

Commission Regulation (EC) No 889/2008 of 5 September 2008 laying down detailed rules for the implementation of Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products with regard to organic production, labelling and control

TITLE II

**RULES ON PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, PACKAGING,
TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS**

CHAPTER 2

Livestock production

Section 2

Livestock housing and husbandry practices

Article 12

Specific housing conditions and husbandry practices for poultry

- 1 Poultry shall not be kept in cages.
- 2 Water fowl shall have access to a stream, pond, lake or a pool whenever the weather and hygienic conditions permit in order to respect their species-specific needs and animal welfare requirements.
- 3 Buildings for all poultry shall meet the following conditions:
 - a at least one third of the floor area shall be solid, that is, not of slatted or of grid construction, and covered with a litter material such as straw, wood shavings, sand or turf;
 - b in poultry houses for laying hens, a sufficiently large part of the floor area available to the hens shall be available for the collection of bird droppings;
 - c they shall have perches of a size and number commensurate with the size of the group and of the birds as laid down in Annex III.
 - d they shall have exit/entry pop-holes of a size adequate for the birds, and these pop-holes shall have a combined length of at least 4 m per 100 m² area of the house available to the birds;
 - e each poultry house shall not contain more than:
 - (i) 4 800 chickens,
 - (ii) 3 000 laying hens,
 - (iii) 5 200 guinea fowl,

- (iv) 4 000 female Muscovy or Peking ducks or 3 200 male Muscovy or Peking ducks or other ducks,
 - (v) 2 500 capons, geese or turkeys;
 - f the total usable area of poultry houses for meat production on any single unit, shall not exceed 1 600 m²;
 - g poultry houses shall be constructed in a manner allowing all birds easy access to open air area.
- 4 Natural light may be supplemented by artificial means to provide a maximum of 16 hours light per day with a continuous nocturnal rest period without artificial light of at least eight hours.
- 5 To prevent the use of intensive rearing methods, poultry shall either be reared until they reach a minimum age or else shall come from slow-growing poultry strains. Where slow-growing poultry strains are not used by the operator the following minimum age at slaughter shall be:
- a 81 days for chickens,
 - b 150 days for capons,
 - c 49 days for Peking ducks,
 - d 70 days for female Muscovy ducks,
 - e 84 days for male Muscovy ducks,
 - f 92 days for Mallard ducks,
 - g 94 days for guinea fowl,
 - h 140 days for male turkeys and roasting geese and
 - i 100 days for female turkeys.

The competent authority shall define the criteria of slow-growing strains or draw up a list thereof and provide this information to operators, other Member States and the Commission.