry to the biosecure area



Hands must be washed or sanitised on every entry to each house

CC.BC.h Key

Standards

Only essential vehicles must enter the biosecure area e.g. poultry transport lorry, vehicles containing essential equipment, clean company vehicles

How you will be measured

- personal transport is not considered as an essential vehicle and remains parked outside the biosecure area
- for breaks catchers use the facilities provided by the farm or a clean company vehicle which has been disinfected on entry to the biosecure area



Standards

Footdips must be used by all on entry and exit to each poultry house



Standards

Footwear must be visibly clean before using a new footdip when moving to a new house



Standards

The loading area provided must be used for loading birds



Standards

Catching equipment, including catchers' transport and mechanical harvesting equipment, must arrive on-farm clean and disinfected

How you will be measured

• Visual inspection made and documented



Record held of the cleanliness of catching equipment on arrival



Catching equipment, including catchers' transport and mechanical harvesting equipment, must be cleaned and disinfected prior to leaving the farm.

How you will be measured

- Cleaning & disinfection on site must be documented
- Catching equipment can be taken to an off-site location to be cleaned and disinfected, but only if it moves directly from the farm to the off-site location. This must also be documented



• Record held of when and where cleaning & disinfection took place



Standards

Smoking, eating and drinking must be carried out only in designated areas

How you will be measured

· hands are washed or sanitised directly before and after smoking, eating or drinking



Standards

Staff must not keep or have contact with other poultry or any avian species



Standards

If there are any concerns about the biosecurity provisions or facilities provided by the farm they must be raised with the nominated person of the catching team who must raise them with the farm manager/ company



Record of any issues raised with farm manager

AIM: BIOSECURITY AT CATCHING (TC)



Standards

Catching teams must sign-in immediately on arrival at the farm

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How you will be measured

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Standards

Dedicated clothing and footwear must be worn by all on entry to each bird area at partial depopulation

How you will be measured

- disposable clothing or clothing which is washed between farms is worn
- dedicated boots must be worn and cleansed and disinfected between bird houses using a Defraapproved disinfectant



Standards

Dedicated clothing and footwear must be worn by all on entry to the biosecure area at full depopulation

How you will be measured

- · disposable clothing or clothing which is washed between farms is worn
- boots are able to be cleaned and disinfected (i.e. are rubber) and are thoroughly washed, scrubbed and disinfected using a Defra-approved disinfectant between farms



Standards

Footdips must be used by all on each entry to the biosecure area



Hands must be washed or sanitised on every entry to each house

TC.BC.h Key

Standards

Only essential vehicles must enter the biosecure area e.g. poultry transport lorry, vehicles containing essential equipment, clean company vehicles

How you will be measured

- personal transport is not considered as an essential vehicle and remains parked outside the biosecure area
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• Visual inspection made and documented



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How you will be measured

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- Catching equipment can be taken to an off-site location to be cleaned and disinfected, but only if it moves directly from the farm to the off-site location. This must also be documented



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Standards

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How you will be measured

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Standards

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Record of any issues raised with farm manager

AIM: CATCHERS DEPOPULATION (CC)



Standards

Houses must be entered with minimum disturbance to birds by people and equipment

How you will be measured

• including if using mechanical harvesters



Standards

Light levels during catching must be maintained at a level that allows catchers to work safety but also to ensure that birds remain calm

How you will be measured

- If catching curtains are used they are power washed and disinfected prior to use on each farm
- For ducks there is no need to reduce the lighting level



Standards

Breeder replacements are caught under lighting conditions that are maintained at a level that allows catchers to work safely but also ensures birds remain calm



Standards

Carrying distances must be kept to a minimum



Standards

Birds must be carried appropriately for their species and size

How you will be measured

- Chickens are not carried by their wings or neck
- Turkevs
 - o are never lifted or carried by one leg
 - o below 5kg they are carried by both legs or in both hands (rugby ball style)
 - o above 5kg they are carried by both legs or one leg and the diagonally opposite wing
- Ducks:
 - o are lifted out of the catch pen by their necks and placed directly into a module or basket



Standards

Birds must be placed into crates with care ensuring that none are on their backs

How you will be measured

• The nominated member of the catching team must check to ensure no birds are on their backs



Standards

Staff must ensure that no part of the bird has become trapped by the crate or module

How you will be measured

- The nominated member of the catching team is responsible for ensuring trappages do not occur
- The driver is responsible to check for bird trappages



Injured or sick birds must not be placed into crates or transported

How you will be measured

- Injured or sick birds are humanely culled by a trained person immediately
- Any culls and reasons for those culls are highlighted to the farm owner/ manager before leaving the farm



Mortality records



Standards

Maximum crate stocking densities must meet legislative requirements

How you will be measured

- Stocking densities are as follows:
 - o poultry weighing less than 1.6kg 180 to 200cm2/kg
 - o poultry weighing 1.6kg and over but less than 3kg 160cm2/kg
 - o poultry weighing 3kg and over but less than 5kg 115cm2/kg
 - o poultry weighing 5kg and over 105cm2/kg
- Stocking densities also take into account the physical condition of the birds, weather conditions and journey times
- A loading matrix is to be used in high and low temperature conditions



Standards

Transport modules must be loaded according to manufacturers recommendations



Standards

Modules/crates must be placed as close as possible to the group being caught

How you will be measured

• Care taken not to crush or damage birds when placing modules/ crates



Standards

Staff must clear a space in a calm and controlled manner before any machinery enters the house



Standards

All equipment used in the catching operation, including mechanical harvesters, must be constructed and maintained in order that they are safe for use

How you will be measured

• no sharp edges, projections or other hazards

AIM: BIOSECURITY AT CATCHING (KC)



Standards

Catching teams must sign-in immediately on arrival at the farm

How you will be measured

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 Records detailing farm addresses, members of catching team who attended/ regerence code of the catching team, vehicles and catching equipment used



Standards

Immediately after signing in catching teams must make themselves aware of the defined biosecure areas on the farm

How you will be measured

· Only after this has been done do members of the catching team begin to enter the biosecure area



Standards

Dedicated clothing and footwear must be worn by all on entry to each bird area at partial depopulation

How you will be measured

- disposable clothing or clothing which is washed between farms is worn
- dedicated boots must be worn and cleansed and disinfected between bird houses using a Defraapproved disinfectant



Standards

Dedicated clothing and footwear must be worn by all on entry to the biosecure area at full depopulation

How you will be measured

- · disposable clothing or clothing which is washed between farms is worn
- boots are able to be cleaned and disinfected (i.e. are rubber) and are thoroughly washed, scrubbed and disinfected using a Defra-approved disinfectant between farms



Standards

Footdips must be used by all on each entry to the biosecure area



Hands must be washed or sanitised on every entry to each house

KC.BC.h Key

Standards

Only essential vehicles must enter the biosecure area e.g. poultry transport lorry, vehicles containing essential equipment, clean company vehicles

How you will be measured

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How you will be measured

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Record held of the cleanliness of catching equipment on arrival



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Record of any issues raised with farm manager

AIM: CATCHERS DEPOPULATION (TC)



Standards

Houses must be entered with minimum disturbance to birds by people and equipment

How you will be measured

• including if using mechanical harvesters



Standards

Light levels during catching must be maintained at a level that allows catchers to work safety but also to ensure that birds remain calm

How you will be measured

- If catching curtains are used they are power washed and disinfected prior to use on each farm
- For ducks there is no need to reduce the lighting level



Standards

Breeder replacements are caught under lighting conditions that are maintained at a level that allows catchers to work safely but also ensures birds remain calm



Standards

Carrying distances must be kept to a minimum



Standards

Turkeys and ducks must be walked to the catch pen in a calm and controlled manner



Standards

Catch pens must not become overcrowded



Standards

Birds must be carried appropriately for their species and size

How you will be measured

- Chickens are not carried by their wings or neck
- Turkeys:
 - o are never lifted or carried by one leg
 - o below 5kg they are carried by both legs or in both hands (rugby ball style)
 - \circ above 5kg they are carried by both legs or one leg and the diagonally opposite wing
- Ducks:
 - \circ are lifted out of the catch pen by their necks and placed directly into a module or basket



Birds must be placed into crates with care ensuring that none are on their backs

How you will be measured

• The nominated member of the catching team must check to ensure no birds are on their backs



Standards

Staff must ensure that no part of the bird has become trapped by the crate or module

How you will be measured

- The nominated member of the catching team is responsible for ensuring trappages do not occur
- The driver is responsible to check for bird trappages



Standards

Injured or sick birds must not be placed into crates or transported

How you will be measured

- Injured or sick birds are humanely culled by a trained person immediately
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Mortality records



Standards

Maximum crate stocking densities must meet legislative requirements

How you will be measured

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Standards

Transport modules must be loaded according to manufacturers recommendations



Standards

Modules/crates must be placed as close as possible to the group being caught

How you will be measured

• Care taken not to crush or damage birds when placing modules/ crates



Staff must clear a space in a calm and controlled manner before any machinery enters the house



Standards

All equipment used in the catching operation, including mechanical harvesters, must be constructed and maintained in order that they are safe for use

How you will be measured

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AIM: CATCHERS DEPOPULATION (KC)



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Standards

Breeder replacements are caught under lighting conditions that are maintained at a level that allows catchers to work safely but also ensures birds remain calm



Standards

Carrying distances must be kept to a minimum

How you will be measured

- No more than two ducks per hand with their weight being supported by a hand under their boday or with two hands holding either side of the body with wings closed
- Ducks are not carried with their heads hanging downwards or by their legs alone



Standards

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KC,CD,m

Standards

All equipment used in the catching operation, including mechanical harvesters, must be constructed and maintained in order that they are safe for use

How you will be measured

 $\bullet\,$ no sharp edges, projections or other hazards

AIM: MECHANICAL HARVESTING (CC)



Standards

If mechanical harvesting, the machine operator must be able to provide evidence that he has undertaken training for the machine that he is operating and has knowledge of action to be taken in the event of machine failure



Standards

If mechanical harvesting, birds must be cleared in such a way that they are collected as the machine moves forward and they are not allowed to move behind the vehicle



Standards

Speed of mechanical harvesting equipment must be set low enough not to cause damage to birds



Standards

Any damage to birds during mechanical harvesting must be monitored and issues rectified

AIM: MECHANICAL HARVESTING (TC)



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Standards

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AIM: BIOSECURITY FOR TRANSPORT (CC)



Standards

Drivers must sign-in immediately on arrival at the farm

How you will be measured

• Signatures in the visitor book must be legible



Immediately after signing in the driver must make themselves aware of the defined biosecure areas on the farm

How you will be measured

• only after this has been done does the driver enter the biosecure area



Standards

Dedicated clothing and footwear must be worn by all on entry to each bird area at partial depopulation

How you will be measured

- · disposable clothing or clothing which is washed between farms is worn
- dedicated boots must be worn and cleansed and disinfected between bird houses using a Defraapproved disinfectant



Standards

Dedicated clothing and footwear must be worn by all on entry to the biosecure area at full depopulation

How you will be measured

- · disposable clothing or clothing which is washed between farms is worn
- boots are able to be cleaned and disinfected (i.e. are rubber) and are thoroughly washed, scrubbed and disinfected using a Defra-approved disinfectant between farms



Footdips must be used on entry to the biosecure area

CC.BT.e Key

How you will be measured

• Footdips are used on each entry to the biosecure area



Standards

Hands must be washed or sanitised on entry to the biosecure area

How you will be measured

• hands are washed/sanitised on each entry to the biosecure area



Only essential vehicles must enter the biosecure area e.g. poultry transport lorry, vehicles containing essential equipment

How you will be measured

- personal transport is not considered as an essential vehicle and remains parked outside the biosecure area
- for breaks drivers use the facilities provided by the farm or a clean company vehicle which has been disinfected on entry to the biosecure area



Standards

Footdips must be used on entry and exit to each poultry house



Standards

Footwear must be visibly clean before using a new footdip when moving to a new house



Standards

All vehicles, including wheels, and equipment must be cleansed and disinfected on entering the farm

How you will be measured

• Effective pressure wash facilities and drains



Standards

Vehicles, forklifts, transport crates and modules must arrive on-farm clean and disinfected

How you will be measured

• Visual inspection made and documented



Record held of the cleanliness of transport equipment on arrival



Standards

The loading area provided must be used for loading birds



Standards

Forklifts and other equipment used by the driver must be cleaned and disinfected prior to leaving the farm

How you will be measured

• Equipment can be taken to an off-site location to be cleaned and disinfected, but only if it moves directly from the farm to the off-site location.



Smoking, eating and drinking must be carried out only in designated areas

How you will be measured

• hands are washed or sanitised directly before and after smoking, eating or drinking



Standards

Drivers must not keep poultry or any avian species



Standards

If there are any concerns about the biosecurity provisions or facilities provided by the farm they must be raised with the farm manager/ company



Record of any issues raised with farm manager

AIM: BIOSECURITY FOR TRANSPORT (TC)



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Record of any issues raised with farm manager

AIM: POULTRY TRANSPORT (CC)



Standards

All birds must be transported by transporters registered with the Red Tractor Poultry Scheme



Standards

Each vehicle must carry a written statement of maximum stocking density

How you will be measured

The statement details the maximum number of birds by weight band to be transported



Standards

The driver must be competent and trained in the handling and welfare of poultry



Standards

All vehicles have a written Emergency Action Plan

How you will be measured

 Plan details what procedures should be followed in the case of fire, accident or traffic congestion, contact numbers for breakdown services and processing plants



Emergency Action Plan



Standards

Drivers have the means of mobile communication with the farm and/or processing plant



Standards

The time between start of loading and end of unloading at the processing plant must not exceed twelve hours

How you will be measured

 Time calculated from when first bird is loaded into crate to when last bird is unloaded at the processing plant (per vehicle)



Standards

Journeys must be planned in advance to minimise waiting times

How you will be measured

• Driver ensures the welfare of birds is not compromised by insufficient co-ordination of different parts of the journey and the weather conditions are taken into account



Birds must be transported in modular systems which must be placed as close as possible to the group being caught

How you will be measured

• Care taken not to crush or damage birds when placing modules/ crates



Standards

Urine & faeces must not fall directly onto birds below when modules are stacked on top of each other on a vehicle

How you will be measured

Module tops are solid



Standards

Action must be taken to prevent heat or cold stress from occurring

How you will be measured

- Standard applies to vehicles in motion and stationary vehicles
- Protection is available for use in the winter months
- Measures are in place to protect the birds from heat stress in periods of high temperature and humidity
- The adoption of power-ventilated vehicles or a reduction in crate/ module stocking density has been considered
- Contingency measures are in place to provide emergency natural ventilation if required



Standards

Vehicles must be maintained so not to pose a risk of injury to birds

How you will be measured

- Vehicles:
 - o prevent birds escaping or falling out
 - withstand stresses of movement
 - o ensure air quality can be maintained
 - o provide access to birds to allow them to be inspected
 - o provide lighting e.g. a torch held on the vehicle, sufficient for inspection of birds



Standards

Transport crates must be maintained in good condition so not to pose a risk of injury to birds

How you will be measured

 Any sharp edges or protrusions with which animals may come into contact must be removed entirely



The haulier must retain records for traceability purposes and these must be kept for two years

How you will be measured

- Records include:
 - o date of movement
 - o farm of origin and its scheme registration number
 - destination
 - o number of birds transported
 - mortalities
 - o start of loading and end of loading time
 - o start of journey and end of journey time
 - vehicle identification
 - o register of complaints and any action taken



• Haulage records

AIM: POULTRY TRANSPORT (TC)



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