

ECO INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES



1 Introduction

RSPCA Australia considers that these ‘freedoms’ will be better provided for if those responsible for the care of chickens provide:

- caring and responsible planning and management
- skilled, knowledgeable and conscientious husbandry staff
- appropriate environmental design
- considerate handling and transport
- humane slaughter.

Requirements of the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme

It is a requirement of the Scheme that:

1. The RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Standards — Meat chickens are complied

with.

2. The requirements in the relevant state or territory legislation and Model Codes of Practice or standards for animal welfare are complied with, including:

- **Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals — Domestic Poultry (or equivalent Australian standard or state code where one exists)**
- **Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Welfare of Animals — Land Transport of Livestock (or equivalent code of practice where one exists)**
- **Australian Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals — Livestock at Slaughtering Establishments (or equivalent Australian standard or state code where one exists)**
- **all other requirements in the state or territory legislation relevant to the farming enterprise, including land use, transportation, processing, environmental sustainability, food safety and product labelling.**

RSPCA Australia has discretion to request proof of compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements through the provision of documentation from the relevant local council, state/territory government, quality assurance program or other appropriate body.

3. The following are completed and subsequently updated on an annual basis:

- **Animal Care Statement — specifying management and standard operating procedures**
- **Veterinary Health Plan — specifying health management protocols and procedures.**

Existing QA manuals for other programs or accreditation schemes and/or existing standard operating procedures, HACCP tables or records to support production activities may be utilised to meet the requirements of these Standards, provided the specific provisions and targets in these Standards are demonstrated. Equivalence, on this basis, is determined by RSPCA Australia.

4. Each enterprise nominate a dedicated person who has:

- **responsibility and accountability for the operation of the farming enterprise**
- **responsibility for overseeing the management and application of the requirements of the scheme. The owner of the birds raised under the RSPCA Approved Farming Scheme Standards has, at all times, the final responsibility for ensuring on-going compliance with these Standards and the welfare of the birds.**

1 The Standards for Lighting in the barn

Lighting: Provision of daylight is strongly recommended as it prevents eye abnormalities and can reduce the incidence of injurious pecking by encouraging

foraging, exploration, and a range of social behaviours. A gradual transition between light and dark periods will stimulate birds to feed and, particularly during a natural or simulated dusk period, allow them to find a suitable perch or resting place for the night.

3.23 After 7 days of age, the lighting system in the shed must provide a minimum period of 8 hours artificial lighting per day - unless birds have access to natural daylight which provides at least the minimum required intensity - and a minimum period of 4 hours continuous darkness (with all lights off) to be provided at night, in every 24-hour period.

3.24 From 1 January 2015, the light intensity between lighting periods must be adjusted in a gradual manner (using dimmers or switching individual lights on/off) over at least 15 minutes.

3.25 After 7 days of age, the light levels in the shed (at bird head height) must ensure that, during the light period: No area of the shed floor is lit at less than 10 lux. The average light intensity across the entire shed floor is equal to or greater than 20 lux (except during catching).

By using our Poultry Lighting Systems Farmers can,

- Lower lighting costs, saving 95% compared with Incandescent
- Increase musculoskeletal development and weight gain by 5.06%
- Decrease feed consumption by 3.2%
- Increase feed conversion by 5%
- Decrease the Death rate of the chickens by 2.1%
- Induce earlier maturity for hens destined to lay eggs
- Increase egg output and quality
- Regulate reproduction cycles
- Increase length of reproductive life