**Guidelines for Transporting Poultry**

### Should This Bird Be Loaded?

#### DO NOT LOAD
- Weak and/or not alert
- Dark red, purple, or black combs or wattles
- Discharge from eyes/nostrils
- Swollen head/neck
- Skin on head or neck is dark red or very pale (Exception: toms can have bright blue skin in this area)
- Bloody and/or protruded vents
- Emaciated and weak: very thin, easily felt breastbone (Exception: end-of-lay hens may have pronounced breastbones but if emaciated they must not be loaded)
- Dislocated, broken or exposed bones (including injury due to handling)
- Unable to rise or walk due to physical abnormality or injury

*Birds not loaded should be segregated according to on-farm protocol.*

*Notify farm manager of birds left on the farm before leaving.*

#### CAUTION

**Conditions requiring assessment before loading**

- **Environmental**
  - Wet birds in cool or cold weather
  - Heat and/or humidity
  - Cold and/or wind chill
  - Road closures

- **Individual Bird**
  - Minor trauma, wounds or bleeding (including injury due to handling)

- **Flock**
  - Diarrhea
  - Coughing and sneezing - "snickering"

- If a flock is diagnosed with a disease by a veterinarian or laboratory, special provisions for loading may be required.

Assessment and joint decisions should be made by the producer, catching crew, hauler and processing plant when faced with CAUTION conditions.

### Guidelines for Dealing with Poultry

#### Identification of Sick or Injured Birds

- Weak, not alert
- Emaciated
- Unable to walk
- Swollen head
- Discoloured comb
- Broken leg
- Unable to rise/walk due to physical abnormality (Do not confuse with fatigue)

#### Environmental Considerations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maximum Loading &amp; Transport Guidelines</th>
<th>Moderate Density</th>
<th>Extreme-Hot Density</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Broller Chickens</td>
<td>63 kg/m²</td>
<td>54 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broller Breeders</td>
<td>66 kg/m²</td>
<td>56 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Turkeys</td>
<td>98 kg/m²</td>
<td>83 kg/m²</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End-of-Lay Hens</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Reference: The Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals - Poultry*

#### Factors to Consider

- Duration of transport (including loading and lorryage)
- Weather at load out, along travel route and at processing plant
- Time of day of load out
- Number of birds in the barn
- Ventilation in barn
- Condition of barn (eg. litter)

#### Recommended Code of Practice for the Care & Handling of Farm Animals

- Air temperature in load should be maintained at 5°C to 30°C for all birds, except end-of-lay hens, which should be maintained at 13°C to 30°C
- Recent research (Mitchell and Kettelwell, 2008), recommends for broilers, an upper in load temperature limit of 24°C

### LOAD & TRANSPORT HEALTHY BIRDS

- **DO NOT**
  - Transport a sick or injured bird
  - Load or unload a bird in a way likely to cause injury or suffering
  - Crowd birds to such an extent as to cause injury or suffering

**Violators of the Health of Animals Regulations, Part XII, 139 (1).**

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