

Monitor and maintain the incubation of eggs

Overview

This standard covers monitoring and maintaining the incubation of eggs in hatchery production. The system could be manual or mechanical.

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 incubation 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 incubation areas to ensure they are clean, safe and ready for use
5. monitor the system for selecting eggs for incubation
6. monitor the selection of eggs for incubation, in accordance with set times and the hatchery plan
7. monitor the loading of eggs into the incubator
8. monitor and maintain the incubator alarm system to ensure it is working correctly and take the appropriate action if it is not
9. monitor and maintain the environmental conditions within the incubator, in accordance with production requirements
10. check egg fertility at the correct intervals and take the appropriate action based on the interpretation of the results
11. confirm that eggs are selected for transfer and hatching in accordance with production requirements
12. maintain communication with colleagues and others involved in the work
13. maintain hygiene and bio-security, in accordance with business practices
14. manage waste safely and correctly, in accordance with relevant legislation and business practices
15. carry out your 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
16. confirm that records are maintained and stored as required by relevant legislation and the business

Monitor and maintain the incubation of eggs

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 production requirements and standards required for incubation and hatching
5. the timing requirements of the incubation system, what may affect these and the required remedial actions
6. the ways in which eggs must be loaded into the incubator, the reasons for this, and the implications of not loading eggs properly
7. the purpose of functioning alarms and how they are monitored and maintained
8. the correct environmental conditions required within the incubator, how these are monitored and maintained and the necessary adjustments to the system that may be required
9. the types of problems that may occur during the incubation of eggs and the required action to take
10. the implications of system failure
11. the methods and correct intervals to check the fertility of eggs, how this information is used and the action to take when problems arise
12. when the eggs are ready for transfer and how the transfer is carried out
13. when and to whom information should be forwarded and why deadlines must be met
14. the importance of maintaining communication with those involved in your work and how this should be done
15. the importance of maintaining hygiene and bio-security and the methods for achieving this
16. the importance of meeting relevant food safety and industry quality assurance standards
17. how to handle, transport, store and dispose of waste, in accordance with relevant legal and business practices
18. your responsibilities for the welfare of birds under relevant animal health and welfare legislation and codes of practice
19. your responsibilities under relevant environmental and health and

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- safety legislation, codes of practice and business policies
- 20. the methods of stock control, record keeping and reporting used by the business

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