

Litter Management Procedure (Barn)

Litter management is a critical component of maintaining the welfare and biosecurity of birds in barn systems or winter gardens. Good litter conditions reduce the risk of dust, fungal growth, and welfare issues such as bumblefoot, hock burn, and respiratory disease, while also reducing conditions that attract vermin and minimising the risk of disease introduction.

Key aspects of effective litter management include controlling litter quality, type, and depth, as well as managing moisture, temperature, ventilation, stocking density, and feed type and quality. Water systems must be well maintained to prevent leaks that increase litter moisture. Where birds have outdoor access, the placement of openings and good drainage around the barn are also essential to prevent wet areas that can compromise litter quality and biosecurity.

Relevant Associated Requirements *[delete as appropriate]*

- **Code of Welfare: Meat Chickens 2018** - Minimum Standard No. 9 – Litter Management.
- **Code of Welfare: Layer Hens 2018** - Minimum Standard No. 10 – Litter Management in Barns.

Biosecurity Objectives:

- **Ensure litter management practices minimise the risk of disease introduction and spread** by maintaining dry, clean, and hygienic litter conditions.
- **Prevent vermin attraction** and access by managing litter in a way that reduces moisture, feed spillage, and areas suitable for pest activity.
- **Ensure all vehicles delivering fresh litter or collecting used litter are cleaned and disinfected** between production areas to prevent cross-contamination.

Activity	Farm Procedure
1. Describe how barn litter quality is managed and maintained. Describe the procedures used to maintain litter quality in the barns. State the target depth of litter that is used. Describe how long litter remains in use and outline the farm's procedure for replacing, refreshing, or top-dressing litter to maintain suitable conditions throughout the flock cycle.	
2. The monitoring process for managing dust and dampness in barn shavings. Describe how litter is routinely assessed for dust levels, moisture, and overall condition, including how often checks occur and who is responsible. Outline the steps taken to correct excessive dust. Detail the corrective measures used when litter becomes excessively damp.	
3. Litter deliveries. How is litter delivery managed to ensure that trucks delivering or collecting litter have been adequately cleaned and disinfected between production facilities?	