

BC Poultry **Biosecurity Program**

- **Mandatory Standards**
- **Interpretive Guidelines**

Where it is either not feasible or not economically reasonable for a poultry producer to implement a mandatory biosecurity standard, and where an alternate approach can be implemented that meets the intent of the standard, and where that alternate approach has by virtue of a risk assessment an acceptable level of biosecurity risk, the certification agent may, upon a successfully completed audit of the standards, issue a biosecurity certificate of compliance to the farm.

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1. Farm Access Standards

1.1 Secure Barrier Mandatory Standard # 1

1.1.1 A secure barrier that restricts vehicle entry must be present at all primary and secondary accesses to the Controlled Access Zone.

Rationale: Secure barriers are the first line of defense in minimizing the transmission of infectious diseases both to and from the farm operation.

1.1.2 Interpretive Guidelines:

- a. The barrier should be a fixed gate, chain or equivalent that restricts access.
- b. The secure barrier must remain closed other than when a vehicle is passing into or out of the Controlled Access Zone.
- c. The secure barrier should deter unauthorized foot traffic.
- d. The barrier must be capable of being secured with a lock.
- e. Secondary accesses must be locked and secure at all times.
- f. Driveways that do not provide vehicular access to the Controlled Access Zone do not require a secure barrier.
- g. For safety reasons, the primary access should provide sufficient room for all vehicles to get completely off a public road.
- h. Where feasible, farm residences should be accessed from outside the Controlled Access Zone.

1.2 Access Signage Mandatory Standard # 2

1.2.1 Approved biosecurity signage must be clearly displayed at all primary and secondary accesses.

Rationale: The security of the Controlled Access Zone is strengthened by effective signage.

1.2.2 Interpretive Guidelines:

- a. Biosecurity signage must be those approved by the appropriate board or commission.
- b. Signs must be readily visible, clean, legible and located where they can be readily viewed.
- c. The sign for secondary accesses must include instructions to locate the primary access.
- d. Signs must communicate that the zone to be entered is a biosecure area.

1.3 Primary Access Surface Mandatory Standard # 3

1.3.1 All primary accesses to the Controlled Access Zone must be constructed of hard surface or gravel that prevents any persistent accumulation of pooled water.

Rationale: Standing water can harbour infectious diseases that may be transported to or from the premises by vehicular traffic and people. Such protected pathogens also serve as a reservoir that may re-infect the farm after cleaning and disinfection.

1.3.2 Interpretive Guidelines:

- a. Persistent standing water must not be evident on the driveway.
- b. All driveways, particularly gravel driveways, must be maintained to prevent grades or potholes that allow the persistent accumulation of pooled water.

1.4 Cleaning and Decontamination Site Mandatory Standard # 4

1.4.1 All primary accesses to the Controlled Access Zone must have an approved cleaning and decontamination site for vehicles and personnel.

Rationale: Visible accumulations of organic matter can transport infectious disease onto or off of the premises. As with water-protected organisms, this organic debris can serve as a reservoir that may re-infect the farm. These accumulations must be removed to reduce the risk of disease transmission. In the event of an infectious disease outbreak, disinfection may be required to further reduce the opportunity for disease to spread to or from the premises.

1.4.2 Interpretive Guidelines:

- a. The cleaning site must include the availability of a source of pressurized water.
- b. The decontamination site must provide the potential to undertake disinfection measures as deemed necessary.
- c. Contaminated wash water and disinfectants that may pollute must be contained and disposed of in a manner consistent with regulatory requirements.
- d. Procedures must be available that describe how vehicles and personnel are to be cleaned and/or decontaminated.

1.5 Access Maintenance Mandatory Standard # 5

1.5.1 The Controlled Access Zone must be maintained clean and free of organic debris at all times.

Rationale: Visible accumulations of organic matter can harbour and allow transport of infectious organisms onto or off of the premises and can serve as a reservoir for reinfection.

1.5.2 Interpretive Guidelines:

- a. Any organic material accumulation in the Controlled Access Zone that might result in infectious material being transported onto or from the farm by foot ware, vehicle tires or a vehicle's undercarriage must be cleaned up.
- b. A high standard of on-farm housekeeping will reduce the work required to clean the Controlled Accessed Zone.

2. Barn Access Standards

2.1 Locked Barn Entrance Mandatory Standard # 6

2.1.1 All poultry barn entrances shall remain locked at all times that the barn is unoccupied by farm personnel.

Rationale: Barn entrances are high disease transmission risk areas and are the last line of defense in preventing disease transmission. It is therefore necessary to prevent inappropriate access.

2.1.3 Interpretive Guidelines:

- a. Barn entrances that can only be opened from the inside are considered locked.
- b. Barns should provide sufficient functional exits for the safety of personnel inside the building.

2.2 Approved Signage Mandatory Standard # 7

2.2.1 Approved restricted access signs shall be posted at all barn entrances.

Rationale: The barn entrance is a high disease transmission risk area and is the last line of defense in preventing disease transmission. It is therefore appropriate to post signs to limit non-essential access.

2.2.3 Interpretive Guidelines:

- a. Signs posted must be those approved by the appropriate board or commission.
- b. Entrance signs will identify that the area beyond the entrance is a restricted access zone.
- c. Entrance signs must be readily visible, clean and legible.

2.3 Anteroom Mandatory Standard # 8

2.3.1 All poultry barns must have an ante room at all primary entrances that allow personnel to comply with the farm biosecurity procedures during entry and exit.

Rationale: Primary barn entrances are the last line of defense in preventing disease transmission. The ante room provides a unique opportunity to reduce the risk of disease transmission by minimizing any contaminants moving from the outside environment to the inside and from the inside environment to the outside.

2.3.2 Interpretive Guidelines:

- a. The anteroom provides a transition zone and must:
 - permit adequate space for a distinct physical separation of the “outside area” and all “inside areas”
 - have a clearly identifiable demarcation between the outside and the inside areas
- b. The anteroom needs to allow for:
 - hands to be cleaned with appropriate disinfectants
 - a change of clean/disinfected boots across the outside and inside demarcation
 - a change of clean/disinfected outer-ware including head cover
 - sufficient space for the number of personnel utilizing the anteroom
- c. As an additional line of protection, a well-maintained footbath and boot brush or preparatory cleaning and disinfection area for boots may be located at the entrance to the anteroom and the bird-holding area.
- d. The minimum standard for a free range farm anteroom will consist of a covered area with a well maintained footbath.

2.4 Anteroom Maintenance Mandatory Standard # 9

2.4.1 Barn entryways and ante rooms must be maintained clean and free of debris at all times.

Rationale: Visible accumulations of organic matter may harbour infectious organisms and increase the risk of the transmission of these organisms either into or out of the barn. Accumulations of organic matter must be removed to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

2.4.3 Interpretive Guideline:

- a. Ante rooms must be regularly cleaned and disinfected.

3. Flock Health Management Standards

3.1 Flock Health Records Mandatory Standard # 10

3.1.1 Individual flock health records must be maintained.

Rationale: In the event of a disease outbreak the individual flock health records will provide invaluable information to assist in containing the outbreak.

3.1.2 Interpretive Guideline:

- a. Records must include a count of mortalities collected at least once each day.
- b. Production records, including feed intake and, for breeders or layers, egg production must be kept.
- c. Veterinary and diagnostic reports are also part of the health records.
- d. Any response to an unusual mortality rise, including submission for diagnosis, treatments undertaken, or management adjustments, must be recorded.
- e. Any addition or removal of birds to or from a flock must be recorded and all health records accompanying the birds must be kept in the flock records.

3.2 Mortality Management Mandatory Standard # 11

3.2.1 Poultry mortalities and cull eggs must be handled and disposed of in an approved manner.

Rationale: Dead birds and cull eggs may be a high risk source of infectious disease organisms and must therefore be handled and disposed of in an approved manner.

3.2.2 Interpretive Guidelines:

- a. Producers must dispose of mortalities and cull eggs in a manner that is consistent with provincial standards such as incineration or composting.
- b. Disposal of mortalities and cull eggs on farm is preferred to off farm transport.
- c. All mortalities transported off-farm must be placed in clean disinfected containers and the containers sealed prior to leaving the premises.
- d. Large numbers of mortalities that result from a disease outbreak must be handled in a manner consistent with industry and government requirements.

4. Farm Management

4.1 Pest Control Mandatory Standard # 12

4.1.1 An effective pest control program must be in place.

Rationale: Pests are active and passive disease transmitting vectors. Minimizing pest populations will reduce the risk of disease transmission.

4.1.2 Interpretive Guideline:

- a. Premises should be maintained in a manner that minimizes pest infestations.
- b. Rodent and insect control programs that are designed to reduce existing pest populations and prevent further establishment of new pests.

4.2 Protection of Feed and Water from Contamination Mandatory Standard # 13

4.2.1 A management program that prevents the contamination of feed and water sources must be in place.

Rationale: Contamination from the external environment may introduce and/or transmit disease.

4.2.2 Interpretive Guidelines:

- a. Premises should be maintained in a manner that minimizes environmental contamination including, but not limited to, the proper storage of feed, the elimination of water leaks, the maintenance of water quality and generally good housekeeping measures such as the removal of debris.

4.3 Cleaning and Decontamination of Equipment Mandatory Standard # 14

4.3.1 All equipment and materials related to the production of poultry that enter or leave the Controlled Access Zone, regardless of size or use, must be clean and decontaminated.

Rationale: Visible accumulations of organic matter can harbour infectious organisms, allowing their transport onto or off of the premises. These accumulations must be removed to reduce the risk of disease transmission.

4.3.2 Interpretive Guidelines:

- a. All equipment and materials related to the production of poultry must be visibly free of organic matter accumulations.
- b. All equipment and materials related to poultry and poultry products production that are not visibly free of organic matter accumulations must not pass through the primary access.
- c. Recycled poultry related equipment such as egg pallets, catching crates, sawdust pipes and manure handling equipment is considered high risk and should be treated appropriately.
- d. Producers are encouraged to conduct business with allied trades that have adopted biosecurity practices complementary to the BC On-Farm Biosecurity Program and the relevant standards.

4.4 Manure Management Mandatory Standard # 15

4.4.1 All farms must have a documented manure management strategy.

Rationale: Manure can be a high risk source of disease transmission. The strategy for manure management can therefore be critical in the event of a disease outbreak.

4.4.2 Interpretive Guideline:

- a. A manure management strategy will, at a minimum, document how the manure was utilized and/or who transported it from the farm.

4.5 On-Farm Biosecurity Training for Producers and Farm Employees Mandatory Standard # 16

4.5.1 On-farm biosecurity training is required for all producers and farm employees.

Rationale: In order to achieve the intent of the standards it is essential that producers and employees understand the reasons for the standards and their ability to affect the level of biosecurity attained on the premises.

4.5.2 Interpretive Guidelines:

- a. An on-farm biosecurity training program must be in place.
- b. On-farm biosecurity training is an on-going requirement with the need to update farm personnel and train new personnel at regular intervals.

4.6 Standard Operating Procedures Mandatory Standard # 17

4.6.1 Standard Operating Procedures for on-farm biosecurity must be available.

Rationale: Standard operating procedures recognize that biosecurity is an on-going activity and provide processes for maintaining biosecurity standards and assist with biosecurity training.

4.6.2 Interpretive Guidelines:

Standard operating procedures will include but not be limited to:

- Self quarantine procedures
- Farm access policies.
- Primary and secondary access maintenance scheduling.
- Cleaning and decontamination site operation and maintenance
- Controlled Access Zone housekeeping procedures.
- Ante room procedures and housekeeping.
- Building cleaning and disinfection procedures.
- Pest control program
- Biosecurity training approach.
- Mortality disposal procedures.
- Manure management strategies.
- Scheduling for the review and updating of standard operating procedures.

4.7 Visitor and Activity Log Book Mandatory Standard # 18

4.7.1 An activity logbook for the premises that records daily on-farm activities relevant to the biosecurity standard operating procedures must be maintained.

Rationale: In the event of a disease outbreak the activity logbook for the premises will provide critical information to assist in containing the outbreak. The premises logbook will also provide documentation verifying that biosecurity standard operating procedures are being followed.

4.7.2 Interpretive Guidelines:

The activity logbook for the premises will regularly document activities including but not limited to:

- Primary and secondary access maintenance.
- Cleaning and decontamination undertaken including barn sanitation and dust management.
- Pest control measures undertaken.
- Premises visitors including the allied trades entering the Controlled Access Zone and restricted area(s).

- Biosecurity training undertaken.
- Flock health diagnostic reports, treatments and mortality.
- The name of company or individual transporting manure off the farm and, where known, the receiver.

Definitions (for the purposes of the standards):

Ante Room: A service area or room that immediately precedes the poultry production area and provides a clean, dry transition area from the outside environment into the bird housing section of the barn.

Approved: Approved by the relevant Poultry Marketing Board or Commission.

Barn: Any structure that encloses poultry flocks including free range pens.

Barn entrance: An opening into the production area that provides personnel with access to the interior of a barn but that is not normally used by personnel to enter the barn.

Clean: Free of any visible accumulation of organic matter and debris that might contaminate the Controlled Access Zone.

Cleaning and decontamination site: A facility just inside a primary access that provides for the cleaning, decontamination and possible disinfection of equipment and personnel that is constructed to withstand repeated use and provides for appropriate containment and management of waste water and disinfectants as required.

Controlled Access Zone: The area of land and buildings constituting the premises that is accessed through a secure primary access.

Debris: Scattered remains, organic matter, or material that may be capable of harbouring disease-causing organisms.

Lock: A secure fastening device that requires a key, code or key fob to open.

Hard Surface: A durable concrete or asphalt surface constructed to maintain a grade that allows for the rapid draining of water.

Organic Matter: Visible debris that is capable of disease organism transmission including, but not limited to, manure, egg white, egg yolk, egg shells, feathers, and soil.

Poultry: Chickens and turkeys used for food or for their eggs.

Premises: A poultry farm that is under the ownership or management of the producer and that is a discreet operational unit with a contiguous property boundary.

Primary access: The primary access is the main entry point through which all necessary traffic, such as workers and feed trucks, will enter the Controlled Access Zone. There is only one secure primary access.

Primary barn entrance: The point of entry to a barn that would normally be utilized for day to day barn access.

Residence: A dwelling or house that provides living quarters.

Restricted Access Zone: The interior area of all structures on the premises that are intended to house poultry, regardless of whether or not they are populated.

Secondary access: The secondary access is a farm entry point for farm use or emergency use only.

Secure barrier: An obstruction such as a chain, gate or equivalent located at all primary and secondary accesses that delineates a Controlled Access Zone and constrains the passage of vehicles and deters unauthorized foot traffic.

Treatment: Any product or procedure to remedy or prevent a disease.

Visitor: Includes any person that enters the controlled access zone excepting regular farm employees and those persons that are only travelling directly to and from a farm residence.