

901:12-9-03

**Management.**

- (A) The responsible party must catch, lift and move poultry humanely.
- (B) Except for paragraph (C) of rule 901:12-3-05 of the Administrative Code, birds can be caught or carried by one or both legs, and are not to be caught, carried or lifted by the head, neck or tail.
- (C) The following livestock management procedures are acceptable to minimize injury to the birds and, if performed, must be performed in a humane manner:
- (1) Beak conditioning;
  - (2) Toenail conditioning;
  - (3) Dubbing; and,
  - (4) Induced Molting:
    - If induced molting is used, the following conditions must also be met:
    - (a) Must use only non-feed withdrawal methods;
    - (b) Layers must be fed a maintenance ration for non-producing layers;
    - (c) The light period must be reduced to no fewer than six hours in closed houses, or to natural day length in open houses, for the duration of the rest period. When the flock is placed back on a layer diet, lights should be returned to the normal layer program; and,
    - (d) During molt, flock health, mortality and bird weight must be monitored.
- (D) Environmental management must be designed to control rodents, non-beneficial insects, and parasite infestation in the birds, as it applies to the flock's housing system.
- (E) All poultry housing systems must meet the following requirements:
- (1) Housing must provide a clean and safe environment that promotes the health, welfare and performance of layers at all stages of their lives;
  - (2) Bedding, if provided, must be of a good quality and absorbent;
  - (3) Environmental moisture must be managed, whether birds are housed indoors or outdoors, to promote flock health and welfare;
  - (4) Maximum stocking densities must allow all poultry;

(a) To rest at the same time without being forced to rest on top of each other at all stages of production; and,

(b) To have access to feed and water without excessive competition that prevents the individual animals from maintaining normal body condition

(5) Housing must be designed and maintained in a manner which:

(a) Seeks to minimize the effects of adverse weather conditions;

(b) Seeks to minimize conditions in which the bird cannot effectively thermo-regulate;

(c) Provides sufficient ventilation to reduce concentrations of carbon monoxide, ammonia and dust; and,

(d) Provides backup systems in working condition, in houses/barns that require mechanized ventilation.

(6) Light intensity must be adequate for observation during inspection; and

(7) If natural light is not available, artificial light must be provided for rearing and production.

(F) Conventional battery cage systems must meet the following requirements:

(1) Systems installed after the effective date of this rule must be such that manure from birds in upper cage levels does not drop directly on birds in lower level cages;

(2) The slope of the cage floor must not exceed eight degrees;

(3) Systems installed on existing farms after the effective date of this rule must provide for a minimum of 67 square inches per layer;

(4) For systems installed prior to the effective date of this rule, house/barn averaging must result in a minimum average of 67 square inches per layer five years after the effective date of this rule;

(5) An existing layer/pullet farm, after the effective date of this rule, is not precluded from an expansion using current cage housing systems; and,

(6) Conventional battery cages systems may not be installed, after the effective date of the rule, on any farm not defined as an existing farm.

(G) Enriched cage systems must, at a minimum, comply with paragraphs (F)(1) to (F)(5) of this rule.

(H) Cage-free housing systems must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Cage-free housing systems installed after the effective date of this rule must provide a minimum of 144 square inches per layer;
- (2) If perches are provided, they must be positioned to minimize fecal fouling of layers, feeders and drinkers below;
- (3) If multi-tiered perches are used, each tier must allow hens to safely access other vertical tiers, including the floor;
- (4) If nests are provided, they must be cleaned as necessary to ensure that manure does not accumulate
- (5) For cage-free systems installed prior to the implementation date of these standards, the responsible party must meet paragraphs (H)(1) to (H)(4) of this rule five years after the effective date of this rule; and,
- (6) Cage-free layers with access to the outdoors must be provided reasonable protection from adverse weather conditions and predators.

Effective:

R.C. 119.032 review dates:

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Certification

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Date

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