

## Global Animal Partnership's

# **DRAFT 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Standards for Chickens Raised for Meat**



### Public Comment Process

We're excited to release our DRAFT 5-Step Animal Welfare Rating Standards for Chickens Raised for Meat for public comment. The public comment period is open for 6 weeks. Please remember this is a draft and has not been finalized. Once the public comment period has closed, the GAP team will review all comments, suggestions and edits and determine which standards need clarification and/or adjustment before presenting it to the GAP Board for review and approval.

### How Do I Give Feedback?

For any standards you would like to give us feedback on, please specify the standard number and Step level(s) and let us know what would make it better or clearer.

### Where Do I Send Feedback?

Feedback should be provided directly to GAP at [standards@globalanimalpartnership.org](mailto:standards@globalanimalpartnership.org)

### When is the Deadline?

The deadline for feedback/comments/suggestions is **5pm EDT Friday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.**

### How Will I Know You Received My Feedback?

You will receive an acknowledgement, via email, that your feedback was received.

# Global Animal Partnership's 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Standards for Chickens Raised for Meat



## About the 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Program

The 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating program, assesses the level of welfare of animals on-farm and during transport. Standards for additional components of production will be developed in the future.

Through its very design as a multi-tiered program, 5-Step® promotes continuous improvement in animal agriculture; engages a broad spectrum of producers; allows for wider product selection for greater consumer options; provides more detailed information about the level of welfare of farm animals; and better informs consumers about the production systems they may choose to support.

Each set of tiered standards—from Step 1 to Step 5+—has its own requirements that must be met before certification to that particular Step level is assigned. As the standard-setter, Global Animal Partnership does not conduct audits nor make Step-rating certification decisions. Authorized, third-party certification companies, with trained and ratified auditors, perform the audits and issue 15-month Step certificates, as appropriate. Producers, consumers, and retailers alike can therefore be assured that Step ratings are fair, accurate, and free of conflict of interest.

## About the 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Standards for Chickens Raised for Meat

This version of the 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Standards for Chickens Raised for Meat was issued on XXXXXXX, and is effective YYYYYY (6-months), replacing all previous versions. Any operations audited on or after YYYYYY, including those undergoing re-certification on or after YYYYYY, will be audited to this version. The six-month implementation period from issue date to effective date enables producers, both new to the 5-Step® program and those entering renewal certification, time to adjust their management practices and protocols as necessary. The development process included guidance from a species specific standards working group, animal welfare scientific experts and producers, public comment, and review and approval by the Global Animal Partnership Board of Directors.







## About Global Animal Partnership

Global Animal Partnership, a nonprofit charitable organization founded in 2008, brings together farmers, scientists, ranchers, retailers, and animal advocates—a diverse group with the common goal of wanting to improve the welfare of animals in agriculture.

For more information, contact us at [info@globalanimalpartnership.org](mailto:info@globalanimalpartnership.org) or 877.427.5783 (+1.202.540.9880 if calling from outside the United States).

## Program Overview

Chickens raised in Step 1 systems typically live in a stationary housing structure and are required to provide chickens with space to express natural behavior. In Step 2, they also typically live in an indoor environment, but are provided with enrichments. Chickens in Step 3 systems typically have seasonal access to the outdoors (at a minimum) with provisions that encourage ranging and foraging when outdoors. In Step 4, birds live on pasture, with access to housing; during winter, chickens may be brought inside but must have daily access to the outdoors. In Step 5 and Step 5+, chickens live continuously outdoors on pasture and may only be removed during extreme weather conditions. At Step 5+, chickens are also required to spend their lives from placement on a single farm, and are processed at a mobile or on-farm slaughter facility.

Step Level	Marketing Claims	Description of System	Management Highlights
 <b>Step 1</b> <b>NO CAGES, NO CRATES, NO CROWDING</b> <small>Certified to Global Animal Partnership Standards by IMI Global, Inc.  <a href="http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org">www.globalanimalpartnership.org</a></small>	No cages, no crates, no crowding	Chickens in Step 1 systems live in a stationary housing structure and are provided space to express natural behavior.	Chickens are typically housed indoors and required to meet a maximum stocking density of 6.5 lbs/ft <sup>2</sup> . Producers are required to manage the environment to maintain litter and air quality.
 <b>Step 2</b> <b>ENRICHED ENVIRONMENT</b> <small>Certified to Global Animal Partnership Standards by IMI Global, Inc.  <a href="http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org">www.globalanimalpartnership.org</a></small>	Enriched environment	Chickens in Step 2 systems live in an indoor environment with enrichments.	Environmental enrichments are materials that are provided to chickens to add complexity to their environment and encourage the expression of natural behavior (such as pecking, scratching, exploration and play behavior).
 <b>Step 3</b> <b>ENHANCED OUTDOOR ACCESS</b> <small>Certified to Global Animal Partnership Standards by IMI Global, Inc.  <a href="http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org">www.globalanimalpartnership.org</a></small>	Enhanced outdoor access	Chickens in Step 3 systems have seasonal outdoor access.	Chickens live in a stationary housing structure with seasonal outdoor access. Outdoor access is defined as an outdoor area such as a dry lot, concrete pad, or pasture, but does not have to be pasture. Outdoor areas must contain features that increase the complexity of the environment. Indoor areas must have two different types of enrichments.
 <b>Step 4</b> <b>PASTURE CENTERED</b> <small>Certified to Global Animal Partnership Standards by IMI Global, Inc.  <a href="http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org">www.globalanimalpartnership.org</a></small>	Pasture centered	Chickens in Step 4 systems live on pasture; during winter chickens may be housed with continuous access to the outdoors.	Slower growing breeds of chickens live on pasture from the age of 4 weeks with access to housing or shelter. During winter, chickens may be brought inside but must have daily access to the outdoors. Pasture includes access to rangelands, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, and harvested crop areas.
 <b>Step 5</b> <b>ANIMAL CENTERED; NO PHYSICAL ALTERATIONS</b> <small>Certified to Global Animal Partnership Standards by IMI Global, Inc.  <a href="http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org">www.globalanimalpartnership.org</a></small>	Animal centered; no physical alterations	Chickens in Step 5 systems live continuously on pasture and may only be housed during extreme weather conditions.	Chickens live continuously on pasture from the age of 4 weeks. This Step requires slower growing breeds that have the ability to perch. This step also requires confirmation that the breeding stock meet specific welfare criteria.
 <b>Step 5+</b> <b>ANIMAL CENTERED; ENTIRE LIFE ON SAME FARM</b> <small>Certified to Global Animal Partnership Standards by IMI Global, Inc.  <a href="http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org">www.globalanimalpartnership.org</a></small>	Animal centered; entire life on same farm	Chickens in Step 5+ systems live continuously on pasture and may only be housed during extreme weather conditions. Birds are processed on-farm.	Chickens live continuously on pasture from the age of 4 weeks. This Step requires slower growing breeds that have the ability to perch. Chickens spend their entire lives on a single farm, and are processed at a mobile or on-farm slaughter facility.

## How to Read these Standards

Standards applicable to a Step level are designated with a ● symbol in the corresponding Step column. The ⓘ indicates the standard is considered a major non-conformance (see Non-conformances section below for more details, and the GAP Pilot Policy Manual v1.0 [Section 5-Non-Conformances]).

In the example below, the standard is required for each Step level, Step 1 through Step 5+:

STANDARD	Step Level					
	1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>2.4 Handling</b>						
<b>2.4.1 ⓘ</b> Chickens must be handled in a manner that does not cause injury.	●	●	●	●	●	●

In this example, 5.1.1 is required only for Step 3, 5.1.2 is required only for Step 4, and 5.1.3 is required for Step 5-5+. In addition, the ⓘ symbol prefaces additional information provided to aid in the understanding of the standard:

STANDARD	Step Level					
	1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>5.1 Outdoor and/or Pasture Access</b>						
ⓘ Operations are strongly encouraged to provide chickens access to the outdoors from the youngest age possible and for as much of their lives as possible.						
<b>5.1.1 ⓘ</b> All chickens from 4 weeks of age must be given continuous outdoor access during daylight hours unless climatic conditions pose a welfare risk.			●			
ⓘ [5.1.1]: Chickens in Step 3 systems have seasonal outdoor access.						
<b>5.1.2</b> All chickens from 4 weeks of age must be given continuous access to pasture during daylight hours. If climatic conditions pose a welfare risk then chickens can be removed from pasture but must be given continuous access to an outdoor area during daylight hours.				●		
ⓘ [5.1.2]: See Section 5.2 for requirements for pasture and outdoor areas.						
<b>5.1.3</b> All chickens from 4 weeks of age must be given continuous access to the outdoors during daylight hours except during extreme weather conditions. Seasonal housing due to inclement climatic conditions is prohibited.					●	●
ⓘ [5.1.3]: Chickens in Step 5 and Step 5+ systems may only be housed during extreme weather conditions (e.g. non-typical weather for the season such as large swings in temperature or heavy precipitation, tornadoes, hurricanes, monsoons, blizzards, floods) that jeopardize their welfare.						

The ⓘ symbol prefaces additional information provided to aid in the understanding of the standard:

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
Cage Systems							
4.1.1	All cage systems are prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	ⓘ [4.1.1]: A cage is a fully enclosed structure made of mesh, bars, or wires that prevents full range of motion and the ability to express natural behavior, such as roosting, foraging, and exercising (e.g., battery cage, colony cage). Cages do not include fenced-in porches and outdoor enclosures provided they allow for full range of motion and the ability to express natural behavior. Transport containers are also excluded from the definition of cages.						

## Program Requirements

The following is applicable to each operation applying for certification to Global Animal Partnership's 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Program for chickens raised for meat.

### I. General

- a. The standards in this document are requirements.
- b. With the exception of Standard 1.1.5 for Steps 5 and 5+, standards for breeding animals are not included in this document and will be developed in the future.
- c. Unless otherwise specified, standards in this document pertain to chickens of any age.
- d. The term "flock" is defined as a barn/house of chickens. The group can be kept all together or divided into smaller groups but would be considered one flock.
- e. The term "operation" is defined as either (i) a single farm or (ii) a farm with more than one location, that meets all of the following criteria:
  - all staff and animals are under the direct supervision and management of the farm;
  - the farm owns, rents or leases, all the locations where the animals are raised.

Operations can include contract growers or farms that own their own birds; however, a producer group, co-operative, or other affiliated entity that markets birds does not meet the definition of operation.

- f. In order to achieve certification to a particular Step-rating, the operation must meet all applicable standards. For example, all standards specified for Step 3 must be met in order to become certified to Step 3.
- g. Certification is for a 15-month period, which allows for animals and operations to be assessed seasonally over a 5-year period.
- h. The GAP Pilot Policy Manual v1.0 is a companion document to the standards, and details additional program requirements and terms of certification beyond that which is included in the standards.
- i. Each operation must follow a chain of custody program that is also maintained by the processor and any further processor. The chain of custody program can be developed and implemented by an affiliated group (e.g., a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) or created with the aid of external consultation.
- j. No standard in this document supersedes governmental regulations or laws, whether local, regional, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other.

### 2. Applications

- a. Each operation is required to submit a new, completed 5-Step® application for each certification cycle.
- b. Each operation must identify all sites (either owned, leased, and/or shared) used to raise animals by the operation on their 5-Step® application.
- c. Applications, as well as this document, can be downloaded at [www.globalanimalpartnership.org/](http://www.globalanimalpartnership.org/) or by contacting your certifier.

### 3. Audit and Certification

#### a. General

- i. Each operation must submit a completed 5-Step® application, and be audited and certified prior to marketing any product as Step-rated.
- ii. Each operation must be audited once every certification cycle.
- iii. Each operation must have chickens on-site at the time of audit, but not all houses must have chickens in them at the time of the on-site audit.

- iv. At the time of audit, the person(s) responsible for managing the operation and/or an animal caretaker must be present. A designated representative affiliated with a supplier group may also be present at the time of the audit.
- v. Each operation applying for 5-Step® certification is responsible for ensuring that all required records and documents are available, and that all applicable standards are met, including actions that may be contracted or managed by another entity (e.g. catching and loading, transport, rodent control).
- vi. All applicable standards, including those that may be controlled or managed by, or contracted to, another (e.g. the hatchery; a catching and loading crew; a transporter; a producer group, co-operative, or marketing entity; processing plant), will be assessed for compliance by the certification company and incorporated into its overall assessment of the operation prior to the final Step determination.
- vii. GAP supports the use of video or other electronic monitoring records for the review of chick set-up and handling and catching and loading chickens. Use of video technology is not a requirement but can be used in place of certain observations listed in GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0. Please refer to GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0 for additional details about how this must be conducted.
- viii. Auditors do not make Step-rating determinations nor provide consultative service to producers on meeting standards requirements. Step-rating determinations are made by reviewers of authorized certification companies.
- ix. Operations are only considered seasonal if they produce birds for a portion of the year (e.g. flocks raised from July to November). If an operation produces birds all year round, but only produces Step-rated birds seasonally (i.e. for the holidays), the operation is not considered a seasonal operation.
- x. For operations that raise chickens year-round and achieve a Step-rating, the issue date of the 5-Step® certificate will be the date the final Step-rating decision is made and not the date of the audit, communication of non-conformances (if any) from the certification company to the operation, or other.
- xi. For operations that (1) only raise chickens seasonally or (2) are new operations, the issue date of the 5-Step® certificate will be the date of the on-site audit, rather than the date the final Step-rating decision is made.
- xii. Step-wise differentiation cannot be awarded on the basis of season. For example, a Step 3 operation cannot market their birds as Step 3 during the time of year when birds would typically be outdoors, and as a Step 2 when birds would typically be kept indoors.

**b. Specifics for Individual Operations that Market Their Own Birds**

- i. An operation that markets its own birds must have at least 1 flock inspected when chickens are within 14 days of slaughter.
- ii. At least 1 flock must be observed during brooding (up to 10 days) (this can be observed using video technology – see 3a.vii. above; GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0; and check and confirm certifier's protocols for further details).
- iii. If the operation has more than 4 flocks, then a minimum of 50% of the flocks will be selected by the auditor for inspection. If the operation has multiple locations, the 50% requirement must include at least one inspection at each location.
- iv. Catching and loading must be observed and audited at least once each certification cycle (this can be observed using video technology – see 3 a. vii. above; GAP's Pilot Policy Manual v1.0; and check and confirm certifier's protocols for further details).
- v. The catching and loading observation referenced above can be of non-Step-rated birds, provided all aspects of the catching and loading process are the same for all flocks, including those to be marketed as Step-rated.

**c. Specifics for Operations that are Part of an Affiliated Group**

- i. For operations that market birds through an affiliated group (e.g. producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) rather than under the operation's own name or brand, 30% of the operations must have 1 flock inspected when chickens are within 14 days of slaughter; 5% at

brooding (up to 10 days; this can be observed using video technology – see 3a.vii. above; GAP’s Pilot Policy Manual v1.0; and check and confirm certifier’s protocols for further details); and the remaining 65% when the chickens are any age.

- ii. If an individual operation has more than 4 flocks, then a minimum of 50% of the flocks will be selected by the auditor for inspection. If the operation has multiple locations, the 50% requirement must include at least one inspection at each location.
- iii. Catching and loading must be observed and audited at least once each certification cycle. If the affiliated group controls catching and loading for multiple operations, the auditor may observe and inspect the catching and loading process for the group rather than on each applicant’s own operation, provided that (1) the assessment is performed at least once per certification cycle and (2) all aspects of the catching and loading process are the same for all operations. (This can be observed using video technology – see 3 a. vii. above; GAP’s Pilot Policy Manual v1.0; and check and confirm certifier’s protocols for further details).
- iv. The catching and loading observation referenced above can be of non-Step-rated birds, provided all aspects of the catching and loading process are the same for all flocks, including those to be marketed as Step-rated.

#### 4. Non-conformances

- a. If an operation fails to meet a standard, it will be considered a non-conformance. There are three categories of non-conformance: minor, major and critical (see GAP’s Pilot Policy Manual v 1.0).

In the example below, the **M** indicates the standard is considered a major non-conformance.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>2.4 Handling</b>							
<b>2.4.1</b> <b>M</b>	Chickens must be handled in a manner that does not cause injury.	•	•	•	•	•	•

In the example below, the standard is considered a minor non-conformance.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>2.2 Hazard Management</b>							
<b>2.2.1</b>	Equipment, fittings, openings, protrusions, housing, outdoor areas, fences, and any other structures must be maintained to prevent injury.	•	•	•	•	•	•

- b. If an operation is issued a non-conformance, it needs to be addressed by the operation before a certificate is issued (see GAP’s Pilot Policy Manual v 1.0).
- c. If an operation receives a repeat non-conformance at the time of the next audit – the designation of minor, major and critical impacts the certification (see Repeat Non-conformances in GAP’s Pilot Policy Manual v 1.0)

#### 5. Step Ratings

- a. Each Step level—Step 1 through Step 5+—has its own requirements that must be met to be certified to that level. If an operation, for example, meets 100% of the requirements for Step 3, but also reaches some Step 4 requirements, the 5-Step® certification will be for Step 3.



- b. If an operation markets chickens through an affiliated group (e.g., a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) and if the group does not segregate product from different operations, the lowest Step rating achieved by the members of that group will be the ultimate Step rating assigned to the products marketed by the group as a whole. For example, 10 farms owned by different operators raise chickens marketed under a single name, and product is not segregated according to farm. Of those 10 farms, one farm is certified to Step 1, three farms to Step 2, four farms to Step 3, and two farms to Step 5. Since the group does not segregate product, the final product marketed under that single name will be labeled as Step 1.
- c. If chickens to be marketed as Step-rated are not raised on a single operation and different stages of production are conducted by different operations, each operation must submit a completed 5-Step® application and be audited and certified, and the lowest Step rating achieved will be assigned to the marketed product. For example, chicks are brooded at Farm A, which sells the birds to Farm B for grow-out. Farm A achieves a rating of Step 2, and Farm B is certified to Step 3. The final product will be labeled as Step 2.
- d. If an operation raises both Step-rated birds and non-Step-rated birds (i.e., is a split operation), a strict segregation protocol must be in place and approved by the certifier prior to a 5-Step® certificate being issued.
- e. The 5-Step® certificate for a split operation will not be issued to the operation as a whole. Rather, it will specify the certified Step-rated portion of the split operation.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### 1 ANIMAL SOURCE AND HEALTH

Source / Breed / Lines	10
Growth Rates	10
Medication	10
Treatment	11
On-Farm Euthanasia	11

### 2 ANIMAL CARE AND MANAGEMENT

Daily Flock Management	13
Hazard Management	13
Chicks and Brooding	13
Handling	13
Physical Alterations	13
Thermal Comfort	14
Feather Pecking	14
Footpad Dermatitis	14
Lameness	14
Mortality	15
Culling	15
Other Commercially Raised Animals	
on the Operation	15
Domestic Animals on the Operation	15

### 3 FEED AND WATER

Water Availability	16
Feeding Requirements	16
Feed Hygiene	16
Additives and Ingredients in Feed	
or Water	16

### 4 HOUSING

Housing Systems	17
Access to Housing	17
Litter and Flooring	17
Air Quality	17
Lighting	18
Stocking Density	18
Perches	18
Environmental Enrichments	18

### 5 OUTDOOR CONDITIONS

Outdoor and/or Pasture Access	20
Outdoor Areas and Pasture	20
Space Requirements of Outdoor Areas	21
Provisions	21

### 6 LOADING

Condition of Chickens	22
Water and Feed Withdrawal	22
Catching and Loading	22
Transport Containers	23

### 7 TRANSPORT

Transport of Chicks	24
Equipment and Vehicles	24
Transport Personnel Responsibilities	
and Procedures	24
Transport Duration	25
Transport Records	25

### 8 RODENT, WILD BIRD, AND PREDATOR CONTROL

Rodent Control	26
Wild Bird Control	26
Predator Control	26

### 9 PLANS, PROTOCOLS, PROCEDURES, TRAINING, RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS

General Requirements	27
Written Farm/Animal Health Plan/ System Plan	27
Biosecurity Procedures and Protocols	28
Alternative Power Supply	28
Training	28
Traceability and Chain of Custody	28

### 10 SLAUGHTER REQUIREMENTS

General Requirements	30
Segregation and In-Plant Traceability	30

### Appendix I: Identifying and Scoring Footpad Dermatitis

31

### Appendix II: 3-Category Lameness Evaluation

33

### Appendix III: Soiled Feather Assessment


35

### Appendix IV: Sensory Evaluation of Air Quality

37

## 1 ANIMAL SOURCE AND HEALTH

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>1.1 Source / Breed / Lines</b>							
<b>1.1.1</b>	Intentional use of genetically modified or cloned chickens, or their progeny, is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.1.2</b>	Breeds/lines/strains must be chosen for good leg health and for low levels of mortality. ① [1.1.2]: See related Sections 2.9 and 2.10.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.1.3</b>	Breeds/lines/strains must be chosen for the ability to range and for good immune systems. ① [1.1.3]: See related Sections 1.4.2, 2.10, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4,				•	•	•
<b>1.1.4</b>	Breeds/lines must be able to perch throughout their lives. ① [1.1.4]: The 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Standards defines perching as the act of balancing with feet (claws) wrapped around an elevated object such as a wooden bar or pole, or a tree branch. Chickens must be able to perch while in both sitting and standing positions. ① [1.1.4]: See related Section 4.7 and Standard 5.4.3					•	•
<b>1.1.5</b>	Each operation must have a signed affidavit from the source confirming that parent stock meet <u>all</u> of the following criteria: a. fed daily; b. not water restricted; c. never been kept in cages; and d. never given sub-therapeutic antibiotics. ① [1.15]: The affidavit may come from the hatchery or the breed company.					•	•
<b>1.2 Growth Rates</b> ① Producers are not required to weigh their birds – compliance will be determined from the breeder's published data for growth under optimum conditions. If an operation has questions about this Section, please reach out to the Certifier for further clarification.							
<b>1.2.1</b>	The maximum average growth rate must not exceed 60 grams (0.132 lbs) per day.	•	•	•			
<b>1.2.2</b>	The maximum average growth rate must not exceed 45 grams (0.099 lbs) per day.				•		
<b>1.2.3</b>	The maximum average growth rate must not exceed 35 grams (0.077 lbs) per day.					•	
<b>1.2.4</b>	The maximum average growth rate must not exceed 28 grams (0.062 lbs) per day.						•
<b>1.3 Medication</b>							
<b>1.3.1</b>	Birds that are given antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, sulfa drugs and/or arsenic-based drugs are prohibited from being marketed as Step-rated. ① [1.3.1]: This standard applies whether given therapeutically or sub-therapeutically. ① [1.3.1]: See Standard 1.4.1 for prompt treatment of birds.	•	•	•	•	•	•

	<b>① [1.3.1]:</b> Arsenic-based drugs include, but are not limited to 3-Nitro®, Roxarsone, Nitarsone, Arsanilic Acid, and Carbarsonne.					
<b>1.3.2</b>	A protocol must be in place to identify and ensure that any birds treated with antibiotics, ionophores, beta agonists, sulfa drugs and/or arsenic-based drugs are not marketed as Step-rated.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.3.3</b>	Off-label / extra-label use of medicines is prohibited unless prescribed or advised by a veterinarian.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.3.4</b>	Off-label / extra-label medicines must be identified with the prescribing veterinarian's label, or written instructions (i.e. from fax or email) detailing the prescribed method of usage, duration of administration, and withholding time, if any.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.3.5</b>	Expired medication is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.4 Treatment</b>						
<b>1.4.1</b> 	Sick or injured chickens must be promptly treated or euthanized according to Section 1.5	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.4.2</b>	Records must be kept of any treatment (medication, vaccinations, probiotics etc.) to any individual or group of birds including: a. any substance administered; b. date and method of administration; and c. flock/bird ID.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.4.3</b>	Veterinarian-prescribed treatments must be administered according to veterinarian guidance.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.4.4</b>	Any area designated for sick or injured chickens, such as a hospital pen or designated area within an existing pen, must meet the space requirements and housing conditions detailed in the HOUSING section. <b>① [1.4.4]:</b> Sick and/or injured chickens may be segregated from healthy birds when necessary, but it is not required if it is in the best interest of the bird to keep it with the flock.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.5 On-Farm Euthanasia</b>						
<b>1.5.1</b>	Euthanasia must be performed by a veterinarian or other trained person. <b>① [1.5.1]:</b> Producers will not be required to demonstrate the ability to euthanize a bird in order to show compliance with this standard, but they must be able to describe the training they received, and articulate to the auditor the visual indicators of unconsciousness and the physical parameters that confirm death.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.5.2</b>	Any bird identified as requiring euthanasia must be euthanized the same day.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.5.3</b>	Euthanasia must cause rapid and irreversible insensibility immediately followed by death.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.5.4</b>	The person performing euthanasia must remain with the chicken(s) until death is evident.	•	•	•	•	•
<b>1.5.5</b>	The following euthanasia methods are permitted: a. penetrating and non-penetrating captive bolt pistols / captive bolt guns used to the manufacturer's specifications b. manual (non-mechanical) cervical dislocation c. overdose of injectable anesthetics, including barbiturates and barbituric acid derivatives d. gas stunning and killing using (i) argon, (ii) nitrogen, or (iii) a mixture of these gases. <b>① [1.5.5]:</b> The use of welding grade argon and nitrogen gas is permitted.	•	•	•	•	•

	<p>① [1.5.5]: If an operation uses a method of euthanasia not listed above, written approval from Global Animal Partnership must be received prior to on-farm use in order to meet this Standard.</p> <p>① [1.5.5]: If chickens are to be euthanized by manual (non-mechanical) cervical dislocation, Global Animal Partnership encourages an effective pre-stun.</p>						
1.5.6	Euthanasia equipment must be maintained according to manufacturer's specifications.	•	•	•	•	•	•
1.5.7	Immediately following death, all euthanized chickens must be removed from housing and/or outdoor areas in use.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [2.16]: It is the responsibility of the operation to dispose of dead chickens according to local, state, provincial, territorial, and/or federal or national regulations.						

## 2 ANIMAL CARE AND MANAGEMENT

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>2.1 Daily Flock Management</b>							
2.1.1	Each flock must be observed and monitored at least twice daily. Records of observation and monitoring must be kept. <b>i</b> [2.1.1]: Each inspection, whether twice daily or more, must be recorded to meet this standard.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.1.2	Any dead chickens observed during daily flock monitoring must be immediately removed from housing and/or outdoor areas in use. <b>i</b> [2.1.2]: It is the responsibility of the operation to dispose of dead chickens according to local, state, provincial, territorial, and/or federal or national regulations.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>2.2 Hazard Management</b>							
2.2.1	Equipment, fittings, openings, protrusions, housing, outdoor areas, fences, and any other structures must be maintained to prevent injury.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.2.2	Chickens must be kept from contact with any potentially toxic substances (e.g., those used for maintenance, sanitation, cleaning, insect and rodent control).	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>2.3 Chicks and Brooding</b>							
<b>i</b> See related standards 3.1.3, 3.4.2 and Section 7.1.							
2.3.1	Chicks must be delivered to the operation within 48 hours of removal from the hatcher.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.3.2	Placement of chicks must begin within 2 hours of delivery to the operation. <b>i</b> [2.3.2]: Chick delivery boxes should be kept low to the ground and tipped in a manner that does not cause injury during unloading.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.3.3	Documentation of each shipment of chicks from the hatchery is required that includes: a. time chicks were removed from the hatcher; b. time of arrival onto the operation applying for certification to this standard; c. time of placement.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.3.4	Houses must be pre-warmed prior to chick arrival to accommodate their thermal needs. <b>i</b> [2.3.4]: At chick height, a minimum temperature of 90°F (32°C) is recommended, but chick behavior should be the ultimate determinant of their thermal comfort.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>2.4 Handling</b>							
2.4.1 <b>Ⓜ</b>	Chickens must be handled in a manner that does not cause injury.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>2.5 Physical Alterations</b>							
2.5.1	All physical alterations are prohibited, including, but not limited to: a. beak trimming / beak conditioning b. dubbing d. de-spurring e. toe trimming/toe clipping/de-toeing/toe conditioning	•	•	•	•	•	•

	c. caponization					
STANDARD		Step Level				
		1	2	3	4	5 5+
2.6 Thermal Comfort						
2.6.1	The thermal comfort of chickens must be maintained at all times through management and the provision of supplemental heating and/or cooling, as necessary.	•	•	•	•	•
2.7 Feather Pecking						
2.7.1	Any evidence of feather pecking must be promptly addressed and managed.	•	•	•	•	•
2.7.2	Records of any evidence of feather-pecking incidences are required, including: a. date of outbreak; b. percentage of injured birds per flock; c. actions taken to address the outbreak; and d. outcomes of the actions taken to address the outbreak	•	•	•	•	•
	① [2.7.2]: Records are required only if outbreak(s) occur.					
2.7.3	The use of goggles, blinkers, contact lenses, or any other artificial devices is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•
2.8 Footpad Dermatitis						
2.8.1	Each operation must have a footpad dermatitis monitoring program (per Appendix 1) that is conducted at the processing plant. ① [2.8.1]: See Appendix I: Identifying and Scoring Footpad Dermatitis for charts, scoring protocol.	•	•	•	•	•
2.8.2	Records of footpad dermatitis and the corresponding footpad dermatitis sum from the monitoring sample for each flock are required.	•	•	•	•	•
	① [2.8.2]: See Appendix I: Identifying and Scoring Footpad Dermatitis for specifications on calculating the flock's total footpad dermatitis sum.					
2.8.3	Footpad dermatitis sums must not exceed a total of 20.	•				
2.8.4	Footpad dermatitis sums must not exceed a total 15.		•	•		
2.8.5	Footpad dermatitis sums must not exceed a total of 5.				•	•
2.8.6	Footpad dermatitis sums must not exceed a total of 2.					•
2.8.7	If the incidence of footpad dermatitis found during random sampling of 100 feet per flock exceeds the total footpad dermatitis sums detailed below, an intervention plan that addresses, at a minimum, feed composition, litter management, humidity control, and stocking density must be implemented immediately to reduce levels in subsequent flocks.	•	•	•	•	•
	① [2.8.7]: Operations may find it useful to check footpads earlier in the growing period, but any checks done prior to processing do not replace the requirements in 2.8.1.					
2.9 Lameness						
2.9.1	Lameness evaluations must be conducted on 100 chickens from each flock on the operation during the final week prior to slaughter. ① [2.9.1]: See Appendix II: 3-Category Lameness Evaluation for scoring protocol and specification on calculating the flock's total lameness sum.	•	•	•	•	•

2.9.2	Lameness records for each flock and the corresponding lameness sum from the monitoring sample for each flock are required.	•	•	•	•	•	•
① [2.9.2]: See Appendix II: 3-Category Lameness Evaluation for specifications on calculating the flock's total lameness sum.							
2.9.3	Lameness sums must not exceed a total of 20.	•					
2.9.4	Lameness sums must not exceed a total of 15.		•	•			
2.9.5	Lameness sums must not exceed a total of 5.				•	•	
2.9.6	Lameness sums must not exceed a total of 2.						•
2.9.7	If the lameness evaluation conducted during the final week prior to slaughter exceeds the Step-differentiation total detailed above, a written intervention plan is required to reduce levels in subsequent flocks.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.10 Mortality							
① Flock mortality numbers do not include predated chickens, but does include culls.							
2.10.1	Daily records of mortality (including culls) with causes (if known) for each flock are required.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.10.2	Annual flock mortality must not exceed 6%.	•					
2.10.3	Annual flock mortality must not exceed 4%.		•	•			
2.10.4	Annual flock mortality must not exceed 3%.				•	•	
2.10.5	Annual flock mortality must not exceed 2%.						•
2.10.6	If flock mortality exceeds the percentages above for any one flock throughout the year, a written intervention plan is required to reduce levels in the existing and subsequent flocks.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.11 Culling							
2.11.1	Any chickens meeting the following criteria must be culled according to acceptable euthanasia methods:						
	a. runs	•	•	•	•	•	•
	b. exhibiting a lameness score of 2						
	c. sick or injured without chance for recovery						
① [2.11.1]: See Appendix II: 3-Category Lameness Evaluation for details on scoring lameness, and Section 1.5 for euthanasia requirements.							
2.12 Other Commercially Raised Animals on the Operation							
2.12.1	All species of animals raised commercially on the operation (for which 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Standards exist) must be raised and handled according to Step 1 standards or higher.					•	•
2.13 Domestic Animals on the Operation							
2.13.1	There must be no obvious signs of neglect or abuse of any domestic animals on the operation.	•	•	•	•	•	•
2.13.2	All domestic animals on the operation must be provided with:						
	a. food and water on a daily basis, as evidenced by healthy body condition score;						
	b. surroundings that do not cause them injury;					•	•
	c. an environment that allows for freedom of movement and exercise;						
	d. a comfortable resting area that provides protection from temperature extremes; and						













e. veterinary attention if required.

① [2.13.2]: *Domestic animals include dogs, cats, horses, or any other animals on the operation, including both pets or working animals.*



DRAFT


### 3 FEED AND WATER

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>3.1 Water Availability</b>							
3.1.1 	All chickens must have continuous access to drinking water.  [3.1]: See related standard 7.3.	•	•	•	•	•	•
3.1.2	Waterers must be checked daily and any debris cleaned out.	•	•	•	•	•	•
3.1.3	Water must be available for brooding chicks within any areas with supplemental heat.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>3.2 Feeding Requirements</b>							
3.2.1 	All chickens must have <i>ad-libitum</i> access to feed during daylight hours.  [3.2.1]: See related standard 7.4.	•	•	•	•	•	•
3.2.2	Feeders must be designed and distributed to allow chickens to eat without restriction.	•	•	•	•	•	•
3.2.3	Chickens fed whole grains and/or given outdoor access must be provided with insoluble grit.	•	•	•	•	•	•
3.2.4	Feed must be available for chicks being brooded within any areas with supplemental heat.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>3.3 Feed Hygiene</b>							
3.3.1	Feed in storage bins and feeders must not be moldy or mildewed, contaminated by rodents, or otherwise compromised in quality.	•	•	•	•	•	•
3.3.2	Feeders must be free of debris.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>3.4 Additives and Ingredients in Feed or Water</b>							
3.4.1 	Mammalian by-products are prohibited.  [3.4.1]: By-products include animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including meat, bone, blood and fat.	•	•	•	•	•	•
3.4.2 	Avian by-products, including eggs, are prohibited.  [3.4.2]: By-products include animal waste and products derived from slaughter/harvest process including meat, bone, blood, fat and feather.	•	•	•	•	•	•
3.4.3 	Fish and fish by-products are prohibited.  [3.4.3]: This includes whole fish, parts of fish, fish meal, fish by-products from the processing industry and other aquatic species and/or products (does not include seaweed or oyster shell).	•	•	•	•	•	•
3.4.4	A list of all feed ingredients, including any additives and/or mineral and vitamin mixes, given to each flock is required.	•	•	•	•	•	•

## 4 HOUSING

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>4.1 Housing Systems</b>							
① Movable pens/coops/huts without floors (also commonly known as tractors and arks) that confine birds and only allow them to range within the unit can only achieve Step 2.							
4.1.1	All cage systems are prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [4.1.1]: A cage is a fully enclosed structure made of mesh, bars, or wires that prevents full range of motion and the ability to express natural behavior, such as roosting, foraging, and exercising (e.g., battery cage, colony cage). Cages do not include fenced-in porches and outdoor enclosures provided they allow for full range of motion and the ability to express natural behavior. Transport containers are also excluded from the definition of cages.						
4.1.2	Housing systems must be mobile and movable.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>4.2 Access to Housing</b>							
4.2.1	All chickens must have continuous access to housing that provides protection from the elements and predation.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [4.2.1]: Structures, whether mobile or permanent, meet this standard.						
<b>4.3 Litter and Flooring</b>							
4.3.1	Floors of all houses, including mobile houses that are stationary for more than 3 days, must be covered with non-toxic, fibrous, and friable litter.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [4.3.1]: Caked litter in areas directly under feed and water lines does not violate this standard if it does not exceed 12 inches (30 cm) in width.						
4.3.2	Litter must be of quality and quantity to: a. provide a comfortable environment b. allow for dust-bathing behavior.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [4.3.2]: At the time of audit, if litter quality and/or quantity are found to be insufficient, 5-Step® auditors will perform an assessment of soiled feathers as an additional indicator of litter conditions. See Appendix III: Soiled Feather Assessment.						
4.3.3	Slatted and/or wire floors are prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>4.4 Air Quality</b>							
4.4.1	Air quality must be assessed at least once each day, using calibrated meters or testing strips, or sensory evaluation and records kept.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [4.4.1]: See Appendix IV: Sensory Evaluation of Air Quality protocol.						
4.4.2	If air quality levels exceed 10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> for dust and 20 ppm for ammonia (if assessed with meters or strips) or score '2' or higher according to Appendix IV: Sensory Evaluation of Air Quality (if assessed using sensory evaluation), a written intervention plan designed to improve air quality must be implemented immediately.	•	•	•	•	•	•

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>4.5 Lighting</b>							
<b>4.5.1</b>	Light intensity in housing during daylight hours, either from artificial, natural light or a combination of artificial and natural light, must be at least 20 lux (2 foot candles).	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① <b>[4.5.1]:</b> If artificial light is used fluorescent lighting tubes that have wavelengths similar to natural sunlight (more UV than red in the visual spectrum) are preferred.						
<b>4.5.2</b>	Chickens must be provided with natural light year round.			•	•	•	•
<b>4.5.3</b> 	By day 3 after placement (except when raised under natural lighting conditions and dark periods are shorter), chickens must be provided with a daily minimum of 6 hours of continuous darkness throughout their lives.	•	•				
<b>4.5.4</b>	By day 3 after placement (except when raised under natural lighting conditions and dark periods are shorter), chickens must be provided with a daily minimum of 8 hours of continuous darkness throughout their lives.			•	•		
<b>4.5.5</b>	From placement (except when raised under natural lighting conditions and dark periods are shorter), chickens must be provided with a daily minimum of 8 hours of continuous darkness throughout their lives.					•	•
<b>4.6 Stocking Density</b>							
① <i>Stocking density is calculated based on the final target weight of all chickens per flock per area at the time of catching. The expected livability used to calculate stocking density must be based on breed performance and historical data from previous flocks.</i>							
<b>4.6.1</b>	Chickens must have enough space to express natural behavior, including standing, turning around, and preening, without touching another chicken.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>4.6.2</b> 	Stocking density must not exceed 6.5 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> (32 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	•	•				
<b>4.6.3</b>	Stocking density must not exceed 6 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> (29 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )			•			
<b>4.6.4</b>	Stocking density must not exceed 5.5 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> (27 kg/m <sup>2</sup> )				•		
<b>4.6.5</b>	Stocking density must not exceed 5 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> (24.5 kg/m <sup>2</sup> ) if chickens are confined in housing at night without access to the outdoors.					•	•
<b>4.7 Perches</b>							
<b>4.7.1</b>	If chickens are housed at night, perches must be provided in the housing structures at a minimum of 7 in (18 cm) of perch space per chicken to enable all birds to perch simultaneously.					•	•
	① <b>[4.7.1]:</b> The 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Standards defines perching as the act of balancing with feet (claws) wrapped around an elevated object such as a wooden bar or pole, or a tree branch. Chickens must be able to perch while in both sitting and standing positions.						
	① <b>[4.7.1]:</b> Perches are to be elevated off the floor, be easily used by the chickens, and positioned at heights to allow for use by birds from an early age throughout their lives.						
	① <b>[1.1.4]:</b> Chickens will utilize perches more effectively if the birds are introduced to lower perching structures at younger ages.						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>4.8 Environmental Enrichments</b>							
<p><i>📘 An enrichment is an addition to the chicken's environment that encourages the expression of natural behavior such as foraging, without losing their novelty.</i></p> <p><i>📘 An addition to the chicken's environment that encourages the expression of natural behavior such as foraging, without losing their novelty. Examples include, but are not limited to, bales of straw or hay, raised platforms, provision of forages or brassicas, and scattered grains. Perches, dust-baths, and litter are not considered enrichments. Items that quickly lose their novelty and/or go unused by the chickens, such as pipes and PVC tubing, are not considered acceptable enrichments.</i></p> <p><i>📘 For Step 4 chickens, the standards in this Section apply if birds need to be removed from pasture during the winter months.</i></p> <p><i>📘 As chickens raised in Step 5 and Step 5+ systems may only be housed at night and during extreme weather conditions, indoor enrichments are not applicable.</i></p>							
4.8.1	Indoor enrichments must be provided by the time the chicks are 10 days old.		•	•	•		
4.8.2	Indoor enrichments must be maintained throughout the life of the chickens.		•	•	•		
4.8.3	The indoor environment must contain at least 1 type of enrichment that is used by the chickens.		•				
4.8.4	The indoor environment must contain at least 2 different types of enrichments that are used by the chickens.			•	•		
4.8.5 	For every 1,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (93 m <sup>2</sup> ) of indoor space, there must be a minimum of 1 enrichment.		•				
4.8.6	For every 750 ft <sup>2</sup> (70 m <sup>2</sup> ) of indoor space, there must be a minimum of 1 enrichment.			•			
4.8.7	For every 500 ft <sup>2</sup> (46 m <sup>2</sup> ) of indoor space, there must be a minimum of 1 enrichment.				•		
4.8.8	For houses that are smaller than 1,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (93 m <sup>2</sup> ), there must be a minimum of 2 enrichments.		•				
4.8.9	For houses that are smaller than 1,000 ft <sup>2</sup> (93 m <sup>2</sup> ), there must be a minimum of 2 different types of enrichments.			•	•		
	📘 [4.8.9]: This standard will not be met by providing two enrichments of the same type – e.g. hay bales and straw bales.						
4.8.10	Indoor enrichments must be placed throughout the house.		•	•	•		

## 5 OUTDOOR CONDITIONS

① Outdoor access is defined as an outdoor area such as a dry lot, concrete pad, or pasture, but does not have to be pasture.

① Pasture includes access to rangeland, grassland, planted pastures, managed pastures, wooded areas, harvested crop areas (for clean up), and any other areas where chickens have access to vegetation.

① Pastures should be rested, and allowed to regenerate between groups.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>5.1 Outdoor and/or Pasture Access</b>							
① Operations are strongly encouraged to provide chickens access to the outdoors from the youngest age possible and for as much of their lives as possible.							
5.1.1	All chickens from 4 weeks of age must be given continuous outdoor access during daylight hours unless climatic conditions pose a welfare risk. ① [5.1.1]: Chickens in Step 3 systems have seasonal outdoor access.			•			
5.1.2	All chickens from 4 weeks of age must be given continuous access to pasture during daylight hours. If climatic conditions pose a welfare risk then chickens can be removed from pasture but must be given continuous access to an outdoor area during daylight hours. ① [5.1.2]: See Section 5.2 for requirements for pasture and outdoor areas.				•		
5.1.3	All chickens from 4 weeks of age must be given continuous access to the outdoors during daylight hours except during extreme weather conditions. Seasonal housing due to inclement climatic conditions is prohibited. ① [5.1.3]: Chickens in Step 5 and Step 5+ systems may only be housed during extreme weather conditions (e.g. non-typical weather for the season such as large swings in temperature or heavy precipitation, tornadoes, hurricanes, monsoons, blizzards, floods) that jeopardize their welfare.					•	•
5.1.4	The following records are required: d. date chickens are first given outdoor or pasture access; e. any day that outdoor or pasture access is denied; and f. reasons for any denial of outdoor or pasture access.			•	•	•	•
5.1.5	Any chickens slaughtered before 28 days of age must have access to the outdoors during daylight hours for a minimum of 2 weeks. ① [5.1.5]: See standard 5.1.4 for record requirements.			•	•	•	•
5.1.6	Openings from the house, whether stationary or mobile, must allow chickens free access to the outdoors during daylight hours. ① [5.1.6]: As houses are constructed in a variety of designs and dimensions, this standard does not designate a minimum number of access points or the dimensions of each opening. Rather, it requires that houses be constructed with sufficient entry / exit points so that chickens are readily able to access the outdoors. A house may have several smaller openings spaced along one or more walls (e.g., pop holes) or a single large opening (e.g., a door or wall segment).			•	•		
<b>5.2 Outdoor Areas and Pasture</b>							
5.2.1	At least 25% of each occupied outdoor area must be covered with vegetation and/or forage. ① [5.2.1]: This standard can be met by placing cut or harvested vegetation and/or forages, such as alfalfa hay, in the outdoor area). Litter does			•			


	not meet the standard.						
STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
5.2 Outdoor Areas and Pasture <i>continued</i>							
5.2.2	At least 50% of each occupied outdoor area must be covered with vegetation and/or forage.				•		
	① [5.2.2]: This standard cannot be met by placing cut or harvested vegetation and/or forages, such as alfalfa hay, in the outdoor area. Litter does not meet the standard.						
5.2.3	At least 75% of each occupied outdoor area must be covered with vegetation and/or forage.					•	•
	① [5.2.3]: This standard cannot be met by placing cut or harvested vegetation and/or forages, such as alfalfa hay, in the outdoor area). Litter does not meet the standard.						
5.2.4	When birds are removed from pasture during winter months, the outdoor area must include materials that encourage foraging behavior.				•		
	① [5.2.4]: Materials that encourage foraging behavior include, but are not limited to, whole grains, hay and straw.						
5.3 Space Requirements of Outdoor Areas							
5.3.1	The outdoor area must be equal to or greater than 25% of the total indoor floor space of the house.			•			
5.3.2	When removed from pasture during winter months, the outdoor area must be equal to or greater than 25% of the total indoor floor space of the house.				•		
5.4 Provisions							
5.4.1 ⓘ	Each occupied outdoor area must contain features that encourage the chickens to range.			•	•	•	•
	① [5.4.1]: Examples include, but are not limited to, bushes, shrubs, shade cloth, A-frame structures, and perches. The house, whether stationary or mobile, and any structures attached to the house do not qualify as meeting the requirement of this standard. The provisions should be dispersed throughout the outdoor area to encourage roaming and foraging.						
5.4.2 ⓘ	Shade must be provided to chickens in each occupied outdoor area.			•	•	•	•
	① [5.4.2]: Shade can be provided through natural or artificial means, such as trees, shrubs, shade cloth, and structures (including houses).						
5.4.3	If chickens are <u>not</u> housed at night, each occupied outdoor area must contain perches at a minimum of 7 in (18 cm) of perch space per chicken to enable all birds to perch simultaneously.					•	•
	① [5.4.3]: The 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Standards defines perching as the act of balancing with feet (claws) wrapped around an elevated object such as a wooden bar or pole, or a tree branch. Chickens must be able to perch while in both sitting and standing positions.						
	① [5.4.3]: Perches are to be elevated off the floor, be easily used by the chickens, and positioned at heights to allow for use by birds from an early age throughout their lives.						
	① [5.4.3]: Chickens will utilize perches more effectively if the birds are introduced to lower perching structures at younger ages.						

## 6 LOADING

① Transportation companies that are currently Poultry Handling and Transport Quality Assurance Certified are automatically in compliance with Section 6.3

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>6.1 Condition of Chickens</b>							
<b>6.1.1</b> 🚫	Transporting unhealthy, non-ambulatory, or injured chickens is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>6.1.2</b>	All unhealthy, non-ambulatory, injured, or small chickens (runts) who are not loaded for processing must be euthanized the same day that chickens from the same flock are transported or slaughtered on-site. ① [6.1.2]: See Section 1.5 for euthanasia requirements.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>6.2 Water and Feed Withdrawal</b>							
<b>6.2.1</b>	All chickens must have continuous access to drinking water: a. until loading begins if water lines do not need to be elevated prior to catching and loading b. until 1 hour before loading begins if water lines must be elevated prior to catching and loading.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>6.2.2</b>	Feed must not be withheld for more than 12 hours prior to slaughter.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>6.3 Catching and Loading</b>							
<b>6.3.1</b> 🚫	Lights must be dimmed throughout the catching and loading process.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>6.3.2</b>	Chickens must be caught calmly to minimize stress and risk of injury.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>6.3.3</b>	Kicking, throwing, striking, punching, hitting, or otherwise causing injury to chickens is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>6.3.4</b> 🚫	Chickens must never be lifted or carried by the head, neck, one or both wings, or tail. ① [6.3.4]: Global Animal Partnership discourages the carrying of chickens by a single leg and urges industry to move away from this practice.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>6.3.5</b>	Catchers are prohibited from carrying more than 4 chickens per hand	•	•	•	•		
<b>6.3.6</b>	Catchers are prohibited from: d. carrying more than 2 chickens per hand e. carrying chickens by a single leg.					•	
<b>6.3.7</b>	Each chicken must be caught by the body with both hands and carried upright.						•
<b>6.3.8</b>	Mechanical loaders and conveyor belts are permitted for catching and loading chickens into containers only if they are: a. well-maintained b. well-managed c. do not cause harm to the chickens.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>6.3.9</b>	Chickens must be loaded into transport containers without causing injury.	•	•	•	•	•	•



STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>6.4 Transport Containers</b>							
<b>6.4.1</b>	Containers, whether modules, coops, drawers, or other, must be in clean and sound operational condition, and of a design that does not cause injury to the chickens.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>6.4.2</b> 	Thin wire floors are prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>6.4.3</b>	All chickens must be able to sit on the floor of the container at the same time.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>6.4.4</b>	Containers must be of adequate height to allow the chickens to move their heads freely while sitting.	•	•	•	•	•	•

## 7 TRANSPORT

① The standards in this Section apply to any transport of chickens onto, within, or off of the operation. Standards for transport containers can be found in the LOADING section.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>7.1 Transport of Chicks</b>							
① See also Section 2.3							
7.1.1	A record of the total number of chicks received from the hatchery for each flock is required.	●	●	●	●	●	●
7.1.2	A record of the total number of dead-on-arrivals (DOAs) for each flock is required.	●	●	●	●	●	●
7.1.3	Mortality during transport must not exceed 0.5% per shipment.	●	●	●	●	●	●
7.1.4	The thermal comfort of chicks must be maintained at all times through management and the provision of supplemental heating and/or cooling, as necessary.	●	●	●	●	●	●
7.1.5	Each chick must be provided a minimum of 4 in <sup>2</sup> (25.8 cm <sup>2</sup> ) floor space within the delivery box.	●	●	●	●	●	●
7.1.6	Each delivery box must be designed with holes for ventilation.	●	●	●	●	●	●
7.1.7	Each delivery box must contain a new, absorbent floor pad or be constructed in such a way that chicks stay dry and do not slip.	●	●	●	●	●	●
7.1.8	Each delivery box sent by air carrier must be prominently labeled “LIVE BIRDS.”	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>7.2 Equipment and Vehicles</b>							
7.2.1	Equipment (e.g., a trailer) and vehicles must be managed to provide for the thermal comfort of chickens at all times.	●	●	●	●	●	●
7.2.2	If equipment (e.g., a trailer) or vehicles have open sides or tops, they must have cover(s) that can be fitted securely and adjusted as necessary to protect chickens from inclement weather.	●	●	●	●	●	●
<b>7.3 Transport Personnel Responsibilities and Procedures</b>							
7.3.1	A clear, written procedure must be made available to the auditor and/or certification company that includes actions and contact information for the driver to follow in case of accident or emergency.	●	●	●	●	●	●
7.3.2	The driver must be knowledgeable in all of his or her responsibilities and transport protocols, including those in the case of accident or emergency as per standard 7.3.1.	●	●	●	●	●	●
7.3.3	If the vehicle is scheduled to pick up chickens from more than one operation and/or source, a separate bill of lading/delivery note for each operation is required.	●	●	●	●	●	●
① [8.11]: See Section 7.5 for records requirements.							

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>7.3 Transport Personnel Responsibilities and Procedures <i>continued</i></b>							
<b>7.3.4</b>	If the vehicle is transporting chickens from more than one operation and/or source, each different group of chickens must be segregated in identifiable containers.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>7.3.5</b>	Transport or movement of chickens with other species on the same vehicle and in the same compartment is prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>7.4 Transport Duration</b>							
① <i>Duration of any transport is calculated for each vehicle or trailer and begins when the first chicken is loaded into the container and ends when the vehicle or trailer arrives at its destination under normal/typical driving conditions for that region. In the review of transport duration records, the certifier will take into account cases of unexpected inclement weather, vehicle accidents or malfunction, or other unforeseen circumstances that result in a delay. See Section 7.5 for records requirements.</i>							
<b>7.4.1</b> 🚫	4 hours	•	•	•	•	•	
<b>7.4.2</b>	2 hours.						•
① <b>[7.4.2]:</b> Chickens raised in Step 5+ systems can only be moved to on-site or mobile slaughter.							
<b>7.5 Transport Records</b>							
<b>7.5.1</b>	The following records are required for each vehicle transporting chickens: a. date of transport; b. starting time for catching and loading chickens into each truck; c. arrival time at processing facility; d. reasons for any stops or delays en route; and e. number of chickens transported from the operation.	•	•	•	•	•	
<b>7.5.2</b>	Separate transport documentation, whether a bill of lading, delivery note, or other, is required for each operation if the vehicle is scheduled to pick up chickens from more than one operation.	•	•	•	•	•	
<b>7.5.3</b>	The following records are required for all chickens slaughtered on site: a. date of transport; b. starting and ending times for catching and loading chickens; c. arrival time at the place where chickens will be slaughtered; and d. number of chickens moved and slaughtered on-site.						•

## 8 RODENT, WILD BIRD, AND PREDATOR CONTROL

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>8.1 Rodent Control</b>							
① <i>The standards in this Section are applicable to any rodent control efforts, whether contracted or not.</i>							
8.1.1	Exclusion of rodents from housing and feed storage must be the first level of control.	•	•	•	•	•	•
8.1.2	Lethal control is permitted only if the following conditions are met: a. exclusion was ineffective and chickens are at risk; b. the method of control causes rapid and irreversible insensibility immediately followed by death; and c. the method of control targets only rodents.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [8.1.2]: <i>Glue boards, drowning, and drowning traps do not meet the above requirements.</i>						
8.1.3	Any live traps must be checked at least once daily and acted upon within 24 hours.	•	•	•	•		
8.1.4	Any live traps must be checked at least twice daily and acted upon within 24 hours.					•	•
	① [8.1.4]: <i>Live traps, also known as humane traps, do not contain poison or in any other way result in lethal control.</i>						
<b>8.2 Wild Bird Control</b>							
8.2.1	Wild birds must be excluded from housing.	•	•				
<b>8.3 Predator Control</b>							
① <i>The standards in this section are applicable to any predators, including aerial predators, and to any predator control efforts, whether contracted or not. Control of predators must not violate any local, state, provincial, territorial, federal, national, or other laws.</i>							
8.3.1	When predators are considered to be a problem, each operation must have a predator control program in place.	•	•	•	•	•	•
8.3.2	Non-lethal methods of predator exclusion from housing and occupied outdoor areas must be the first level of control.	•	•	•	•	•	•
8.3.3	Lethal control is permitted only if the following conditions are met: c. non-lethal methods were ineffective and chickens are at risk d. the method of control is swift, efficient, and does not cause undue suffering, immediately followed by death e. the method of control targets only the offending predator(s).	•	•	•	•	•	•
8.3.4	Poisons, drowning, all snares, leg hold traps and all traps other than live traps are prohibited.	•	•	•	•	•	•
8.3.5	Any live traps must be checked at least once daily and acted upon within 24 hours.	•	•	•	•		
	① [8.3.5]: <i>Live traps, also known as humane traps, cannot contain poison or maim, or in any other way result in lethal control.</i>						
8.3.6	Any live traps must be checked at least twice daily and acted upon within 24 hours.					•	•
	① [8.3.6]: <i>Live traps, also known as humane traps, cannot contain poison or maim, in any other way result in lethal control.</i>						

## 9 PLANS, PROTOCOLS, PROCEDURES, TRAINING, RECORDS AND DOCUMENTS

① Certain historical records and documents included in this section may not be available at the time of initial audit as the operation applying for 5-Step® certification was unaware they would be required and, therefore, cannot create them for past events, treatments, assessments, or practices. At the time of initial audit, record-keeping and documentation mechanisms must be place to meet each of these standards, and records and documentation for, at a minimum, the chickens presently on-site must be available.

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>9.1 General Records Requirements</b>							
9.1.1	Records must be written and made available to the inspector and/or certification company. Acceptable formats include, but are not limited to; record sheets and cards, calendars, notebooks, and computer documents.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [9.1.1]: Records can be collected and stored by producer groups, but must be available at the time of the audit.						
9.1.2	Records must be presented in an organized manner.	•	•	•	•	•	•
9.1.3	All records, reports, Step certificates, and other materials and correspondence relating to Step certificates must be kept for 1 certification cycle.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>9.2 Written Farm/Animal Health Plan/System Plan</b>							
9.2.1	Each operation must have a written plan describing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. an overview of the operation, including size, type/stage of production, location, and typical climatic conditions</li> <li>b. emergency procedures, including those for natural disasters, fire, water shut off, and, if applicable, power failure</li> <li>c. operational practices and policies for chicken production: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. provision for daily feed and water, including ration details;</li> <li>ii. health programs (e.g., supplementation, vaccination and other preventative, maintenance and/or health-promoting practices);</li> <li>iii. routine husbandry procedures;</li> <li>iv. care of sick and/or injured chickens, including on-farm euthanasia policies;</li> <li>v. management of outdoor areas, if applicable to production system;</li> <li>vi. brooding;</li> <li>vii. rodent, wild bird, and predator control practices;</li> <li>viii. environmental management (i.e. to reflect how various environmental challenges are handled such as large fluctuations in temperature, excessive humidity, etc.).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>						
	① [9.2.1]: The Farm and Animal Health Plan can be provided by an affiliated group (e.g., a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity) or created with the aid of external consultation (e.g., extension agents, veterinarians, peers), but must include information specific and relevant to the operation applying for 5-Step® certification.						

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
9.3 Biosecurity Procedures and Protocols							
9.3.1	Each operation must have a documented and implemented biosecurity program that covers: a. procedures for bringing any chickens onto the site, including new chicks and any returning birds (e.g. show birds); b. procedures and policies for employees (e.g. dress code and footwear requirements, policies concerning pets and/or the keeping of chickens or other birds off-site); c. procedures and policies for visitors to the operation (e.g. provision of foot baths, booties, and protective clothing; visitor logs); d. feed trucks and equipment delivery to the operation; e. shared borders with neighboring operations, if applicable; f. clean-out procedures of housing units between flocks.	•	•	•	•	•	•
9.4 Alternative Power Supply							
9.4.1	If power is essential to the operation of heating, cooling, ventilation, watering, and/or feeding systems, each operation must have: a. an alternative power supply; and/or fail-safe device in working condition; b. a method of notification in the event of power failure.	•	•	•	•	•	•
9.5 Training							
9.5.1	Each operation must provide training to all chicken care-givers and/or managers that: a. is written and/or hands-on; b. is presented in all necessary languages; c. includes instruction on recognizing signs of normal and abnormal chicken appearance and behavior; d. describes all aspects of the individual’s responsibilities; e. describes emergency procedures; f. is provided prior to the individual’s handling of any chickens on the operation; g. covers all requirements of this version of the 5-Step® Animal Welfare Rating Standards for Chickens Raised for Meat; h. is on-going as necessary and, at a minimum, when any changes affecting the care and management of chickens are implemented.	•	•	•	•	•	•
9.5.2	Each operation must keep a record of employee training, including dates of training and topics covered.	•	•	•	•	•	•
	① [9.1.1]: Training includes initial, re-training and on-going training.						
9.6 Traceability and Chain of Custody							
9.6.1	Each operation must have individual flock records that can trace the flock from the hatchery/hatching through to slaughter.	•	•	•	•	•	•



## 10 SLAUGHTER REQUIREMENTS

STANDARD		Step Level					
		1	2	3	4	5	5+
<b>10.1 General Requirements</b>							
<p>① Operations, or the affiliated group (e.g. a producer group, co-operative, marketing entity), must provide a complete copy of the current third party animal welfare audit for all slaughter facilities used by the Operation or affiliated group to the certifier to verify this Section. GAP certifiers will review the core criteria of the current audit and assess eligibility to meet this standard.</p> <p>① The animal welfare slaughter audit does not have to be conducted by a GAP approved certification company. Operations and suppliers are encouraged to check with their retail partners to ensure the certifier used for their slaughter audit is in compliance with the retailer's buying requirements.</p>							
<b>10.1.1</b>	All animals must be stunned and rendered insensible prior to slaughter.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>10.1.2</b>	<p>All operations holding a current 5-Step® certificate, where animals will be marketed as Step-rated, must be slaughtered at a slaughter facility that has passed and holds a current annual third party animal welfare audit with a minimum score of 90% and pass all core criteria listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. At least 99% of the birds must be properly stunned (on a sample of 300);</li> <li>b. No more than 1% broken or dislocated wings;</li> <li>c. If hung live, both legs must be shackled (1 in 500 is a failure);</li> <li>d. No broken legs (1 broken leg in 500 is a failure);</li> <li>e. No more than 1% bruised thighs and drumsticks;</li> <li>f. No live birds entering the scalders.</li> </ul> <p><b>Source:</b> adapted from the Slaughter section of National Chicken Council Animal Welfare Guidelines and Audit Checklist for Broilers (2014).</p> <p>① <b>[10.1.2]:</b> Any bird found with a broken leg or wing should be euthanized immediately, rather than shackled.</p>	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>10.1.3</b>	Birds that are dead-on-arrival (DOA) must not exceed 0.5%.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>10.2 Segregation and In-Plant Traceability</b>							
<b>10.2.1</b>	All slaughter facilities used by the operation or affiliated group must provide a copy of their written in-plant segregation and traceability protocol outlining how Step-rated birds, and differing Step-ratings if applicable, are kept segregated from non-Step-rated birds and product.	•	•	•	•	•	•
<b>10.2.2</b>	Birds must be processed on-farm using an on-farm slaughter facility or a mobile slaughter unit.						•



## Appendix I: Identifying and Scoring Footpad Dermatitis

Section 2.8 requires a footpad dermatitis monitoring program, conducted at the processing plant, that includes a random sampling of 100 feet from 100 chickens in each flock. The identification and scoring protocol below considers both the size and severity of lesions. The total maximum footpad dermatitis score is 200 (i.e., all 100 feet scoring '2'). The maximum thresholds for a flock's total footpad dermatitis sum are listed in standards 2.8.3 to 2.8.6 according to Step level.

### PROTOCOL

#### Step 1: Determining the Sample Groups

- At the processing plant: Randomly collect 100 different legs (i.e. not two (2) from the same bird) off of the line per group and score the footpads for that group at a convenient time in the processing day.






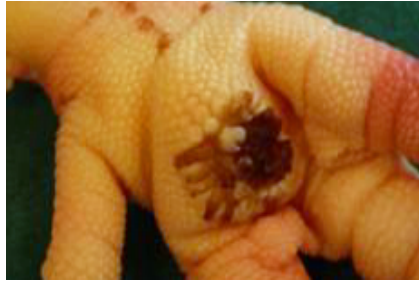



#### Step 2: Scoring

- Use the following chart to score 100 feet from 100 chickens from each flock with a footpad dermatitis score of '0,' '1,' or '2.'

#### Step 3: Calculating the Flock's Total Footpad Dermatitis Sum

- $(\# \text{ of feet scoring '0'} \times 0) + (\# \text{ of feet scoring '1'} \times 1) + (\# \text{ of feet scoring '2'} \times 2) = \text{Total Footpad Dermatitis Sum}$
- In the above calculation, the Total Footpad Dermatitis Sum is determined as follows:
  - a foot scoring '0' does not get any points
  - a foot scoring '1' gets 1 point
  - a foot scoring '2' gets 2 points
- For example:
  - Of the 100 feet from 100 chickens assessed: 65 score '0,' 30 score '1,' and the remaining 5 score '2.'
  - $(65 \times 0) + (30 \times 1) + (5 \times 2) = 0 + 30 + 10$ , for a Total Footpad Dermatitis Sum of 40

## Appendix I: Identifying and Scoring Footpad Dermatitis *continued*

Score: 0 (0 points each for score of 0)	Score: 1 (1 point each for a score of 1)	Score: 2 (2 points each for a score of 2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No lesions or very small</li> <li>No discoloration or slight on a limited area</li> <li>No hyperkeratosis or mild</li> <li>No scars or old</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild and/or superficial lesions</li> <li>Substantial discoloration on the footpad</li> <li>Dark papillae</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe and significant lesions</li> <li>Ulceration</li> <li>Dark papillae</li> <li>Abscesses and/or swollen feet (bumble foot)</li> </ul>
<p><b>no lesion</b></p> 	<p><b>mild lesion</b></p> 	<p><b>severe lesion</b></p> 
<p><b>small discoloration</b></p> 	<p><b>substantial discoloration</b></p> 	<p><b>dark papillae and ulceration</b></p> 
<p><b>completely healed scar</b></p> 	<p><b>dark papillae, no ulceration</b></p> 	<p><b>abscess, swollen (bumble foot)</b></p> 

Adapted and reprinted with permission: "Foot-pad dermatitis in broilers: a photo guide to broiler foot health classification." Dr Lotta Berg, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

## Appendix II: 3-Category Lameness Evaluation

Standard 3.15 requires a lameness evaluation conducted on 100 chickens per flock during the final week prior to slaughter. This 3-category lameness evaluation assesses and scores the mobility of chickens observed in 4 different locations within each house, on each floor if multi-level, or in each outdoor area. The total maximum lameness sum possible is 200 (i.e., all 100 chickens scoring '2'). The maximum thresholds for a flock's total lameness sum are listed in standards 3.16.1 to 3.16.3 according to Step level.

### PROTOCOL

#### Step 1: Determining the Sample Groups

- Assess groups of chickens in 4 different locations for a total of 100 chickens per flock.
- For example, if the operation has 3 houses, each with 2 floors, this 100-chicken lameness evaluation will be conducted 6 times—once for each of the 6 flocks—and in 4 different locations for each flock.

#### Step 2: Scoring and Suggested Best Practices

- Use the following chart to score 100 chickens from each flock with a lameness score of '0,' '1,' or '2.'
- Watch one chicken at a time for at least 15 seconds.
- Each chicken's mobility must be assessed and scored from the side in order to observe foot placement and length of stride.
- Gentle nudging may be necessary to encourage movement.
- Chickens must always be approached from behind, if movement must be encouraged.
- Once the chicken is moving, back away to assess the gait and assign a lameness score of '0,' '1,' or '2' according to the chart below.

#### Step 3: Calculating the Flock's Total Lameness Sum







- $(\# \text{ of chickens scoring '0'} \times 0) + (\# \text{ of chickens scoring '1'} \times 1) + (\# \text{ of chickens scoring '2'} \times 2) = \text{Total Lameness Sum}$
- In the above calculation, the Total Lameness Sum is determined as follows:
  - a chicken scoring '0' does not get any points
  - a chicken scoring '1' gets 1 point each
  - a chicken scoring '2' gets 2 points each
- For example:
  - Of the 100 chickens assessed: 62 score '0,' 23 score '1,' and the remaining 15 score '2.'
  - $(62 \times 0) + (23 \times 1) + (15 \times 2) = 0 + 23 + 30$ , for a Total Lameness Sum of 53

## Appendix II: 3-Category Lameness Evaluation *continued*

Score: 0	Score: 1	Score: 2
(0 points each for score of 0)	(1 point each for a score of 1)	(2 points each for a score of 2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foot may or may not curl when lifted by the chicken</li> <li>• Smooth gait typically with even steps that may be uneven at times</li> <li>• Well-balanced</li> <li>• Able to walk quickly and/or run</li> <li>• Difficult to identify any abnormality when walking or running</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uneven gait</li> <li>• Foot does not curl when lifted by the chicken</li> <li>• Irregular, short strides</li> <li>• Poor balance</li> <li>• The chicken:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ may use one or both wings to help balance while walking</li> <li>○ squats within 15 seconds of standing or being forced to move by gentle nudging</li> <li>○ may lie down after several steps</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The chicken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is reluctant or unable to move, or shuffles on the ground if forced to move by gentle nudging</li> <li>• uses wings to help with movement</li> <li>• takes at most a few steps, if any</li> </ul>
<b>Normal</b>	<b>Moderately Lam</b>	<b>Severely Lam</b>

Appendix III: Soiled Feather Assessment

Standard 4.3.2 requires that litter within housing structures to be of quality and quantity to (1) provide a comfortable environment and (2) allow for dust-bathing behavior. At the time of audit, if litter quality and/or quantity are found to be insufficient, 5-Step auditors will perform this Soiled Feather Assessment as an additional indicator of litter conditions by observing a minimum of 100 birds in the flock. Producers are encouraged to perform this assessment themselves throughout the life cycle of the flock.

FRONT / UNDERSIDE OF CHICKEN		
Score 1: Lightly Soiled	Score 2: Significantly Soiled	Score 3: Severely Soiled
		
BACK / TOP OF CHICKEN		
Score 1: Lightly Soiled	Score 2: Significantly Soiled	Score 3: Severely Soiled
		

DRAFT



## Appendix IV: Sensory Evaluation of Air Quality

Section 4.4 requires assessment of air quality. Most operations do not use calibrated equipment to assess air quality on a daily basis. While this type of specialized equipment is an accurate way to measure air quality, it's typically too costly for everyday use. Below is a subjective score that can be used to assess air quality during daily monitoring.

Scores 2-5 (Moderate, Strong, Very Strong, and Overpowering) indicate that ammonia and dust are excessive and need to be addressed immediately for both human safety and animal health.

Technique:

1. Once each day during flock monitoring, score and record the air quality just prior to leaving the house.
2. Record your air quality score.
3. Make any necessary adjustments to ventilation, management, etc. to improve air quality in your barn(s).

Scoring Air Quality			Action Required?
0	ZERO	odor and dust not noticeable (easy to breathe)	No - acceptable air quality
1	WEAK	odor and dust hardly noticeable	
2	MODERATE	odor and dust distinct, annoying (watery eyes and/or coughing)	Yes – needs work to improve air quality
3	STRONG	odor and dust irritating (stinging eyes and mouth, and/or excessive coughing)	
4	VERY STRONG	odor and dust bearable (stinging eyes and mouth, excessive coughing, and/or pain when swallowing)	
5	OVERPOWERING	odor and dust unbearable, you need to leave the barn (hurts to breathe in)	

DRAFT