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Implementing Act on Production rules Poultry Main outcome of Technical discussions

Committee Organic Production

26 September2018

Technical discussions: poultry production rules

- *COM received comments from NO, CZ, IE, FR, UK, BE, IT, AT, EE, DE, NL, SE, FI, DK, ES, PT*
- *COM received comments from stakeholders*

  IFOAM, COPA COGECA and ELPHA
- *Clarifications/questions basic act*
- *Conservative approach allowing sector a smooth transition for poultry other than gallus gallus*
- *Changes introduced by the reform for gallus gallus poultry (parents, pullets, laying hens, broilers)*
- *Compromise based on the comments received from MS and the sector*

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Clarifications/questions basic act (1)

definitions and categories of animals

- *young poultry (derogation protein feed)*
- *Finisher poultry*
- *Fattening poultry*
- *Pullets*
- *Fattening poultry*
- *Flock*

Poultry houses and fattening poultry

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Clarifications basic act (2)

- *Stocking densities and 170 kg N per year and hectare*
- *Verandas (insulated roofs, stocking densities)*
- *Compartments (categories of poultry)*
- *Organic poultry database*
- *Open air areas (access, breeders and pullets, drinking troughs, shelters)*
- *Hatcheries (parallel production, holding definition)*
- *Treatments againts parasites for poultry (withdrawal time)*

Clarifications basic act (3)

- *National rules for parents of ducks, turkeys… not covered in future IA*
- *National rules for categories of poultry not covered in future IA*
- *Transitional period*
- *Mallard ducks/Mulard ducks*

Definitions and categories of animals

- *Young poultry <18 weeks*
- *Fattening poultry: poultry intended for meat production*
- *Finisher poultry: poultry intended for meat production at the last phase of fattening*
- *Pullets for egg production and young future parents gallus gallus*
- *Breeders: gallus gallus parents for production of hatching eggs*

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Poultry flock

- *Art 2 (3) (b) Reg 2160/2003 on the control of salmonella* 'flock' means all poultry of the same health status kept on the same premises or in the same enclosure and constituting a single epidemiological unit; in the case of housed poultry, **this includes all birds sharing the same airspace.**

- ***Definition not suitable with semi-closed partition***
- ***AH consequences for biosecurity status if semi-closed partitions used***

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Poultry flock

For the purpose of this Regulation, poultry flock can be defined as a group of birds that are kept together not mixing with other poultry species, and with their own dedicated indoor and outdoor areas.

COMPARTMENTS OF POULTRY HOUSE

- In poultry houses that are subdivided into compartments to house multiple flocks, there should be restricted visibility to other flocks using **semi-closed partition** within the house **for gallus gallus parents, laying hens and pullets and solid partitions for fattening poultry.**

- A semi-closed partition is solid at the bottom and ensures visual protection 80 cm above the upper sitting level of birds. The upper part of a semi-closed partition is not solid, e.g nettings, and should prevent the flight of poultry between different compartments.

- **A solid partition ensures a complete physical separation from the floor to the roof of the building of each compartment of the poultry house. To discuss buildings**.

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Multi-tiered systems for poultry

- Multi-tiered systems can only be used for **gallus gallus poultry parents, laying hens, pullets for egg production and future parents.**

- Multi-tiered systems shall have **no more than three levels of usable area including the ground floor**.

- The vertical distance between each level should be at least 45 cm and there shall be no more than 1 m between levels or intermediate areas, such as nesting areas.

Multi-tiered systems for poultry

- The vertical distance between each level should be at least 45 cm and there shall be no more than 1 m between levels or intermediate areas, such as nesting areas.

- **The elevated levels** tiers must be conceived as to prevent droppings falling on the levels below and equipped with an efficient system of manure removal.

- The drinking and feeding facilities must be distributed in such a way as to provide equal access to all birds.

- Multi-tiered systems must be conceived in such a way as to provide easy equal access to open air areas to all birds.

- **Additional requirements to density according to ground floor/usable area to discuss.**

PERCHES/RAISED SITTING LEVELS

- Perches for parents gallus gallus, laying hens, gallus gallus pullets for egg production and future parents, gallus gallus fattening poultry and guinea fowls should be provided from a young age.

- Perches should be of lengths (perch space cm/bird) and in numbers commensurate with the size of the group and of the birds as laid down in the table on the minimum surface areas indoors and outdoors and other characteristics of housing for poultry production.

- Raised sitting levels (e.g balls of straw or platforms) should be provided to fattening turkeys and Muscovy ducks from a young age in adequate proportion of the indoor usable area as laid down in the table on the minimum surface areas indoors and outdoors and other characteristics of housing for poultry production.

PERIODS OF OPEN AIR ACCESS

- Open air areas may be partially covered. **Verandas shall not be considered as open air areas.**

- poultry shall have access to an open air area for at least one third of their life. However, laying hens and finisher poultry shall have access to an open air area for at least one third of their life, except where **temporary restrictions** have been imposed on the basis of Union legislation.

- Continuous daytime access shall be provided **from as early an age as practically possible and whenever physiological conditions allow**, except where temporary restrictions have been imposed on the basis of Union legislation.

PERIODS OF OPEN AIR ACCESS

- by way of derogation from point 1.6.5, in the case of breeding birds and pullets aged under 18 weeks, **when the conditions specified in point 1.7.3 as regards restrictions and obligations related to the protection of human and animal health imposed on the basis of Union legislation** are met and prevent breeding birds and pullets aged under 18 weeks from having access to open air areas, **verandas shall be considered as open air areas** and, in such cases, shall have a **wire mesh barrier to keep other birds out**.

Open air areas

- *Access to open air areas gallus gallus parents and gallus gallus pullets*
- *Outcome of on-going discussions with DG SANTE regarding salmonella and avian influenza*
- *EFSA opinion on salmonella control 2019*
- *No age limits but early rearing/fattening, late rearing/fattening*

Verandas

- ***Optional*** *- not mandatory*
- *Ground floor surface of the veranda* ***not included in the indoor minimum surface or in the outdoor minimum surface***
- *Can be used as an open air area for breeders and pullets under the precise conditions of A II PII 1.9.4.4 (f)*

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Verandas

- *Need to be in line with DG SANTE Com Impl Dec (EU) 2018/1136 on risk mitigation and reinforced biosecurity measures and early detection systems in relation to the risk posed by wild birds for the transmission of highly pathogenic avian influenza viruses to poultry.*

- *Veranda* ***not included in the total usable area of poultry houses for fattening poultry***

- *UK clarifications on insulated roofs*

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POP-HOLES (1)

- Poultry house shall be constructed in a manner allowing all birds easy access to open air areas.
- The external boundary of the indoor house, including a possible veranda, shall have exit/entry pop-holes.
- The pop-holes shall have a combined length of at least 4 m per 100 m^2 area of **the indoor ground floor** to the birds and in any case, a total opening of at least 2 m must be available per group of 1000 birds.

POP-HOLES (2)

- Poultry houses shall be constructed in a manner allowing all birds easy access to open air areas, i.e the maximum distance from any point within the house to the nearest external pop-hole shall not be more than **20 m.**

- Every single exit/entry pop-hole should be **of a size adequate for the birds**.

- Birds must be able to access pop-holes without any obstacle.

Stocking densities

- *No equivalent of Annex IV fixing the max number of als per hectare*
- *MS shall set out the livestock units equivalent (see AII PII 1.6.7)*
- *Clarifications required by IE (see AII PII 1.6.6 and 1.6.7 and AII PI 1.9.4)*
- *In the tables outdoor areas stocking densities « provided that the limit of 170 kg N per ha and per year is not exceeded ».*
- *No empowerment for COM to have an IA ; DA under art 14(2) to change the limits not to be activated.*

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Requirements for vegetation and the characteristics of protected facilities and open air areas (1)

- **Open air areas for poultry shall be attractive to the birds.**
- **Open air areas for poultry shall be mainly covered with vegetation composed of a diverse range of plants and and be provided with protective facilities or schrubs or trees spread over the entire area.**
- The vegetation on the open-air area must be **managed regularly** to reduce the potential for nutrient surpluses.

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Requirements for vegetation and the characteristics of protected facilities and open air areas (2)

- The open-air areas shall not extend **beyond a radius of 150 m from the nearest pop-hole of the poultry house**. However **an extension of up to 350 m from the nearest pop-hole of the poultry house** is permissible provided that a sufficient number of shelters **or schrubs or trees** and protected access to water are evenly distributed throughout the whole open-air area with at least four shelters or schrubs or trees per hectare.

- In the case of **geese**, the open air area should allow the birds to satisfy their needs to eat grass.

- Clarifications ES trees and schrubs, drinking troughs and DG SANTE

Breeders: parents *Gallus gallus*

Gallus gallus	Parents Production of hatching eggs
Age	> 18 weeks (126 days)
Minimum surface for indoor area Maximum number of birds per m^2 of usable area for fixed and Mobile houses	6 birds
Perches Minimum cm perch /bird	18
Nests 7 female per nest or in case of common nest 120 cm^2/female bird	7
Multi-layer systems limits/m^2 **ground floor/usable area**	9 birds
Flock size limits/compartment **Semi-closed partition**	3 000 including males
Minimum surface for outdoor area (m^2 /bird) provided that the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded	4
Verandas can be used as an open air area for breeders and pullets under the precise conditions of A II PII 1.9.4.4 (f)	

PULLETS gallus gallus: 0-18 weeks

Gallus gallus	Early rearing	Late rearing
Age < 18 weeks (126 days)		
Indoor stocking rate Maximum liveweight/number of birds per m^2 of usable area for fixed and mobile houses	21 kg liveweight/m^2	21 kg liveweight/m^2
Minimum perch space cm perch /bird	10	10
Multi-layer systems limits/m^2 of **ground floor/usable area**	36 birds	22 birds
Flock size limits/compartment **Semi-closed partition**	10 000	10 000
Outdoor stocking rates (m^2 /bird) provided that the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded	1 fully feathered birds	2

Laying hens/Gallus gallus

Gallus gallus	Laying hens
age	>126 days
Minimum surface for indoor area Maximum number of birds per m^2 of usable area for fixed and Mobile houses	6 birds
Perches Minimum cm perch /bird	18
Nests 7 female per nest or in case of common nest 120 cm^2/female bird	7
Multi-layer systems limits/m^2 of ground floor/usable area	9 birds
Flock size limits/compartment **Semi-closed partition**	3 000
Open-air stocking rates (m^2/bird) provided that the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded	4

Fattening poultry Gallus gallus

Gallus gallus	Early fattening	Late fattening	Fattening birds
Age	0-x days	<81 days and xdays	>81 days
Minimum surface for indoor area Maximum number of birds per m^2 of usable area for fixed and Mobile houses	21 kg liveweight/m^2	21 kg liveweight/m^2	**21 kg liveweight/m^2** Ref 543/2008 capons Max number of als/m^2: 6,25 (up to 91 days of age: 12) but no more than 35 kg/liveweight
Total usable surface area 1 600 m^2 Maximum liveweight per production unit	1 600 m^2x 21 kg= 33 600 kg	1 600 m^2x 21 kg= 33 600 kg	1 600 m^2x 21 kg= 33 600 kg
Perches Minimum cm perch /bird	1 cm	5 cm	18 cm
Flock size limits/compartment **Solid partition**	10 000	4 800	4 800
Outdoor stocking rates (m^2 /bird) provided that the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded	2 fully feathered birds	4	4

Other poultry Gallus gallus

- **Brother roosters (male laying birds) for fattening**

AT, DE

- **Dual purpose Strains**: meat and eggs
- **Cockerels** slaughtered 42 days or 81 days
- **Capons** finition in claustration in poultry meat marketing standards?
- **Poulardes** young female chicken slaughtered around 120 days, alternative to capon, not covered by poultry marketing standards, finition in claustration?

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Other poultry than Gallus gallus

- ***Quails: outcome of the sub-group***
- ***Parent flocks of ducks, geese, and turkeys other than gallus gallus: clarification national rules***

Turkeys

Fattening poultry other than Gallus gallus	Turkeys Meleagris gallopavo
Minimum surface for indoor area Maximum liveweight per m^2 of usable area for fixed and mobile houses	**21 kg liveweight/m^2** Ref 543/2008 Max number of als/m^2 6,25 (up to 7 weeks of age: 10) but no more than 35 kg/liveweight
Raised sitting levels	0,5 to 1% of usable area floor
Flock size limits/compartment **Solid partition**	2 500
Total usable surface area 1 600 m^2 Maximum liveweight per production unit	1 600 m^2x 21 kg= 33 600 kg
Open-air run stocking rates (m^2 /bird) provided that the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded	10 Fully feathered birds

Geese

Fattening poultry other than Gallus gallus	Geese Anser anser domesticus
Minimum surface for indoor area Maximum liveweight per m^2 of usable area for fixed and mobile houses	**21 kg liveweight/m^2** Ref 543/2008 Max number of als/m^2 5 (up to 6 weeks of age: 10) but no more than 30 kg/liveweight
Flock size limits/compartment **Solid partition**	2 500
Total usable surface area 1 600 m^2 Maximum liveweight per production unit	1 600 m^2x 21 kg= 33 600 kg
Open-air run stocking rates (m^2 /bird) provided that the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded	15 Fully feathered birds

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Peking ducks

Fattening poultry other than Gallus gallus	Peking Ducks Anas platyrhynchos domesticus	
Sex	male	female
Minimum surface for indoor area Maximum liveweight per m^2 of usable area for fixed and mobile houses	**21 kg liveweight/m^2** Ref 543/2008 Max number of als/m^2 8 males but no more than 35 kg/liveweight	**21 kg liveweight/m^2** Ref 543/2008 Max number of als/m^2 10 but no more than 25 kg/liveweight
Flock size limits/compartment **Solid partition**	3 200 males	4 000 females
Total usable surface area 1 600 m^2 Maximum liveweight per production unit	1 600 m^2x 21 kg= 33 600 kg	1 600 m^2x 21 kg= 33 600 kg
Open-air run stocking rates (m^2 /bird) provided that the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded	4,5 Fully feathered birds	4,5 Fully feathered birds

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Muscovy ducks

Fattening poultry other than Gallus gallus	**Muscovy ducks** Cairina moschata and hybrids	
Sex	Male	Female
Indoor stocking rate Birds per m^2 of usable area for fixed and mobile house	**21 kg liveweight/m^2** Ref 543/2008 Max number of als/m^2 8 males but no more than 30 kg/liveweight	**21 kg liveweight/m^2** Ref 543/2008 Max number of als/m^2 10 females but no more than 25 kg/liveweight
Raised sitting levels	0,5 to 1% of the usable area	0,5 to 1% of the usable area
Flock size limits/compartment **Solid partition**	3 200	4 000
Total usable surface area 1 600 m^2 Maximum liveweight per production unit	1 600 m^2x 21 kg= 33 600 kg	1 600 m^2x 21 kg= 33 600 kg
Open-air run stocking rates (m^2 /bird) provided that the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded	4,5 Fully feathered birds	4,5 Fully feathered birds

Mulard ducks

Poultry other than Gallus gallus	Mulard Ducks Cairina moschata × Anas platyrhynchos
Minimum surface for indoor area Maximum liveweight per m^2 of usable area for fixed and mobile houses	**21 kg liveweight/m^2** Ref 543/2008 Max number of als/m^2: 8 but no more than 35 kg/liveweight
Flock size limits/compartment **Solid partition**	3 200
Total usable surface area 1 600 m^2 Maximum liveweight per production unit	1 600 m^2 x 21 kg= 33 600 kg
Open-air run stocking rates (m^2 /bird) provided that the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded	4,5 Fully feathered birds

Guinea fowl

Fattening poultry other than Gallus gallus	Guinea Fowl Numida meleagris f. domestica
Indoor stocking rate Birds per m^2 of usable area for fixed and mobile house	**21 kg liveweight/m^2** Ref 543/2008 Max number of als/m^2: 13 but no more than 25 kg/liveweight
Perches Minimum cm perch /bird	20
Flock size limits/compartment Solid partition	5 200
Total usable surface area 1 600 m^2 Maximum liveweight per production unit	1 600 m^2x 21 kg= 33 600 kg
Open-air run stocking rates (m^2 /bird) provided that the limit of 170 kg of N/ha/year is not exceeded	4

Implementing Act Article 26(7)
Collection of data concerning the availability on the market of organic animals

Organic reform Article 26 (7)

The Commission **may** adopt **implementing acts** providing:

(a) technical details for establishing and maintaining the databases referred to in paragraph 1 and the systems referred to in paragraph 2;

(b) specifications as regards the collection of information referred to in paragraph 1 and 2;

(c) specifications as regards the arrangements for participation in the databases referred to in paragraph 1 and in the systems referred to in paragraphs 2 and 3; and

(d) details as regards the information to be provided by Member States in accordance with Article 53(6).

Implementing Act Article 26(7)
Collection of data concerning the availability on the market of organic animals and protein feed
Basis for technical discussions

- IA only to fix the details as regards the information to be provided by MS.
- Inputs from MS with current systems/databases needed to fix these details

Transitional period

- *Previous EU rules Reg 889/2008 to new EU rules*
- *Previous national rules to new harmonized EU rules*
- *Possible under specific conditions*
- *Entry into force of provisions of Reg 2018/848 on 1.1.2021*
- *Implementing act based on Article 14(3) for livestock production rules*
- *Period 5 or 10 years*

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Database organic animals

- *Examples of systems in use in UK*

http://ofgorganic.org/classifieds/for-sale/6/

https://www.soilassociation.org/certification/farming/organic-market-place/