

SCHEDULE 3

ADDITIONAL CONDITIONS THAT APPLY TO THE KEEPING OF LAYING HENS

PART 2

General additional conditions

Inspection

2. All hens must be inspected by the person responsible for the hens at least once a day.

Noise

3. In all systems in which laying hens are kept—
 - (a) the sound level must be minimised;
 - (b) constant or sudden noise must be avoided; and
 - (c) ventilation fans, feeding machinery or other equipment must be constructed, placed, operated and maintained in such a way that they cause the least possible amount of noise.

Light

4. All buildings must have—
 - (a) light levels sufficient to allow all hens to see one another and be seen clearly, to investigate their surroundings visually and to show normal levels of activity and where there is natural light, light apertures must be arranged in such a way that light is distributed evenly within the accommodation; and
 - (b) after the first days of conditioning and to prevent health and behavioural problems a lighting regime that—
 - (i) follows a 24-hour rhythm and includes an adequate uninterrupted period of darkness lasting about one third of the day, so that the hens may rest and to avoid problems such as immunodepression and ocular anomalies; and
 - (ii) provides a period of twilight of sufficient duration when the light is dimmed so that the hens may settle down without disturbance or injury.

Cleaning and disinfection

5.—(1) Those parts of buildings, equipment or utensils which are in contact with the hens must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected regularly and, in any case, every time depopulation is carried out and before a new batch of hens is brought in.

- (2) While the cages are occupied—
 - (a) the surfaces and all equipment must be kept satisfactorily clean;
 - (b) droppings must be removed as often as necessary to prevent cross-infection and the build-up of disease carrying organisms; and
 - (c) dead hens must be removed every day.

Accommodation

6. Cages must be suitably equipped to prevent hens escaping.

Status: *This is the original version (as it was originally made).*

7. Accommodation comprising 2 or more tiers of cages must have devices, or appropriate measures must be taken, to allow inspection of all tiers and removal of hens without difficulty.

8. The design and dimensions of the cage door must be such that an adult hen can be removed without undergoing unnecessary suffering or sustaining injury.