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Transport of poultry — Code of practice



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The committee responsible for this document is Technical Committee UNBS/TC 213, *Live animals, meat and meat products*.

Wherever the words, "African Standard" appear, they should be replaced by "Uganda Standard".

Transport of poultry — Code of practice



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Foreword

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Introduction

The demand for poultry has steadily increased up because of rapid industrialization, urbanization and increase in population. This has necessitated the movement of poultry within a country, regionally and internationally. There is, therefore, a need to prevent mortality due to poor transport conditions. This standard has been prepared to meet this need.

Transport of poultry — Code of practice

1 Scope

This draft African Standard specifies requirements for the transport of poultry by rail, road, water and air.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

3 Terms and Definitions

For the purpose of this standard the following terms and definitions shall apply:

3.1

poultry

all domesticated birds used for the production of meat or eggs for consumption including day old chicks, ducklings and poults, chickens, quails, guinea fowls, ducks, geese and turkeys.

3.2

chicks

all poultry recently hatched including ducklings, chicks and poults etc, less than 72 hour old, not yet fed. Can be a broiler, layer or breeder.

3.3

Journey

bird transport trip commencing from the time the first bird is loaded into a vehicle or container when the last bird is unloaded and includes any sanitary, resting or holding periods

3.4

Loading

procedure of moving birds into a vehicle or container for transport purpose.

3.5

Unloading

procedure of moving birds out of a vehicle or container.

3.6

Bird Handler

personnel with a knowledge of behaviour and needs of birds with appropriate experience, professional and positive response to birds need, can achieve effective management and good welfare of birds. Competence should be gained through formal training or practical experience.

4 General requirements

4.1 The containers shall be properly cleaned and sterilized before the poultry is placed in them.

4.2 Poultry shall not be exposed to direct sunlight, rain, direct blast of air and extreme temperatures during transport.

4.4 Poultry shall not be transported with their legs tied

4.5 Cages doors should be as large as practical, and not be less than 20cm wide and 25cm high. No sharp edges and also prevent from it.

4.6 The air circulation in transport unit should provide enough fresh air for the birds, remove smells and gases, control temperature and humidity. Supply of fresh air in enclosed vehicle must be checked regularly and adjusted as necessary to avoid dead on arrival

4.7 Plan journey should be slowly and keep the duration to a minimum time for this period provide water and feed

4.7 Day-old chicks and turkey poults

4.7.1 Day old chicks and turkey poults should be healthy and vigorous.

4.7.2 Chicks and poults shall be packed and dispatched immediately after hatching and not stored in boxes for any length of time before dispatch.

NOTE The aim shall be for consignments to arrive at destination within the shortest possible time of being taken out of the incubator; 72 h shall normally be regarded as the maximum period from incubator to brooder in winter and 48 h in summer.

4.7.3 Every effort shall be made to ensure that chicks and poults arrive as quickly as possible at the dispatching site.

4.7.4 Personal attention shall be given by the consignor or the forwarding agent to ensure that all consignments are kept out of direct sunlight, rain and drought.

4.7.5 Great care shall be taken to carry the boxes in a level position so that chicks are not in danger of falling over on to their backs. Piling up of other merchandise over and around chick boxes shall be avoided.

The chick boxes shall not be kept in air-tight container vehicle and also proper ventilation shall be maintained during transportation.

4.7.6 Ensure those handling poultry are competent and trained to avoid use of violence or any methods likely to cause fear, injuries or suffering

4.8 Poultry other than day-old chicks and turkey poults

4.8.1 The poultry to be transported shall be healthy and in good condition. Poultry shall be examined and certified by a qualified veterinarian for freedom from infectious diseases and fitness to undertake the journey.

4.8.1.1 Poultry transported in the same container shall be of the same species and of the same age group.

4.8.2 Poultry shall be properly fed and watered before it is placed in containers for transportation. Extra feed and water shall be provided in suitable troughs fixed in the containers.

4.8.2.1 Arrangements shall be made for watering and feeding during transportation. During hot weather, watering should be ensured every 6 h.

4.8.3 Male stock shall not be transported with female stock in the same container.

4.8.5 Over-crowding shall be avoided.

4.8.6 These birds must be accompanied with an official health certificate signed by an official veterinarian in the competent authority of the country of origin. It must cover the requirements and regulation of the importing country. This requirement will be in the pre-agreement for importation.

5 Road travel

- 5.1** In road journey the poultry shall be placed in a proper container. The container shall not be put on the roof of the vehicle but shall be put inside the vehicle, to protect it from thermal stress, fatigue, trauma. The container shall be easily approachable for inspection during transit.
- 5.2** An attendant shall be present at all times and shall ensure that proper transit conditions are observed.
- 5.3** The poultry should not be transported during the hottest time of day to avoid high temperature and humidity.
- 5.4** There shall be plan B in place during transit in case of emergency.
- 5.5** During summer water facility should be provided every 6 hours, if journey exceeds 6 hours

6 Rail travel

- 6.1** In case the journey is for more than 12 h, the bird handler shall accompany the consignment.
- 6.2** As far as possible poultry shall be transported in wagons having adequate facilities for ventilation and no other merchandise which may result in mortality of birds shall be loaded in the same wagon.
- 6.3** Water should be provided every 6 hours, if journey exceeds 6 hours.

7 Air travel

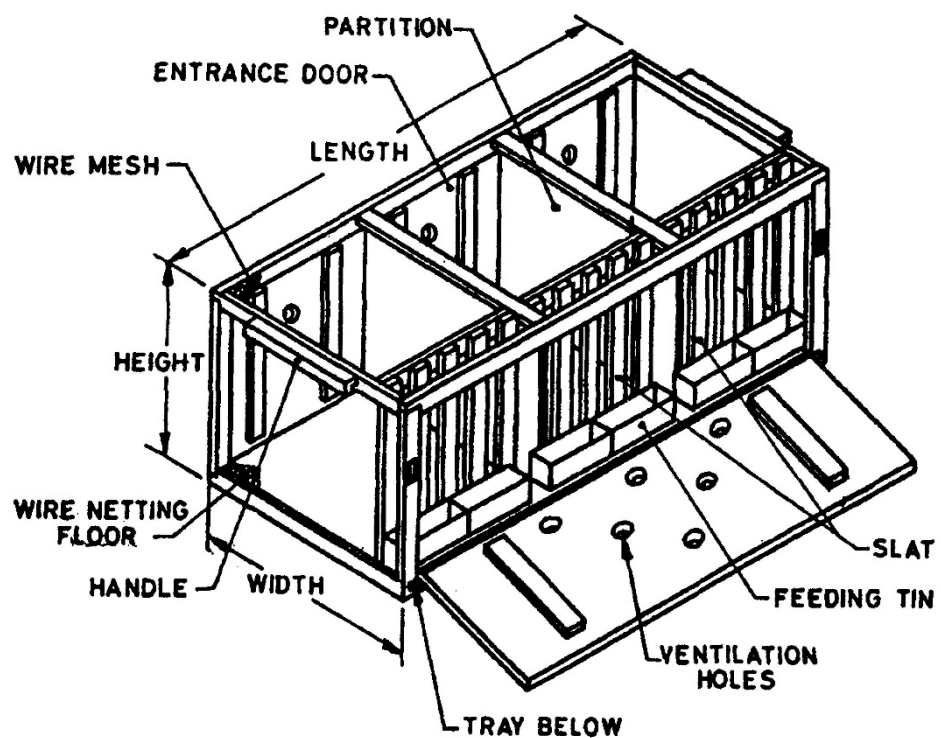
- 7.1** For international transport the containers carrying poultry shall be kept in pressurized compartments with regulated temperature. The containers shall preferably be kept near the door and shall be unloaded immediately on arrival.
- 7.2** The transportation of poultry by air shall comply with the requirements of international Air transport association (IATA)

8 Containers for transportation

- 8.1** Containers used to transport poultry shall be of such material which will not collapse or crumble. They shall be well ventilated and designed to protect the health of poultry by giving it adequate space and safety. The containers shall be designed as: (a) to render it impossible for birds to crowd into the corners during transportation, and (b) to avoid the danger of boxes being stocked too close together as to interfere with ventilation.
- 8.2** The minimum floor space per bird in the containers for transporting poultry shall be as given in Table 1 and Figure 1 below;

Table 1 — Containers for transportation of poultry

| S/No. | Kind of poultry | Minimum space floor cm ² | Dimension, cm | | | Maximum number in a container |
|-------|---|-------------------------------------|---------------|-------|--------|-------------------------------|
| | | | Length | width | height | |
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) | (6) | (7) |
| i) | Month-old chickens | 75 | 60 | 30 | 18 | 24 |
| ii) | Three month-old chickens | 230 | 55 | 50 | 35 | 12 |
| iii) | Adult stock (excluding geese and turkeys) | 480 | 115 | 50 | 45 | 12 |
| iv) | Geese and turkeys | 900 | 120 | 75 | 75 | 10 (young) |
| | | 1300 | 75 | 35 | 75 | 2 (growing) |
| | | 1900 | 55 | 35 | 75 | 1 (grown up) |
| v) | Chicks | — | 60 | 45 | 12 | 80 |
| vi) | Poult | — | 60 | 45 | 12 | 60 |



NOTE Wire mesh shall be provided on the top, bottom and the sides of the cage.

Figure 1 — Recommended cage

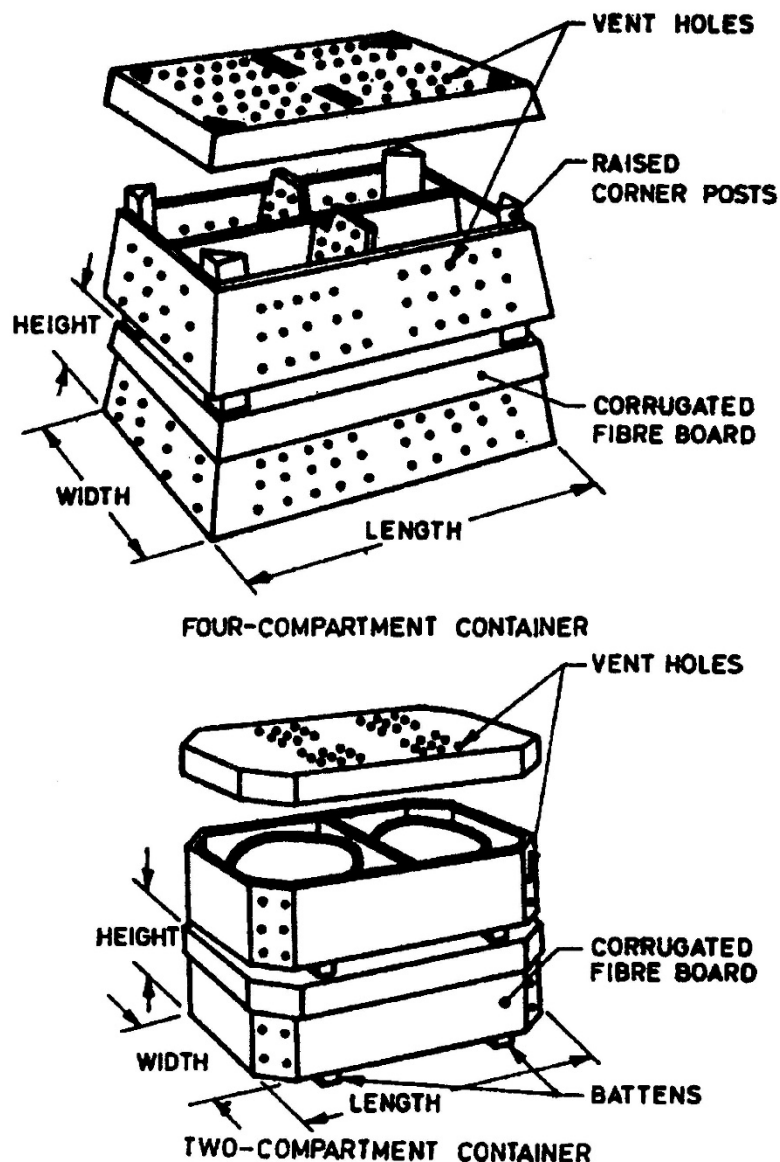


Figure 2 — Recommended types of containers

- 8.3 All containers shall be clearly labelled showing the name, address and telephone number of the consignor and the consignee.
- 8.4 Containers should be ventilated and have sufficient height to allow poultry to stand during transport.
- 8.5 Containers shall be fitted with a locking system to prevent escaping during transport
- 8.6 Special requirement for chicks and poults**
- 8.6.1 The containers for transporting chicks and poults shall be of types shown in Figure 2. Its size shall be as given in Table 1. When there is a significant change in the number of birds to be transported, the size of container shall be reduced or increased correspondingly.
- 8.6.2 The chick boxes shall be made of double corrugated paper measuring 2.00 mm thickness in partition and cover rest 3.00 mm thickness on the floor of chick boxes for preventing collapse. The bottom of the container on which chicks are to be placed shall have corrugated surface besides the requirements given in 8.4.1. Wall of the chick boxes on the side corners shall be provided with the semi-circular extra side wall to prevent piling in corners.
- 8.6.3 A layer of suitable cushioning and absorbent material such as wood, wool paper cuttings and chopped straw shall be provided at bottom of the container.

8.6.4 The container shall be properly sealed to avoid pilferage.

8.6.5 The following instructions shall be printed on a label and fixed to the lid or printed directly on the sides:

CAUTION Day-old chicks/ poults handle with care, protect from heat, cold and direct blast of air.

9 Care in transit

9.1 The consignee shall be informed about the train, transport or flight number and its time of arrival well in advance.

9.2 Poultry shall not be transported continuously for more than 6 h. Whole batch shall be inspected at every 6 h interval.

9.3 The transportation shall not remain stationery for more than 30 min. During this period, it should be parked in shade and arrangements should be made for feeding and watering.

9.4 All precautions against fire shall be taken. Provision of fire extinguishers in transporters shall be provided.

Bibliography

Terrestrial Animal Health Code Section 5 and 7

ISO TS/34700 Animal Welfare Management

Sanitary Phyto-Sanitary (SPS) Agreement

IS 5238:2001(R2008), *Transport of Poultry — Code of Practice*

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USDA Foreign Agricultural Service website: <http://www.mrlatabase.com>

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