

Rejects: Key points to reduce condemnation

Bird Density

- Keep within regional directives e.g. EU broiler welfare directive

Litter Management

- Litter quality should be maintained through effective ventilation
- Litter moisture content should ideally be 30% or makes a ball when moulded in your hands but breaks up when falling to the floor from waist height
- Litter with moisture content of 25% or below is too dry - increase the water pressure
- Litter with a moisture content above 35% is too wet - lower drinker pressure and/or increase ventilation
- Optimum litter management can contribute to a reduction in pododermatitis scoring



Drinker Management

- Maintain optimum drinker heights with birds reaching but with their feet flat on the floor
- A maximum of 12 birds per nipple with a flow-80-90 ml/minute
- Birds per nipple should be reduced for lower flow rates
- Maintain flow rates through the nipple as follows:

Week 1	40ml/min	Week 3	60ml/min	Week 5	90ml/min
Week 2	50ml/min	Week 4	70ml/min		
- Avoid on farm water demand by staggering light period between houses
- Temperature of water should be between 10-14°C, regular flushing will be required to achieve this. In warm climates (over 30°C) flush three times per day



Bird Inspection

- The house should always be walked slowly from the outside of the house into the middle
- Avoid more than one person per time in the broiler house. If more than one person is in the house then they should walk in single file
- The same coloured dark clothes/overalls to be worn throughout the crop to avoid over stimulation of birds. This should be consistent through the crop

House Preparation and Catching

- Feed should be removed 8 to 12 hours prior to kill
- Remove water at the last possible minute before catch commences
- Only disturb birds that are to be caught on the next load
- Avoid delays between loads. Reinstate water, light and temperature controls if the delay is greater than 30 minutes
- Birds must not fall from a height higher than 40cm - above 40cm a bird will flap its wings
- Crates should be dry to avoid cold weather related DOA's
- Birds should not be caught in excessive temperature (over 28°C) to reduce heat related DOA's
- Reduced light intensity (2 Lux) and blue light to be used during catching in both the house and on the loader
- Catching tunnels should be used during daylight
- Transport curtains should be closed when the temperature is below 7°C



Feeder Management

- Feeder pan requirements: 330mm diameter pan which should have the ability to flood for the first 10 days
50-80 birds at 2.2 Kg kill weight
50-75 birds at 3.5 Kg Kill weight
- Feed quality should remain consistent to reduce the periods of increased activity around the pans. This will also have an influence on FCR
- High activity increases scratches and can result in cellulitis
- To reduce the incidence of scratching, the feeding system should be prevented from running empty. Timed feeding should be carefully managed to reduce stress

