

Decontamination and Ground Maintenance Procedure

Maintaining a clean environment for birds, especially when housing a new batch, is essential for both welfare and biosecurity. It is equally important to keep the production area surroundings clean and tidy, with grass and vegetation well-managed to reduce the risk of attracting vermin and wild birds.

Relevant Associated Requirements *[delete as appropriate]*

- **Code of Welfare: Meat Chickens 2018** – Minimum Standard No. 3 – Shelter for Meat Chickens Outdoors. Minimum Standard No. 4 – Housing and Equipment.
- **Code of Welfare: Layer Hens 2018** – Minimum Standard No. 4 – Housing and Equipment Design, Construction and Maintenance. Minimum Standard No. 11 – Range Management. Minimum Standard No. 15 – Management of Health and Injury.

Biosecurity Objectives:

- **Reduce the introduction and carry-over of disease** by ensuring all poultry sheds and enclosures are thoroughly decontaminated (cleaned and disinfected) to remove contaminants, minimise pest attraction, and prevent rodents, wild birds, and other vectors from entering production areas.

Activity	Farm Procedure
1. Decontamination (cleaning and disinfection) procedure for housing between batches. Outline the steps involved and the chemicals and equipment used.	
2. Decontamination requirements while a batch of birds is in the housing. Specify what needs to be decontaminated, how often it is done, and the methods used. Include how footbaths are refreshed and maintained, and how often the surrounding production area is mown or tidied. For housing with outdoor access, outline any decontamination requirements for entry and exit points. List all chemicals and equipment used for cleaning and disinfection.	
3. Decontamination of transport equipment and containers. Describe the decontamination procedure for any equipment or containers used for transporting birds, including when they are cleaned and the chemicals/equipment used.	
4. Cleaning of the range. Explain how the range area is cleaned or managed between batches and identify any areas that require cleaning during a batch.	