



April 6, 2016

Response to Animal Justice Canada’s Claims that “Certified Humane” Chicken Meat Violates False Advertising Legislation.

Chart showing the 2015 Draft of the Canadian Codes of Practice for Chickens, requirements as compared to Humane Farm Animal Care (HFAC) Standards.

Canadian Codes of Practice (2015 Draft) for Chickens	Humane Farm Animal Care Standards
What is listed is the actual requirements of the Codes of Practice, not recommendations.	What is listed is the actual requirements of the HFAC Standards.
STOCKING DENSITIES	STOCKING DENSITIES
<p>1. Birds must have enough space to move freely, be able to stand normally, turn around, and stretch their wings without difficulty.</p> <p>2. Space allowance must be sufficient to allow all birds to be able to sit at the same time</p> <p>3. Health and/or injury data if provided by processors, must be used to help determine if on-farm stocking densities are contributing to recurring health and/or welfare problems (e.g., foot pad and breast lesions, cellulitis, scratches and bruises).</p> <p>4. The number of birds must not exceed that which can be accommodated by the available barn space and equipment (e.g., feeders, drinkers, nest boxes)</p> <p>5. Stocking densities for broiler chickens must not be greater than 33 kg./m². However, stocking densities may be increased to a maximum of 38 kg/m² if health and/or injury data indicate that the</p>	<p>D. Space Allowance</p> <p>E 20: Stocking density</p> <p>a. The maximum stocking density must be calculated on the weight of birds per available floor space.</p> <p>b. This density allowance must not exceed 6 lbs/ft² (30 kg/m²).</p> <p>E 21: Records of space allowances</p> <p>To ensure that the maximum housing density is not exceeded:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A plan of every house must be available to the assessor that indicates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The total floor area available to the chickens; b) The space allowance per bird (taking weight at market age into account), and c) The maximum number of birds permitted within the house. 2. Records must be kept that enable the stocking density to be verified easily by the producer/Assessor at any time. These must include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Records of the current number of birds in each house; b) The daily mortality; c) The number culled (including reason for culling); and d) Average weight of birds at market age.

<p>increased stocking density does not negatively impact bird welfare.</p>	
<p>LIGHTING DURATION AND INTENTION</p> <p>1. Chicks must be <u>provided with a minimum of 1 hour of darkness in each 24 hour period within 48 hours of placement!</u></p> <p>2. From day 3 to 5 of placement through to 7 days prior to catching, birds kept in barns must have a dark period of at least 4 hours in each 24-hour period that is no more than 20% of the light intensity of the light period!</p> <p>3. <u>Light intensity must be adequate during the light period to allow birds to navigate their surroundings and for daily inspections (e.g., 5 to 10 lux).</u></p> <p>4. Light intensity may only be reduced temporarily to correct abnormal behavior!</p> <p>5. Light control systems must be inspected regularly and maintained in working order</p>	<p>E 14: Designing a lighting program The lighting program used in the chicken house must be designed to decrease leg problems and provide adequate rest time.</p> <p>E 15: Light period The lighting system in the chicken house must provide in each period of 24 hours:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A minimum period of 8 hours of light, by the provision of either artificial light or access to daylight; and 2. <u>A minimum period of 6 continuous hours of darkness in every 24-hour cycle, except when the natural period of darkness is shorter. This requirement need not apply during the first few days of rearing and the last three days prior to slaughter.</u> <p>E 16: Prior approval for other lighting programs Producers wishing to use other lighting programs to decrease leg problems must submit their plan to the <i>Humane Farm Animal Care</i> office and obtain written permission to do so prior to using the proposed lighting program.</p> <p>E 17: Recording light periods Lighting patterns in all houses must be recorded and records must be made available to <i>Humane Farm Animal Care</i> during the inspection and at other times, upon request.</p> <p>E 18: Light intensity</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Daytime lighting levels must allow birds to see and be inspected without difficulty. b. <u>The lighting system in chicken houses must be designed and maintained in order to give an average minimum illumination of 2 foot candles (20 lux) throughout the house (except in shaded areas.)</u> <p>E 19: Sufficient light for inspection Adequate lighting, whether fixed or portable, must be available to enable the chickens to be thoroughly inspected at any time.</p>

CATCHING AND HANDLING OF CHICKENS

1. Catching crews must be supervised by a competent individual ;
2. Birds must be handled in such a manner that minimizes stress and/or injury. Birds must not be carried solely by the head, neck, one wing, or tail feathers;
3. Producer or a competent designee must be readily available throughout the catching and loading process;
4. All catching and loading equipment must be operated by competent personnel ;
5. The catching area must promote safe and humane handling and catching (e.g., lift or remove feeders and drinkers prior to catching) ;
6. Birds must be in an upright position after being loaded into containers ;
7. Containers with birds must be handled, moved, and securely positioned on vehicles in a manner that minimizes stress and/or injury to birds ;
8. The number of birds in each container must be determined prior to loading, taking into consideration the available floor space, body size/weight, prevailing environmental conditions, and time of transport ;
9. Parts of birds must not protrude from containers in any way that can cause injury or impede movement.

PART 6: TRANSPORTATION

OBJECTIVES: Animal transport systems must be designed and managed to ensure chickens are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The transport and handling of chickens must be kept to an absolute minimum. Personnel involved in transport must be thoroughly trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.

A. Depopulation

T 1: Culling unfit birds prior to loading

- a. Caretakers must inspect the flock shortly before loading and cull any unfit birds.
- b. Birds that are visibly unfit before loading must not be transported; they must be euthanized promptly.

T 2: Preparing for depopulation

- a. All feeders, drinkers, and other obstacles must be raised or removed from the house prior to catching birds to minimize risk of bruising.
- b. Access routes to the chicken house must be adequately designed and maintained to permit safe passage of transport vehicles.
- c. House doors and passages must be large enough to allow safe removal of birds.
- d. Vehicles must be parked as near as practically possible to the house being de-populated.

T 3: Training

Managers must ensure that all personnel involved in catching and transportation of birds are properly trained and competent.

T 4: Providing instructions for the operation

- a. Managers must communicate with the processor, transporter and catching crew to identify the number of birds to be transported and the birds' weight.
- b. Managers must establish the stocking density to be used during transport.
- c. Managers must prepare full and detailed written instructions for the catching staff
 1. All catching staff must have a copy of these instructions; and
 2. The catchers must be aware of their duties.

T 5: Monitoring welfare during depopulation

A nominated member of the catching crew must be made responsible for supervising, monitoring, and maintaining high Animal Care Standards throughout the depopulation of the house and loading of birds onto the transport vehicle.

T 6: Ensuring sufficient time for compassionate care

Catching crews must never put speed of operation before bird welfare. Sufficient time must be made available to ensure birds are handled with care.

T 7: Adequate ventilation

- c. Adequate ventilation at bird height must be provided for uncaught birds up to the time of loading.
- d. During loading, steps must be taken to protect birds from:
 - Adverse weather conditions;
 - Sources of heat; and
 - Condensation.

T 8: Mitigating unnecessary suffering

- e. During the catching process, chickens must not suffer prolonged:
 - Hunger,
 - Thirst, or
 - Deprivation of rest.
- f. Specifically, birds must have access to water up to the time of catching. Water must be given regularly to uncaught birds by periodically lowering the drinkers
- g. Birds must not be deprived of feed for more than 12 hours in total, including the period up to the time of processing.
- h. All feeders, drinkers and other obstacles must be raised or removed from the house prior to catching to minimize the risk of bruising.
- i. House doors and passages must be large enough to allow safe removal of birds.

T 9 Catching birds

- d. Catching must take place in low lighting to minimize fear reactions of the birds.
- e. Chickens must be caught individually and carried by both legs.

- c. No more than three birds should be carried in one hand.

*It is preferable to carry one bird at a time, with the bird held carefully in a
However if the birds are carried in groups, care must be taken to ensure
comfortably without distress or injury, and carrying distances must be kept*

T 10: Preventing crowding

- a. During depopulation, actions must be taken to prevent chickens from crowding together.
- b. When crowding occurs, catching must be stopped, and the birds spread out calmly and quietly, then allowed to settle before catching is resumed.

T 11: Access for transport vehicles used during depopulation

- a. Access routes to the chicken house must be adequately designed and maintained to permit the safe passage of transport vehicles.
- b. Vehicles must be parked as near as practically possible to the house being de-populate

T 12: Using modular transport systems

- a. Before depopulation begins, the person appointed to supervise depopulation and loading must verify that modular crate transport trays:
 - Have completely open tops with a depth of not less than 8.5" (26 cm)
 - Permit adequate ventilation and protect birds from adverse climatic conditions;
 - Are thoroughly clean;
 - Are well maintained; and
 - Have no sharp edges or protrusions that could cause injury to birds.
- b. Chickens must be put in transport modules in the house.
- c. A catcher must place one bird at a time into the transport tray.
- d. Birds must be placed carefully into the module drawer—birds must not be dropped or thrown into the drawer.
- e. When loading, one hand must lift the bird by the legs, and the other hand must support the breast; birds must not be lifted by just the wing or the neck.

- f. Stocking density must be reduced when birds are being transported during hot weather (in excess of 77°F or 25°C).
- g. As each drawer is filled, it must be closed carefully to ensure that the birds' heads, wings, or legs are not trapped.
- h. Modules must be taken from the shed slowly and care must be taken to ensure no damage is caused to the birds.

Fixed Crate Transport System

T 13: Using fixed crate transport systems

- a. The person appointed to supervise depopulation and loading must verify that fixed crate
 - a. The person appointed to supervise depopulation and loading must verify that fixed crate vehicles:
 - c. Have adequate ventilation and protect birds from adverse climatic conditions;
 - 1. Are thoroughly clean;
 - 2. Are well maintained;
 - 3. Have doors that close securely; and
 - e. Have no sharp protrusions on the vehicle or crates that could cause injury to the birds.
 - b. Facilities must be provided for catchers that ensure they are able to load birds onto the vehicle from a position that gives them easy access to all crates (e.g., loading platform or steps).
 - f. Catchers must not lift birds above the catcher's head height when loading them onto the vehicle.
 - g. Birds must be loaded into the fixed crate carefully; birds must not be thrown into the crate.
 - h. When loading, one hand must lift the bird by the legs, and the other hand must support the breast; birds must not be lifted by just the wing or the neck. Birds should be loaded one at a time.
 - i. Stocking density must be reduced when birds are transported during hot weather (in excess of 77°F [25°C]).
 - j. The floor of each fixed crate must prevent feces falling on birds beneath but must not hinder ventilation inside the crate.
 - k. The person responsible for supervising depopulation and loading must ensure that the door of each crate is securely fastened, and the wings, head, or legs of any bird are not trapped in the door or any part of the fixed crate.

<p>GENETIC SELECTION: None</p>	<p>H 1: Selecting birds for good health During selection of birds, care must be taken to select birds for high welfare traits and to avoid genetic strains with undesirable traits.</p>
<p>Electrical Stunning: None</p>	<p>Processing Plant managers must ensure that sufficient personnel are employed on shackling lines at all times to facilitate due care and diligence.</p> <p>P 13: Shackling procedure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chickens must be hung without causing them unnecessary pain or distress by using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shackles of a suitable size and type, and • An appropriate slaughter line speed. b. Birds must be hung on the shackles by both legs, with each leg placed on a separate shackle. <p>P 14: Keeping birds in the correct position for stunning <u>Appropriate measures must be taken to prevent wing flapping and birds raising their heads before reaching the stunning bath, such as:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Use of a breast bar;</u> • <u>Curtains;</u> • <u>Reduction in noise;</u> • <u>Low light intensity;</u> • <u>Running a hand down birds at shackling; and</u> <p>6. <u>Avoiding bends in the line between shackling and stunning.</u></p> <p>P 15: Preventing escape</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Care must be taken to ensure that birds cannot escape from the holding area or fall from the shackle line. b. When loose birds are found they must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taken promptly to the hanging on area; or • If injured, promptly humanely destroyed away from the line. <p>P 16: Limiting time birds are suspended <u>Chickens must not be suspended for more than 90 seconds before they are stunned.</u></p> <p>P 20: Electrical water stunning bath When an electrical water stunning bath is used:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The stunning bath must be set at a height appropriate for the size and number of birds. In particular, the height must be set such that the heads of all birds make effective contact with the water bath. b. <u>When chickens are electrically stunned or killed a current sufficient to induce insensibility in all birds prior to neck-cutting must be used.</u> c. <u>The water bath used for stunning or killing chickens must be of sufficient size and depth and the water must not overflow at the entrance. The electrode immersed in the water must extend the length of the water bath.</u> d. The water bath stunner must be designed and set up to prevent birds receiving pre-stun shocks. e. The water bath must be fitted with an ammeter to accurately monitor current flow through the bath when loaded with birds.
<p>OUTDOORS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1.The range area must be designed to protect birds during inclement weather and provide sufficient shaded areas to accommodate the size of the flock 2.Shelters must be provided to birds raised outdoors! The range area must be kept free of debris that may shelter pests 3.Feed and water must be provided in a way that discourages access by wild birds 4.The outdoor range must be sited and managed to avoid muddy or unsuitable conditions; this includes the areas under the feeders and waterers 5.When birds have access to the range from a barn, barns must be designed to allow easy access to and from the range area for all birds 	<p>E 29: Outdoor area The outdoor area in free-range systems must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be designed and managed in ways which ensure that the area around the house does not become contaminated, denuded or sodden; 2. Consist of pasture covered by vegetation, where possible. <p>E 30: Well-drained resting area Chickens with access to range must have access to a well-drained area for resting while outside the building.</p> <p>E 31: Exits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. When chickens are kept in free-range systems the house must have sufficient exit areas appropriately distributed to ensure that all birds have ready access to the range. b. Each exit area must be no smaller than 1 ½ feet high and 1 yd. wide to allow the passage of more than one chicken at any one time. c. There must be a sufficient number of exit areas to allow the birds to enter and leave the building freely. <p>E 32: Access to range</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Chickens kept in free-range systems must have access to the range by 4 weeks of age and for a minimum of 8 hours each day except when the natural daylight period is less.

	<p>b. All exit areas must normally be open during this time, except when this is precluded by inclement weather conditions, disease outbreak or veterinary emergency.</p> <p>E 33: Shade In warm months a shaded area must be accessible that has sufficient space that the chickens do not have to crowd together (thereby risking further heat stress.)</p> <p>E 34: Protection from predators Protection must be provided from predators and birds should be closed in the house at night.</p>
<p>AIR QUALITY Action must be taken to manage ammonia levels if they reach a harmful range (e.g., 20 to 25 ppm)</p>	<p>E 22: Air quality</p> <p>a. Provisions must be made to ensure that aerial contaminants do not reach a level at which they are noticeably unpleasant to a human observer</p> <p>b. Ammonia concentration at bird height must be recorded in each house at least once every 2 weeks, and records made available to <i>Humane Farm Animal Care</i> during inspection and at other times, upon request.</p> <p>c. <u>The ammonia concentration at bird height should be less than 10 ppm</u> and must not exceed 25 ppm except during brief periods of severe inclement weather when ventilation is affected.</p>