



**SOUTH AFRICAN POULTRY ASSOCIATION**

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Founded 1904

**Poultry Broilers**

**Checklist for Broiler  
Production**

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## Preparation of the Broiler house

Task	Prepare a house for poultry (Pre cleaning)	
	Remove all loose standing equipment as per company procedure.	
	Isolate and drain the drinking water supply to the house.	
	Remove all litter, dust and residue and ensure it was transported to the appropriate location as per company specification.	

Task	Prepare a house for poultry (Washing the house)	
	Remove all excess water from the surfaces.	
	Prepare the correct cleaning solution as per manufacturer's specifications.	
	Use the correct cleaning materials and utensils (hot water, brushes, brooms, detergents)	
	Use the correct washing techniques.	
	Follow the correct sequence in which items needs to be cleaned.	
	Ensure that all surfaces were thoroughly cleaned (floors, walls, supports, ventilation ducts)	
	Carry out a final rinse ensuring no detergent residue was left.	
	Remove all excess water from the surfaces.	

Task	Prepare a house for poultry (Disinfecting the house)	
	Select the correct personal protection equipment for applying disinfectants as per company specification and procedures.	
	Ensure that all the personal protection equipment was in good working order as per manufacturer's specifications.	
	Dilute the disinfectant as per the manufactures specifications.	
	Apply the disinfectant to all the surfaces in the poultry house.	

Task	Prepare a house for poultry (Disinfecting the watering system)	
	Select the correct personal protection equipment for applying disinfectants as per company specification and procedures.	
	Ensure that all the personal protection equipment was in good working order as per manufacturer's specifications.	
	Select the correct tools for disassembling the watering system.	
	Dilute the disinfectant as per the manufactures specifications	
	Strip the watering system to be disinfected.	
	Clean and disinfect the various components of the watering system.	
	Reassemble the watering system on completion of disinfection.	
	Flush the watering system on completion.	
	Pack away all equipment and personal protection equipment on completion.	

Task	Prepare a house for poultry (Application of pesticides)	
	Select the correct personal protection equipment for applying pesticides as per company specification and procedures.	
	Ensure that all the personal protection equipment is in good working order as per manufacturer's specifications.	
	Select the correct tools for cleaning the area surrounding the poultry house.	
	Clean the area surrounding the poultry house as per company specifications.	

Select the appropriate pesticide.		
Use safe handling techniques when handling the pesticides as per manufacturer's specifications.		
Ensure the correct handling application of pesticides to the perimeter of the poultry house as per manufacturer and company specifications.		
Clean and pack away all equipment on completion of the task as per company procedures.		

Task	<b>Prepare a house for poultry (Reinstallation of equipment and application of pesticides)</b>	
Select the correct personal protection equipment for applying pesticides as per company specification and procedures.		
Ensure that all the personal protection equipment was in good working order as per manufacturer's specifications.		
Select the correct tools for reinstalling the movable equipment.		
Set and test all the facilities in the poultry house.		
Use safe handling techniques when handling the pesticides as per manufacturer's specifications.		
Ensure the correct handling application of pesticides to all the appropriate surfaces as per manufacturer and company specifications.		
Clean and pack away all equipment on completion of the task as per company procedures.		

### Manage the care and placement of brooding chicks

Task	<b>Prepare to receive chicks</b>	
Ensure that all preparation and cleaning procedures that must be implemented before chicks are received are correctly carried out.		
Ensure that all the bio security inspections that need to be carried out are done.		
Set and test the water systems, feeders, lights, brooders, heaters, brooding pens and ventilation.		
Apply litter to the floor of the house.		
Activate all the facilities and monitor the temperature, relative humidity and ventilation.		

Task	<b>Place the chicks</b>	
Transfer the chicks into the house ensuring that they are handled correctly according to animal welfare and company guidelines.		
Ensure that the stocking rate does not exceed the recommended rate for the breed and in accordance with the SAPA code of practise.		
Transfer any dead chicks to the waste disposal site as per company regulations.		
Complete all documentation.		

Task	<b>Monitor and control the brooding environment</b>	
Set and monitor the temperature in accordance with the age and breed of chicks, per company specifications.		
Set and monitor ventilation in accordance with the age and breed of chicks, per company specifications.		

Set and monitor the lighting program in accordance with the age and breed of chicks, per company specifications.		
Increase the size of the brooding pen to suit the growth of the chicks.		
Inspect the condition of the litter and renew where necessary.		

Task	Supervise and monitor the operation of the water system	
Ensure that drinkers were accessible to the chicks.		
Adjust the water system to accommodate the development of the chicks.		
Conduct checks and preventative maintenance procedures on filters, valves and drinkers.		
Monitor the water pressure and repair any leaks.		

Task	Manage and maintain the provision of the correct feed to the brooding birds	
Set the feeders to the correct height so that food is accessible to the chicks.		
Adjust the height of the feeders to suit the development of the chicks.		
Ensure that feed is constantly available.		
Provide the correct feed/diet that is appropriate to the age and breed of the chicks.		
Conduct checks and preventative maintenance on the feeder systems.		

Task	Maintain chick health	
Remove dead chicks and dispose of them according to company regulations.		
Remove chicks identified for culling and cull them according to company regulations.		
Vaccinate chicks according to instruction, company policy and manufactures specifications.		
Check the state of chick health and report any abnormalities.		
Administer any medication in accordance to company regulations and manufactures specifications.		

Task	Monitor chick growth	
Place a representative sample of chicks in a pen to monitor weights/age		
Weigh the chicks and record the breed, weight, date and age of the chicks.		

### Placement and primary care of birds

Task	Placement and primary care of birds (Prepare to receive birds)	
Clean and disinfect the broiler house in accordance with company procedures and specifications.		
Test the lights.		
Test the water systems.		
Test the feeder systems.		
Test the ventilation systems		

Task	Placement and primary care of birds (Transfer of birds into houses)	
Demonstrate the correct method of handling the birds when transferring them from crates to cages/houses.		

Handle the birds according to animal welfare and SAPA code of practise regulations.		
Place the birds at the required stocking rate in accordance to the SAPA code of practise.		
Complete all the necessary documentation.		
Pack the crates in the loading bay/designated area.		

Task	Placement and primary care of birds (Bio security measures and climate control)	
Ensure correct temperature and ventilation.		
Set the ventilation to the prescribed levels according to supplied instructions		
Check for wet spots and clean up wet spots.		

Task	Placement and primary care of birds (Maintain the water supply)	
Clean and adjust the drinkers.		
Check for leaks and repair where necessary.		
Clean the filters.		
Check the water pressure..		

Task	Placement and primary care of birds (Implement the feeding programme)	
Supply feed to the broilers at the required time.		
Alter types of feeds according to given instructions.		
Clean the feeding equipment.		
Maintain the feeding system/equipment.		
Collect any spillage.		
Record the consumption of feed and usage.		

### Management of broiler birds

Task	Weighing Broilers (Calibration of the scales)	
Observe the correct bio security compliance protocols?		
Select the correct scale?		
Ensure the scale position is set up in accordance with the company safety policies and procedures?		
Ensure the scale adjusted in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications and company operating procedures		
Ensure that a standard mass check is carried out in accordance with the company operating procedures		
Ensure that Calibration weights are recorded in accordance with the company operating procedures.		
Ensure that non-conformance factors affecting accurate calibration are identified, rectified and/or reported in accordance with the company operating procedures.		

Task	Weighing Broilers (Random samples)	
Isolate the birds to be weight using techniques according to company specifications?		
Select the correct number of sample birds as per company specifications?		
Ensure that the birds to be weighed were placed in crates of known empty weight ensuring that the numbers per crate at the different ages were according to specification.		

Were the birds selected a fair representation and would the selection be considered a random sample?		
Ensure that the correct handling techniques were observed so as not to stress the birds.		

Task	<b>Weighing Broilers (Weigh birds and record weights)</b>	
Select the correct number of sample birds as per company specifications?		
Select the most appropriate time of day as per company specifications.		
Were the birds selected a fair representation and would the selection be considered a random sample.		
Ensure that the correct handling techniques were observed so as not to stress the birds or harm the birds.		
Place the birds on the scale using the correct procedures?		
Take a reading after each measurement was complete?		
Ensure that the birds were replaced ensuring that the birds were not stressed or harmed.		
Complete the required information on record sheets ensuring that the date, house number and weights were recorded as per company specification.		

Task	<b>Weighing Broilers (Weigh birds)</b>	
Use a platform scale		
Calibrate and adjust scale, if necessary.		
Place an empty bucket on the scale and Zero the scale.		
Catch approximately 30 chickens (depending on the size of the shed) into crates.		
Weigh the chickens one at a time by placing them in the bucket.		
Record the weight.		
Place the weighed birds back into the shed.		
Calculate the average weight		

Task	<b>Management of broiler birds (Vaccination)</b>	
Collect the right equipment for vaccination		
Handle the birds safely as per animal welfare guidelines.		
Follow vaccine administration procedures as per company procedures and manufacturer's specifications.		
Clean, sterilise and store all the vaccination equipment on completion.		

Task	<b>Management of broiler birds (Lighting)</b>	
Clean the lights.		
Replace defective light bulbs.		
Ensure the timer that is used to control the lights is functioning		
Reset the timers after a power failure.		

Task	<b>Management of broiler birds (Identification of sick birds)</b>	
Explain what signs should be looked for in identifying potentially sick birds.		
Explain the reporting procedure that must be followed.		
Cull the birds according to company procedures and the SAPA code of practise.		

Dispose of sick or diseased birds as per company procedures and SAPA code of practise.		
Report the number of birds culled.		

Task	Management of broiler birds (Reporting suspected illness and medicating)	
Gather the correct medicine and application equipment.		
Apply the correct medicine handling procedures.		
Administer the medicine as directed.		
Clean, sterilise and store the equipment on completion.		

Task	Management of broiler birds (parasite control)	
Select the correct personal protection equipment for applying pesticides as per company specification and procedures.		
Ensure that all the personal protection equipment was in good working order as per manufacturer's specifications.		
Ensure the correct pesticide was selected and applied to manufacturer's specification.		
Carry out the process ensuring minimum stress to the birds		
Clean and pack away all equipment on completion of the task as per company procedures.		

Task	Management of broiler birds (vermin control)	
Select the correct personal protection equipment for applying pesticides as per company specification and procedures.		
Ensure that all the personal protection equipment was in good working order as per manufacturer's specifications.		
Load and place bait stations in and around the broiler house.		
Dispose of dead vermin according to health and safety regulations, company policy and the SAPA code of practise.		
Refill the bait stations until the presence of vermin is no longer visible.		

Task	Management of broiler birds (Depopulate the house)	
Withdraw the feed in the preparatory period.		
Dim lights in the preparatory period		
Catch and crate birds in accordance to animal welfare regulations, company handling procedures and the SAPA code of practise.		
Load the crates onto the delivery vehicle.		
Ensure that the all company bio security measures were observed during the process.		

## Bio-Security

Task	Bio-Security Procedures (waste disposal)	
Ensure the workplace rules and procedures on the disposal of dead birds is adhered to.		
Remove the litter from a poultry house in terms of company guidelines.		
Ensure the litter is correctly transported to the waste site.		

**A special note on Bio Security:**

For all the above operations not just waste disposal, the strictest bio security measures need to be maintained at all times.

Under no circumstances must unauthorised people visit the farm and all visitors must observe the facilities bio security measures.

Ensure that all bio security measures are in place and adhered to.