

Council Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying
down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens

Article 2

- 1 The definitions in Article 2 of Directive 98/58/EC shall apply where necessary.
- 2 In addition, the following definitions shall apply for the purpose of this Directive:
 - a 'laying hens' means: hens of the species *Gallus gallus* which have reached laying maturity and are kept for production of eggs not intended for hatching;
 - b 'nest' means: a separate space for egg laying, the floor components of which may not include wire mesh that can come into contact with the birds, for an individual hen or for a group of hens (group nest);
 - c 'litter' means: any friable material enabling the hens to satisfy their ethological needs;
 - d 'usable area' means: an area at least 30 cm wide with a floor slope not exceeding 14 %, with headroom of at least 45 cm. Nesting areas shall not be regarded as usable areas.