

Monitor and maintain the collection and grading of eggs

Overview

This standard covers monitoring and maintaining the collection and grading of eggs for transport to either a hatchery or for sale. The collection and grading can either be manual or mechanical.

This standard relates to a variety of systems and may include one or more of the following:

- monitoring and maintaining the collection and packing of eggs ready to be taken to the grader or packing station
- monitoring and maintaining the collection and traying of eggs ready to be taken for incubation and packing eggs unsuitable for hatching
- monitoring and maintaining the collecting and preparation of eggs to be graded on an on-line grader, where eggs are transported to the grader on a conveyor.

You are likely to have overall responsibility for this part of production and be supported in this capacity by other workers. You will require considerable knowledge and practical skills and must be capable of identifying and resolving any problems that occur.

When working with livestock or machinery you should be trained and hold current certification, where required.

This standard is suitable for those with responsibility for monitoring and maintaining the collection and grading of eggs.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

1. assess the risks associated with the activity to be carried out
2. confirm that suitable clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) is worn
3. confirm that the tools, equipment and materials required are selected, prepared, used and maintained safely and correctly
4. monitor and maintain the collection of eggs, according to production requirements and business practices
5. confirm that the methods of collection used minimise stress to the birds, and are in line with relevant welfare codes
6. confirm that eggs are collected at the right time of day, and at intervals that maximise the number of eggs collected
7. monitor damage to eggs and put procedures in place to minimise damage
8. monitor egg handling and grading and recognise any deviations from the correct handling methods and take the relevant action
9. confirm that identification markings are clear and according to business practices
10. monitor and adjust the storage of eggs to maintain them in the appropriate environmental conditions
11. confirm that eggs are graded/packed in appropriate containers in a manner that minimises damage during transportation
12. confirm that the egg storage area is safe and secure, and adjust if necessary, in accordance with business practices
13. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in the work
14. maintain hygiene and bio-security, in accordance with business practices
15. manage waste safely and correctly, in accordance with relevant legislation and business practices
16. carry out all work in accordance with relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, animal health and welfare legislation, risk assessment requirements, codes of practice and business policies
17. confirm that records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the business

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

1. how to identify hazards and assess risks
2. the type of clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE) suitable for the activity
3. the types of tools, equipment and materials required and how to prepare, use, maintain and store these safely and correctly
4. the methods and organisational systems for collecting eggs
5. how the collection of eggs can maximise production
6. how to minimise stress in birds when collecting the eggs
7. the importance of the correct timing when collecting eggs
8. how the egg collection system can damage eggs and how this is minimised
9. the problems that can occur with egg collection in the system and the action that should be taken
10. the production requirements for egg numbers, the reasons why numbers vary, and the action to take in this case
11. the different categories of eggs
12. signs of poor shell/egg quality and the action to take in this case
13. how eggs become contaminated, and the actions to prevent this
14. the importance and function of identification markings
15. the different methods of grading and preparing or packing eggs to maximise hatchability and/or maximise the number of high quality eggs
16. the appropriate storage conditions for the eggs, in accordance with their destination and methods of monitoring the eggs in storage
17. the effects of inappropriate storage conditions
18. the types and condition of storage containers, and problems that could occur with them
19. the methods used to minimise damage to eggs during transportation
20. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in your work
21. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this
22. the importance of meeting relevant food safety and industry quality assurance standards
23. how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste, in

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- accordance with relevant legal and business practices
- 24. your responsibilities for the welfare of birds under relevant animal health and welfare legislation and codes of practice
- 25. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
- 26. the methods of stock control, record keeping and reporting used by the business

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