Bord Bia Sustainability Egg Assurance Scheme

Rearer and Egg Producer Standard

Interim Update Summary (Barn & Biosecurity)

Revision 4.1 Dec 2023







BORD BIA
IRISH FOOD BOARD

Origin Green
IRELAND

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Foreword

This document outlines all new or updated criteria of the Sustainable Egg Assurance Scheme (SEAS). Compliance with the criteria laid out in this document (Revision 4.1) is mandatory for all scheme members **in addition** to compliance with the criteria of Revision 04, August 2017 of the SEAS.

To ensure clarity and to assist the reader, the criteria are laid out as follows:

Updated Criteria in Rev 4.1

The black text surrounded by a black frame indicates an update to the wording of criteria of Revision 04, August 2017 of the SEAS. The updated wording will be highlighted in **bold text**. Compliance with these criteria is required for certification.

New Criteria in Rev 4.1

The blue text surrounded by a blue frame indicates new, additional criteria. Compliance with these criteria is required for certification.

New Recommendations in Rev 4.1

The orange text surrounded by an orange frame indicates new recommendations for best practice. Compliance with these criteria is not required for certification.

Clarifications in Rev 4.1

The green text surrounded by a green frame provides further guidance and clarity where needed on some criteria and indicates to the producer what is required for certification.

3 Rearer Criteria

3.2 Site Security and Surrounds

d) The site must be clearly signposted in a prominent position, with the site's perimeter and entrance secured (**with a locked gate**) at all times to prevent any entry of unauthorised personnel or vehicles.

e) The yard / loading area at the entrance and front of the house(s) **must be covered in a concrete layer** for ease of access for vehicles and for ease of cleaning.

Clarification for 3.2.e

The assessment of this criteria by the auditor is to determine if the concrete area provided is sufficient to allow for hygienic and safe:

- Loading and unloading of pallets/trolleys, etc
- Access to the house for personnel

It is Bord Bia's understanding that the majority of houses within the scheme are currently compliant with this criteria.

3.3 Rearing / Production Houses

g) (Rearing Organisation) The Rearer must collaborate with the Rearing Organisation to ensure that at all stages in the rearing cycle, the stocking density complies with the relevant requirement(s) as follows:

i. **For traditional floor rearing, including the use of platforms, the stocking density must not exceed 20kgs/m2 of total surface area.**

ii. **For multi-tier rearing used specifically for free range / organic production, the stocking density must not exceed 20kgs/m2 of total surface area.**

iii. **For multi-tier rearing used specifically for non-free range / non-organic production, the stocking density must not exceed 25kgs/m2 of total surface area.**

j) Where birds are being reared for barn/free range systems normally, perching must be provided as follows:

i. Perching must be provided that gives at least **5.0cm** usable perching per pullet;

ii. Perching must be introduced in the house by 10 days of age.

3.3.1 Rearing / Production Houses: Additional Requirements

a) Birds destined for a multi-tier production houses must be reared in a multi-tier system.

b) At least 2 types of environmental enrichment/1,000 birds (1 destructible and 1 indestructible) must be provided (e.g. pecking objects / treated straw).

Additional Multitier Requirements

c) Where multi-tier rearing is taking place, a minimum of 2 levels (including floor) and a maximum of 4 levels must be operational.

d) The minimum area of slatted platform provided per bird must be 1.24m^2.

e) The height from the floor to the 1st platform must not exceed 1.0m.

f) The distance between the vertical levels must be a minimum of 0.5m and a maximum of 1.0m.

g) Apart from the ground level, birds must not travel further than 2 tiers without access to food or water.

h) Birds must have access to elevated levels (tier) from 14 days of age.

3.3.1 R1

Ramps must be in place to promote movement between the levels and to reduce the risk of injury

Clarification for 3.3.1.b

Producers should be able to converse with the auditor on environmental enrichment strategies they employ and show the auditor a minimum of one type of destructible and one indestructible enrichment per every 1000 birds present. Bord Bia does not prescribe the type of enrichment that shall be used; the producer shall determine this based on its suitability to their production system. Examples given in brackets as, e.g. are for guidance and are not mandatory

3.11 Site Hygiene & Biosecurity

o) All **site personal**/visitors must be provided with full, **house-specific** protective clothing (coats, head and footwear) and requested to wash/sanitise hands on entry to and exit from the site.

3.11.1 Site Hygiene & Biosecurity: Additional Requirements

a) Each site must have an effective system (e.g., power-washer / automated disinfection) and an approved disinfectant[1] available for cleaning vehicles that visit the site and the area these vehicles occupied when on site.

b) Each Rearer must complete an approved Biosecurity Training Programme[2] and a certificate of attainment must be available for inspection. Thereafter, each Rearer must complete an annual refresher module, and proof of this must be maintained.

Clarification for 3.11.1.a

Please note that examples denoted within a criteria as (e.g.) in this case, power-washer /automated disinfection are provided as examples of potentially "Effective Systems" and this is not an exhaustive list, members are free to choose and implement their own systems to comply. The assessment of this criteria will be based on the provision of effective disinfectant systems by the scheme member. The auditor will look to establish if the system in place for example is using appropriate disinfectants, are label instructions followed, is there sufficient contact between the vehicle and the disinfectant. Provided the system employed is deemed effective this will comply with the criteria for certification.

Clarification for 3.11.1.b

Biosecurity Training Programme is available through Teagasc and AgriHealth. Bord Bia understands there may be a delay in completing this course due to course providers availability. Confirmation that you have applied for the training course (confirmation must be provided by either Teagasc / AgriHealth) will be accepted for certification until November 2024.

[1] *DAFM website for biocidal product register is available at:* *https://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/registers/biocidalproductregisters/biocidalproductregister-authorisedproducts/*

[2] *A list of approved biosecurity training providers is available through the Bord Bia Farmer Portal at https://egg.bordbia.ie*

4 Egg Producer Criteria

4.3.1 Biosecurity, Hygiene and Training: Additional Requirements

a) Each site must have an effective system (i.e. power-washer / automated disinfection) and an approved disinfectant[1] available for cleaning vehicles that visit the site and the area these vehicles occupied when on-site.

b) The Producer must carry out a quantitative biosecurity assessment using a suitably validated system[3] in conjunction with the Nominated Attending Veterinary Practitioner at least once annually.

c) The recommendations for action resulting from the quantitative biosecurity assessment (See requirement 4.3.1.b) must be incorporated into the biosecurity systems and procedures and implemented to continuously improve biosecurity on the farm.

d) Each Producer must complete an approved Biosecurity Training Programme[2] and a certificate of attainment must be available for inspection. Thereafter, each producer must complete an annual refresher module and proof of this must be maintained.

e) All site personal/visitors must be provided with full, house-specific protective clothing (coats, head and foot wear) and requested to wash/sanitise hands on entry to and exit from the site. The protective clothing and footwear must be specific to each house.

Clarification for 4.3.1.a

Please note that examples denoted within a criteria as (e.g.) in this case, power-washer /automated disinfection are provided as examples of potentially “Effective Systems” and this is not an exhaustive list, members are free to choose and implement their own systems to comply. The assessment of this criteria will be based on the provision of effective disinfectant systems by the scheme member. The auditor will look to establish if the system in place for example is using appropriate disinfectants, are label instructions followed, is there sufficient contact between the vehicle and the disinfectant. Provided the system employed is deemed effective this will comply with the criteria for certification.

Clarification for 4.3.1.b

A list of veterinary practitioners who are trained to conduct these quantitative biosecurity assessments can be found at the following link https://animalhealthireland.ie/programmes/poultry-biosecurity-review-tasah/

Clarification for 4.3.1.c

Veterinary Practitioners will provide recommendations that are suitable to implement specific to each site. The Veterinarian shall include in their recommendations suitable timelines for items that require significant time or financial investments.

[3] *In Ireland, a validated quantitative biosecurity assessment service is available through Animal Health Ireland: https://animalhealthireland.ie/training/tasah-biosecurity-review/. Bord Bia will determine the validity of other biosecurity assessment tools on request.*

Clarification for 4.3.1.d

Biosecurity Training Programme is available through Teagasc and AgriHealth. Bord Bia understands there may be a delay in completing this course due to course provider's availability. Confirmation that you have applied for the training course (confirmation must be provided by either Teagasc / AgriHealth) will be accepted for certification until November 2024.

4.6 Site Security and Surrounds

d) The site must be clearly signposted in a prominent position, with the site's perimeter and entrance secured (**with a locked gate**) at all times to prevent any entry of unauthorised personnel or vehicles.

e) The yard / loading area at the entrance and front of the house(s) **must be covered in a concrete layer** for ease of access for vehicles and for ease of cleaning.

Clarification for 4.6.e

The assessment of this criteria, by the auditor is to determine if the concrete area provided is sufficient to allow for hygienic and safe:

- Loading and unloading of pallets/trolleys etc
- access to the house for personnel

It is Bord Bia's understanding that the majority of houses within the scheme are currently compliant with this criteria.

4.9 Health and Welfare General

n) A record of all collection of birds at end of cycle must be maintained. The information in the record must include the following at a minimum:

i. Date;
ii. Number of the spent birds collected;
iii. Name, transporter authorisation number and vehicle registration;
iv. Name of **licenced slaughter plant**, and;
v. Evidence that the birds will not be more than 8 hours in transport.

Free Range Production

4.20.1 Specifications for Free-Range Houses: Additional Requirements

a) At least 2 types of environmental enrichment/1,000 birds (1 destructible and 1 indestructible) must be provided (e.g. pecking objects / treated straw).

Clarification for 4.20.1.a

Producers should be able to converse with the auditor on environmental enrichment strategies they employ and show the auditor a minimum of one type of destructible and one indestructible enrichment per every 1000 birds present. Bord Bia do not prescribe the type of enrichment that shall be used, the producer shall determine this based on suitability to their production system. Examples given in brackets as e.g. are for guidance and are not mandatory

Barn Production

4.30.1 Specifications For Barn Houses

a) At least 2 types of environmental enrichment/1,000 birds (1 destructible and 1 indestructible) must be provided (e.g. pecking objects / treated straw).

b) The use of Combi-cages (existing Enriched Colony systems converted by the removal of access gates/introduction of ramps etc.) are prohibited in barn production.

Clarification for 4.30.1.a

Producers should be able to converse with the auditor on environmental enrichment strategies they employ and show the auditor a minimum of one type of destructible and one indestructible enrichment per every 1000 birds present. Bord Bia do not prescribe the type of enrichment that shall be used, the producer shall determine this based on suitability to their production system. Examples given in brackets as e.g. are for guidance and are not mandatory

4.33 Flock Size / Colony Size

a) The flock may be divided into colonies and the maximum colony size permitted is **6,000 birds**. Houses must be sub-divided so as not to exceed maximum colony size. The maximum flock size of 32,000 birds has been removed. The flock must adhere to the maximum colony and stocking density criteria.

b) The available floor **and surface area** (on which the stocking density is based) must to be calculated only according to the system as set out in Appendix 7.17, House Specification Data.

e) Maximum permissible stocking density within the laying house is:

House Type	Stocking Density
Part Litter and Slats	9 birds/m^2 of total available floor area, provided the house has a raised slatted floor area over a droppings pit comprising a minimum of 53% of the total floor area of the house, and that the slat design meets the criteria for perches as below
Multitier	9 birds/m^2 of total available floor area where birds have unrestricted access to the total floor area and where perches or platforms are fixed above the slatted floor level. There must be no more than 4 levels with the headroom between the levels at least 45cm and the levels must be so arranged as to prevent droppings falling on the levels below. Where the usable space below any perch is less than 45cm above the slatted floor area, it must not be used in calculating floor area. ***The stocking density on the floor must not exceed 16.5 birds/m^2***

4.37.1 Nest Boxes: Additional Requirements

a) Nest boxes must be contained within the system, have solid sides and must not use wire/plastic coated wire.

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