

---

**A.L. 441 tal-2010****ATT DWAR IT-TRATTAMENT XIERAQ TAL-ANNIMALI  
(KAP. 439)****Regolamenti tal-2010 dwar Regoli Minimi għall-Protezzjoni  
tat-Tigieġ Miżmuma għall-Produzzjoni tal-Laħam**

BIS-SAHHA tas-setgħat mogħtija bl-artikoli 15 u 46 tal-Att dwar it-Trattament Xieraq tal-Annimali, il-Ministru għar-Riżorsi u Affarijiet Rurali, bil-parir tal-Kunsill għat-Trattament Xieraq tal-Annimali, għamel dawn ir-regolamenti li ġejjin:

1. (1) It-titolu ta' dawn ir-regolamenti hu Regolamenti tal-2010 dwar Regoli Minimi għall-Protezzjoni tat-Tigieġ Miżmuma għall-Produzzjoni tal-Laħam.

Titolu, skop u bidu  
fis-sehħ.

(2) L-iskop ta' dawn ir-regolamenti hu li jittrasponu u jimplimentaw id-Direttiva tal-Kunsill 2007/43/KE li tistabbilixxi regoli minimi għall-protezzjoni tat-tigieġ miżmuma għall-produzzjoni tal-laħam. Dawn ir-regolamenti:

(a) jistabbilixxu regoli f'livell Komunitarju għall-protezzjoni tat-tigieġ miżmuma għall-produzzjoni tal-laħam biex jiġi evitat tfixkil ta' kompetizzjoni li jista' jinterferixxi fit-tmexxija mingħajr tfixkil tas-suq komuni;

(b) jistabbilixxu regoli minimi għall-protezzjoni tat-tigieġ għall-produzzjoni tal-laħam skond il-prinċipju tal-proporzjonalita` biex jiġi miksub l-għan bażiku tal-introduzzjoni ta' titjib għat-trattament xieraq tal-annimali fl-agrikoltura intensiva tat-tigieġ;

(ċ) jistabbilixxu livell minimu għall-applikabbilita` ta' regoli minimi biex jigu evitati miżuri disproporzjonati li jkunu japplikaw għaż-żamma ta' qatgħat zgħar ta' tigieġ; u

(d) iżommu bilanċ bejn l-aspetti varji li għandu jingħata kont tagħhom, f'dak li għandu x'jaqsam ma' trattament

xieraq tal-annimali, kunsiderazzjonijiet ta' saħħa, ekonomiċi u soċjali u l-impatt tal-ambjent meta jiġu stabbiliti regoli għall-protezzjoni tat-tiġieġ miżmuma għall-produzzjoni tal-laħam.

(3) Dawn ir-regolamenti għandhom jidhlu fis-seħħ fl-24 ta' Settembru, 2010.

Tifsir.

**2.** (1) Kemm-il darba ma jiġix stabbilit xort'oħra f'dawn ir-regolamenti, dawn ir-regolamenti għandhom japplikaw mingħajr preġudizzju għal xi liġi oħra Komunitarja f'dan ir-rigward jew għal xi regoli jew regolamenti oħrajn li jkunu jappartjenu għal leġislazzjoni nazzjonali, u t-tifsiriet fl-Att għandhom jibqgħu japplikaw.

(2) Għall-fini ta' dawn ir-regolamenti, u kemm-il darba r-rabta tal-kliem ma tkunx teħtieġ xort'oħra t-tifsiriet li ġejjin għandhom japplikaw:

“l-Att” tfisser l-Att dwar it-Trattament Xieraq tal-Animali;

Kap. 437.

“l-Awtorità Kompetenti” tfisser l-Awtorità dwar is-Servizzi Veterinarji f'Malta kif imwaqqfa bl-Att dwar is-Servizzi Veterinarji, kompetenti biex twettaq verifiki veterinarji u zootekniki u għat-trattament xieraq tal-annimali;

“awtorizzazzjoni” tfisser kull awtorizzazzjoni mogħtija taħt dawn ir-regolamenti u f'dak li għandu x'jaqsam ma' sidien jew detenturi u s-servizzi tagħhom tfisser permess, licenza, *warrant*, appuntament, konċessjoni jew kull deċiżjoni li tirrigwarda aċċess għal attività tas-servizz jew l-eżerċizzju tagħha;

“binja” tfisser bini fuq l-istabbiliment fejn tkun tinzamm qatgħa ta' tiġieġ;

“ċertifikat” tfisser ċertifikat li għandu jinzamm f'kull waqt mid-detentur jew, jekk ikun il-każ, mis-sid u li jkun rikonoxxut mill-Awtorità Kompetenti li jkun jiċċertifika t-twettiq komplut ta' kors ta' taħriġ jew esperjenza miksuba li tkun ekwivalenti għal dak il-kors ta' taħriġ;

“densità ta' ħzin” tfisser il-piż totali ta' tiġieġ meta jkunu ħajjin li jkunu preżenti fil-binja fl-istess waqt għal kull metru kwadru ta' spazju li jkun qiegħed jintuża;

“detentur” tfisser kull persuna naturali jew ġuridika li tkun responsabbli għal jew inkarigata mit-tigieġ skond kuntratt jew skond il-liġi kemm fuq bażi permanenti kemm temporanja;

“gwidu għal prattika ta’ manigġar tajjeb” tfisser u tinkludi gwida dwar konformità ma’ dawn ir-regolamenti;

“il-Komunità” tfisser il-Komunità Ewropea kif imwaqqfa bit-Trattat li jistabbilixxi l-Unjoni Ewropea;

“konsumatur aħħari” għandu jkollha l-istess tifsira kif mogħtija lilha taħt ir-Regolamenti tal-2009 dwar il-A.L. 351 tal-2009. Htiġiet ta’ Saħħa ta’ l-Annimali li Jirregolaw il-Kummerċ, u l-Importazzjoni fil-Komunità ta’ Annimali, Semen, Ova u Embrijuni Mhux Soġġetti Għal Htiġiet ta’ Saħħa ta’ l-Annimali Stabbiliti f’Atti Specifici tal-Komunità;

“Kumitat imwaqqaf dwar il-Katina Alimentari u s-Saħħa tal-Annimali” tfisser Kumitat li jkun magħmul minn rappreżentanti ta’ Stati Membri msejġha membri tal-kumitat, li jkunu jassistu u jikkonsultaw il-Kummissjoni billi jagħtu Opinjoni li tkun tirrigwarda miżuri ta’ sigurtà f’dak li għandu x’jaqsam ma’ hwejjeġ ta’ saħħa tal-annimali, biex wara jiġu adottati mill-Kummissjoni skond il-proċedura adatta. Dik il-proċedura tal-kumitat tkun tkopri il-katina kollha ta’ provediment alimentari, li tkun tvarja minn hwejjeġ ta’ saħħa tal-annimali fir-razzett sal-prodott li jkun wasal għall-konsumatur aħħari, għalhekk issaħħaħ b’mod sinifikattiv il-kapaċità tagħha li timmira għal riskji għas-saħħa meta dawn jitfaċċaw fil-produzzjoni tal-ikel;

“il-Kummissjoni” tfisser il-Kummissjoni Ewropea;

“kuntratt” tfisser forma ta’ ftehim, li jkun ftehim bil-miktub jew kull forma oħra ta’ kitba privata bejn is-sid u d-detentur, u dan il-kuntratt jippermetti lis-sid tal-istabbiliment li jzomm id-dritt tiegħu bħala sid filwaqt li d-detentur jibqa’ fil-pussess tat-tigieġ. Dak il-pussess jerga jmur lura għand is-sid mat-terminu tal-kuntratt;

“il-prodott” tfisser kull prodott ta’ oriġini mill-annimali;

“qatgħa” tfisser grupp ta’ tigieġ li jiġu mpoġġija f’binja ta’ stabbiliment li jkunu preżenti f’din il-binja fl-istess hin;

“stabbiliment” tfisser sit tal-produzzjoni fejn ikunu jinżammu t-tigieġ;

“sid” tfisser kull persuna jew persuni naturali jew ġuridiċi li jkollhom l-istabbiliment fejn ikunu jinżammu t-tigieġ;

“tigieġa” tfisser annimal tal-ispeċi *Gallus gallus* li jkun miżmum għall-produzzjoni tal-laħam;

“rata ta’ mwiet f’gurnata” tfisser in-numru ta’ tigieġ li jkunu mietu f’binja fl-istess gurnata inkluż dawk li ġew miġbura jew minħabba mard jew minħabba raġunijiet oħra diviż bin-numru ta’ tigieġ li jkunu preżenti fil-binja f’dak il-jum immultiplikat b’100;

“rata kumulattiva ta’ mwiet f’gurnata” tfisser it-total ta’ rati ta’ mwiet f’gurnata;

“spazju li jkun qiegħed jintuża” tfisser spazju aċċessibbli għat-tigieġ f’kull hin fejn iħammgu;

“veterinarju uffiċjali” għandu jkollha l-istess tifsira kif mogħtija lilha taħt ir-Regolamenti tal-2009 dwar il-Ħtigiet ta’ Saħħa ta’ l-Annimali li Jirregolaw il-Kummerċ, u l-Importazzjoni fil-Komunità ta’ Annimali, Semen, Ova u Embrijuni Mhux Sogġetti Għal Ħtigiet ta’ Saħħa ta’ l-Annimali Stabbiliti f’Atti Speċifiċi tal-Komunità.

Applikabbilta’.

**3. (1)** Dawn ir-regolamenti għandhom japplikaw għal tigieġ li jkunu miżmuma għall-produzzjoni tal-laħam, ħlief għal:

(a) stabbilimenti b’inqas minn 20 tigieġa;

(b) stabbilimenti li għandhom biss ħzin ta’ tigieġ għat-tgħammir;

(ċ) bajd li jkun qiegħed ifaqqas;

(d) tigieġ li jkunu mrobbija b’mod estensiv ġewwa jew fil-beraħ, kif imsemmi f’regoli dettaljati dwar ċerti *standards* għat-tjur; jew

(e) tigieġ li jkunu mrobbija b’mod organiku skond indikazzjonijiet u *standards* oħrajn li jkunu jirreferu għal produzzjoni organika ta’ prodotti agrikoli u materjal tal-ikel.

(2) Dawn ir-regolamenti għandhom ukoll japplikaw għall-ħażna għat-trobbija fi stabbilimenti li għandhom ħażna għat-tgħammir u għat-trobbija flimkien.

(3) L-Awtorità Kompetenti għandha tapplika dawk il-ħtiġiet amministrattivi kollha neċessarji skond il-ħtiġiet ta' dawn ir-regolamenti biex tiżgura li ma jkunx hemm ksur ta' dawn ir-regolamenti kif ukoll biex tnaqqas ir-riskju għal konsumaturi aħħarin u kull riskju supplimentari għal annimali u għall-ambjent u li dawk il-miżuri jkunu konformi mal-ħtiġiet tal-katina alimentari u s-saħħa tal-annimali.

(4) Dawn il-miżuri għandhom jinkludu l-konfiska diretta tal-prodott, is-sospensjoni tal-attivitajiet li jkunu qegħdin jiġu mwettqa mis-sid jew detentur tal-annimali, li jkunu primarjament responsabbli għat-trattament xieraq tal-annimali, meta dawn ikunu qegħdin joħolqu riskju lil konsumaturi aħħarin u lill-ambjent. L-applikazzjoni ta' multi amministrattiva u pieni effettivi u dissważivi skond l-artikoli 45 u 47 tal-Att għandhom ukoll japplikaw f'dan ir-rigward.

**4. (1) L-Awtorità Kompetenti għandha tiżgura li:**

Htiġiet għaż-żamma tat-tiġieġ.

(a) il-binjiet u l-istabbilimenti kollha jkunu konformi mal-ħtiġiet stabbiliti fi Skeda I li tinsab ma' dawn ir-regolamenti u jkunu awtorizzati mill-Awtorità Kompetenti bl-approvazzjoni ta' permess li jkun inħareġ mill-Awtorità ta' Malta dwar l-Ambjent u l-Ippjanar (MEPA) skond il-ħtiġiet stabbiliti fi Skeda II li tinsab ma' dawn ir-regolamenti;

(b) l-ispezzjonijiet meħtieġa u l-monitoraġġ u s-segwitu għalih, inklużi dawk stabbiliti fi Skeda III li tinsab ma' dawn ir-regolamenti jkunu qegħdin jiġu mwettqa minn uffiċjal veterinarju.

(2) L-Awtorità Kompetenti għandha tiżgura li d-densità massima ta' ħzin fi stabbiliment jew f'binja ta' stabbiliment ma tkun fl-ebda ħin teċċedi 33 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

(3) Permezz ta' deroga mis-subregolament (2), l-Awtorità Kompetenti tista' tistabbilixxi li t-tiġieġ jinżammu f'densità ta' ħzin akbar kemm-il darba s-sid jew detentur ikun konformi mal-ħtiġiet stabbiliti fi Skeda II li tinsab ma' dawn ir-regolamenti, flimkien mal-ħtiġiet stabbiliti fi Skeda I li tinsab ma' dawn ir-regolamenti.

(4) L-Awtorità Kompetenti għandha tiżgura li, meta tiġi mogħtija deroga taħt is-subregolament (3), id-densità massima ta' ħzin fi stabbiliment jew f'binja ta' stabbiliment ma tkun teċċedi fl-ebda ħin 39 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

(5) Meta l-kriterji stabbiliti fi Skeda V li tinsab ma' dawn ir-regolamenti jkunu ntleħqu, l-Awtorità Kompetenti tista' tippermetti li d-densità massima ta' ħzin msemmija fis-subregolament (4) tkun tiżdied b'massimu ta' 3 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

Taħriġ u gwida għal persuni li jkunu jieħdu hsieb it-tiġieġ.

**5.** (1) L-Awtorità Kompetenti għandha tiżgura li d-detenturi li huma persuni naturali jkunu rċevew taħriġ suffiċjenti dwar ix-xogħol tagħhom u li korsijiet ta' taħriġ adatti jkunu disponibbli.

(2) Il-korsijiet ta' taħriġ imsemmija fis-subregolament (1) għandhom jiffukaw fuq l-aspetti ta' trattament xieraq u jkunu jkopru b'mod partikolari l-ħwejjeg elenkati fi Skeda IV li tinsab ma' dawn ir-regolamenti.

(3) L-Awtorità Kompetenti għandha tiżgura li sistema tiġi stabbilita għall-kontroll u l-approvazzjoni tal-korsijiet ta' taħriġ. Id-detentur tat-tiġieġ għandu jkollu ċertifikat li jkun rikonoxxut mill-Awtorità Kompetenti, li jkun juri t-twetiq ta' dak il-kors ta' taħriġ jew li jkun kiseb esperjenza ekwivalenti għal dak it-taħriġ.

(4) L-Awtorità Kompetenti tista' tirrikonoxxi l-esperjenza li tkun inkisbet qabel it-30 ta' Ġunju 2010 bħala ekwivalenti għall-partecipazzjoni f'dawk il-korsijiet ta' taħriġ u għandhom joħorġu ċertifikati li jkunu juru dik l-ekwivalenza.

(5) L-Awtorità Kompetenti tista' tistabbilixxi li l-ħtiġiet stabbiliti fis-subregolamenti (1) sa (4) għandhom japplikaw ukoll għas-sidien.

(6) Is-sid jew id-detentur għandhom jipprovdu struzzjonijiet u gwida dwar il-ħtiġiet rilevanti tat-trattament xieraq tal-annimali, inklużi dawk li jkollhom x'jaqsmu mal-metodi ta' ġbir li jiġu prattikati fl-istabbilimenti, lil persuni impjegati jew imqabba minnhom biex jieħdu hsieb it-tiġieġ jew jaqbdhom u jgħabbuhom.

Proċedura ta' data ta' monitoraġġ li għandha tiġi segwita mill-Awtorità Kompetenti.

**6.** (1) L-Awtorità Kompetenti għandha tipprezenta lill-Kummissjoni r-riżultati tal-ġbir tad-*data* abbażi ta' monitoraġġ ta' kampjun li jkun jirraprezenta qatgħa li tkun ġiet maqtula matul perjodu minimu ta' sena.

(2) Biex jippermettu analiżi rilevanti, it-teħid ta' kampjuni u l-ħtiġiet tad-*data* kif imsemmija fi Skeda III li tinsab ma' dawn ir-regolamenti għandhom ikunu bażati b'mod xjentifiku, oġġettivi u kumparabbli, u stabbiliti skond il-proċedura msemmija fit-tifsira "Kumitat imwaqqaf dwar il-Katina Alimentari u s-Saħħa tal-Annimali" fis-subregolament (2) tar-regolament 2 ta' dawn ir-regolamenti.

(3) L-ispejjeż kollha li jkunu saru mill-Awtorità Kompetenti għall-ġbir ta' *data* għall-fini ta' dawn ir-regolamenti għandhom ikunu mħallsa mill-Komunità bħala kontribuzzjoni finanzjarja.

7. (1) L-Awtorità Kompetenti għandha twettaq spezzjonijiet mhux diskriminatorji biex tivverifika konformità mal-ħtiġiet ta' dawn ir-regolamenti. Dawk l-ispezzjonijiet għandhom jiġu mwettqa fuq proporzjon adatt ta' annimali miżmuma f'Malta, skond id-dispożizzjonijiet rilevanti fil-liġi tal-Komunità, u jistgħu jsiru fl-istess żmien bħal kontrolli għal finijiet oħrajn skond il-proċeduri adatti biex jistabbilixxu id-densità ta' ħzin kif stabbilita fir-regolament 4 ta' dawn ir-regolamenti.

Spezzjonijiet li għandhom jiġu mwettqa mill-Awtorità Kompetenti.

2. L-Awtorità Kompetenti għandha tippreżenta lill-Kummissjoni sat-30 ta' Ġunju, 2010 ta' kull sena rapport annwali għas-sena ta' qabel dwar spezzjonijiet stabbiliti fis-subregolament (1). Ir-rapport għandu jkollu miegħu lista tal-iżjed azzjonijiet rilevanti meħuda mill-Awtorità Kompetenti biex jiġu indirizzati l-problemi prinċipali ta' trattament xieraq li jkunu ġew identifikati.

8. L-Awtorità Kompetenti għandha tinkuraġġixxi l-iżvilupp, id-dessiminazzjoni u l-użu ta' gwidi għal prattika tajba ta' manigġar li għandhom jinkludu gwida dwar il-konformità ma' dawn ir-regolamenti.

Gwidi għal prattika tajba ta' manigġar.

9. Ir-Regolamenti tal-2005 dwar it-Trobbija ta' Flieles tas-Simna qegħdin b'dawn jiġu revokati.

Tirrivoka A.L. 119 tal-2005.

Skeda I  
(Regolament 4 (1) u (3))

**HTIĠIET APPLIKABBLI GĦALL-AZJENDI**

Flimkien mad-dispożizzjonijiet rilevanti f'leġislazzjoni Komunitarja rilevanti oħra, l-htiġiet li ġejjin għandhom japplikaw:

*Tagħmir minn fejn jixorbu l-annimali*

1. It-tagħmir minn fejn jixorbu l-annimali għandu jiġi mpoġġi u miżmum b'dak il-mod li t-tixrid tal-likwidu jonqos.

*Għalf*

2. L-għalf għandu jkun jew disponibbli b'mod kontinwu jew ikun mitmugħ u m'għandux jitneħħa minn hdejn it-tiġieġ izjed minn 12-il siegħa qabel il-ħin previst tal-qatla.

*Mifrex*

3. It-tiġieġ kollha għandhom ikollhom aċċess permanenti għal mifrex li jkun niexef u li jkun jitrammel malajr fil-wiċċ.

*Ventilazzjoni u tişhin*

4. Il-ventilazzjoni għandha tkun biżżejjed biex tiġi evitata sħana żejda u, fejn ikun meħtieġ, flimkien ma' sistemi ta' tişhin sabiex titneħħa l-umdità' żejda.

*Storbju*

5. Il-livell tal-ħoss għandu jkun imnaqqas. Il-fannijiet għall-ventilazzjoni, il-makkinarju tal-għalf jew tagħmir ieħor għandhom ikunu mibnija, mpoġġijin, jinħadmu u jinżammu b'dak il-mod li jkunu jikkawżaw l-inqas ammont possibli ta' storbju.

*Dawl*

6. Kull binja għandu jkollha dawl b'intensità ta' mill-inqas 20 lux matul il-perjodi li jkunu mdawwla, tiġi kalkulata mal-livell tal-vista tat-tjur u li tkun iddawwal mill-inqas 80 % tal-ispazju li jkun qiegħed jintuża. Tnaqqis temporanju fil-livell tad-dawl jista' jkun permess meta jkun meħtieġ wara li jkun ittiegħed parir veterinarju.

7. Fi żmien sebat ijiem minn meta t-tiġieġ ikunu ġew impoġġija fil-bini u sa tlett ijiem qabel il-ħin previst għall-qatla, id-dawl għandu jsegwi ritmu ta' 24 siegħa u jkun jinkludi perjodi ta' dlam li jdumu minn tal-inqas sitt sigħat b'kollox, b'perjodu wiegħed minn tal-inqas ta' dlam kontinwu ta' erba' sigħat minn tal-inqas, li jkun jeskludi perjodi ta' tneħħim.

*Spezzjoni*



8. It-tigieġ kollha li jkunu miżmuma fl-istabbiliment iridu jiġu spezzjonati minn tal-inqas darbtjen kuljum. Attenzjoni speċjali għandha tingħata lil sinjali li jkunu jindikaw livell ta' tnaqqis tat-trattament xieraq tal-animali u, jew tas-saħħa tal-animali.

9. It-tigieġ li jkunu wegġgħu gravi jew ikunu juru sinjali ċari ta' diżordni ta' saħħa, bħal dawk li jkollhom diffikultajiet biex jimxu, axxiti gravi jew disformazzjonijiet gravi, u li aktarx ikunu qed ibatu, għandhom jirċievu trattament xieraq jew jiġu maqtula minnufih. Veterinarju għandu jiġi kuntatjat meta jkun meħtieġ.

#### *Tindif*

10. Dawk il-partijiet tal-bini, it-tagħmir jew l-għodod li jkollhom kuntatt mat-tigieġ għandhom ikunu mnaddfa u diżinfettati sew kull darba wara li jsir tnaqqis finali tal-popolazzjoni, qabel ma qatgħa għada tiġi mdaħħla fil-binja. Wara t-tnaqqis finali tal-popolazzjoni ta' binja, il-mifrex kollu għandu jitneħħa, u mifrex nadif għandu jiġi provdut.

#### *Żamma ta' registri*

11. Is-sid jew detentur għandu jżomm registru għal kull binja ta' stabbiliment ta':

- (a) in-numru ta' tigieġ li jiġu ntrodotti;
- (b) l-ispazju li jkun qiegħed jintuża;
- (ċ) l-ibridu jew in-nisel tat-tigieġ, jekk ikunu magħrufa;
- (d) b'kull kontroll, in-numru ta' għasafar li jkunu nstabu mejta b'indikazzjoni tal-kawżi, jekk ikunu magħrufa, kif ukoll in-numru ta' għasafar li jkunu nqatlu b'kawża;
- (e) in-numru ta' tigieġ li jkunu baqgħu fil-qatgħa wara t-tneħħija tat-tigieġ għall-bejgħ jew għall-qatla. Dawk ir-rekords għandhom jinżammu għal perijodu ta' almenu tliet snin u għandhom ikunu disponibbli għallawtorità kompetenti meta din twettaq spezzjoni jew meta jintalbu għal xi raġuni oħra.

#### *Interventi kirurġiċi*

12. L-interventi kirurġiċi kollha li jkunu saru għal raġunijiet oħra hliet għal finijiet terapewtiċi jew dianostiċi li jkunu jirriżultaw f'dannu għal parti sensitiva tal-ġisem jew fit-telfien tagħha jew fl-alterazzjoni tal-istruttura skeletali huma projbiti.

Madankollu, l-qtugħ tal-munqar jista' jiġi awtorizzat mill-Awtorità Kompetenti meta jiġu eżawriti miżuri oħrajn għall-prevenzjoni tat-tnaqqir tar-rix jew tal-kannibalizmu. F'dawk il-kazijiet, dan għandu jsir biss wara konsultazzjoni jew fuq parir ta' veterinarju u għandu jsir minn uffiċjal kwalifikat fuq it-tigieġ li għandhom inqas minn għaxart ijiem. Barra minn dan, l-Awtorità Kompetenti tista' tawtorizza l-kastrazzjoni tat-tigieġ. Il-kastrazzjoni għandha ssir biss taħt is-supervizjoni veterinarja minn uffiċjal li jkun ingħata taħriġ speċifiku.

Skeda II  
(Regolament 4 (3))

**HTIĠIET GHALL-UŻU TA' DENSITAJIET OGHLA TA' HŻIN***Notifika u dokumentazzjoni*

Il-htiġiet li ġejjin għandhom japplikaw:

1. Is-sid jew id-detentur għandhom javżaw lill-Awtorità Kompetenti bl-intenzjoni tagħhom li jagħmlu użu mid-densità ta' hżin ta' iżjed minn 33 kg/m<sup>2</sup> f'piz ta' annimali ħajjin.

Huma għandhom jindikaw l-figura eżatta u jinfurmaw lill-Awtorità Kompetenti dwar kull bidla fl-użu ta' densità ta' hżin minn tal-inqas 15-il ġurnata qabel it-tqegħid tal-qatgħa fil-binja. Jekk tkun mitluba mill-Awtorità Kompetenti, dak l-avviż għandu jkollu miegħu dokument li jagħti sommarju tal-informazzjoni li tkun tinsab fid-dokumentazzjoni meħtieġa taħt il-punt 2.

2. Is-sid u d-detentur għandhom iżommu u jħallu disponibbli fil-binja dokumentazzjoni miġbura li tkun tiddeskrivi fid-dettall is-sistemi ta' produzzjoni. B'mod partikolari hija għandha tkun tinkludi informazzjoni dwar dettalji tekniċi tal-binja u t-tagħmir bħal:

(a) pjanta tal-binja inklużi d-dimensjonijiet tal-uċuħ li jkunu okkupati mit-tiġieġ;

(b) is-sistema ta' ventilazzjoni u, fejn rilevanti, tal-iffrikkar u t-tiħin, inkluż fejn ikunu jinsabu, il-pjan ta' ventilazzjoni, parametri dettaljati tal-kwalità tal-arja mmirata, bħall-fluss tal-arja, il-velocità tal-arja u t-temperatura;

(ċ) is-sistemi ta' għalf u tisqija u fejn ikunu jinsabu;

(d) sistemi ta' *alarm* u sistemi ta' kontinġenza fil-każ li ma jkunx jaħdem kull tagħmir awtomatiku jew mekkaniku essenzjali għas-saħħa u t-trattament xieraq tal-annimali;

(e) it-tip tal-art u l-mifrex li normalment ikun jintuża.

Id-dokumentazzjoni għandha tkun disponibbli għall-Awtorità Kompetenti kull meta tkun mitluba u għandha tinzamm aġġornata. B'mod partikolari, għandhom jiġu reġistrati l-ispezzjonijiet tekniċi tas-sistema tal-*alarm* u l-ventilazzjoni. Is-sid jew id-detentur għandhom javżaw lill-Awtorità Kompetenti b'kull bidla fil-binja, fit-tagħmir jew fil-proċeduri li jkunu deskritti li x'aktarx ikunu jaffettwaw it-trattament xieraq tal-għasafar mingħajr dewmien żejjed.

*Htiġiet għall-azjendi - kontroll tal-parametri ambjentali*

3. Is-sid jew id-detentur għandu jiżgura li kull binja ta' stabbiliment tkun mghammra b'sistemi ta' ventilazzjoni u, jekk ikun meħtieġ, ta' tişhin u ffriskar imfassla, mibnija u maħduma b'dak il-mod li:

(a) il-koncentrazzjoni ta' ammonja (NH<sub>3</sub>) ma tkunx iżjed minn 20 ppm u l-koncentrazzjoni ta' diossidu karboniku (CO<sub>2</sub>) ma tkunx iżjed minn 3 000 ppm li jkunu mkejla mal-livell tal-irjus tat-tiġieġ;

(b) it-temperatura ta' ġewwa, meta t-temperatura ta' barra li tkun imkejla fid-dell tkun iżjed minn 30 °C, ma tkunx iżjed minn din it-temperatura ta' barra b'iktar minn 3 °C;

(c) il-medja tal-umdità relattiva li tkun mkejla ġewwa l-binja matul 48 siegħa ma tkunx iżjed minn 70 % meta t-temperatura ta' barra tkun inqas minn 10 °C.

Skeda III  
(Regolamenti 4(1) u 6 (2))

## MONITORAĠĠ U AZZJONI TA' SEGWITU FIL-BIĊĊERIJA

### 1. *Mwiet*

1.1. Fil-każ ta' densitajiet ta' ħzin ogħla minn 33 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, id-dokumentazzjoni li tkun mal-qatgħa għandha tkun tinkludi r-rata ta' mwiet fil-ġurnata u r-rata kumulattiva ta' mwiet fil-ġurnata li jkunu kkalkulati mis-sid jew mid-detentur u mil-ibridu jew min-nisel tat-tiġieġ.

1.2. Taħt is-sorveljanza tal-veterinarju uffiċjali din id-*data* kif ukoll in-numru ta' *broilers* li jkunu mietu mal-wasla għandha tiġi reġistrata, b'indikazzjoni tal-istabbiliment u l-binja tal-istabbiliment. Il-plawżibbiltà tad-*data* u r-rata kumulattiva ta' mwiet fil-ġurnata għandhom jiġu verifikati filwaqt li tingħata mportanza għan-numru ta' *broilers* li jkunu nqatlu u n-numru ta' *broilers* li jkunu mietu mal-wasla fil-biċċerija.

### 2. *Spezzjoni post-mortem*

Fil-kuntest tal-kontrolli mwettqa taħt ir-Regolament (KE) Nru 854/2004, il-veterinarju uffiċjali għandu jeżamina r-riżultat tal-ispezzjoni *post-mortem* biex jidentifika indikazzjonijiet oħra possibbli ta' kundizzjonijiet ta' trattament xieraq li jkun ħażin bħala livelli mhux normali ta' *dermatite*, parassitiżmu u mard sistematiku fl-istabbiliment jew fil-binja ta' l-istabbiliment tal-oriġini.

### 3. *Avviż tar-riżultati*

Jekk ir-rata tal-imwiet kif imsemmija fil-paragrafu 1 jew ir-riżultati tal-ispezzjoni *post-mortem* kif imsemmija fil-paragrafu 2 ikunu jaqblu ma' kundizzjonijiet nieqsa ta' trattament xieraq tal-annimali, il-veterinarju uffiċjali għandu jibgħat id-*data* lis-sid jew lid-detentur tal-annimali u lill-Awtorità Kompetenti. Is-sid jew id-detentur tal-annimali u l-Awtorità Kompetenti għandhom jieħdu l-azzjonijiet adatti.

Skeda IV  
Regolament 5 (2)

**TAHRIG**

Il-korsijiet ta' taħriġ imsemmija fis-subregolament (2) tar-regolament 5 ta' dawn ir-regolamenti għandhom almenu jkopru l-leġislazzjoni Komunitarja dwar il-protezzjoni tat-tiġieġ u b'mod partikolari l-kwistjonijiet li ġejjin:

- (a) l-Iskedi I u II li jinsabu ma' dawn ir-regolamenti;
- (b) il-fizjologija, b'mod partikolari l-ħtigiet tal-għalf u t-tisqija, l-imġiba tal-animali u l-kunċett tal-istress;
- (ċ) l-aspetti prattiċi tal-manigġar bir-reqqa tat-tiġieġ, l-qbid, it-tgħabbija u t-trasport;
- (d) it-trattament tat-tiġieġ f'każ ta' emerġenza, l-qtil u t-tbiċċir f'emerġenza;
- (e) miżuri preventivi ta' biosigurtà.

Skeda V  
Regolament 4 (5))

**KRITERJI GHALL-UŻU TA' DENSITÀ TA' HŻIN MIŻJUD***1. Kriterji*

(a) il-monitoraġġ tal-istabbiliment li jsir mill-Awtorità Kompetenti fl-aħħar sentejn ma jkun żvela l-ebda nuqqas fir-rigward tal-ħtiġiet ma' dawn ir-regolamenti;

(b) il-monitoraġġ mis-sid jew mid-detentur tal-istabbiliment ikun qiegħed isir billi jintużaw tal-gwidi għall-prattika ta' maniġġar tajjeb msemmija fir-regolament 8 ta' dawn ir-regolamenti; u

(ċ) f'seba' qtajja' konsekuttivi minn tal-inqas, li jiġu verikati wara xulxin minn binja, ir-rata kumulattiva l-imwiet fil-ġurnata tkun taħt  $1\% + 0.06\%$  multiplikata bl-età tal-qatla tal-qatgħa fi ġranet. Jekk ma jkun sar l-ebda monitoraġġ mill-Awtorità Kompetenti fl-aħħar sentejn, għandu jsir minn tal-inqas monitoraġġ wieħed biex jiġi verifikat jekk il-ħtieġa fil-paragrafu (a) tkunx intlaħqet.

*2. Ċirkostanzi eċċezzjonali*

Permezz ta' deroga minn paragrafu 1 (ċ), l-Awtorità Kompetenti tista' tiddeċiedi li żżid id-densità tal-ħzin meta s-sid jew id-detentur ikunu taw spjegazzjoni suffiċjenti għan-natura eċċezzjonali ta' rata kumulattiva akbar ta' mwiet fil-ġurnata jew ikunu wrew li l-kawżi jkunu jinsabu 'il barra mill-kontroll tagħhom.

**L.N. 441 of 2010**

**ANIMAL WELFARE ACT  
(CAP. 439)**

**Minimum Rules (Protection of Chickens Kept for Meat  
Production) Regulations 2010**

IN EXERCISE of the powers conferred by articles 15 and 46 of the Animal Welfare Act, the Minister for Resources and Rural Affairs, on advice of the Council for Animal Welfare has made the following regulations:

**1.** (1) The title of these regulations is Minimum Rules (Protection of Chickens Kept for Meat Production) Regulations, 2010.

Title, scope and commencement.

(2) The scope of these regulations is to transpose and implement Council Directive 2007/43/EC laying down minimum rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production. These regulations:

(a) establish rules at Community level for the protection of chickens kept for meat production in order to avoid distortion of competition that may interfere with the smooth running of the common market;

(b) lay down minimum rules for the protection of chickens for meat production in accordance with the principle of proportionality for the achievement of the basic objective of introducing animal welfare improvements in the intensive farming of chickens;

(c) set a minimum threshold for the applicability of minimum rules in order to avoid disproportionate measures applicable to the keeping of small flocks of chickens; and

(d) maintain a balance between the various aspects to be taken into account, as regards animal welfare, health, economic and social considerations and the environmental impact in establishing rules for the protection of chickens kept for meat production.

Interpretation.

(3) These regulations shall come into force on the 24th September, 2010.

2. (1) Unless otherwise stated in these regulations, these regulations shall apply without prejudice to any other Community legislation in this regard or to any other rules or regulations pertaining to national legislation, and the definitions in the Act shall continue to apply.

(2) For the purpose of these regulations, and unless the context otherwise requires the following definitions shall apply:

“the Act” means the Animal Welfare Act;

“authorisation” means any authorisation granted under these rules and in relation to owner or keepers and their services, means a permit, licence, warrant, appointment, concession or any decision concerning access to a service activity or the exercise thereof;

“the Commission” means the European Commission;

“the Community” the European Community as established by the Treaty which establishes the European Union;

“the Competent Authority” means the Veterinary Services Authority in Malta as established by the Veterinary Services Act, competent to carry out animal welfare, veterinary and zootechnical checks;

“certificate” means a certificate which shall be kept at all times by the keeper or if the case may be, by the owner, and which is recognised by the Competent Authority attesting to the completion of a training course or acquired experience equivalent to such training course;

“chicken” means an animal of the species *Gallus gallus* kept for meat production;

“contract” means a form of agreement, being a written agreement or any other form of private writing between the owner and the keeper, which contract enables the owner of the holding to maintain his right of ownership while the keeper remains in possession of chickens. Such possession is vested back in the owner upon termination of contract;

Cap. 437.



“cumulative daily mortality rate” means the sum of daily mortality rates;

“daily mortality rate” means the number of chickens which have died in a house on the same day including those that have been gathered either for disease or because of other reasons divided by the number of chickens present in the house on that day, multiplied by 100;

“final consumer” shall have the same meaning as that provided under the Animal Health Requirements Governing Trade and Imports into the Community of Animals, Semen, Ova and Embryos not Subject to Animal Health Requirements laid down in Specific Community Acts, Rules 2009;

L.N. 351 of  
2009.

“flock” means a group of chickens which are placed in a house of a holding and are present in this house at the same time;

“guides to good management practice” means and includes guidance on compliance with these regulations;

“holding” means a production site on which chickens are kept;

“house” means a building on a holding where a flock of chickens are kept;

“keeper” means any natural or legal person responsible for or in charge of chickens in terms of contract or by law whether on a permanent or temporary basis;

“official veterinarian” shall have the same meaning as that provided under the Animal Health Requirements Governing Trade and Imports into the Community of Animals, Semen, Ova and Embryos not Subject to Animal Health Requirements laid down in Specific Community Acts, Rules 2009;

“owner” means any natural or legal person or persons owning the holding where chickens are kept;

“the product” means any product of animal origin;

“Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health” means a Committee made up of Member States’

representatives named committee members, who assist and consult the Commission by delivering an Opinion regarding safety measures with respect to animal health issues to be then formally adopted by the Commission in accordance with the appropriate procedure. Such committee procedure covers the entire food supply chain, ranging from animal health issues on the farm to the product which arrives to the final consumer, therefore significantly enhancing its ability to target risks to health wherever they arise in the production of food;

“stocking density” means the total live weight of chickens which are present in a house at the same time per square metre of useable area;

“useable area” means a littered area accessible to the chickens at any time.

Applicability.

**3.** (1) These regulations shall apply to chickens kept for meat production except for:

(a) holdings with less than 20 chickens;

(b) holdings with only breeding stocks of chickens;

(c) hatcheries;

(d) extensive indoor and free range chickens as referred to in detailed rules on certain marketing standards for poultry; or

(e) organically reared chickens in accordance with indications and other standards referring to organic production of agricultural products and foodstuffs.

(2) These regulations shall also apply to rearing stock on holdings which have both breeding stock and rearing stock.

(3) The Competent Authority shall apply all such necessary administrative measures according to the requirements of these regulations to ensure that there is no breach thereto and also to reduce the risk for final consumers and any additional risk to animals and to the environment and which measures conform to the requirements of the food chain and animal health.

(4) These measures shall include the direct confiscation of the product, the suspension of the activities carried out by the

owner or keeper of the animals, being primarily responsible for animal welfare, and the withdrawal, forfeiture or suspension of the authorisation, licence or permit with regard to such activities when these are creating a risk to final consumers and to the environment. The application of administrative fines and effective and dissuasive penalties in terms of articles 45 and 47 of the Act shall also apply in this regard.

**4. (1) The Competent Authority shall ensure that:**

Requirements for the keeping of chickens.

(a) all houses comply with the requirements set out in Schedule I to these regulations and authorised by the Competent Authority with the approval of a permit issued by the Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) according to the requirements set out in Schedule II to these regulations;

(b) the required inspections and the monitoring and follow-up, including those provided for in Schedule III to these regulations are carried out by an official veterinarian.

(2) The Competent Authority shall ensure that the maximum stocking density in a holding or a house of a holding does not at any time exceed 33 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

(3) By way of derogation from sub-regulation (2), the Competent Authority may provide that chickens be kept at a higher stocking density provided that the owner or keeper complies with the requirements set out in Schedule II to these regulations, in addition to the requirements set out in Schedule I to these regulations.

(4) The Competent Authority shall ensure that, when a derogation is granted under sub-regulation (3), the maximum stocking density in a holding or a house of a holding does not at any time exceed 39 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

(5) When the criteria set out in Schedule V to these regulations are fulfilled, the Competent Authority may allow that the maximum stocking density referred to in sub-regulation (4) be increased by a maximum of 3 kg/m<sup>2</sup>.

**5. (1) The Competent Authority shall ensure that keepers who are natural persons have received sufficient training in their tasks and that appropriate training courses are available.**

Training and guidance for persons dealing with chickens.

(2) The training courses referred to in sub-regulation (1) shall focus on welfare aspects and cover in particular the matters listed in Schedule IV to these regulations.

(3) The Competent Authority shall ensure that a system is established for the control and approval of training courses. The keeper of the chickens shall hold a certificate which is recognised by the Competent Authority attesting to the completion of such a training course or to having acquired experience equivalent to such training.

(4) The Competent Authority may recognise experience acquired before 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 as being equivalent to participation in such training courses and shall issue certificates attesting to such equivalence.

(5) The Competent Authority may provide that the requirements set out in sub-regulations (1) to (4) shall also apply to owners.

(6) The owner or keeper shall provide instructions and guidance on the relevant animal welfare requirements, including those concerning the methods of gathering practised in holdings, to persons employed or engaged by them to attend to chickens or to catch and load them.

Monitoring data procedure to be followed by the Competent Authority.

**6.** (1) The Competent Authority shall submit to the Commission the results of the data collection based on monitoring of a representative sample of flocks slaughtered during a minimum period of one year.

(2) In order to enable a relevant analysis, the sampling taking and the data requirements as referred to in Schedule III to these regulations should be scientifically based, objective and comparable, and laid down in accordance with the procedure referred to in the definition “Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health” in sub-regulation (2) of regulation 2 of these regulations.

(3) All expenses incurred by the Competent Authority for the collection of data for the purpose of these regulations shall be made attributable to the Community as a financial contribution.

Inspections carried out by the Competent Authority.

**7.** (1) The Competent Authority shall carry out non-discriminatory inspections to verify compliance with the requirements of these regulations. Such inspections shall be

carried out on an adequate proportion of animals in Malta, in accordance with the relevant provisions in Community law, and may be carried out at the same time as checks for other purposes in accordance with the appropriate procedures for determining the stocking density as established in regulation 4 of these regulations.

(2) The Competent Authority shall submit to the Commission by the 30<sup>th</sup> June of each year an annual report for the previous year on the inspections provided for in sub-regulation (1). The report shall be accompanied by a list of the most relevant actions taken by the Competent Authority to address the main welfare problems detected.

**8.** The Competent Authority shall encourage the development, dissemination and use of guides to good management practice which shall include guidance on compliance with these regulations.

Guides to good  
management  
practice.

**9.** The Rearing of Broilers Regulations, 2005 are hereby being revoked.

Revokes  
L.N. 119 of 2005.

Schedule I  
(Regulation 4 (1) and (3))

**REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO HOLDINGS**

In addition to the relevant provisions of other relevant Community legislation, the following requirements shall apply:

*Drinkers*

1. Drinkers shall be positioned and maintained in such a way that spillage is minimised.

*Feeding*

2. Feed shall be either continuously available or be meal fed and must not be withdrawn from chickens more than 12 hours before the expected slaughter time.

*Litter*

3. All chickens shall have permanent access to litter which is dry and friable on the surface.

*Ventilation and heating*

4. Ventilation shall be sufficient to avoid overheating and, where necessary, in combination with heating systems to remove excessive moisture.

*Noise*

5. The sound level shall be minimised. Ventilation fans, feeding machinery or other equipment shall be constructed, placed, operated and maintained in such a way that they cause the least possible amount of noise.

*Light*

6. All buildings shall have lighting with an intensity of at least 20 lux during the lighting periods, measured at bird eye level and illuminating at least 80 % of the useable area. A temporary reduction in the lighting level may be allowed when necessary following veterinary advice.

7. Within seven days from the time when the chickens are placed in the building and until three days before the foreseen time of slaughter, the lighting must follow a 24-hour rhythm and include periods of darkness lasting at least six hours in total, with at least one uninterrupted period of darkness of at least four hours, excluding dimming periods.

*Inspection*

8. All chickens kept on the holding must be inspected at least twice a day. Special attention should be paid to signs indicating a reduced level of animal welfare and/or animal health.

9. Chickens that are seriously injured or show evident signs of health disorder, such as those having difficulties in walking, severe ascites or severe malformations, and are likely to suffer, shall receive appropriate treatment or be culled immediately. A veterinarian shall be contacted whenever necessary.

#### *Cleaning*

10. Those parts of buildings, equipment or utensils which are in contact with the chickens shall be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected every time after final depopulation is carried out, before a new flock is introduced into the house. After the final depopulation of a house, all litter must be removed, and clean litter must be provided.

#### *Record keeping*

11. The owner or keeper shall maintain a record for each house of a holding of:

- (a) the number of chickens introduced;
- (b) the useable area;
- (c) the hybrid or breed of the chickens, if known;
- (d) by each control, the number of birds found dead with an indication of the causes, if known as well as the number of birds culled with cause;
- (e) the number of chickens remaining in the flock following the removal of chickens for sale or for slaughter.

Those records shall be retained for a period of at least three years and shall be made available to the competent authority when carrying out an inspection or when otherwise requested.

#### *Surgical interventions*

12. All surgical interventions carried out for reasons other than therapeutic or diagnostic purposes which result in damage to or the loss of a sensitive part of the body or the alteration of bone structure shall be prohibited.

However, beak trimming may be authorised by the Competent Authority when other measures to prevent feather pecking and cannibalism are exhausted. In such cases, it shall be carried out only after consultation and on the advice of a veterinarian and shall be carried out by qualified staff on chickens that are less than 10 days old. In addition, the Competent Authority may authorise the castration of chickens. The castration shall only be carried out under veterinary supervision by personnel who have received a specific training.

Schedule II  
(Regulation 4 (3))

*Notification and documentation*

The following requirements shall apply:

1. The owner or keeper shall communicate to the competent authority his intention to use a stocking density of more than 33 kg/m<sup>2</sup> live weight.

He shall indicate the exact figure and inform the competent authority of any change in the stocking density at least 15 days prior to the placement of the flock in the house. If requested by the competent authority, that notification shall be accompanied by a document summarising the information contained in the documentation required under point 2.

2. The owner or keeper shall maintain and have available in the house compiled documentation describing in detail the production systems. In particular it shall include information on technical details of the house and its equipment such as:

(a) a plan of the house including the dimensions of the surfaces occupied by the chickens;

(b) ventilation and, if relevant, cooling and heating system, including their location, a ventilation plan, detailing target air quality parameters, such as airflow, air speed and temperature;

(c) feeding and watering systems and their location;

(d) alarm systems and backup systems in the event of a failure of any automated or mechanical equipment essential for the health and well-being of the animals;

(e) floor type and litter normally used.

The documentation shall be made available to the competent authority on request and shall be kept updated. In particular, technical inspections of the ventilation and alarm system shall be recorded.

The owner or keeper shall communicate to the competent authority any changes to the described house, equipment or procedures which are likely to influence the welfare of the birds without undue delay.



*Requirements for the holdings – control of environment parameters*

3. The owner or keeper shall ensure that each house of a holding is equipped with ventilation and, if necessary, heating and cooling systems designed, constructed and operated in such a way that:

(a) the concentration of ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) does not exceed 20 ppm and the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) does not exceed 3 000 ppm measured at the level of the chickens' heads;

(b) the inside temperature, when the outside temperature measured in the shade exceeds 30 °C, does not exceed this outside temperature by more than 3 °C;

(c) the average relative humidity measured inside the house during 48 hours does not exceed 70 % when the outside temperature is below 10 °C.

Schedule III  
(Regulations 4 (1) and 6 (2))

**MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP AT THE SLAUGHTERHOUSE**

*1. Mortality*

1.1. In the case of stocking densities higher than 33 kg/m<sup>2</sup>, the documentation accompanying the flock shall include the daily mortality rate and the cumulative daily mortality rate calculated by the owner or keeper and the hybrid or breed of the chickens.

1.2. Under the supervision of the official veterinarian these data as well as the number of broilers dead on arrival shall be recorded, indicating the holding and the house of the holding. The plausibility of the data and of the cumulative daily mortality rate shall be checked taking into account the number of broilers slaughtered and the number of broilers dead on arrival at the slaughterhouse.

*2. Post-mortem inspection*

In the context of the controls performed under the Regulation (EC) No 854/2004, the official veterinarian shall evaluate the results of the post-mortem inspection to identify other possible indications of poor welfare conditions such as abnormal levels of contact dermatitis, parasitism and systemic illness in the holding or the unit of the house of the holding of origin.

*3. Communication of results*

If the mortality rate as referred to in paragraph 1 or the results of the post-mortem inspection as referred to in paragraph 2 are consistent with poor animal welfare conditions, the official veterinarian shall communicate the data to the owner or keeper of the animals and to the competent authority. Appropriate actions shall be taken by the owner or the keeper of the animals and by the Competent Authority.

Schedule IV  
(Regulation 5 (2))

**TRAINING**

The training courses referred to in sub-regulation (2) of regulation 5 of these regulations shall at least cover Community legislation concerning the protection of chickens and in particular the following matters:

- (a) Schedules I and II to these regulations;
- (b) physiology, in particular drinking and feeding needs, animal behaviour and the concept of stress;
- (c) the practical aspects of the careful handling of chickens, and catching, loading and transport;
- (d) emergency care for chickens, emergency killing and culling;
- (e) preventive biosecurity measures.

Schedule V  
(Regulation 4 (5))**CRITERIA FOR THE USE OF INCREASED STOCKING DENSITY***1. Criteria*

- (a) the monitoring of the holding carried out by the Competent Authority within the last two years did not reveal any deficiencies with respect to the requirements of these regulations;
- (b) the monitoring by the owner or keeper of the holding is carried out using the guides to good management practice referred to in regulation 8 of these regulations; and
- (c) in at least seven consecutive, subsequently checked flocks from a house the cumulative daily mortality rate was below 1 % + 0.06 % multiplied by the slaughter age of the flock in days. If no monitoring of the holding was carried out by the Competent Authority within the last two years, at least one monitoring exercise has to be carried out to check whether the requirement in paragraph (a) is fulfilled.

*2. Exceptional circumstances*

By the way of derogation from paragraph 1(c), the Competent Authority may decide to increase the stocking density when the owner or keeper has provided sufficient explanation for the exceptional nature of a higher daily cumulative mortality rate or has shown that the causes lie beyond his sphere of control.

