



CHICKEN CATCHING AND TRANSPORT STANDARDS

Applicable to the catching and transport of Chicken
1st January 2017 – Version 3.1



Red Tractor Assurance

Welcome



Welcome to the Red Tractor Assurance for Farms – Poultry Scheme: Catching and Transport Standards, part of the Red Tractor Food Assurance Scheme assuring food safety, animal welfare, hygiene and environmental protection through every part of the food chain.

These Standards have been written and revised by our Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) in consultation with customers, farmer representatives and the wider industry to ensure they are clear and provide meaningful, credible farm assurance for all. This is essential with the increasing demand for traceability of food, growing consumer awareness of animal welfare issues in livestock production and a need to minimise pesticide residues.

For more information about the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme visit www.redtractorassurance.org.uk

GUIDE

Scheme members are advised this manual must be read in conjunction with the 'How the Red Tractor Assurance Scheme Works' leaflet which details the Rules of the Scheme that all members are bound by.

The standards are organised in sections. The AIM of each standard or group of standards is clearly explained. All of the words against each standard including the column 'How you will be measured' form part of the standard.

Standard coding begins with a two letter prefix that identifies the section (e.g. AH for Animal Health and Welfare). Assessors will use this code to identify any non-conformances on the report at the end of the assessment.

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

Appendix – this is referenced in the 'How you will be measured' column and indicates that additional information is provided in the Appendices at the back of this manual

R - this icon indicates that a record is required

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CATCHING STANDARDS

DOCUMENTS AND PROCEDURES (DP)

STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED
AIM: Plans and procedures in place to ensure safe and legal food production	
DP.a Catchers must have a copy of the Red Tractor Assurance for Farms – Catching and Transport Standards available (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up-to-date hard or electronic copy of the standards
DP.b This standard does not apply	
DP.c 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 (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complaints made by Local Authority, general public, customers (e.g. processing plant feedback) or other System includes recording the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> complaint investigation result action taken to prevent the issue happening again
DP.d A nominated member of the catching team is responsible for the catching operation and bird welfare during the catching process (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This person is on-farm during catching
DP.e 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 (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hard copy must be dated and reviewed bi-annually
DP.f There must be a catching schedule (Upgraded)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The schedule takes bird weight and biosecurity (e.g. final depops vs. partial depops) into consideration and allows sufficient breaks between loads
DP.g All catching companies must be registered with the Red Tractor Poultry Scheme	

STAFF AND LABOUR PROVIDERS (SC)

STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED
AIM: All staff (including, but not limited to full and part-time and family members) are trained and competent to carry out the activities they do	
SC.a Key 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 (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
SC.b The performance and competence of staff must be regularly reviewed and refresher training implemented as required (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff are observed at least annually and the output of their work reviewed Refresher training is implemented immediately if issues are found
SC.c Records of training must be kept (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A training record is available for all, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> name start date (if applicable) 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



STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED	
SC.d The nominated member 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 (New)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Nominated person or a nominated deputy trained to the mandatory training requirement specified on the Poultry Passport must be present on the premises during the catching process 	R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff training record
SC.d.1 Recommendation <i>It is recommended that all other members of the catching team adopt British Poultry Training – Poultry Passport, or Poultry Training Record, as the formal route for industry training and training recognition (Note: this will be updated to a full standard from 1st October 2018)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 This applies to all staff who come into contact with birds, including forklift drivers 	
SC.e Where labour providers are used to supply temporary or permanent staff an agreement must be in place to ensure competent persons are provided (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Labour provider agreement

TRACEABILITY AND ASSURANCE STATUS (TI)

STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED	
AIM: Clear identification of birds to deliver food chain traceability		
TI.a Key Birds must be identified and records kept to maintain traceability throughout the catching and transport operation (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm scheme registration number is included on dispatch notes 	R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traceability records

BIOSECURITY AT CATCHING (BC)

STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED	
AIM: Effective biosecurity measures during catching to prevent the spread of disease and protect food safety and bird health		
BC.a Catching teams must sign-in immediately on arrival at the farm (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	
BC.b Catching teams must maintain records of all farms visited within the past 6 months (New)		R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records detailing farm addresses, members of catching team who attended/ reference code of the catching team, vehicles and catching equipment used
BC.c Immediately after signing in catching teams must make themselves aware of the defined biosecure area on the farm (New)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only after this has been done do members of the catching team begin to enter the biosecure area 	

STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED	
BC.d Key Dedicated clothing and footwear must be worn by all on entry to each bird area at partial depopulation (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 Defra-approved disinfectant 	
BC.e Key Dedicated clothing and footwear must be worn by all on entry to the biosecure area at full depopulation (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	
BC.f Key Footdips must be used by all on each entry to the biosecure area		
BC.g Key Hands must be washed or sanitised on every entry to each house		
BC.h Key Only essential vehicles must enter the biosecure area e.g. poultry transport lorry, vehicles containing essential equipment, clean company vehicles (New)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	
BC.i Key Footdips must be used by all on entry and exit to each poultry house (New)		
BC.j Key Footwear must be visibly clean before using a new footdip when moving to a new house (New)		
BC.k The loading area provided must be used for loading birds		
BC.l Catching equipment, including catchers' transport and mechanical harvesting equipment, must arrive on-farm clean and disinfected (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Visual inspection made and documented 	<div style="text-align: center;">R</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Record held of the cleanliness of catching equipment on arrival
BC.m Catching equipment, including catchers' transport and mechanical harvesting equipment, must be cleaned and disinfected prior to leaving the farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	<div style="text-align: center;">R</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Record held of when and where cleaning & disinfection took place
BC.n Smoking, eating and drinking must be carried out only in designated areas (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Hands are washed or sanitised directly before and after smoking, eating or drinking 	
BC.o Staff must not keep or have contact with other poultry or any avian species		
BC.p 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 (New)		<div style="text-align: center;">R</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Record of any issues raised with farm manager



CATCHERS DEPOPULATION (CD)

STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED	
AIM: The health and welfare of birds is maintained during depopulation		
CD.a Houses must be entered with minimum disturbance to birds by people and equipment (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Including if using mechanical harvesters 	
CD.b Light levels during catching must be maintained at a level that allows catchers to work safely but also to ensure that birds remain calm (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ If catching curtains are used they are power washed and disinfected prior to use on each farm 	
CD.c 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 (New)		
CD.d Carrying distances must be kept to a minimum (New)		
CD.e Key Birds must not be carried by the wings or by the neck		
CD.f Key Birds must be placed into crates with care ensuring that none are on their backs (New)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The nominated member of the catching team must check to ensure no birds are on their backs 	
CD.g Key Staff must ensure that no part of the bird has become trapped by the crate or module (New)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The nominated member of the catching team is responsible for ensuring trappages do not occur ■ The driver is responsible to check for bird trappages 	
CD.h Key Injured or sick birds must not be placed into crates or transported (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	<div style="text-align: center;">R</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Mortality records
CD.i Key Maximum crate stocking densities must meet legislative requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Stocking densities are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – poultry weighing less than 1.6kg – 180 to 200cm²/kg – poultry weighing 1.6kg and over but less than 3kg - 160cm²/kg – poultry weighing 3kg and over but less than 5kg - 115cm²/kg – 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 	
CD.j Transport modules must be loaded according to manufacturers recommendations (New)		
CD.k Modules/crates must be placed as close as possible to the group being caught	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Care taken not to crush or damage birds when placing modules/ crates 	
CD.l Staff must clear a space in a calm and controlled manner before any machinery enters the house (Revised)		
CD.m All equipment used in the catching operation, including mechanical harvesters, must be constructed and maintained in order that they are safe for use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ No sharp edges, projections or other hazards 	



MECHANICAL HARVESTING (MH)

STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED
AIM: The health and welfare of birds is maintained during depopulation using a mechanical harvester	
MH.a Key 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	
MH.b 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	
MH.c Speed of mechanical harvesting equipment must be set low enough not to cause damage to birds	
MH.d Any damage to birds during mechanical harvesting must be monitored and issues rectified	

TRANSPORT STANDARDS

BIOSECURITY FOR TRANSPORT (BT)

STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED
AIM: Effective biosecurity measures during depopulation to prevent the spread of disease and protect food safety and bird health	
BT.a Drivers must sign-in immediately on arrival at the farm (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Signatures in the visitor book are legible
BT.b Immediately after signing in the driver must make themselves aware of the defined biosecure area on the farm (New)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Only after this has been done does the driver enter the biosecure area
BT.c Key Dedicated clothing and footwear must be worn by all on entry to each bird area at partial depopulation (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 Defra-approved disinfectant
BT.d Key Dedicated clothing and footwear must be worn by all on entry to the biosecure area at full depopulation (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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
BT.e Key Footdips must be used on each entry to the biosecure area	
BT.f Key Hands must be washed or sanitised on each entry to the biosecure area	



STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED	
BT.g Key Only essential vehicles must enter the biosecure area e.g. poultry transport lorry, vehicles containing essential equipment (New)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	
BT.h Key Footdips must be used on entry and exit to each poultry house (New)		
BT.i Key Footwear must be visibly clean before using a new footdip when moving to a new house (New)		
BT.j Key All vehicles, including wheels and equipment, must be cleansed and disinfected on entering the farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective pressure wash facilities and drains 	
BT.k Vehicles, forklifts, transport crates and modules must arrive on-farm clean and disinfected (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visual inspection made and documented 	R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record held of the cleanliness of transport equipment on arrival
BT.l The loading area provided must be used for loading birds		
BT.m Forklifts and other equipment used by the driver must be cleaned and disinfected prior to leaving the farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	
BT.n Smoking, eating and drinking must be carried out only in designated areas (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hands are washed or sanitised directly before and after smoking, eating or drinking 	
BT.o Drivers must not keep poultry or any avian species		
BT.p If there are any concerns about the biosecurity provisions or facilities provided by the farm they must be raised with the farm manager/ company (New)		R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record of any issues raised with farm manager

POULTRY TRANSPORT (CT)

STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED	
AIM: The health and welfare of birds is managed during transportation		
CT.a All birds must be transported by transporters registered with the Red Tractor Poultry Scheme		
CT.b Each vehicle must carry a written statement of maximum stocking density	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The statement details the maximum number of birds by weight band to be transported 	

STANDARDS	HOW YOU WILL BE MEASURED	
CT.c Key The driver must be competent and trained in the handling and welfare of poultry		
CT.d All vehicles have a written Emergency Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Plan details what procedures should be followed in the case of fire, accident or traffic congestion, contact numbers for breakdown services and processing plants 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Emergency Action Plan </div>
CT.e Drivers have the means of mobile communication with the farm and/or processing plant		
CT.f The time between start of loading and end of unloading at the processing plant must not exceed twelve hours (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Time calculated from when first bird is loaded into crate to when last bird is unloaded at the processing plant (per vehicle) 	
CT.g Journeys must be planned in advance to minimise waiting times (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	
CT.h Birds must be transported in modular systems which must be placed as close as possible to the group being caught	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Care taken not to crush or damage birds when placing modules/ crates 	
CT.i Urine & faeces must not fall directly onto birds below when modules are stacked on top of each other on a vehicle (New)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Module tops are solid 	
CT.j Action must be taken to prevent heat or cold stress from occurring (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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 	
CT.k Vehicles must be maintained so not to pose a risk of injury to birds (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Vehicles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – prevent birds escaping or falling out – withstand stresses of movement – ensure air quality can be maintained – provide access to birds to allow them to be inspected – provide lighting e.g. a torch held on the vehicle, sufficient for inspection of birds 	
CT.l Transport crates must be maintained in good condition so not to pose a risk of injury to birds (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Any sharp edges or protrusions with which animals may come into contact must be removed entirely 	
CT.m The haulier must retain records for traceability purposes and these must be kept for two years (Revised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Records include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – date of movement – farm of origin and its scheme registration number – destination – number of birds transported – mortalities – start of loading and end of loading time – start of journey and end of journey time – vehicle identification – register of complaints and any action taken 	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; width: 30px; height: 30px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; margin: 0 auto;"> R <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Haulage records </div>





Certification Bodies

Your routine point of contact with the Scheme is through your Certification Body.

Certification Bodies are licensed by Red Tractor to manage membership applications and to carry out assessment and certification against the Standards. The table below shows which Certification Bodies apply to each supply chain scheme.

Certification Body	Livestock Transport Scheme	Chicken Catching and Transport Scheme	Livestock Markets and Collection Centres Scheme	Meat and Poultry Processing Scheme
NSF Certification	✓	✓	✓	✓
SAI Global	✓	✓	✓	✓
Acoura				✓
NIFCC (Northern Ireland)	✓	✓	✓	✓



NSF Certification

Hanborough Business Park, Long Hanborough, Oxford OX29 8SJ
Tel: 01993 885739 Email: agriculture@nsf.org Web: www.nsf-foodeurope.com



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