

SHOULD THIS BIRD BE LOADED?

Guidelines for Transporting Poultry

LOAD & TRANSPORT HEALTHY BIRDS

DO NOT LOAD DO NOT TRANSPORT

- 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 prolapsed 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 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 - "snicking"
- 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.

Regulations

No person shall load or caused to be loaded... an animal that by reason of infirmity, illness, injury, fatigue or any other cause cannot be transported without undue suffering during the expected journey.

Health of Animals Regulations; Part XII, 138, 2a

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 undue suffering

www.inspection.gc.ca

Violators of the Health of Animals Act:

- ⇒ Fines up to \$10,000
- ⇒ Increased fines for repeat offenders
- ⇒ Repeat offenders posted on CFIA website

Guidelines for Dealing with Poultry

Identification of Sick or Injured Birds



Weak, not alert



Emaciated



Swollen head



Discoloured comb



Unable to walk



Broken leg



Unable to rise/walk due to physical abnormality (Do not confuse with fatigue)

Environmental Considerations

Maximum Loading & Transport Guidelines	Moderate Density	Extreme Heat Density
Broiler Chickens	63 kg/m ²	54 kg/m ²
Broiler Breeders	66 kg/m ²	56 kg/m ²
Turkeys	98 kg/m ²	83 kg/m ²
End-of-Lay Hens	63 kg/m ²	54 kg/m ²

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

Factors to Consider

- Duration of transport (including loading and lairage)
- 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 and Handling of Farm Animals

Air temperature **in load** (transport and lairage) 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 Kettlewell, 2008) recommends for broilers, an upper **in load** temperature limit of 24°C.

CFIA Livestock Emergency Transport Line
1-877-814-2342 (Ontario only)



Producers Ensure Your Birds Will Be Loaded!

1. Identify

Identify **compromised** birds during routine flock monitoring.

2. Cull

Daily culling improves loadout efficiency and eliminates the need to euthanize large numbers of left on farm.

3. Dispose

Refer to **provincial legislation** for deadstock regulations and methods for proper disposal.