

Version No. 001
Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Domestic Fowl) Regulations 2006

S.R. No. 143/2006

Version as at 1 January 2007

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Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Domestic Fowl) Regulations 2006

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1. Objective

The objective of these Regulations is to provide for the conditions under which domestic fowl are housed.

2. Authorising provision

These Regulations are made under section 42 of the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986**.

3. Commencement

These Regulations come into operation on 1 January 2007.

4. Definitions

In these Regulations—

"domestic fowl" means a member of the species *Gallus domesticus*;

"the Act" means the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986**.

5. Calculation of floor area

(1) In calculating the cage floor area for the purposes of these Regulations, the following areas are to be included—

- (a) the area of floor under any egg or waste baffle;
- (b) the area of floor under the drinking nipples and vee-trough for water.

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(2) In calculating the useable floor area of a non-cage housing system for the purposes of these Regulations, the following areas are to be included—

- (a) any slatted or metal mesh areas of flooring;
- (b) any area of floor taken up by feeding and watering equipment and nest boxes.

6. General conditions for the keeping of domestic fowl

(1) A person who keeps domestic fowl must ensure that all fowl are provided with access to food that contains adequate nutrients to meet their requirements for good health and vitality—

- (a) in the case of newly-hatched fowl, within 60 hours after hatching; and
- (b) in every other case, at least once in every 24 hour period.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

(2) A person who keeps domestic fowl must ensure that all fowl are provided with access to sufficient water to meet their physiological requirements—

- (a) in the case of newly-hatched fowl, within 60 hours after hatching; and
- (b) in every other case, at least once in every 24 hour period.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

(3) A person who keeps domestic fowl must ensure that all fowl are inspected at least once in every 24 hour period to assess their health and well-being.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

7. General cage requirements for domestic fowl kept for egg production

- (1) A person who keeps domestic fowl in cages for egg production must ensure that cages in a structure with more than one deck are arranged so that all fowl housed in each cage are—
- (a) protected from excreta from fowl housed in cages on higher decks; and
 - (b) visible for the purpose of inspection.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

- (2) A person who keeps domestic fowl in cages for egg production must ensure that each cage floor is constructed to support each forward pointing toe of fowl housed in that cage.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

- (3) A person who keeps domestic fowl in cages for egg production must ensure that the height of a cage is higher than the maximum height of any fowl standing normally in that cage.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

- (4) A person who keeps domestic fowl in cages for egg production must ensure that each cage has a door the full height of the cage and either the full width of the cage or 50 centimetres or more wide.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

8. Minimum cage floor area for fowl of less than 4.5 kilograms kept for egg production

A person who keeps domestic fowl in cages for egg production must, for every fowl weighing less than 4.5 kilograms, provide a cage floor area of not less than—

- (a) 1000 square centimetres in a cage housing one fowl;

- (b) 1350 square centimetres in a cage housing 2 fowl;
- (c) 550 square centimetres for every fowl in a cage housing 3 or more fowl if each of those fowl weigh under 2.4 kilograms;
- (d) 600 square centimetres for every fowl in a cage housing 3 or more fowl if any of those fowl weigh 2.4 kilograms or more.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

9. Minimum cage floor area for fowl of 4.5 kilograms or more kept for egg production

A person who keeps domestic fowl weighing 4.5 kilograms or more in cages for egg production must provide a cage floor area so that—

- (a) for a cage housing one fowl—the total weight of the fowl does not exceed 26 kilograms per square metre of the cage floor area;
- (b) for a cage housing 2 fowl—the total weight of the fowl does not exceed 40 kilograms per square metre of the cage floor area;
- (c) for a cage housing 3 or more fowl—the total weight of the fowl does not exceed 46 kilograms per square metre of the cage floor area.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

10. General requirements for domestic fowl kept for egg or meat production in non-cage housing

- (1) A person who keeps domestic fowl in a non-cage housing system for egg or meat production must ensure that there is sufficient access to the fowl to enable the inspection of each fowl to assess its health and well-being.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

- (2) A person who keeps domestic fowl in a non-cage housing system for egg or meat production must ensure that all fowl kept in a system that contains more than one housing level or multi-level perches are protected from excreta from fowl on higher levels.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

- (3) A person who keeps domestic fowl in a non-cage housing system for egg or meat production must ensure that all fowl have a space at least 45 centimetres high.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

11. Minimum useable floor area for fowl kept for egg production in non-cage housing

A person who keeps domestic fowl in a non-cage housing system for egg production must provide a useable floor area in that system so that the total weight of the fowl does not exceed 30 kilograms per square metre of the useable floor area.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

12. Minimum useable floor area for fowl kept for meat production in non-cage housing

A person who keeps domestic fowl in a non-cage housing system for meat production must provide a useable floor area so that—

- (a) for a housing system utilising evaporative cooling—the total weight of fowl does not exceed 40 kilograms per square metre of the useable floor area;

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- (b) for a housing system utilising a water based cooling system with stirring fans—
 - (i) the total weight of fowl does not exceed 40 kilograms per square metre of the useable floor area between 1 March and 31 October each year; and
 - (ii) the total weight of fowl does not exceed 36 kilograms per square metre of the useable floor area between 1 November and 28 February (29 February in a leap year) each year;
- (c) for a housing system that has no mechanical cooling system—the total weight of fowl does not exceed 28 kilograms per square metre of the useable floor area.

Penalty: 5 penalty units.

13. Savings provision for existing cages

- (1) Regulation 7(4) does not apply to a person who keeps domestic fowl in a cage installed before the commencement of these Regulations until 1 January 2008.
- (2) Regulation 8(c) does not apply until 1 January 2008 to a person who keeps domestic fowl weighing under 2.4 kilograms for egg production in a cage installed before the commencement of these Regulations if the person provides a cage floor area of not less than 450 square centimetres for each fowl.

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- (3) Regulation 8(c) does not apply until 1 January 2015 to a person who keeps domestic fowl weighing under 2.4 kilograms for egg production in a cage that complies with regulation 7 and was installed before the commencement of these Regulations if the person provides a cage floor area of not less than 450 square centimetres for each fowl.

14. Consequential amendment

Regulation 7 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 1997¹ is **revoked**.

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Endnotes

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ENDNOTES

1. General Information

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Domestic Fowl) Regulations 2006, S.R. No. 143/2006 were made on 24 October 2006 by the Lieutenant-Governor as the Governor's Deputy with the advice of the Executive Council under section 42 of the **Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986**, No. 46/1986 and came into operation on 1 January 2007: regulation 3.

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Domestic Fowl) Regulations 2006 will sunset 10 years after the day of making on 24 October 2016 (see section 5 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**).

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Endnotes

2. Table of Amendments

There are no amendments made to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Domestic Fowl) Regulations 2006 by statutory rules, subordinate instruments and Acts.

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3. Explanatory Details

¹ Reg. 14: S.R. No. 159/1997. Reprint No. 2 as at 23 February 2006.
Reprinted to S.R. No. 3/2006. Subsequently amended by S.R. No. 58/2006.