

Recommended Best Practices for Bird Care in the Canadian Poultry Supply Chain from Farmer to Processor (May2014)

Created in collaboration by the Canadian poultry industry:

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I. Introduction

The care and welfare of poultry is in the best interest of the birds and the industry as a whole. The poultry supply chain in Canada is not vertically integrated. Rather, each link in the chain from *Farmer* to *Catcher* to *Transporter* to *Processor* acts independently but is connected. The contents of this document have been developed with expertise from Canadian poultry supply chain representatives and are based on the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) Meat Hygiene Manual of Procedures Chapter 12, *Food Animal Humane Handling and Slaughter – Animal Welfare Requirements*, and the *Health of Animals Regulations*. Throughout this document it is important to remember each member of the poultry supply chain works with the others to ensure proper flock handling.

II. Purpose and Intended Audience

The purpose of this document is to collate the recommended best practices for poultry welfare and to assist industry in complying with regulatory requirements throughout the supply chain from *Farmer* to *Processor*. It is a document for the industry by the industry and is intended for use by any *Farmer*, *Catcher*, *Transporter* or *Processor* in Canada. This document is maintained by the Canadian Hatching Egg Producers, Canadian Poultry and Egg Processors Council, Chicken Farmers of Canada, Egg Farmers of Canada and Turkey Farmers of Canada.

This document is available electronically to representatives in the Canadian poultry supply chain.

III. Scope

Each link of the supply chain currently has an animal care program. This document does not propose to replace any of these programs, but instead suggests supplemental responsibilities for each of *Farmer*, *Catcher*, *Transporter* and *Processor* and describes the transfer of care and control of poultry from one link to the next. There are recommendations for employee training, written procedures, protocols, contingency plans and templates for each of *Farmer*, *Catcher*, *Transporter* and *Processor* to ensure the care and welfare of commercial poultry throughout the supply chain, and as such, serve as guidelines.

This document is applicable for supply chain flow from *Farmer* to *Processor* and is not applicable for instances of on-farm euthanasia in emergency or foreign animal disease situations.

IV. About this Document

Within the poultry supply chain, there are four responsible parties: *Farmer*, *Catcher*, *Transporter* and *Processor*, and therefore three transactions where care and control of the flock is passed from one responsible party to the next. Each party must cooperate with the others to ensure flock welfare. In most cases, the flow of poultry and exchange of care and control through the supply chain is illustrated by the following chart:



The transition periods as a flock moves from care of the *Farmer* through *Catcher* to *Transporter* can be difficult to define and vary between provinces and unique situations. The welfare of the flock is a shared responsibility.

V. Farmer Responsibilities

It is the *Farmer's* responsibility to oversee animal care on-farm and to coordinate with *Catchers*, *Transporters* and *Processors* to help ensure animal care is maintained as the birds leave the farm.

The *Farmer* should:

1. Follow flock care guidelines throughout production as described in the:
 - ◆ Canadian Hatching Egg Producers Broiler Breeder Welfare Program
 - ◆ Chicken Farmers of Canada Animal Care Program (CFC ACP)
 - ◆ Egg Farmers of Canada: Animal Care Program for Laying Hens and the Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets, Layers and Spent Fowl: Poultry – Layers
 - ◆ Turkey Farmers of Canada Flock Care Program (TFC FCP) and TFC On-Farm Food Safety Program (OFFSP)
2. Complete and submit the *Flock Information Reporting Form* or “flock sheet” as per CFIA’s Meat Hygiene Manual of Procedures, Chapter 19 – Poultry Inspection Programs (see flock sheet for detailed instructions).
 - For turkeys, refer to TFC OFFSP PRO 005 Turkey Production Program
3. Understand the *Processor's* guidelines for:
 - ◆ Feed withdrawal
 - For turkeys, refer to TFC OFFSP PRO 005 Turkey Production Program
 - ◆ Ensuring all compromised birds and birds unfit for travel are culled¹ throughout the production period and before arrival of the catching crew, and ensuring compromised birds are not loaded when transportation will cause further injury, stress and/or suffering (see [Appendix 1](#)).
 - *Processor* may request a written agreement regarding compromised birds (see [Appendix 2](#))
 - ◆ Specialized loading protocols to reduce bird stress, if required.
 - ◆ Reporting changes in the flock, for example, increased mortality, birds becoming wet, change in actual versus predicted weight for loading density calculations, etc.
4. Inform the *Transporter* and/or *Processor* of changes to information on the advance flock sheet.

¹ Note: Personnel are not to euthanize (cull) birds unless they follow recognized practices.

- For turkeys, refer to TFC OFFSP PRO 005 Turkey Production Program and TFC FCP 009 Catching and Loading
5. Develop contingency plans for predictable events and emergencies (see [Appendix 3](#)).
 6. Contact *Catcher, Transporter* and/or *Processor* if there is a major delay on the farm.
 7. Birds should not be loaded into shipping crates or vehicles in a questionable state of repair and/or that are not visibly clean.
 8. Be available in person or by phone during catching and/or post a visible contact name and phone number.
 - For turkeys, refer to TFC FCP PRO 009 Catching and Loading
 - For broilers, refer to CFC ACP Section 6 Catching and Loading
 9. Ensure barn conditions and facilities allow safe and humane catching with minimal stress.
 - Refer to section 5 of the *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets, Layers and Spent Fowl: Poultry – Layers* and/or the *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Chickens, Turkeys and Breeders from Hatchery to Processing Plant*
 - For turkeys, refer to TFC FCP 009 Catching and Loading
 - For broilers, refer to CFC ACP Section 6 Catching and Loading

Measures may include:

- ◆ Easy access to the loading and unloading areas of the barns
 - ◆ Eaves troughs located over loading doors where birds may be exposed to rain water
 - ◆ Loading and unloading areas and ramps that allow the catching crew to handle birds properly
 - ◆ Door and floor openings should be appropriate for the type of catching
 - ◆ Reduced lighting should be available to facilitate working at night
 - ◆ Structures must be constructed and maintained so there are no sharp edges which could cause injury to the birds
10. Ensure access ways to and from the yard loading area can properly accommodate transportation vehicles, are clear from obstructions and are well marked for all seasons.
 11. It is recommended that *Farmers* observe the catching proceedings to ensure humane handling of individual birds and intervene if necessary.
 12. It is recommended that *Farmers* document the time when care and control of the birds is handed to the *Transporter*.
 13. Keep records on file in accordance with the timelines laid out in the species specific program.
 - CFC ACP = one (1) year; TFC FCP = two (2) years

VI. Transfer of Care and Control: Farmer to Catcher

It should be acknowledged that there may be provincial differences in when this transfer of care and control actually takes place.

Prior to catching, it is recommended the *Farmer* (or designate) and *Catching Supervisor* walk through the barn, identify flocks, and observe the condition of the barn. If the *Farmer* (or designate) cannot be

present during catching, or in cases where breeders and end-of-cycle hens are being removed, contact information should be provided.

The *Catching* crew is responsible for the collection and loading of the flock. The *Farmer* remains responsible for barn operation such as lighting, ventilation, etc.

VII. **Catcher Responsibilities**

All catching personnel (hired by the *Farmer* or working for a commercial company) have an obligation for the care and welfare of birds they handle.

If a *Farmer* assembles his/her own catching crew, the *Farmer* (or designate) acts as the *Catching Crew On-Site Supervisor*.

The *Catcher* collects poultry manually or mechanically from a barn and places them in containers or modules. *Catchers* must be trained to handle poultry humanely. While a *Catching Crew* may be working on one floor, they should recognize their behaviour and actions (e.g. excessive banging and noise) can cause birds to pile on other floors or in other parts of the barn.

The *Catching Crew On-Site Supervisor* should:

1. Know the loading densities by drawer or container as calculated by the *Transporter* or *Processor* prior to the start of each catch.
2. Evaluate the conditions of birds and the barn prior to catching, and commence catching only if conditions favour humane transport. If bird or barn conditions do not favour humane transport, contact the *Farmer*, *Transporter* and *Processor*.
3. Follow the applicable contingency plans if birds cannot be shipped and communicate with *Farmer* and *Processor*.
4. Ensure the crew handles birds humanely.
5. Ensure compromised birds are not loaded (see [Appendix 1](#)). It is not the responsibility of *Catching crews* to euthanize birds.
6. Notify the *Catchers*, *Off-Site Supervisor* and *Farmer* (or *Farmer* designate) of problems, abnormal situations or delays/changes to schedules.
7. Document deviations from normal operating procedures, for example, drastic and unpredictable weather changes or a request to load injured or compromised birds.
8. Document the time the service is transferred to the *Transporter*.
9. Use a catching checklist (see [Appendix 4](#)).
10. Make every attempt to monitor and pick up strays outside the barn and around the truck. This is a shared responsibility.
11. Ensure catching equipment, if applicable, is maintained.
12. Develop SOPs which include: communication with the *Processor*, equipment maintenance/ conditions, and catching procedures

Training:

- ◆ The *Catching Crew On-Site Supervisor* should be trained in a “train-the-trainer” capacity in a recognized program, such as the Ontario Ministry of Agricultural Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA) Catching Course, and should provide and document training for all *Catchers*.
 - The training program should include, but is not limited to:
 - Basic bird behaviour during catching
 - Basic on-farm biosecurity practices
 - How to humanely handle the type/species of bird as per the *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Chickens, Turkeys and Breeders from Hatchery to Processing Plant* and/or the *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets, Layers and Spent Fowl: Poultry – Layers*
 - Understanding the definitions of cull and compromised birds and ensuring these birds are not loaded
 - Who to call and how to document the situation if birds are unfit for travel
 - Understanding of conditions which can have a negative impact on bird welfare during catching and transport
- ◆ Review emergency procedures (see [Appendix 3](#)).
 - Outline protocols for who to call and how to document problems or unusual situations or emergencies.
 - Be familiar with the contingency plans and relevant contact numbers.
- ◆ Transfer of care and control of animals.
 - Provide a copy of the service contract to the *Catching Crew On-Site Supervisor* describing the transfer of care and control of birds. The *Supervisor* is trained to document the time the service begins and ends at the farm.

VIII. Transfer of Care and Control: *Catcher* to *Transporter*

The transfer of care and control from the *Catcher* to the *Transporter* occurs when the *Transporter* acknowledges receipt of the load with the signing of appropriate documentation (e.g. marketing board document, flock sheet, bill of lading or equivalent).

IX. Transporter Responsibilities

The *Transporter* is responsible for the care of poultry on the truck as birds travel from the *Farmer’s* premise to the *Processor*.

The *Transporter* should:

1. Be aware of the transportation responsibilities described in:
 - ◆ Section 5 of the *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Chickens, Turkeys and Breeders from Hatchery to Processing Plant*
 - ◆ Section 7 of the *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets, Layers and Spent Fowl: Poultry - Layers*
 - ◆ *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation*

2. Understand basic on-farm biosecurity practices.
3. Provide and document training to all employees who handle/transport animals, for example, the Canadian Livestock Transport Certification Program (Poultry Module).
 - Evaluating compromised birds is not a *Transporter* responsibility alone; however, it is recommended, if possible, that the *Transporter* visually monitor catching and loading by observing the conditions of the birds and how they are handled as they are loaded onto the truck (see [Appendix 1](#)). The *Transporter* is required to contact the *Processor* if they suspect compromised birds have been loaded.
4. The area around and under the truck should be checked for stray birds prior to moving the vehicle. This is a shared responsibility.
5. Implement an Animal Transportation Program so that:
 - Employees know who to notify of problems or unexpected events
 - Problems are reported, documented and investigated
 - Corrective action is taken
 - When possible, similar problems are prevented in the future
6. Develop SOPs which include, but are not limited to:
 - How to care for poultry transported different distances to ensure bird welfare is not compromised (e.g. on hot days container density can be reduced to prevent overheating)
7. Develop contingency plans for predictable situations (see [Appendix 3](#))
 - These plans should be available to the *Processor*, if requested
8. Ensure transportation vehicle is:
 - Suitably designed for the animals and weather conditions
 - Maintained and monitored so it remains suitable for humane transport
 - Properly cleaned
9. Communicate
 - If there are changes or delays to the schedule, the *Transporter* should notify the *Farmer*, *Catching Crew* and *Processor*
 - If there are changes to the vehicle(s) or equipment that are different from those planned, the *Transporter* should notify the *Farmer* and the *Catching Crew* to determine if the vehicle(s) or equipment can be accommodated
10. Provide documentation for:
 - Weather and road conditions from loading to delivery
 - Transport time, including:
 - Start and end time of loading and unloading (if applicable)
 - Driving time, including rest stops and breaks
 - Time of delivery

X. Transfer of Care and Control: Transporter to Processor

It should be acknowledged there may be provincial differences and differences between species as to when this transfer of care and control takes place.

The exchange of load/ delivery documents (or equivalent) from *Transporter* to *Processor* denotes the transfer of care and control of the birds. The *Transporter* is responsible for communicating with the *Processor* on the condition of the load, the level of bird stress, weather during transport, any issues or conditions of birds which may affect processing priority or other special considerations, as necessary.

There may be situations where the *Processor* is not present when a *Transporter* arrives at a processing establishment with a load of birds; however, if not, it is recommended that the *Processor* should have procedures/processes in place to receive the load. It is recommended the *Processor* visibly monitor the load during lairage.

XI. Processor Responsibilities

The *Processor* receives the load of live poultry at the slaughter establishment and is responsible for their welfare from the time of arrival until slaughter. *Processors* must develop, implement and maintain a written animal welfare program for the type of poultry species they process and review it on an annual basis. The program must ensure compliance with performance standards in CFIA's MOP Chapter 12, *Food Animal –Humane Handling and Slaughter: Animal Welfare Requirements* and regulatory requirements. It must be verified internally through regular performance based audits.

The *Processor* is responsible for:

1. Communication:

- ◆ Communicate expectations to *Farmers, Catchers* and *Transporters*
- ◆ Collect documentation verifying all parties (*Farmers, Catchers* and *Transporters*) understand their responsibilities under the *Health of Animals Regulations* - Section XII (see [Appendix 5](#))
- ◆ Provide *Farmers, Catching Crew On-Site/Off-Site Supervisor* and *Transporters* with the following information, as necessary:
 - Guidelines for feed withdrawal
 - Container size
 - Stocking density for containers
 - Changes in flock information, including the number of birds, average weight, etc., as reported by the *Farmer*
 - Special loading protocols
 - Expected time to load
 - Predicted weather
 - Fitness to transport criteria (see Glossary of Terms: compromised animals)
 - Recommendations to minimize bird stress during loading
 - Updates if plans/schedules change
 - Emergency/after hours contact information
 - Trailer tarping/vent configuration based on *Farmer* and/or *Transporter* information

2. Scheduling catching, loading and delivery to minimize bird stress
3. Implementing a written animal welfare program so that:
 - Problems are reported, documented and investigated, for example, high DOAs can be documented using the template in [Appendix 6](#)
 - Corrective action is taken
 - When possible, similar problems are prevented in the future
 - Retain transport records for one year
 - Information can be shared with all stakeholders, as required (i.e. contingency plans, schedules, condemnation numbers, DOAs, etc.)
 - Welfare programs should contain:
 - Proper hanging/shackling techniques
 - Proper stunning and cutting information (or gassing, as applicable)
 - Proper lairage conditions
4. Providing training:
 - Employees who work with live animals must receive humane handling training. Employees should know:
 - Signs of normal behaviour and indicators of stress and illness in each species
 - Who to notify if animal welfare problems or unexpected events occur
 - How to identify compromised birds and how to euthanize them
 - What to do with animals compromised during transportation
 - Handling procedures for unloading, including special procedures for stressed animals
 - How to handle damaged containers
 - Emergency contact numbers
 - How and when to notify CFIA veterinarians, for example if there are high DOAs
 - Proper and effective hanging/shackling, stunning and cutting techniques
 - Document the training of each employee
 - Maintain contingency plans for predictable events (see [Appendix 3](#))
5. Providing equipment:
 - Use only shipping containers that are structurally sound (for example, no sharp edges, large holes or gaps that could cause injury to birds) and visibly clean.
 - If possible, a supply of acceptable containers is readily available as replacements
 - Ensure facility design and maintenance will not cause undue stress to birds.
 - Ensure facility design and maintenance will not cause damage to containers.

XII. Glossary of Terms

Catcher	A person who collects poultry either manually or mechanically from a barn and places them in containers
Catching crew	A group of catchers and their on-site supervisor
Catching crew on-site supervisor	Equivalent to a catching crew lead hand
Catching crew off-site supervisor	Primary contact at the office of the catching company
CFIA	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
Cold stressed birds	Birds that are huddling, shivering and showing piloerection (ruffled feathers which trap air and create insulation). Their feet and/or comb are cold to the touch.
Compromised bird	A bird that is visibly sick, injured or disabled prior to or during catch and loading, and where catching, loading and transportation will cause additional suffering, and therefore the bird should not be transported. For meat birds caught in darkness, birds of a significantly lighter weight can be an indicator they are compromised. For end of cycle hens, refer to definition. Also refer to poultry loading decision trees developed by OMAFRA (Ontario Ministry of Food and Rural Affairs)
Container	A box or crate that is well constructed for the shipment of livestock. It should have secure, smooth fittings and be free from any sharp protrusions. It should provide adequate ventilation.
Crate density	Amount of space (m ²) required by poultry proportional to their size and ambient conditions
Cull	To euthanize compromised birds in the interest of animal welfare
Dead on Arrival (DOA)	A bird determined to be dead on arrival at the processor (determined at live hang)
End-of-cycle hens	An egg-laying hen at the end of its egg production cycle that is sent to slaughter. Also called spent or mature hens. May include table egg layers or broiler breeders. These birds are understood to be more fragile by nature and could have higher mortality rates, but are not considered compromised.
Euthanasia	Refer to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals – Chickens, Turkeys and Breeders from Hatchery to Processing Plant.</i>• <i>OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code 2010, Chapter 7.6, Killing of Animals for Disease Control Purposes.</i> For descriptions of cervical dislocation, blunt force trauma and use of a burdizzo refer to: Erasmus, M.A., Lawlis, P., Duncan, J.H., Widowski, T.M. 2010. Using time to insensibility and estimated time of death to evaluate a non-penetrating captive bolt, cervical dislocation, and blunt trauma for on-farm killing of turkeys. Poultry Science 89:1345-1354.
Farmer(s)	The individuals or entities responsible or appointed to raise and/or maintain

the birds from hatchling to market weight for meat production or maturity for breeder egg production, or throughout the laying cycle for hatching or table egg production.

Flock sheet	Flock Information Reporting Form. Required by CFIA's MOP Chapter 19, Poultry Inspection Program. The back of the form includes detailed instructions for how they are to be completed and shared.
Lairage	An area at an abattoir where animals rest before slaughter - incorporates all pre-slaughter facilities including live animal sheds
Over-heated birds	Birds that have wings spread and body stretched (when space allows) that are panting and showing gular flutter (a cooling behaviour in which birds rapidly flap the membranes in their throat to increase evaporation).
Processor	The primary slaughter establishment or individuals representing the slaughter establishment.
Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)	A written set of step-by-step instructions to execute a procedure. SOPs are reviewed regularly and revised as needed.
Training	Education or instruction in the form of a certification program, and/or the passing of information and skills from an experienced and knowledgeable individual through mentoring and/or demonstration.
Transporter	The transporting company or the driver of the vehicle which conveys the birds.
Wet birds	A bird with wet or moist feathers in contact with the skin and/or wet or moist skin resulting in body heat loss due to reduced insulating capacity of the feathers and evaporation from the skin. Wet birds should not be loaded in cold ambient conditions.

XIII. References

Canadian Council on Animal Care guidelines on: the care and use of farm animals in research, teaching and testing, 2009. Accessed March 2014

http://www.ccac.ca/en/_standards/guidelines

Canadian Hatching Egg Producers, Broiler Breeder Welfare Program

Chicken Farmers of Canada Animal Care Program (CFC ACP)

Egg Farmers of Canada, Animal Care Program for Laying Hens

Eramus, M.A., Lawlis, P., Duncan, J.H., Widowski, T.M., 2010. Using time to insensibility and estimated time of death to evaluate a nonpenetrating captive bolt, cervical dislocation, and blunt trauma for on-farm killing of turkeys. Poultry Science 89:1345-1354.

OIE Terrestrial Animal Health Code 2010, Chapter 7.6, Killing of Animals for Disease Control Purposes Accessed March 2014.

http://web.oie.int/eng/normes/mcode/en_chapitre_1.7.6.htm

Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals – Chickens, Turkeys and Breeders from Hatchery to Processing Plant, 2003. Accessed March 2014.

<http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/chickens-turkeys-and-breeders>

Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals: Transportation, 2001. Accessed March 2014.

<http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/transport>

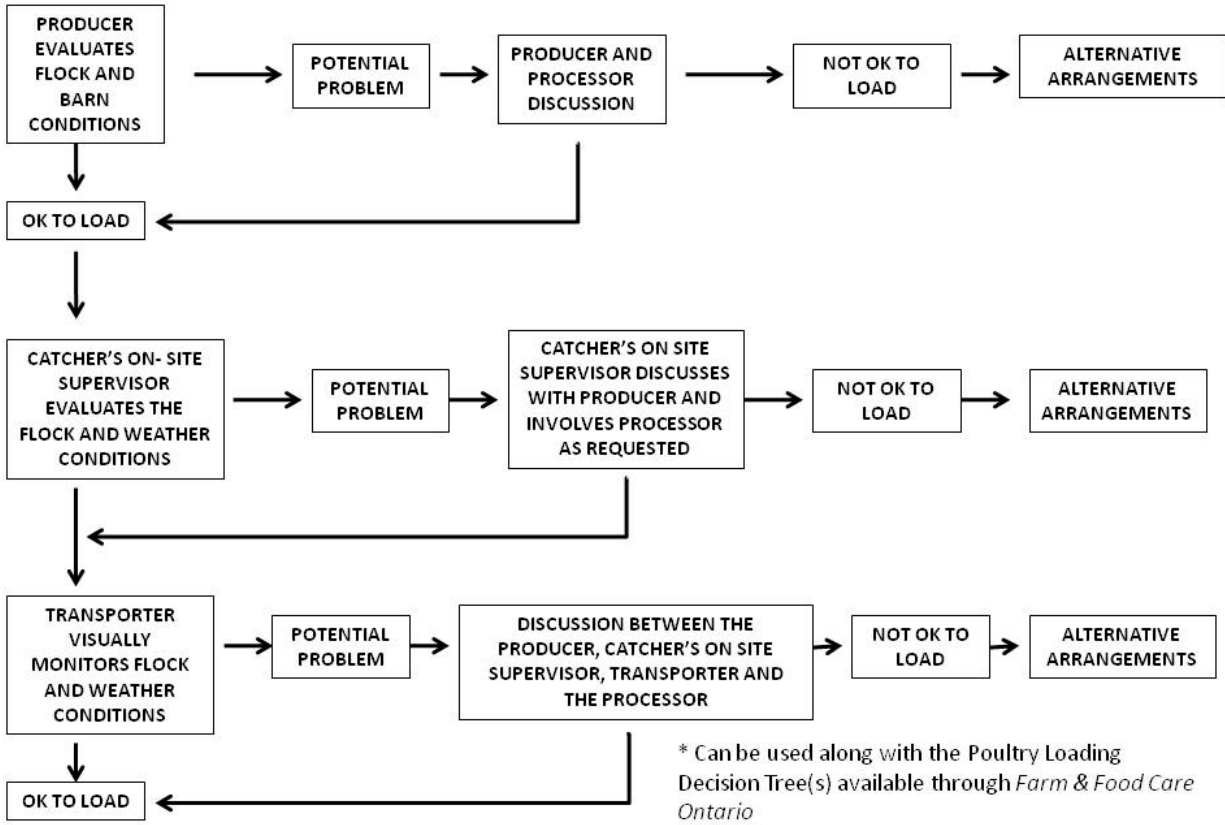
Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets, Layers and Spent Fowl: Poultry – Layers, 2003. Accessed January 2013.

<http://www.nfacc.ca/codes-of-practice/poultry-layers>

Turkey Farmers of Canada Flock Care Program (TFC FCP)

Turkey Farmers of Canada On-Farm Food Safety Program (OFFSP)

Appendix 1: A Guidance Tool to Aid in the Decision to Load a Bird



Appendix 2: Sample Letter Regarding Compromised Birds

The Poultry industry in *province X* has always been concerned and attentive to issues related to the humane treatment of the birds in our care. In these changing times, we find ourselves facing new regulatory and enforcement challenges.

The *Health of Animals Regulations Part XII* requires transportation of animals, including poultry, be done in a humane manner without causing injury or undue suffering.

In 2010, there has been a change in expectations by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Broilers, turkeys and end of cycle broiler breeders dying on trucks during transportation from the farm to the processing plant should not exceed 1% per load, and end of cycle hens should not exceed 4% per load. Any damage to one bird could lead to a CFIA driven investigation.

We (the Processor) wish to advise all poultry Farmers that after reviewing the practices and procedures, it will be the policy and procedures of all stakeholders to ensure the birds caught, loaded and transported will be, to the best of their ability, healthy and fit to transport to the processing plant.

With increasing enforcement action from CFIA at processing plants, Catchers and Transporters may refuse to load and transport birds which are compromised.

We understand that the Catchers and Transporters of the birds have a responsibility in performing their work appropriately and that they have conducted appropriate training of staff and that this training will be on-going.

We wish to work together on problems should they arise and thank you in advance for ensuring no one is put at risk for mishandling poultry.

Appendix 3: Emergency Situations and Contingency Plans

There are predictable situations (as applicable to your operation) that can be planned for with written contingency plans. Contingency plans should contain, at a minimum, suggestions for prevention, what to do with the birds and who to notify in the event of an emergency.

Examples of possible situations which may require contingency plans:

- ◆ Inclement weather
 - Outline the procedures for loading and transporting birds in extreme weather conditions, road closures, etc.
- ◆ Power outages
- ◆ Vehicle accidents
 - Outline the procedures to follow in the event of a vehicle collision, roll-over, etc. Refer to Canadian Livestock Transport training manual.
- ◆ Breakdown of equipment
 - Outline the procedures to follow in the event of a vehicle breakdown, or equipment malfunction.
- ◆ Employee/ staff injury or illness
- ◆ Foreign Animal Disease
 - Refer to individual Provincial Emergency Management plans.

Unique situations are always possible and personnel should have general protocols or decisions trees which encourage quick and logical responses to ensure their health and safety as well as the welfare of the birds. These tools should include who to contact with complete, accurate contact information for primary and alternate contacts.

It is recommended stakeholders maintain an up-to-date and readily available emergency contact list. The following list provides examples of possible emergency contacts and may be customized as applicable to any operation.

Premise Address: _____

Fire Identification Number: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Contact	Phone Number
Farmer (_____)	
Farmer – Alternate (_____)	
Fire	
Police	
Ambulance	
Veterinarian	
Feed Representative	
Hatchery	
Processor	
Pullet provider	
Local tow truck	
Local power provider	
Local gas provider	
Catching crew	
Transporter	
Local CFIA	
Provincial Board	
Poison control	

Appendix 4: Sample Check List for Catching of Broilers, Turkeys and End of Cycle Hens

*(Note: This form is an example and can be customized. It should be shared with the Processor)

Company Name: _____

Number of Catchers: _____

Farm Name: _____ Barn Number: _____

Processor: _____ Shipping Date: _____

Trucking Company: _____

Conditions on the Farm:

Weather conditions: Snow Rain Dry Other _____

Approximate temperature: _____

Was the Farmer or a representative of the Farmer available:

Upon arrival?	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Throughout catching?	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
When finished?	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

Were inside lights dimmable?	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Were there outside loading lights?		No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Feed lines raised prior to arrival?	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Water lines raised upon arrival?	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Nests raised upon arrival?	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Did ammonia level cause irritation to eyes, nose and throat?		No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Were there adequate screens/fences to corral the birds?	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Are egg belts and manure handling equipment installed as to not unduly impede the bird removal operation?	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Do cages permit the removal of birds without causing injury?	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
If no, do you have a suggested solution?	_____		

Litter conditions:	Wet <input type="checkbox"/>	Damp <input type="checkbox"/>	Dry <input type="checkbox"/>
Condition of birds:	Wet <input type="checkbox"/>	Dirty <input type="checkbox"/>	Clean <input type="checkbox"/>
Bird behaviour:	Flighty <input type="checkbox"/>	Calm <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>

What was the approximate number of dead birds? _____

Were birds unfit for transport left at the farm? No Yes

 If yes, approximately how many? _____

Was the roof above load-out doors clear of ice and snow?	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Was there an eaves trough above the load-out doors?		No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Was the ground outside the loading area level and well drained?		No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

Catching Procedures:

Were birds being loaded according to instructions?		No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
What was the number of birds per crate?			
Was this the same number as instructed?	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Did crew members speak quietly? (no yelling, banging, etc)		No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Were catchers handling the appropriate number of birds at a time?		No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Were birds handled carefully? (no swinging, throwing, drops)		No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
Were birds properly placed before being enclosed in container? (crate right-side-up; head, wings and legs not sticking out?)		No <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>

Explain all deviations and provide any comments here:

Supervisor Name (print): _____ **Date:** _____

Supervisor Signature: _____

Farmer Comments (if available):

Farmer Name (print): _____ **Date:** _____

Farmer Signature (if available): _____

Appendix 5: Sample Notice of Agreement – Training Guarantee

This is an example of what might be used between the Processor and catching and/or transport companies.

I/We, <Catcher/Transporter company X> confirm that all personnel working for this company have been trained and understand basic poultry handling and animal welfare.

Training will be updated at least annually and records will be kept on file.

I/We understand responsibilities under the *Health of Animals Regulations Section XII*. Catcher / Transporter Reports will be forwarded to <Processing company X> in a timely manner. (This statement would only be applicable for a Processor – Catcher agreement.)

Name (printed):	Signature:	Date:
Company Representative Name: (printed)	Signature:	Date:

Appendix 6: Sample of Processor DOA Investigation Report

(completed by the Processor)

Date of Incident: _____ Type of Bird: _____

of Birds on Truck: _____ # of DOAs: _____ % DOA: _____

Avg. Bird Size: _____ Loading Density: _____

Farm Name and Barn Address: _____

Location of DOA Birds: _____

CATCHING TIME

Start of Catch: _____ End of Catch: _____

FLOCK/BARN CONDITIONS PRIOR TO LOADING

(As per flock sheet and/or catching checklist, if applicable, as provided in [Appendix 3](#))

WEATHER CONDITIONS: TEMPERATURE/WIND-CHILL/HUMIDEX

During Catch: _____

During Transport: _____

At Plant (include bay #): _____

TRANSPORT

Transport Departure Time: _____ Plant Arrival Time: _____ Start of Processing: _____

En route: _____ Plant Holding Time: _____ Total Transport time*: _____

(*Total transport time as defined by CFIA is time from first bird loaded to last bird unloaded)

Transport Company: _____ Trailer #: _____ Km from Barn: _____

Driver: _____ # of Crates on Trailer: _____

Was the load tarped? Yes No Any stops en route to plant? Yes No

ANTE-MORTEM / POST-MORTEM CONDITION OF BIRDS

Overall condition of the live birds:

(feathering, panting, wet/dry, discoloured, bleeding, broken wings/legs)

Post Mortem condition of the birds:

(feathering, wet/dry, discoloured, bleeding, broken wings/legs)

Necropsy Report provided by CFIA: _____

Comments / Conclusions / Recommendations:

Report by (Processor representative): _____

*Note: It is recommended this report be shared with industry stakeholders.

Appendix 7: Ongoing List of Changes to this Document

May 2014:

- Page 3, I. Introduction
 - correct name for the CFIA's Meat Hygiene Manual of Procedures, Chapter 12 is *Food Animal Humane Handling and Slaughter – Animal Welfare Requirements* (released February 2014)
- Page 5, V. Farmer Responsibilities
 - edited wording of point 7. Regarding crate condition to better reflect what's found in CFIA's Meat Hygiene Manual of Procedures, Chapter 12 is *Food Animal Humane Handling and Slaughter – Animal Welfare Requirements* (released February 2014)
 - inserted point 12. Recommendation for recording time of transferring care and control to better reflect what's found in CFIA's Meat Hygiene Manual of Procedures, Chapter 12 is *Food Animal Humane Handling and Slaughter – Animal Welfare Requirements* (released February 2014)
- Page 6, VII. Catcher Responsibility
 - Inserted recommendation 12. The development of various Standard Operating Procedures
- Page 7, VII. Under Training
 - inserted a bullet about understanding conditions which can have a negative impact on bird welfare
- Page 9, XI. Processor Responsibilities
 - correct name for the CFIA's Meat Hygiene Manual of Procedures, Chapter 12 is *Food Animal Humane Handling and Slaughter – Animal Welfare Requirements* (released February 2014)
 - under Communication point 1. Added the recommendation for communication throughout the supply chain about truck tarp and vent configuration
- Page 13, XIII. References
 - tested website links and updated "date accessed"
- Page 16, Appendix 3
 - Changed name of CLT to Canadian Livestock Transport

January 2013: (Note: This list of edits applies to the English draft and may not be the same edits required in the French version.)

- Page 3, I. Introduction
 - removal of word “anticipated” in reference to CFIA’s Meat Hygiene Manual of Procedures Chapter 12
 - insertion of “Requirements” to Food Animal Transportation and Slaughter – Animal Welfare Requirements
- Page 4, V. Farmer Responsibilities
 - removal of word “or” in part 1. 4th bullet Turkey Farmers of Canada Flock Care Program (TFC FCP) and [or] TFC On-Farm Food Safety Program (OFFSP)
- Page 13, References
 - updated hyperlink to Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals – Chickens, Turkeys and Breeders from Hatchery to Processing Plant, 2003
 - updated dates of accessed websites to January 2013

April 2012: Original Draft