

Humane Destruction & Depopulation Procedure

Humane euthanasia of birds may be carried out on individuals, or when depopulation is required e.g. at the end of lay. For depopulation because of a disease outbreak please refer to the Response Guidelines.

Relevant Associated Requirements *[delete as appropriate]*

- **Code of Welfare: Meat Chickens 2018** - Minimum Standard No. 13 – Catching, Loading and Transport. Minimum Standard No. 15 – Emergency Humane Destruction.
- **Code of Welfare: Layer Hens 2018** - Minimum Standard No. 13 – Handling and Catching. Minimum Standard No. 17 – Humane Destruction.

Biosecurity Objectives:

- Ensure that humane euthanasia procedures do not create pathways for disease introduction or spread.

Activity	Farm Procedure
1. Method of depopulation. Indicate the method(s) used for depopulation on farm.	▪ Neck dislocation alone ▪ Electric stunning followed by neck dislocation and exsanguination ▪ Gas using a mixture of inert gases and/or carbon dioxide ▪ Immediate fragmentation/maceration for unhatched eggs and day-old chicks ▪ Other under veterinarian supervision (detail)
2. Procedure that trained staff follow for humane destruction of birds. Ensure the procedure covers: • Staff competency and training – Only trained and authorised staff may perform humane destruction. • Step-by-step bird procedure – Clearly outline how the method is performed to ensure it is humane, safe, and consistent. • Required equipment – Identify the equipment used and when it is required. • Equipment maintenance – Describe how equipment is checked, cleaned, and maintained to ensure it remains effective and humane. • Gentle handling of birds – Birds must be handled calmly and with care at all times to minimise stress. • Confirmation of death – All birds must be inspected after the procedure to confirm death before disposal.	
3. Records. Record where the farm keeps all humane destruction / culling records.	