

**SS 676:2021+C1:2022**  
(ICS 65.020.30)

**SINGAPORE STANDARD**

**Specification for good animal husbandry  
practice for layer farms**

Incorporating Corrigendum No. 1

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*Chew's Agriculture Pte Ltd*  
*Gold Coin Group*  
*Ministry of Manpower*  
*National Parks Board*  
*Ngee Ann Polytechnic*  
*N&N Agriculture Pte Ltd*  
*NTUC Fairprice Co-operative Ltd*  
*Seng Choon Farm Pte Ltd*  
*Sheng Siong Group Ltd*  
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## Foreword

This Singapore Standard was prepared by the Working Group on Good Animal Husbandry Practice set up by the Technical Committee on Agritech and Agrifood Production under the purview of FSC.

It is presupposed that in the course of their work, users will comply with all relevant regulatory and statutory requirements. Some examples of relevant regulations and acts are listed in the Bibliography. The Singapore Standards Council and Enterprise Singapore will not be responsible for identifying all of such legal obligations.

In preparing this standard, reference was made to the ASEAN-GAHP-Animal Welfare and Environmental Sustainability Modules, Layers, Broilers and Ducks and ASEAN-GAHP-Food Safety Module. Permission has also been sought from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations for the reproduction of materials from these documents into this Singapore Standard.

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### NOTE

- 1. Singapore Standards (SSs) and Technical References (TRs) are reviewed periodically to keep abreast of technical changes, technological developments and industry practices. The changes are documented through the issue of either amendments or revisions. Where SSs are deemed to be stable, i.e. no foreseeable changes in them, they will be classified as "Mature Standards". Mature Standards will not be subject to further review, unless there are requests to review such standards.*
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- 3. Compliance with a SS or TR does not exempt users from any legal obligations.*

## Specification for good animal husbandry practice for layer farms

### 0 Introduction

**0.1** Singapore is exposed to the volatilities of the global food market such as sudden disruptions to transport routes and export in addition to other challenges such as climate change which can affect both food production and supply. To ensure food security, Singapore has set the target of producing 30% of Singapore's nutritional needs by 2030 (also known as the "30 by 30" goal).

**0.2** This standard is intended to help farmers improve productivity and provide quality assurance through the adoption of farming technologies and best practices, and having trained personnel, thus enhancing market access. It also aims to assist farms to meet the increasing market/consumers' demand for farm produce to have attributes beyond the basic safety requirements. Retailers' and consumers' preferences are shifting towards sustainable and ethical business practices and consumers are willing to pay a premium for higher quality and sustainably produced products. As such, more organisations are implementing business practices that have low environmental impact, uphold animal health and welfare, protect public health and have good employment practices and community support.

**0.3** Globally, more farms are adopting international and/or national farming standards as they seek to enhance their access to export markets that demand such increasing consumer requirements. Regionally, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) had also developed standards on husbandry practices such as a "Good Animal Husbandry Practice (ASEAN GAHP) Food Safety Module" and "Animal Welfare and Environmental Sustainability Module for Broilers and Layers" in 2014 and 2016 respectively. ASEAN member states including Singapore are also in the midst of aligning their national agri-food standards as part of an ASEAN commitment to realise the ASEAN Economic Community through the promotion of intra-regional trade of agri-food products by improving food safety and the agri-sector competitiveness.

**0.4** This standard aims to address these new market/consumer requirements and to align with the ASEAN GAHP. This allows local farms to demonstrate that they have a robust farm management system in place for food safety and quality, environmental protection, worker health and safety, and animal health and welfare. Farms applying this standard will be able to enhance the branding of their produce, improve their market access and gain better acceptance from customers.

### 1 Scope

The standard provides a set of requirements for a farm management system detailing best practices to ensure the production of safe and high-quality produce during all phases of farm operations, including pre-production (e.g. hatchery, breeder stock and pullet), production (e.g. laying stages), egg collection, and post-production (e.g. management of spent birds, etc.), while minimising impact to the environment and upholding the welfare of animals. It applies to chicken layer and quail layer farms.

The scope of the standard covers the following four areas of agriculture farm production:

- a) Food safety and quality;
- b) Animal health and welfare;
- c) Environmental management; and
- d) Workers' health and safety.



## **2 Normative references**

There are no normative references in this standard.

## **3 Terms and definitions**

For the purpose of this Singapore Standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

### **3.1 Beak trimming**

The blunting of a beak to remove the sharp point, which can cause injuries when birds peck at one another.

### **3.2 Biosecurity**

A set of management and physical measures designed to reduce the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of animal diseases, infections or infestations to, from and within an animal population.

### **3.3 Cage-free systems**

A system of bird keeping where birds can roam vertically and horizontally in climate-controlled barns. Birds have access to fresh food and water; litter; protection from predators and can move freely in the barn in a manner that promotes their welfare.

### **3.4 Colony cages**

Also known as 'enriched' or 'furnished' cages in climate-controlled barns, which have been designed (e.g. perches, nesting boxes, scratching pads) to overcome some of welfare problems associated with conventional cages.

### **3.5 Competent authority**

An entity or organisation that is a recognised authority to develop or monitor standards, rules of operation, codes of practice, regulations and policies. Examples include government agencies and international committees such as Codex Alimentarius Commission (CAC).

### **3.6 Composting**

The natural process of 'rotting' or decomposition of organic matter by microorganisms under controlled conditions. Raw organic materials, such as crop residues, animal waste, food garbage, some municipal waste and suitable industrial waste, enhance their suitability for application to the soil as a fertilising resource, after having undergone composting.

### **3.7 Conventional cages**

Where birds are housed inside climate-controlled barns in stacked rows of cages where each cage gives birds continual access to water and food. Conventional cages typically lack the space and enrichment (e.g. nesting boxes) as compared to colony cages.

### **3.8 Culls**

Chickens humanely killed for health or welfare reasons.