



Quality Welsh Food Certification Ltd.  
ardystio bwyd Cymreig safonol

## Welsh Organic Scheme

### STANDARDS FOR POULTRY PRODUCTION

ORIGIN OF STOCK AND CONVERSION		
5.01	<b><u>Movement records.</u></b> All poultry movements onto and off the holding <b>must</b> be recorded as required by law.	<i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.1, 3.2</i>
5.02	A comprehensive register of all poultry on the holding <b>must</b> be maintained and kept available at all times.	<i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.1, 3.2</i>
5.03	The sale or purchase of all organic registered birds intended as layers or for table birds <b>must</b> be accompanied by a FMD.	Feed and medicine declaration. FMD. Record Sheet RS3 <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.2</i>
5.04	<b><u>Origin of flock.</u></b> The choice of <b>breed or strain must</b> take into account the climate and the proposed production system. Preference should be given to slow growing strains for meat production..	<i>COS Annex I B3.1</i>
5.05	All laying and table birds <b>must</b> be sourced from <b>registered breeding units</b> and managed subsequently according to these standards.	<i>COS Annex I B3.2</i>
5.06	Where sufficient organically reared birds are not available for <b>stocking</b> or <b>restocking</b> the unit, non organic layer pullets or non organic table birds less than 3 days old may be sourced.	Producers <b>must</b> apply to QWFC for a derogation to source non organic layer pullets. This is subject to 5.07 <i>COS Annex I B3.4</i> <i>COS Annex I B3.6</i>
5.07	From <b>1/1/2006</b> all <b>non organic layer pullets</b> brought into the unit <b>must</b> have been raised in accordance with the QWFC feeding standards and the veterinary health and treatment standards. <b>Documentary evidence</b> of the feed and health regime of the pullets <b>must</b> be obtained from unregistered suppliers.	This derogation <b>must</b> still receive prior approval from QWFC. <i>COS Annex I B3.7</i>
5.08	Non organic replacement pullets <b>must</b> undergo 6 weeks of full organic management after being brought onto the unit before the eggs can be sold as organic.	<i>COS Annex I B2.2.1, 3.12</i>
5.09	For a layer unit that exists on a holding prior to the start of conversion, the birds <b>must</b> undergo 6 weeks of full organic management after the land becomes organic or after it has fulfilled the 12 month non-herbivore derogation requirements (see 1.14), before the eggs can be sold as organic.	<i>COS Annex I B2.2.1</i> <i>COS Annex I B2.1.2</i>
5.10	Where non organic breeding stock are sourced, a health assessment <b>must</b> be made and a period of quarantine applied if deemed necessary.	QWFC may require quarantine in certain circumstances. <i>COS Annex I B3.13</i>
FEEDING STANDARDS		

5.11	<b>Records.</b> An accurate feeding record for each identifiable poultry flock <b>must</b> be kept. The record of the ration <b>must</b> include the feeding period, the number of birds, the ingredients and their organic status and the quantity fed daily or over the period.	A 'QWFC approved' record format <b>must</b> be used. Record Sheet RS6 <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.2</i>
5.12	A record of all purchased feeds <b>must</b> be kept, together with their product labels and organic status.	A list of all purchases. All delivery notes. <i>COS Annex III 6.1</i>
5.13	Declarations <b>must</b> be obtained from feed suppliers that products are from non genetically modified sources.	A statement on the label is sufficient. <i>COS Annex I B4.18</i>
5.14	<b>Feeding Principle.</b> Feeding for quality production rather than quantity <b>must</b> be the aim. Nutritional requirements <b>must</b> be met. Force feeding is forbidden.	<i>COS Annex I B4.1</i>
5.15	All poultry <b>must</b> be fed a 100% organic diet.	A derogation on this standard exists until 31/12/2011. (5.20) <i>COS Annex I B4.2</i>
5.16	The feed should preferably be <b>home produced</b> or from a linked unit.	A management agreement should exist with a linked unit. <i>COS Annex I B4.3</i>
5.17	Where <b>in-conversion feeds</b> are fed, they may be included at up to 60% of the annual dry matter if home produced or 30% if sourced elsewhere.	In-conversion feeds - see 1.09 & 1.12. The ration <b>must</b> have a minimum 40% organic content. <i>COS Annex I B4.4</i>
5.18	The feed ration for fattening table birds <b>must</b> contain a minimum 65% cereals.	<i>COS Annex I B4.1</i>
5.19	Poultry <b>must</b> have daily access to pasture, on which there <b>must</b> be adequate green cover to permit fresh roughage intake.	<i>COS Annex I B4.11</i>
5.20	Where a fully organic diet cannot be provided, up to 25% of the daily ration of a flock may be sourced from an approved non organic supply, providing the average annual non organic feed intake does not exceed the specified percentage limits.	<u>Annual Non Organic Limits</u> 15% from 25/8/2005 to 31/12/2007 10% from 1/1/2008 to 31/12/2009 5% from 1/1/2010 to 31/12/2011  <i>COS Annex I B4.8</i>
5.21	In exceptional circumstances a producer may apply for permission to exceed the non organic allowance.	Eg. Fire, weather or disease. Application to QWFC. Approval only by Defra <i>COS Annex I B4.9</i>
5.22	<b>Feed Sources</b> <b>Prohibited feed additives</b> include antibiotics, coccidiostats, medicinal substances and any growth promoter or stimulant.	<i>COS Annex I B4.17</i>
5.23	Any feed ingredient that has been produced with the use of <b>genetic modification</b> is prohibited.	<i>COS Annex I B4.18</i>
5.24	Non organic feed materials of <b>agricultural origin</b> can only be used if listed in Annex A.	Expelled oilseeds, not extracted. <i>COS Annex I B4.13</i>
5.25	Where a <b>compound or blended feed</b> is used, it <b>must</b> be sourced from an organic certified mill and labeled as an approved product by an organic certification body.	<i>COS Provision 5 12 to 18</i>
5.26	The only permitted feed materials of <b>animal origin</b> are fishmeal and other marine products from sustainable fisheries, milk and milk products and eggs and egg products. These should be fed only to fulfil the amino acid requirement.	<i>COS Annex I B4.14</i>
5.27	<b>Synthetic amino acids</b> are not permitted as feed supplements.	<i>COS Annex I B 4.16</i>

5.28	Permitted feed additives of <b>mineral origin</b> are listed in Annex B.	<i>COS Annex I B4.16</i>
5.29	Dietary vitamins should preferably derive from naturally occurring feed materials, but supplementary <b>synthetic vitamins</b> may be included in poultry rations.	<i>COS Annex I B4.16</i>
5.30	Permitted binders, preservatives and processing aids are listed in Annex C.	Lactic, formic, acetic and propionic acids may be used to preserve crimped grain and silage only with prior permission from QWFC. <i>COS Annex I B4.12</i>
<b>DISEASE PREVENTION AND VETERINARY TREATMENTS</b>		
5.31	<b>Flock Health Plan</b> A <b>health plan must</b> be developed for the poultry enterprise, preferably with the assistance of a vet, and reviewed at least annually.	<i>COS Annex I B5.1.2</i>
5.32	A <b>health plan</b> should address all potential flock health issues, its emphasis always on <b>prevention rather than cure</b> and its ultimate aim to fully dispense with the need to administer veterinary drugs.	<i>COS Annex I B5.1.2</i>
5.33	An <b>annual assessment</b> will be made of the health plan, and if approved, will form the basis of the flock health management for the following year.	Any subsequent treatments that have not been previously assessed will require prior approval by QWFC. <i>COS Annex III 5.1</i>
5.34	A record of all veterinary purchases and all treatments <b>must</b> be kept.	Diagnosis <b>must</b> also be recorded and both the statutory and organic withdrawal periods. <i>COS Annex III Specific Provisions A2 3.2</i> <i>COS Annex I B5.6</i>
5.35	<b>Disease prevention must</b> be the overriding policy in an organic poultry enterprise. This <b>must</b> be achieved by a combination of :- a. Appropriate breed selection. b. Encouragement of strong disease resistance. c. Use of high quality feed and regular access to the range. d. Avoidance of overstocking and good rotational grazing practice. e. Biosecurity and quarantine measures.	<i>COS Annex I B5.1.3, 5.2</i>
5.36	<b>An animal that becomes sick or injured must receive immediate attention</b> , even if its treatment results in it losing its organic status.	<i>COS Annex I B5.3</i>
5.37	In selecting a veterinary product, an organic farmer should first consider with the vet the efficacy of <b>herbal or homeopathic products</b> and <b>trace elements</b> for treatment of a condition. As a last resort, and to prevent suffering or distress to the animal, a veterinary medicine or antibiotic may be used.	This priority should be reflected in the health plan. <i>COS Annex I B5.4a,b,d</i>
5.38	The use of veterinary medicines or antibiotics for <b>routine disease prevention</b> is prohibited. Only where preventative husbandry measures have failed can this be justified and then only if part of an approved health plan.	<i>COS Annex I B5.4c,d</i>

5.39	<b>Vaccination</b> to counter an <u>identified</u> disease risk is permitted. Vaccines should be specific to the disease identified.	It is not permitted to accept pre-vaccinated birds from the hatchery where there is low risk of that disease on the unit. <i>COS Annex I B5.4c</i>
5.40	The use of growth promoters is prohibited.	<i>COS Annex I B5.5a</i>
5.41	The <b>compulsory treatment</b> of livestock and buildings to control a specific disease under national or community legislation is authorised.	<i>COS Annex I B5.5b</i>
5.42	The use of <b>organophosphates</b> is not permitted.	Unless subject to (5.39) <i>COS Annex I B5.5c</i>
5.43	Following treatment of a bird with veterinary medicines, a <b>withdrawal period</b> of at least <b>twice</b> the statutory period <b>must</b> be observed either before slaughter or before eggs can be sold . Where no withdrawal period is stated or where the stated period is zero days a minimum of 48 hours is required.	All laying birds that have been treated <b>must</b> be kept in isolation for the duration of the withdrawal period. Medicines administered outside their licensed use will require 7 day withdrawal for eggs or 28 days for meat. <i>COS Annex I B5.7</i>
5.44	A bird or group of birds that require a <b>second course</b> of veterinary medicine treatment <b>must</b> be disposed of as non organic.	Vaccines, treatments for parasites and compulsory treatments are excluded. A <b>course of treatment</b> means 'all necessary measures to restore an animal to health following a particular disease episode' <i>COS Annex I B5.8</i>
5.45	Veterinary treatments for the control of <b>external parasites</b> is permitted where justified on the grounds of animal welfare. This <b>must</b> be addressed in the Flock Health Plan.	Chemical treatments <b>must</b> be licensed for the purpose. Eg. Decimite, Mitex or diatomaceous earth. <i>COS Annex I B5.4c</i>
5.46	The control of <b>internal parasites</b> should be maintained by husbandry practices as far as possible. In-feed wormers may be used where justified following diagnosis. This <b>must</b> be addressed in the Health Plan and the double withdrawal period observed for both meat and eggs.	Safe and clean pasture practice achieved by rotational and alternate species grazing is preferred. Veterinary diagnosis should be made before <u>any</u> anthelmintic treatment. <i>COS Annex I B5.4c</i>
5.47	The administering of veterinary medicines should be done by a trained and competent person. There should be correct procedure for the use and storage of medicines and the safe storage and disposal of needles.	

### FLOCK MANAGEMENT, WELFARE AND TRANSPORT

5.48	Poultry <b>must</b> be managed according to good husbandry and welfare practices.	
5.49	Reproduction should be based on natural service.	<i>COS Annex I B6.1.1</i>
5.50	The routine practice of <b>beak trimming</b> should not be carried out. This may only be carried out where it can be shown that a welfare problem would otherwise occur.	This practice <b>must</b> be addressed in the Health Plan. <i>COS Annex I B6.1.2</i>
5.51	Staff who carry out veterinary tasks <b>must</b> be competent.	<i>COS Annex I B6.1.2</i>

5.52	The minimum age of slaughter <b>must</b> be:- 81 days for chickens 49 days for Peking ducks 70 days for female Muscovy ducks 84 days for male Muscovy ducks 92 days for Mallard ducks 94 days for guineafowl 140 days for turkeys and roasting geese.	Where these minimum ages are not applied, slow growing strains <b>must</b> be used.  <i>COS Annex I B6.1.9</i>
5.53	The <b>transport of poultry must</b> be done under conditions that minimise stress and the likelihood of injury.	<i>COS Annex I B6.2.1</i>
5.54	<b>Transit time</b> should be kept to a minimum. A schedule for the journey should be established before loading and agreed with the haulier and consignee. The nearest appropriate approved slaughter facility should be used.	<i>COS Annex I B6.2.1</i>
5.55	Vehicles for live transport of animals <b>must</b> be well maintained, have adequate ventilation and <b>must</b> be driven with care. Vehicles <b>must</b> be cleaned and disinfected after use.	
5.56	Only <b>fit and healthy</b> birds may be transported.	<i>COS Annex I B6.2.2</i>

**PASTURE MANAGEMENT AND POULTRY HOUSING**

5.57	All poultry <b>must</b> have access to registered land (ranging area) whenever weather and ground conditions permit and <b>must</b> not be kept in cages.	A bird <b>must</b> have outdoor access for at least one third of its life. <i>COS Annex I B8.4.1</i> <i>COS Annex I B8.4.5</i>																
5.58	<b>Water fowl must</b> have access to a stream, pond or lake within their ranging area.	<i>COS Annex I B8.4.2</i>																
5.59	<b>The area available for ranging must</b> meet the stocking density requirements and <b>must</b> be within 350 metres of the housing. <b>Management of the ranging area must</b> ensure that it maintains 90% vegetation cover. This may be achieved through dividing the area for rotational grazing. (See 5.19) The ranging area <b>must</b> provide adequate <b>protection from predators</b> and <b>must</b> have <b>shaded areas</b> to encourage dispersal from the housing to ensure full use of available grazing. See Annex H	<b>Max. pasture stocking density.</b> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Birds</th> <th>Area/Bird</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Laying Hens</td> <td>10 sq.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Broilers</td> <td>4 sq.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Guinea Fowl</td> <td>4 sq.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ducks</td> <td>4.5 sq.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Turkeys</td> <td>10 sq.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Geese</td> <td>15 sq.m.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Broilers in mobile house.</td> <td>2.5 sq.m.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <i>COS Annex I B8.4.5 Annex VIII</i>	Birds	Area/Bird	Laying Hens	10 sq.m.	Broilers	4 sq.m.	Guinea Fowl	4 sq.m.	Ducks	4.5 sq.m.	Turkeys	10 sq.m.	Geese	15 sq.m.	Broilers in mobile house.	2.5 sq.m.
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5.60	The <b>ranging area must</b> be <b>left empty</b> for at least two months between laying flocks and for at least two months per year for table birds.	This does not apply to small flocks of farmyard layers that are not penned. <i>COS Annex I B8.4.6</i>																
5.61	A poultry house may be mobile or static, it <b>must</b> have its own associated ranging area, a dedicated, ventilated airspace, and its own separate feed and water facility.	<i>COS Annex I B8.4.3</i>																
5.62	At least one third of the floor area <b>must</b> be of solid, non slatted construction and covered with a litter material.	<i>COS Annex I B8.4.3</i>																
5.63	A layer house <b>must</b> have a sufficient floor area available for the collection of bird droppings.	<i>COS Annex I B8.4.3</i>																
5.64	Each laying hen <b>must</b> have at least 18 cm. of <b>perch space</b> and each guinea fowl at least 20 cm.	<i>COS Annex I B8.4.3</i>																
5.65	An individual <b>nest box must</b> be provided for every 8 laying birds or a communal nest area of 120cm. per bird.																	
5.66	The combined length of the exit/entry <b>pop holes must</b> not be less than 4 metres per 100 sq.m. of utilisable floor area.	<i>COS Annex I B8.4.3</i>																

5.67	A poultry house <b>must</b> not exceed the maximum number of birds per house.	<b>Max.no. birds/house - Annex H</b> Broilers 4800 Layers 3000 Guinea Fowl 5200 Female Ducks 4000 Male Ducks 3200 Capons, Geese 2500 Turkeys 2500 <i>COS Annex I B8.4.3</i>
5.68	The <b>stocking density in the house must</b> not exceed the maximum permitted number of birds or total bird weight per square metre.	<b>Max.stocking density in house.</b> Layers 6 birds/sq.m. Table Birds 21 kg.lwt/sq.m. <i>COS AnnexVIII</i>
5.69	A small mobile fattening house of less than 150 sq.m. floor area may house up to 30kg.lwt/sq.m. providing it is left open by day and night.	<i>COS AnnexVIII</i>
5.70	A single table bird production enterprise <b>must</b> not exceed 1600 sq.m. of housed area	No more than 16000 broilers in at least 4 houses or 25600 broilers in at least 11 mobile houses, each of less than 150 sq.m. area. <i>COS Annex I B8.4.3</i>
5.71	Artificial lighting may be used to extend the day length for layers to a maximum 16 hours per day. There <b>must</b> be at least 8 hours of continuous nocturnal rest period.	<i>COS Annex I B8.4.4</i>
5.72	All housing and related equipment <b>must</b> be cleaned and <b>disinfected</b> between each batch of poultry reared.	Authorised disinfectant products are listed in Annex D. <i>COS Annex I B8.2.5</i>