Comparison Document – Broiler Code of Welfare 2003 vs Animal Welfare (Meat Chickens) Code of Welfare 2012

Note: This document compares the key changes in the Minimum Standards required in the new (July 26, 2012) Meat Chickens Code of Welfare and the previous 2003 Code. Example Indicators are outlined and discussed in most, but not all areas. For a full list of Example Indicators, please refer to the new Code. Please note that this Comparison Document is not intended to replace a thorough knowledge and understanding of the 2012 Code. To ensure you are in full compliance, you should obtain and keep a copy of the Code for ongoing reference. A copy of the Minimum Standards must be available on-site at all times.

Stockmanship – Minimum Standard No. 1

Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	2003 Broiler Code (Minimum Standard No. 16)	Comment
Meat chickens must be cared for by personnel, who collectively possess the ability, knowledge and competence necessary to maintain the health and welfare of the animals in accordance with this Code. *Example Indicators:* • Meat chicken health and welfare is in accordance with the minimum standards listed in this Code. • Those caring for and handling meat chickens are familiar with the Minimum Standards listed in the Code and a copy of the Minimum Standards is available on-site at all times. • Job descriptions and/or other documentation outlining the expectations of personnel and their performance are readily accessible and include reference to chicken health and welfare. • All staff have received training or have suitable practical experience and demonstrate competence by appropriate responses to chickens and their needs. • A sufficient number of personnel is available in order to meet the requirements of this Code.	Broiler chickens must be cared for by a sufficient number of personnel who possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence to maintain their health and welfare in accordance with the Minimum Standards listed in this Code.	The word "broiler" is now changed to "meat" in the Minimum Standard and in the Example Indicators. The wording in the new Code has changed for the Example Indicators but the content is still the same.

Food and Water – Minimum Standard No. 2		
Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	**2003 Broiler Code (Minimum Standard No. 2)**	**Comment**
(A) All meat chickens must receive adequate quantities of food and nutrients each day to: (i) enable each bird to maintain good health; (ii) meet its physiological demands; and (iii) Minimise metabolic and nutritional disorders.	(a) Feed must be provided to all broiler chickens each day, except on the day of slaughter. (c) Broiler chickens must receive adequate quantities of food and nutrients to: (i) enable each bird to maintain good health; (ii) enable each bird to meet its physiological demands; and (iii) enable each bird to must have continuous access to water that is palatable and not harmful to health.	The 2003 Broiler Code states that feed must be provided each day except on the day of slaughter. This "exception" is not mentioned in the 2012 Code. Clause (ii) has been changed and now includes the words "meet its physiological demands;"
(b) All meat chickens must have continuous access to water that is palatable and not harmful to health.	(d) All broiler chickens must have continuous access to water that is palatable and not harmful to health.	No change.
(c) Feed and water must be provided in such a way as to prevent undue competition and injury. (d) Any meat chicken that cannot access food and water must be removed during daily inspections and raised separately or humanely destroyed immediately.	(b) Feed must be provided in such a way as to prevent undue competition and injury. (h) Runts and culls that cannot access food and water must be removed during daily inspections and immediately euthanased or raised separately.	Words "and culls" removed in clause (d). The word "euthanased" is replaced with "destroyed". The order is swapped for the phrases "raised separately" and "destroyed immediately".
Example Indicators: • Daily inspection is carried out to ensure that undue competition and injuries are minimised and corrective action is taken and documented as required. Deaths and cull numbers (and reasons where available) are recorded. • Feed quality and composition meet the standards of the New Zealand Feed Manufacturers Association's *Manufacture of Animal Feeds in New Zealand Code of Practice.*	(e) The size of feed particle must be appropriate for the size of bird. (f) Representative samples (minimum 0.5%) of the broiler chicken flock must be weighed weekly and these weights recorded and compared against a recommended growth chart for their appropriate management systems, issued by the poultry breeding companies in New Zealand. (g) If the sample growth rate varies 10% or more from the recommended growth chart then advice must be promptly sought from appropriate advisory livestock personnel.	Only change made is the removal of the words "…is in exceeds…" from the last bullet point in the Example Indicators.

• The pellet and/or crumb size is appropriate for the size of the chickens. • Representative samples (minimum 0.5%) of the flock are weighed weekly and the weights recorded and compared against a growth chart appropriate for their breed and management systems issued by the poultry breeding companies in New Zealand. (If your flock comprises 1000 birds, 10 birds should be weighed; for a 30,000 flock, 150 birds should be weighed.) • Appropriate advisory livestock personnel are consulted promptly if the sample growth rate varies by 10% or more from the expected growth chart. • Chicken growth and behaviour are not adversely affected by feed changes. • Uncontrolled water sources are routinely monitored for microbiological and mineral content, quality and palatability. The required frequency of monitoring will depend on the source. • Water consumption is monitored on a daily basis and per cycle. • If the mortality level within a shed exceeds 1% in a 24 hour period, an investigation is undertaken and documented.		

Range - Minimum Standard No. 3		
Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	**2003 Broiler Code**	**Comment**
(a) All meat chickens must have access to shelter from adverse weather that is likely to cause heat or cold stress, and to reduce the risk of predation. (b) Openings provided for chickens to access an outside area must be wide enough to enable chickens to freely move to and from the outdoors at all times without the risk of smothering or injury.		Word "opening" changed to "pop hole" in third bullet point of Example Indicators.

(c) Where access to outside areas is provided it must be managed to prevent the development around the housing of muddy, dusty or contaminated conditions to an extent that could be harmful to the chickens' health. (d) Precautions must be taken to protect chickens from pests, including predators. *Example Indicators:* • Chickens are observed to use the outside area regularly. • Number and location of pop holes is appropriate for the number of chickens, as determined by use of the outside area by majority of chickens, and minimal competition at pop holes • Each pop-hole providing access to the outside areas is of sufficient size to allow the passage of more than one chicken at any one time. A suitable minimum dimension is 350 mm high and 400 mm wide. • Overhead shade or shelter is provided on the range at all times throughout the year in a manner that encourages full use of the range • Minimal pugging or standing water is evident • Minimal muddy, dusty and contaminated conditions exist • A pest management plan is followed • A management plan is being followed that covers the management of: - vegetation cover on the ground - ground condition - risk of disease - drainage, and -shelter and shade		

Housing and Equipment – Minimum Standard No. 4

Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	2003 Broiler Code (Minimum Standard No. 3)	Comment
(a) Precautions must be taken to secure the site and buildings at all times in order to protect the health and welfare of meat chickens. (b) Meat chicken sheds must be designed, constructed and maintained to: (i) provide insulation, ventilation, heating, lighting, sanitation and hygiene requirements (see Section 4.4 Management of the Internal Environment); and (ii) allow ready access for handling and inspection of meat chickens; and (iii) have sufficient height, width and space and entrance size to allow for catching methods that minimise stress on meat chickens; and (iv) allow the distribution of chickens over the floor to be controlled so as to keep chicks within the heated area and prevent crowding of older chickens. (c) All surfaces in meat chicken sheds and enclosures must be designed, constructed and maintained to: (iv) minimise the risk of injury and disease to meat chickens; and (v) facilitate cleaning and disinfection of the shed surfaces. (d) All equipment used for rearing meat chickens must be inspected regularly throughout the day to ensure correct operational functions, and if required appropriate remedial action undertaken. (e) Meat chicken sheds must be subject to a pest (e.g. wild birds, mustelids, rodents) control plan. (f) All meat chicken sheds must be sited to minimise risks of natural and environmental hazards such as storm water drainage, extreme winds and to allow for appropriate management of dust. (g) Controlled environment housing must have alarms that warn of power failure and/or significant temperature variance.	(a) All reasonable precautions must be taken to secure the site and buildings at all times against unauthorised entry in order to protect the health and welfare of broiler chickens and to comply with biosecurity requirements. (b) Housing systems: (i) must take into account insulation, ventilation, heating, lighting, sanitation and hygiene requirements, and must allow for easy inspection; and (ii) must be vermin- (e.g. feral birds, mustelids, rodents) proof; and (iii) must have sufficient height, width and space and entrance size to ensure the humane placement of day-old chicks and to allow for catching methods that minimise stress to the broiler chickens. (c) All surfaces in broiler sheds and enclosures must be designed, constructed and maintained to minimise the risk of injury and disease to broiler chickens. (d) All broiler sheds must be sited to facilitate drainage of storm water away from the sheds, to minimise risks of natural and environmental hazards such as extreme winds and allow for appropriate management of dust. (e) Broiler sheds must have automatic alarm systems: (i) to warn of power failure (including phase failure) and temperature variance; and (ii) that will operate through alternative power sources (e.g. batteries). (f) Broiler sheds must have alternative power systems available sufficient to maintain ventilation and lighting in the event of a failure in the primary power supply. (g) All housing systems must contain suitable fire fighting equipment and have a documented emergency plan to be followed in the case of fire.	These Minimum Standard clauses remain unchanged.

Example Indicators: • Access to the premises is controlled and visitor access is recorded. • Injury to chickens is prevented through, for example, removal of damaged equipment, sharp wire or metal edges. • Chicken distribution and behaviour is monitored during daily inspections and corrective action is taken to adjust light, temperature or ventilation as required. • The operation of automatic equipment is monitored at least four times each day. • If chicken health and welfare is compromised by equipment failure then corrective action is taken promptly and documented. • Control of pests that may cause a biosecurity risk, or fear or distress to chickens, is achieved through an appropriate and documented pest control programme. • All alarm systems, fire fighting equipment and emergency power supplies are tested regularly and test results documented.		These are new Minimum Standard clauses: bird distribution over the floor, shed designed for cleaning and disinfection, equipment. "The alarm systems …" point removed "The emergency plan…" point removed.

Contingency Planning – Minimum Standard No. 5 (New. Includes items from the old Minimum Standard 4)

(a) Persons in charge of chickens must have contingency plans to address events such as delays in transport and plant breakdown. Drivers of conveyances must be properly briefed on any contingency plan in place.

(b) Alternative means of maintaining ongoing environmental control, and provision of food and water must be available in case of emergencies, including power or

computer failure or mechanical breakdown.

(c) Appropriate fire prevention measures and a fire emergency plan must be in place.

Example Indicators:

- A written contingency plan, covering catching, loading and transport is available for inspection.
- Alternative arrangements are in place in case of equipment or supply failure to ensure chickens receive their daily requirements of feed and water, and temperature and air quality are maintained.
- An alarm system indicates any power or computer failure.
- All alarm systems, fire fighting equipment and emergency power supply are tested regularly and test results documented.
- The emergency plan is documented and staff are trained to implement it.

Lighting – Minimum Standard No. 6 - NOTE CHANGES.

	Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	2003 Broiler Code (Minimum Standard No. 6)	Comment
	(a) Lighting intensity for the first four days after placement of the chicks in the brooding area must be sufficient to enable the chicks to learn the locations of food and water. This four-day training period must include one hour of continuous darkness each day, to accustom the meat chickens to blackout conditions and to prevent panic should lighting fail.	(d) For at least three days after placement, during the period of light, broiler chicks must have lighting intensity of a minimum of 20 lux measured at chick head height, to assist the chicks to find food and water.	No change.

	(b) After the training period described in (a) above, lighting patterns must encourage activity and provide a minimum period of darkness each day to ensure adequate rest in chickens, such that: (i) if only four hours darkness is provided it must be continuous; (ii) if more than four hours of darkness is provided, each dark period must be a minimum of three continuous hours. (c) Lighting levels during the lights-on period must allow the chickens to see one another and to visually inspect their surroundings. (d) Lighting levels during inspections must be sufficient to stimulate activity of the chickens and allow chickens and equipment to be inspected.	(a) After placement, there must be a maximum training period of no more than four days of one hour of continuous darkness per day, to train the broiler chickens to blackout conditions to prevent panic should lighting fail. (b) After the training period in 6 (a), intermittent light patterns must be introduced which provide a total minimum daily blackout period of four hours per day. (c) In the last two to three days before the broiler chickens are harvested for processing, the lighting programme may be reverted to a programme providing a minimum period of one hour of continuous darkness per day.	Note changes in clause (b).Dark periods must be a minimum of three continuous hours.
	Example Indicators: • Chicks are exposed to at least one hour of continuous blackout per day for no more than four days after placement. • Light intensity for chicks for the first 4 days after placement is at least 50 lux. • After the first four days of placement, natural and/or artificial light intensity at chicken head height is at least 20 lux. • Light levels during inspection are sufficient to ensure that all chickens and equipment in all parts of the house are clearly visible. • Chickens are distributed evenly across the floor. • The lighting pattern(s) are documented (number and duration of light and dark periods).	(e) After the first three days, a minimum of 10 lux measured at chick head height must be provided during the period of light. (f) During inspections a minimum of 20 lux of light must be provided.	The words "...at least..." are added in the first Example Indicators bullet point. The third bullet point is a new addition. 20 lux of light is now a new Example Indicator. Note requirement for even distribution of birds across the floor as an Example Indicator.

Ventilation – Minimum Standard No.7		
Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	**2003 Broiler Code (Minimum Standard No. 7)**	**Comment**
(a) Adequate ventilation must be provided in order to prevent the build-up of heat, humidity, dust and noxious gases to levels that are harmful to chicken health or that cause pain or distress to chickens. (b) Immediate and appropriate action must be taken to reduce ammonia levels if they exceed 20 ppm at chicken head height. *Example Indicators:* • During daily inspection minimal signs of discomfort, distress or disease (e.g. panting and wing stretching if hot, huddling if cold, sneezing, drowsiness) are observed. • Chickens are distributed evenly over the floor . • Corrective action taken if ammonia is higher than 20 ppm is documented.	(a) All ventilation systems must have the ability to prevent the build-up of harmful concentrations of gases, such as ammonia and CO2. (b) Where levels of 25 ppm or more of ammonia within the broiler shed are detected, immediate and appropriate action must be taken to increase ventilation or reduce litter moisture, or both, to ensure a return to levels which do not cause eye and nasal irritation in people and to reduce ammonia levels below 25 ppm.	Note expanded wording of clause (a). Level of 25ppm reduced to 20ppm in clause (b). The word "level" is replaced with "head height".

• Temperature and humidity are monitored and recorded. • Eye irritation due to ammonia is not experienced by either chickens or operators. • Dust levels do not cause discomfort to chickens or operators.		

Temperature – Minimum Standard No. 8		
Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	**2003 Broiler Code (Minimum Standard No. 8)**	**Comment**
(a) Temperature in sheds must be maintained within a range that ensures good health and welfare of the chickens.	(a) Temperature control systems must have the ability to both add and remove heat in order to maintain desired temperatures compatible with broiler chicken health and welfare.	No change.
(b) Where evidence of temperature-induced distress is observed, remedial action must be taken immediately to rectify ambient temperature and mitigate effects on chickens.	(c) When 5% or more of broiler chickens in a flock show persistent panting behaviour during flock inspection then prompt action must be taken to reduce environmental temperature.	No change
(c) The brooder areas must be pre-heated before placement of chicks and the temperature maintained at a level that promotes good chick health and welfare	(b) Facilities must be preheated for receiving of day-old chicks to ensure that chick welfare is not compromised.	No change

Example Indicators: • Ambient temperature at the level of the chickens is measured and recorded on a continuous basis, is appropriate for the age of the chicken and follows meat chicken company guidelines • Chicken behaviour is monitored at least once per day (or more often when ambient external temperatures are greater than 30°C). Corrective action is taken if signs of stress (sneezing, prolonged panting and wing extension due to heat, or huddling due to cold) are observed • Chickens are evenly distributed across the shed floor,	(d) Temperature recordings must be taken at least daily to note any adverse or potentially stressful temperature fluctuations and any such fluctuations must be addressed and rectified promptly.	No Change

Litter Management – Minimum Standard No. 9		
Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	**2003 Broiler Code ((Minimum Standard No. 9)**	**Comment**
(a) Litter must be of good quality material, friable, and with minimal risk of toxic agent contamination. (b) Meat chicken shed floors must be completely covered with litter.	(a) Litter material: (i) must not result in levels of dustiness or dampness that could cause respiratory or other health problems; and (ii) must not contain levels of toxic agents such as tanalising agents and fungi that could cause respiratory and other health problems.	No Change.

(c) Litter must be managed to avoid levels of dustiness or dampness sufficient to cause leg, respiratory or other health problems.	(b) Broiler shed floors must be completely covered with litter material.	
Example Indicators: • Daily inspections are performed to detect excessive dustiness, excessive moisture, localised wetness due to leaking drinkers and other water ingress, caking and ammonia production. Corrective action is taken as necessary. • Chickens are clean. • Litter is actively managed to minimise contact dermatitis (foot-pad, breast and, hocks) and respiratory problems. Where the incidence of severe foot-pad lesions or hock burn is higher than 2%, remedial action is taken to resolve the problem and prevent it occurring again • Where the number of culls for lameness is higher than 0.3%, or is higher than that expected for the age and strain of the chickens, remedial action is taken to resolve the problem and prevent it occurring again. • An assurance programme is in place to ensure that the litter is good quality, is friable and that the presence of toxic agents is minimised.	(c) Attention must be given to water ingress and leaking drinkers to avoid excessive moisture, caking and ammonia production and any such problems must be remedied promptly. (d) All litter must be inspected daily and maintained to achieve the above standards.	Bullet point No.3: Remedial action is required when incidence of severe foot-pad lesions or hock burn is over 2%. Bullet point No. 4 added: "Where the number of culls...." Lameness level of 0.3% requires remedial action. Bullet point No.3: Assurance programme required (written records).

Note: The industry should establish a cleanliness score scale and foot pad dermatitis and hock burn score scales to help producers set 'remedial action' levels which will result in welfare and productivity improvements ***Recommended Best Practice:*** (a) Litter should be completely changed with each new batch of chickens.	(e) Litter must be used for one growing cycle only and then replaced, except for (f). (f) In the exceptional circumstance that replacement fresh litter cannot be obtained, litter may be used again but only under the following conditions: (i) no more than one growth cycle (ii) birds must only be stocked at a maximum stocking density of 35 kg per m2, and (iii) there must be increased frequency of monitoring of the birds and steps taken immediately to ensure fouled litter does not cause adverse animal welfare problems.	

Stocking Densities – Minimum Standard No. 10		
NAWAC - July 2012	**2003 Broiler Code (Min. Std. No. 5)**	**Comment**
(a) Chickens must be managed at a stocking density that takes account of growth rate, competition for space, access to feeders and water, air temperature and quality, humidity, litter quality and activity levels, so as to maintain good health and welfare.		No Change.

(b) Notwithstanding (a), stocking density in sheds must not exceed 38kg of live weight per square metre of floor space.	(a) Placements of broiler chicks in individual broiler sheds must be scheduled so that the planned maximum stocking density does not exceed 38 kg of live weight of broiler chickens per m^2.	Stocking density cannot now exceed 38 kg live weight per sq. metre under any circumstances.
(c) Outdoor stocking density must not exceed the capacity of the outside area or cause overcrowding.		No Change.
Example Indicators: • Chickens have access to feeders and waterers without undue competition. • Chickens have unimpeded ability to stand, turn around, and flap their wings. • Chickens outdoors are able to move and forage freely. • Information on live weight, stocking density and planning is recorded and made available for audit. The report is maintained for a period of two years. • If chickens are inactive because of overcrowding, stocking rate is adjusted accordingly. • Where the incidence of severe foot-pad lesions or hock burn is higher than 2%, stocking rate is adjusted accordingly. • Where the number of culls for lameness is higher than 0.3%, or is higher than that expected for the age and strain of the chickens, stocking rate is adjusted accordingly. • Meat chickens are stocked at a maximum of 10 chickens per m^2 stocking density outside. • There is minimal competition at pop-holes.	(b) If unforeseen situations (such as processing plant breakdowns and industrial disruptions) occur which result in the maximum stocking density being temporarily exceeded, the stocking rate during the grow-out period must not exceed 40 kg of live weight of broiler chickens per m^2. (c) In the event of a natural disaster and the stocking density goes over 40 kg of live weight of broiler chickens per m^2, the welfare of the broiler chickens must be monitored continuously and steps taken to reduce stocking density below 40 kg per m^2 as soon as possible in order to protect animal welfare.	Bullet points 2 and 3 added. In clause (c), stocking density now must now exceed 38 kg per sq. metre. Bullet point No. 8 specifies a number of chickens per sq. metre for outside ranging.

Recommended Best Practice (a) Meat chickens should be stocked in sheds at less than 30 kg per square metre at all times.	(d) Specifications that relate to stocking densities of broiler sheds must be available for auditing purposes. Such records must be kept for a minimum of two years.	No change here except for the added clause "(a)"

Providing for the Behavioural Needs – Minimum Standard No. 11

Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	2003 Broiler Code	Comment
(a) Chickens must have the opportunity to express their normal behaviours. These include, but are not limited to, feeding, drinking, sleeping, preening, walking, scratching, ground pecking, leg stretching, and vocalising. *Example indicators:* Providing for behavioural needs • Chickens are active and alert, and observed to display all the above behaviours • Chicken activity is monitored and timely remedial action is taken as appropriate **Recommended Best Practice** (a) Chickens should be provided with environmental enrichment to maximise the expression of normal behaviours. Such practices may include: • provision of bales of hay or straw • perches/barriers • pecking objects		No Change for Minimum Standard 11. No change for Minimum Standard 12 or its Example Indicators.

• provision of peat moss or sand to promote dust bathing and other activity • the use of a radio in sheds to accustom chickens to a range of noises and voices • provision of trees, shrubs, or covered shelters outdoors to encourage chickens with access to the outdoors to move away from the pop-holes and house perimeter. (b) Genetic selection methods should be encouraged to promote physical traits that support the expression of normal behaviours in meat chickens. **Physical Handling – Minimum Standard No. 12 (New)** (a) Chickens, including chicks in hatching trays, must be moved and handled at all times in a manner that minimises the risk of falls, pain and distress and avoids injury. (b) Chickens, excluding day-old chicks, must not be carried by the wings or neck. (c) Stress of handling must be minimised by appropriate design of facilities and training of personnel. *Example indicators:* • No chickens show injuries attributable to poor handling. • All staff have received training or have suitable practical experience and demonstrate competence by appropriate handling of chickens.		

Physical Handling– Minimum Standard No. 13		
Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	**2003 Broiler Code (Minimum Standard No's. 12, 13, 14 & 15)**	**Comment**
(a) All members of the catching and transporting crews must be correctly trained and supervised in the handling of chickens. (b) A nominated member of the catching team must be responsible for supervising, monitoring and maintaining high welfare standards throughout the catching process and loading of chickens onto the transport vehicle. (c) Food must not be withheld from chickens for more than 12 hours prior to arrival at the processing plant. (d) Chickens must have access to water until the time of catching. (e) A catcher must carry no more than four chickens in each hand at any one time. (f) Crates and containers must be constructed and maintained to ensure there are no hazards likely to cause injury to the chickens. (g) Maximum densities in crates used to transport chickens must not exceed 65 kg per square metre. (h) Chickens must be placed into crates in such a way that they can rapidly obtain and maintain an upright position. (i) Crates and containers containing chickens must be placed directly, and not thrown or dropped.	Minimum Standard No. 13 – Catching and Loading (b) Broiler chickens must be handled with care at all stages of the procedure so as to avoid injury. (c) Broiler chickens that are injured during the catching and loading procedures must be destroyed immediately. Minimum Standard No. 12 – Pre-loading (a) Food must not be withheld from broiler chickens for more than 12 hours prior to arrival at the processing plant. (b) Broiler chickens must not be deprived of water prior to preparation for catching and loading. Minimum Standard No. 14 – Loading Densities (a) Maximum density in crates used to transport broiler chickens must not exceed 65 kg per m2. Minimum Standard No. 15 – Transport Crates (c) Crates must comply with the following minimum heights: Category Minimum Height of Crate Day-old chicks 10 cm	These Minimum Standard clauses remain unchanged.

(j) Chickens that are injured during the catching and loading procedures must be humanely destroyed immediately. (k) Conveyances and containers must have adequate ventilation to allow the free flow of air to all chickens, even when stationary, to prevent the build-up of harmful concentrations of gases or water vapour or temperature. (l) Day-old chicks must be held and transported in conditions of controlled temperature and airflow.	Broiler chickens 21 cm (a) Crates must be designed and maintained to allow broiler chickens to be put in and taken out without causing injury and to prevent escape. (b) Crates must be designed and managed to avoid head, neck, toe and foot damage to broiler chickens when they are withdrawn, and when the crates are dragged, stacked or opened. (a) All members of catching and transporting crews must be correctly trained and supervised in the handling of broiler chickens.	
Example indicators for Minimum Standard No. 13 – Catching, Loading and Transport • No chickens show injuries resulting from poor catching and loading practices. • All chickens are fit and healthy when transported. • Chicken transport crates are a minimum height of at least 22 cm and transport boxes/crates for day-old chicks are a minimum height of 10 cm. • Any conveyor, used for loading crates of live chickens, is operated in such a way that there is no pile up of chickens. • The time at which feed is withdrawn from the chickens is recorded. • Crate density is recorded. • Crate size is documented. • Training records are available for inspection. • Responsibilities of the nominated person are documented.		These are new Min. Std. clauses – adequate ventilation during transport; contingency plans; someone to supervise the catching/loading process.
Recommended Best Practice: (a) Mechanical systems should be used for catching and loading meat chickens.	(d) The maximum number of broiler chickens that may be carried at any one time in each hand of a catcher must be no more than four. (e) The broiler chickens about to be carried to the crates must all be held with their hocks and shanks aligned in the same manner within the hand. (f) Broiler chickens must be placed into the crates in such a way that they can	No change to content. Only change is the letter format instead of bullet points.

(b) Techniques for the catching, loading and transport of meat chickens should be described in each facility's quality assurance system. (c) Feeders and drinkers should be hoisted or removed before the catching team enters the meat chicken shed. (d) Chickens should be carried around the body and upright. *(e)* Crate handling systems should be used to limit the distance chickens are carried by hand and reduce the impact of lifting and carrying of chickens during catching.	rapidly attain an upright position. (g) Broiler chickens must be placed carefully into the crates. (h) Crates containing broiler chickens must be handled with care. (b) All broiler chickens must be able to rest on the floor of the crate at the same time.	

Management of Health and Injury – Minimum Standard No. 14		
Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	**2003 Broiler Code (Minimum Standard No. 10)**	**Comment**
(a) Those responsible for the care of meat chickens must be competent at recognising the signs of good health, ill health, and injury and must consult a veterinarian as appropriate.	(a) Mortalities and culls must be monitored and recorded daily, and dead broiler chickens removed from the flock daily. (c) Daily checks must be made of broiler chickens described in 10(b).	No change.
b) Meat chickens must be inspected at least once daily for evidence of ill-health or injury, including any obvious gait deficit, and must be treated or humanely destroyed immediately.	(b) Broiler chickens (including runts and culls) that develop a disease or other condition that may affect their ability to compete over the long term or that may ultimately lead to death, must be killed by a humane method as soon as they are identified, or raised separately.	These clauses remain unchanged.
(c) Medication must only be used in accordance with registration conditions, and the manufacturers' instructions or professional advice. (d) When early signs of a disease outbreak are detected, or mortality level within a shed exceeds 1% in a 24 hour period, or the number of culls for lameness is higher than	(d) Medication must be used only in accordance with registration conditions, manufacturers' instructions or professional advice. (f) A detailed inspection of the flock in each broiler shed must be undertaken at least once a day. To achieve this, the owner or person in charge must walk up and down the total length of the broiler shed between each drinker and feeder line and external walls. (g) Broiler sheds must be viewed or inspected a further four times daily	Only change is adding "(gait score 4 or 5…)" to the sixth bullet point.

expected for the age and strain of chickens, the cause must be investigated and remedial action taken promptly. *Example Indicators:* • Daily inspections are documented. • Dead chickens and culls are removed daily and numbers are recorded. • An appropriate response is undertaken to early signs of disease(s), lameness or mortality. • Chickens that have failed to respond to treatment are destroyed humanely and promptly. • Less than 0.3% of chickens have to be culled due to lameness or leg injuries at any one time. • Chickens with an obvious gait deficit (gait score 4 or 5 on a scale 0 - 5) are culled. • All staff have received training or have suitable practical experience and demonstrate competence by appropriate responses to chickens and their needs.	during which broiler chicken behaviour, temperature, light levels, availability of feed, feeding systems, water and all air vents must be checked, and if required, appropriate remedial action	

Emergency Humane Destruction – Minimum Standard No. 15		
Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	**2003 Broiler Code (Minimum Standard No. 11)**	**Comment**
(a) The method(s) used for the humane destruction of meat chickens, including unhatched eggs in the last half of incubation and day-old chicks, must	(a) Humane destruction when necessary must be carried out by the use of concussion and neck dislocation, or electrical stunning and neck dislocation, or neck dislocation, or euthanasia with at least 70% CO_2 gas or a mixture of CO_2	Gas mixtures not stated anymore in Minimum Standards.

ensure rapid death, which is confirmed by inspection. (b) People undertaking humane destruction must be appropriately trained and must ensure that chickens are handled gently and calmly at all stages of the process. (c) Any equipment used to undertake humane destruction must be well maintained and not overloaded, so that it operates effectively and efficiently.	70% and argon gas 30%, or at processing plants.	
(d) Maceration equipment used for humane destruction must be designed to cause very rapid and complete fragmentation of the material into small particles. (e) When using gas, the procedure must ensure the collapse of every chicken within 35 seconds of exposure to the gas. Chickens must remain in the gas for at least a further two minutes following collapse and be inspected to ensure that they are dead upon removal from the gas.	(d) Persons undertaking humane destruction must be appropriately trained and must ensure that the broiler chickens are managed carefully and calmly at all stages of the process.	No change.
Example Indicators: • Humane destruction protocols are documented. • Acceptable methods are used. These include: (i) Electrical stunning followed by neck dislocation and exsanguination (ii) Neck dislocation alone, and (iii) Gas using a mixture of inert gases and carbon dioxide (iv) Immediate fragmentation/ maceration for unhatched eggs and day-old chicks • Appropriate behaviour and handling of chickens, including chicks, is observed and	(b) When humane destruction is carried out by gassing, then the procedure must be sufficient to ensure collapse of every broiler chicken within 35 seconds of exposure to the gas, and broiler chickens must remain in the gas for at least a further **two** minutes following collapse. (c) (c) Following humane destruction, the broiler chickens must be carefully inspected to ensure that they are dead.	Only change was the addition of the website for the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code.

corrective action taken as required • All chickens killed are inspected following the procedure to confirm death • Chickens are confirmed unconscious within 35 seconds of exposure to gas • Any other methods used for humane destruction of chickens (referred to in the OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code, which can be viewed at http://www.oie.int/en/international-standard-setting/terrestrial-code/access-online/) are performed under veterinary supervision • Persons performing humane destruction are appropriately trained and ensure that the chickens are managed gently and calmly at all stages of the process • Staff training and supervision is documented and monitored • Equipment used to perform humane destruction is never overloaded and is well maintained to ensure that it operates efficiently and maintenance is documented		
	(e) Any equipment used to undertake humane destruction must be well maintained in order to operate efficiently.	Similar, but the new Minimum Standard requires that the equipment used is not overloaded. This requirement is mentioned in Minimum Standard 1 – Hatchery Management, in the 2003 Broiler Code.

Hatchery Management and Chick Transport – Included within other Minimum Standards			
	Meat Chickens Code of Welfare 2012	**2003 Broiler Code (Minimum Standard No's. 1 and 15)**	**Comment**

			No change.
		Minimum Standard No. 15 – Transport Crate: (c) Crates must comply with the following minimum heights: Category Minimum Height of Crate Day-old chicks 10 cm Broiler chickens 21cm	No change.
		Minimum Standard No. 1 – Hatchery Management: (a) Holding room conditions for newly hatched chicks must provide for control of temperature and airflow so as to protect the welfare of the chicks.	No change.
		Minimum Standard No. 1 – Hatchery Management: (b) All hatcheries must have a documented cleaning, sanitising and hygiene programme. (c) Euthanasia protocols must be documented. (d) All staff carrying out euthanasia must be trained in the proper use of the relevant protocols. (e) All unhatched eggs at the time of day-old chick removal must be destroyed by instantaneous fragmentation. (f) Cull or surplus chicks must be euthanased by instantaneous fragmentation or gassing with gases such as CO2 or a mixture of 70% CO2 and 30% argon, to achieve a rapid and irreversible unconsciousness. (g) With gas euthanasia methods, smothering before the loss of consciousness must not be allowed to occur. (h) If CO2 is used it must be delivered as a gas rather than a liquid into the chamber that is used for euthanasing the chicks. (i) If a gas system is used for euthanasing the chicks, the	No change.

		chicks must not be removed from the gas unit until they are either dead or irreversibly unconscious. (j) Instantaneous fragmentation equipment must be designed, operated and maintained to ensure instantaneous destruction of eggs or chicks. (k) Instantaneous fragmentation units and gas chambers must not be overloaded so as to avoid incomplete fragmentation. (l) All equipment used for euthanasia must be monitored when it is being used to euthanase the chicks and any problems rectified immediately.	