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Introduction

About FREPA

Free Range Egg and Poultry Australia Ltd (FREPA) is a not for profit, membership-based organisation that was established in 1993.

FREPA is the industry's preeminent leading free-range accreditation body, established in 1993 and is committed to ensuring credible and quality accreditation of free-range egg and poultry products across Australia.

Accreditation is provided to free-range egg farmers, meat chicken farmers, turkey meat farmers and meat chicken processors that meet the FREPA Standards.

FREPA's Standards are available at www.frepa.com.au/standards and they are underpinned by the 'Five Domains' model for positive states in animal welfare assessment. The model incorporates the physical domains of nutrition, environment, health and behaviour with mental state to assess welfare status.

FREPA sets high standards of animal welfare, traceability and production and ensures these are met through regular auditing by qualified independent auditors.

"FREPA accredited free-range farmers are routinely audited to a set of Standards developed with the intent of ensuring that poultry are able to routinely access an enriched outdoor range area, age and weather permitting and are also able to be safely housed indoors when required for their protection and welfare."

The purpose of the FREPA Standards

Free-range poultry farms must be able to demonstrate that they comply with the FREPA Standards in order to maintain their FREPA accreditation.

In addition to the FREPA Standards, all farms must comply with relevant government legislation pertaining to poultry farming practices.

They must also demonstrate knowledge of the minimum poultry industry standards listed below, and whilst compliance is not limited to just these publications, current editions must be available on FREPA accredited farms:

Australian Animal Welfare Standards & Guidelines for Poultry

FREPA Standards

Range Care Code of Practice

Land Transport Standards

National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers

Model code of practice for welfare of animal's domestic poultry (latest edition)

How to use these Standards

The Standards are organised in sections as outlined in the Table of Contents. The “Farmer’s requirements” box next to each Standard outlines the auditable requirements that free-range farmers are required to meet to obtain and maintain FREPA accreditation.

During routine audits, farmers will be required to demonstrate compliance in accordance with each Standard. An audit report will be generated by the auditor based on the evidence provided.

The relevant records or evidence to be sighted to verify compliance are listed in the “Evidence” box below each Standard.

Guidance notes have been provided in Section 2. These notes are designed to support farmers by providing some suggested mechanisms for maximising poultry’ use of the free-range area. The detail provided in this section is not auditable. It is intended as a guide only as circumstances on farms may differ.

1. Free range farmer's responsibilities

Objective:

To ensure that the farmer is committed to free-range poultry farming and upholding the FREPA Standards.

Standard 1.1	Farmer's requirements:
<p>A farm map must be prepared and regularly updated to reflect the current free-range farm operation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A farm map is available depicting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • farm name and address; • the bio-secure production area; • all buildings, including shed dimensions and total shed area (m²), silos etc.; • all range areas, including the range area dimensions; • the position and dimensions of range access doors; • shade available on the free-range area, including the location of both natural and artificial shade structures; and • the farm's water source, if applicable.
<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>Farm map</p>

Standard 1.2	Farmer's requirements:
<p>A plan must be available outlining the procedures for managing the welfare of free-range poultry during emergency situations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available plan must consider potential risks to the welfare of the poultry on the farm and outline how to effectively manage these risks, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feed and/or water equipment supply failures; • energy supply failures; • chemical spills management; • fire; • extreme weather; and • disease outbreaks. • The plan is to outline the names and contact details, including afterhours contact details, of relevant people who may be required to assist with the emergency response. For example, the Husbandry Manager or company representative/s, tradespeople, energy, bedding, feed and water suppliers. • All farm personnel are to know the location and be able to access this plan in the event of an emergency.
<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>Emergency plan Training History</p>

Standard 1.3	Farmer's requirements:
There must be a system in place for investigating and reporting any formal complaints received in relation to the farm or its operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FREPA is required to be formally notified in writing of any complaints, including those that have been reported or investigated by a government authority.
EVIDENCE	Complaints records including "Evidence of FREPA notifications"

Standard 1.4	Farmer's requirements:
The farm must be operated by a knowledgeable and skilled person who understands how to appropriately care for and manage free-range poultry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible management of free-range poultry requires a thorough understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the FREPA standards; • the relevant state government animal welfare and biosecurity legislation and applicable industry welfare standards; • free range poultry behaviour, including how to assess thermal comfort; • methods of handling poultry to minimise stress; • ventilation, indoor housing and litter management; • farm hygiene, including chemical storage, application and use; • how to administer poultry treatments according to veterinary advice and/or the product label instructions; • how to identify distressed, weak, injured, or diseased poultry and take the appropriate action required to either humanely euthanise or rehabilitate them; • record keeping requirements; and • how to humanely euthanise poultry by an approved method or have access to a person who is suitably trained and competent to euthanise poultry using an approved method.
EVIDENCE	Training records Copy of the Poultry industry animal welfare standards Copy of the Appropriate state government animal welfare legislation Flock records

Standard 1.5	Farmer's requirements:
All farm personnel must be trained and assessed as competent in the tasks they are required to perform, or appropriately supervised until such time as they are deemed competent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No personnel are to commence work on a farm without first being inducted to the site and also given basic training in the tasks they will be responsible for performing. • New farm personnel must be adequately supervised until they are deemed competent. • Refresher training is conducted immediately if any performance issues are identified.
EVIDENCE	Training records

Standard 1.6	Farmer's requirements:
Training records for all farm personnel must be maintained and available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training records are available for all personnel working on the farm and are relevant to the tasks that they are required to perform. • The training records are to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the trainee's name; • the trainer's name; • scope of the training; • date that the training was delivered, or the date that the person was deemed competent in the task; • any evidence of re-training or competency assessment, if applicable; and • any relevant completed course certificates or event attendance records.
EVIDENCE	Training records Copies sighted of relevant completed course certificates

2. Free range areas and access

Objective:

To ensure free-range poultry have regular access to enriched and safe outdoor range areas, age and weather permitting.

Guidelines for free range poultry farmers on maximising use of the free-range area:

Background:

The ranging behaviour and management of poultry has been carefully considered in the section below and further guidance provided to help farmers ensure that optimal ranging outcomes are achieved on their farms.

It is important that free-range poultry feel safe, secure and protected when they venture outdoors.

Ranging:

- G 2.1.1 Dawn and dusk, or morning and evening, are periods of high ranging activity for poultry (Dawkins et al, 2003 and Taylor et al, 2017). Managing the time of range access to capture these periods is recommended. Consideration should be given to adhering to a schedule or routine for opening range doors each day.
- G 2.1.2 The provision of more ranging opportunities (both number of days and hours per day) has been linked to increased range use in poultry (Taylor et al, 2017). This provides justification for maximising the total available ranging time for each flock, wherever possible.

Wind and Rain:

- G 2.2.1 Sufficient shelter and windbreaks should be made available to protect poultry using the free-range area that are tailored to the location and prevailing weather conditions.
- G 2.2.2 The use of weather stations on free range farms is recommended. Weather stations will allow local weather and weather patterns to be monitored and may help to provide justification for decisions relating to poultry ranging.

Shade:

- G 2.3.1 Poultry may prefer to access the free-range area when the shaded areas can be easily accessed. Shade should be maximised to promote and optimise ranging outcomes (Dawkins et al, 2003).
- Shade or shade structures should be positioned close to range access openings, as this may promote range access (Taylor et al, 2017). Positioning them in strategic locations may also encourage full utilisation of the range area (Fanatico et al, 2016).

- G 2.3.2 Provision of more natural shade, trees and/or shrubbery, on the range area is promoted in preference to artificial shade structures.
- G 2.3.3 Trees should be carefully selected for the free-range area to ensure that they can be effectively managed to maturity and are not detrimental to the poultry.
- G.2.3.4 Shade sails and structures are to be anchored securely and stretched tightly and should prevent them from flapping in the wind. Flapping of sails and structures may frighten or deter free range poultry from accessing the free-range area or for staying outside for extended periods.

Environmental Enrichment:

- G 2.4.1 Whilst free range areas should predominately be covered by palatable vegetation, poultry may also dust-bathe.

Inclusion of small zones for dust bathing on the free-range area is also acceptable and encouraged.

Standard 2.1	Farmer's requirements:
Farmers must endeavour to maximise the poultry' utilisation of the free-range areas during daylight hours, age and weather permitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When the chickens are 21 days at the latest and when weather conditions are not adverse to the welfare of the birds, range doors are to be open for a minimum 8 hours per day during daylight hours. • On days of catching, the poultry should have access to the range area during normal ranging access hours until the designated time that feed withdrawal for catching is to occur, at which point they should be returned indoors. • Range door opening and closing times are to be recorded daily. • The reasons why range doors were closed are recorded, if and when applicable.
EVIDENCE	Range access records Auditor observations

Standard 2.2	Farmer's requirements:
Poultry must be able to access the outdoor area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range doors are to be evenly distributed around the house, wherever possible. Large shed end doors may be used for range access, where existing farm footprint requires range areas at the ends of sheds. Appropriate biosecurity measures must also be used (e.g. bird netting). • Range doors are to be a minimum combined length of 2m per 1000 birds.

Standard 2.2	Farmer's requirements:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range doors are to be a minimum width of 400mm and minimum height of 350mm. • Range doors are to be secure when open. • Range doors are not to be obstructed by physical barriers. • Ramps within or externally to the shed may be used for poultry to access the free-range area and also to enable them to re-enter the shed where necessary. • Where ramps are required, they are to not have a slope of greater than 45° to the floor or range surface. • Ramps, when used, are to be the full width of the range door opening, non-slip and also be built from material that can be easily cleaned between flocks. • Build-up of manure on ramps or at range door access openings is to be removed between flocks.
EVIDENCE	Farm map Auditor observations

Standard 2.3	Farmer's requirements:
Range areas must be of an appropriate size and also be suitably enriched to encourage poultry to access and utilise the free-range area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free range areas are to be a minimum of 1.5 times the shed footprint for all greenfield sites. For existing FREPA accredited farms, the shed footprint is to be the minimum of the permissible range area size. For converting existing poultry farms to FREPA free range accredited farms, free range areas are to be a minimum of 1.5 times the shed footprint unless the farm is limited by the overall footprint. • Natural shade (provided by vegetation) together with any artificial shade on the free-range area, is equivalent to a minimum of 30% of the total shed area, or a minimum of 20m² per 1000 birds in accordance with maximum flock placement numbers. The greater of the two calculations applies. • The shade will be distributed proportionally across the available free-range area for each shed.

Standard 2.3	Farmer's requirements:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shed eaves are only able to account for a maximum of a third of the total shade requirement. • Shade and shelter to protect poultry from the wind and sun are to be strategically positioned to encourage poultry to access the free-range area and to utilise the whole area.
EVIDENCE	FREPA application Farm map Auditor observations

Standard 2.4	Farmer's requirements:
The free-range area must provide for expression of natural behaviours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The free-range area is to be suitably managed to provide for foraging and dust bathing. • Irrigation is to be installed to maintain vegetation and trees, conducive to animal welfare as required. <p>Refer to the Guidelines above for other possible mechanisms to further encourage expression of natural behaviours on the free-range area.</p>
EVIDENCE	Auditor observations

Standard 2.5	Farmer's requirements:
Poultry must be provided with a safe and protected free range area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The free-range area must be enclosed by well-maintained perimeter fencing, which is designed to exclude local predators and/or pests. • Inspection of ranging fences is to be routinely carried out for evidence of damage or possible entry points for predators and/or pests. • Appropriate remedial action is taken if any damage or entry points are identified. • Wild bird nesting and habitation on and around the free-range area is to be actively discouraged if observed. • Free-range areas may be netted with netting material if wild bird contact is identified as being high-risk to the health and/or welfare of the poultry in the area. The netting is not to detract from the appearance or the provision of enrichments on the free-range area.

Standard 2.5	Farmer's requirements:
	<p>Netting is to be approved by FREPA on a case-by-case basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noxious weeds or plants within the free-range area must be removed and/or well managed to eliminate risks to the health and welfare of free-range poultry. • Chemicals or pesticides may be required to be used on free range areas. If this is the case, only APVMA approved chemicals must be used and all withholding periods are to be strictly adhered to prior to allowing poultry access to the treated area/s. • APVMA Chemicals, pesticides, rodenticides etc must be stored in an appropriate facility away from range areas. • The free-range area is to be well drained to prevent the accumulation or stagnation of water.
EVIDENCE	Auditor observations Chemical/Pesticide use log

3. Indoor housing, stocking density and lighting

Objective:

To ensure the indoor housing facilities on the free-range farm provide for a safe and comfortable environment for free-range poultry.

Standard 3.1	Farmer's requirements:
Indoor housing for free-range poultry must be well constructed and maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indoor housing is adequately maintained to ensure poultry are able to be securely housed when appropriate for their welfare. All indoor housing is to be wild-bird proof when range access doors are closed. There are to be no sharp edges, projections or other hazards within the indoor environment.
EVIDENCE	Auditor observations

Standard 3.2	Farmer's requirements:
The free-range farm must be appropriately presented and maintained	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The production area is to be maintained free of rubbish and redundant equipment.
EVIDENCE	Auditor observations

Standard 3.3	Farmer's requirements:
The indoor stocking density for free-range meat chickens must not exceed 30kg/m² unless the farm does not have any mechanical ventilation, in which case the indoor density must not exceed 28 kg/m²	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free-range poultry must not to be kept in cages at any time in their life. Stocking density must be monitored and any potential breaches must be reported to a representative from the poultry meat processor before they occur. Stocking density breaches must also be reported to FREPA by the poultry meat processor.
EVIDENCE	Farm map Placement records Catching records

Standard 3.3	Farmer's requirements:
	Flock records

Standard 3.4	Farmer's requirements:
Lighting programs and light intensity within the indoor housing environment must be appropriate to ensure the welfare of the poultry is maintained when they are housed indoors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chicks up to 7 days old are to have a maximum light period of 23 hours in a 24-hour period. • A minimum of 12 hours of natural or artificial light is to be provided per day. • From Day 8, there is to be a minimum of 6 hours of darkness in every 24-hour period except on the day of depopulation or during extreme heat conditions. • Brooding light intensity for young poultry for the first three days after hatching is a minimum of 20 Lux at chick head height. • The indoor light intensity must allow poultry and equipment to be adequately inspected and any problems to be identified.
EVIDENCE	Lighting records, including lighting programs and Lux measurements Auditor observations

Standard 3.5	Farmer's requirements:
Indoor housing for free-range poultry must be hygienically managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are to be documented cleaning and disinfection procedures for the farm, which outlines as a minimum, the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • end of flock cleaning and disinfection procedure for all facilities and equipment; • chemicals used within the farm production area, ensuring appropriate product registration and Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) approval, if applicable; and • protocols for disposal of used bedding material, farm mortalities and any other waste products, including chemical or medication packaging.
EVIDENCE	Cleaning and disinfection procedures Litter removal documentation, if applicable Mortality removal documentation, if applicable Chemical/Pesticides log

Standard 3.6	Farmer's requirements:
<p>Indoor housing must be designed and operated to ensure the placement requirements of day-old poultry met at all times</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On arrival to the farm from the hatchery, young chicks are placed in pre-heated indoor housing as soon as possible after unloading. • Indoor housing must be secure and appropriately set up to receive chicks, ensuring temperature targets are met and there is ample water and feed available following placement. • Delivery dockets from the hatchery are to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • date of hatch; • time birds arrive on farm; • hatchery that the chicks were sourced from; • donor flock and genetics of the chicks; • vaccination records, if applicable; • the number of chicks that were dead on delivery; and • any comments on chick behaviour on delivery, if applicable.
<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>Day old delivery dockets Flock records, including minimum and maximum temperatures Lighting - Lux measurements if brooding at the time of the audit Auditors observations</p>

Standard 3.7	Farmer's requirements:
<p>All indoor housing equipment must be inspected at least once a day to ensure its correct operation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records are to be kept of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equipment checks; • any problems or issues identified with equipment function; and • any equipment maintenance or repair work carried out.
<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>Maintenance records Auditor observations</p>

Standard 3.8	Farmer's requirements:
<p>A backup power supply must be available to ensure that the welfare of free-range poultry is protected in case of power failure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backup power supply is to be capable of running all electrical, ventilation, heating and water systems. • Any malfunctions are to be rectified without delay. • Generators are to be tested weekly under load and records maintained during the batch.

Standard 3.8	Farmer's requirements:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generators are to be serviced annually with records maintained.
EVIDENCE	Generator log

Standard 3.9	Farmer's requirements:
An alarm system must be installed to respond to high and low temperatures and also to failures in each phase of the mains electricity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The alarm monitoring system in place is capable of alerting the farm operator(s) to enable a response within 15 minutes. Each shed must have high and low temperature alarms. Each shed must have phase failure alarms.
EVIDENCE	Alarm testing log

4. Feed and water

Objective:

To ensure free-range poultry are provided with nutritious feed and clean water to meet their requirements for optimal growth and development through all life stages.

Standard 4.1	Farmer's requirements:
<p>Free-range poultry must be provided with clean drinking water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient drinkers are available in accordance with the genetics supplier's recommendations. • Drinker height and pressure is maintained in such a way as to ensure any spillage onto the bedding material is minimised. • Adequate water supply is available up until the time of catching. • Water is tested annually for microbiological analysis to ensure it is potable and records are maintained. • Water is required to meet the microbiological standards specified in the current <i>National Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers</i>. If these standards are not met, remedial action is to be taken and documented. Remedial action may include regular line flushing, storage tank cleaning or installation of a water sanitation system. • All surface water used for drinking, cooling systems, shed washing and range irrigation must be sanitised to meet the requirements of the <i>National Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers</i>. • Medication or header tanks, if available, are to be covered and hygienically managed.
<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>Flock records Auditor observations Water treatment records for farms using surface water Annual water test results</p>

Standard 4.2	Farmer's requirements:
Formulated feed provided must be suitable for consumption by free-range poultry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed is formulated by a poultry nutritionist. • Formulated feed is not to be made available on the free-range area.
EVIDENCE	Feed delivery records Auditor observations

Standard 4.3	Farmer's requirements:
Free-range poultry must be provided with continuous access to formulated feed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free-range poultry are to have continuous access to formulated feed only within the indoor area unless advised by a veterinarian or in the feed withdrawal period preceding catching. • Feed delivery systems are to be maintained free of sharp edges and are not to have any parts that are capable of causing injury. • Feeding systems are to be adjustable to the height of the poultry and capable of being raised when not required. • Feed delivery systems are checked at least daily for correct operation.
EVIDENCE	Auditor observations Flock records

Standard 4.4	Farmer's requirements:
Feed delivery records must be available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed sample bags are to be kept for a minimum of one batch post-delivery. • Feed sample bags are to be stored in a cool, dry area to avoid deterioration. • Feed delivery records are available and specify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supplier's name; • free range feed; • date of delivery; and • quantity delivered.
EVIDENCE	Feed delivery records Feed retention samples

Standard 4.5	Farmer's requirements:
Formulated feed must be stored in an enclosed system to minimise the risk of spoilage and contamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulated feed is to be stored in well maintained enclosed silos. • Feeder lines are to be well maintained to prevent feed spillage. • Feed spills on silo pads must be cleaned up and removed as soon as practically possible to minimise the risk of wild bird and vermin attraction.
EVIDENCE	Auditor observations

5. Management

Objective:

To ensure the management of the indoor conditions is suitable to optimise the welfare and comfort of the free-range poultry.

Standard 5.1	Farmer's requirements:
The indoor housing conditions must be carefully managed to ensure that they are conducive to maintaining the comfort of free-range poultry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum and maximum temperatures are to be measured at poultry height and recorded daily. • Ammonia levels are monitored to ensure that they do not exceed 20ppm at bird height.
EVIDENCE	Flock records Ammonia readings by auditor

Standard 5.2	Farmer's requirements:
Free-range poultry must be provided with suitable bedding material within the indoor housing area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedding material is to be dry and friable before day old chicks are placed on the free-range farm. • Suitable bedding material is to be evenly spread across the indoor housing floor area, the bedding supplier declaration is to be available and include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • name of supplier/transporter; • date of supply; • type of material; and • volume delivered.
EVIDENCE	Bedding supplier declaration Auditor observation

Standard 5.3	Farmer's requirements:
Bedding material in the indoor housing area must be actively managed to maintain an appropriate moisture level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bedding material is to be appropriately managed to prevent any adverse impacts on the welfare of the poultry. • Bedding maintenance work is to be carried out as required. Maintenance activities may include freshening and/or replacing areas that become irreparably fouled or damp.

Standard 5.3	Farmer's requirements:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of action taken to manage bedding are recorded.
EVIDENCE	Litter management records/flock records Auditor observation

Standard 5.4	Farmer's requirements:
Reuse of bedding material from a previous flock must address the known risks associated with this practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reuse bedding material from a previous flock, the following is required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a plan for reuse is to include mechanisms to minimise the risk of pathogen transmission to subsequent flocks and outline prevention and mitigation strategies for possible elevated ammonia levels; • it can only be used again when the bedding material is returned to a dry and friable condition; • only fresh bedding material is to be used in the brooding area. • Routine cleaning and disinfection procedures between flocks is to continue to be carried out despite reuse of bedding material.
EVIDENCE	Litter reuse plan Chemical use records Bedding material supply records Auditor observations Ammonia readings

Standard 5.5	Farmer's requirements:
Bedding material that is removed from the farm at the end of the flock must be disposed of appropriately and responsibly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When bedding material is removed from the production area at the end of the flock, a record is to be kept specifying: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the name of the contractor who removed the used bedding material, if applicable; • date that the material was removed from the farm site, if applicable; • destination of bedding material removed; and • approximate volume of bedding material removed. • Removed bedding material is not to be stored or stockpiled in the bio secure production area.
EVIDENCE	Bedding removal declaration

6. Health and welfare

Objective:

To ensure that free-range poultry are raised by a committed farmer, under the supervision of a veterinarian, who routinely assesses and reviews flock health and welfare.

There are no growth promoting hormones registered for use in poultry in Australia. Hormones must not be administered to any FREPA-approved poultry flocks.

Standard 6.1	Farmer's requirements:
<p>A Veterinary Health Plan is developed by the veterinarian responsible for the flock health management program for the free-range poultry farm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Veterinary Health Plan is developed by the responsible veterinarian and is to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • details of the vaccines and any medications administered, if applicable; • a strategy for preventing the introduction and transmission of endemic and exotic / emergency diseases to the flock; and • be accessible and available to all personnel on farm who are responsible for monitoring the health and welfare of the free-range poultry.
EVIDENCE	Veterinary Health Plan

Standard 6.2	Farmer's requirements:
<p>Any FREPA Poultry administered prescription only antibiotics, authorised by a veterinarian, cannot be sold as free-range</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmer is to notify FREPA in writing of any use of veterinary authorised use of prescription only antibiotics. • Any poultry administered antibiotics authorised by a veterinarian for treatment of diagnosed bacterial infection, in the best interests of animal welfare, are not to be sold as FREPA-approved free range poultry. • Documented notification records are to be kept with the flock results.
EVIDENCE	Veterinary prescriptions Copy of notification to FREPA with flock records

Standard 6.3	Farmer's requirements:
<p>Free-range poultry flocks are not to be administered any in-feed antibiotics, other than those which are classified as animal-use only antibiotics (ionophores) for the prevention of coccidiosis</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antibiotics that are classified by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as important to human health are not to be used for treatment or prevention purposes, or the treated poultry are not to be sold as FREPA-accredited free range. • Antibiotics for the prevention of Necrotic Enteritis are not to be used in free-range poultry flocks. • Antibiotics are not to be used for growth promotion purposes in free-range poultry flocks. • Coccidiosis is regarded as a serious and common disease of poultry with the potential to cause mortality and serious illness, leading to compromised health and welfare. For this reason, antibiotics classified as 'animal-use only' (ionophores) are able to be used for preventative purposes.
EVIDENCE	Veterinary Health Plan Copy of notification to FREPA with flock records

Standard 6.4	Farmer's requirements:
<p>Flock records for each shed must be well maintained to ensure free-range poultry are raised in accordance with the FREPA Standards and any abnormalities are able to be investigated</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records are well maintained and available for the current flock and the previous flocks for a minimum period of at least 12 months. • Flock records are to include as a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • placement date; • number of poultry placed; • details of daily shed inspections and any notes on abnormalities identified; • daily mortality and cumulative daily mortality with mortality numbers separated from the number of poultry euthanised; • information on weekly bodyweights; • feed delivery records; • records of catching events, including the number of poultry caught for processing on each occasion; and • biosecurity documentation, including visitor's log and quarantine declarations.
EVIDENCE	Flock records Visitor's log Quarantine declarations

Standard 6.5	Farmer's requirements:
<p>The health and welfare of free-range poultry must be monitored routinely during daily inspections and any issues notified to enable prompt investigation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The health and welfare of free-range poultry is routinely assessed and monitored during flock inspections by a competent person. • Poultry must be inspected at least three times daily after the first 24hours. The range area must be inspected separately at least once a day from the day that poultry start accessing the free-range area. • Young chicks are observed at least four times in the first 24 hours following placement on the farm. • Records of inspections are kept and include any relevant notes if there are any problems identified and any remedial action taken. • Any issues identified are notified to the Husbandry Manager or Veterinarian, as appropriate. • If birds are older than 7 days and the mortality (including culls) exceeds 0.5% in a 24-hour period, then the Husbandry Manager or veterinarian is consulted.
<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>Flock records</p>

Standard 6.6	Farmer's requirements:
<p>Poultry that are identified to be suffering or cannot be suitably rehabilitated to full health must be euthanised by a trained person as soon as possible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The decision to euthanise weak, injured or sick poultry is made by a trained and competent person. • Euthanasia is carried out by rapid cervical dislocation or other method permitted by legislation. • The person responsible for euthanising poultry is trained and competent.
<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>Auditor observations Training records</p>

Standard 6.7	Farmer's requirements:
Modifications or mutilations to free-range poultry must not be performed under any circumstances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under no circumstances are any of the following treatments permitted to be performed on poultry on-farm or at the hatchery prior to their arrival: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beak trimming; • toe trimming; • pinioning; • dubbing; • cutting of wings or feathers; • castration; and • de-voicing.
EVIDENCE	Auditor observations

Standard 6.8	Farmer's requirements:
Care must be taken when handling poultry to avoid causing injury or stress by trained personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poultry are to be picked up and carried by both legs or picked up and carried by holding them carefully around the body. • When catching for depopulation, handling by a single leg is permitted. • Sudden movements and noises when walking amongst poultry are avoided to prevent them from scratching, smothering or injuring themselves.
EVIDENCE	Training records Auditor observations

7. Biosecurity

Objective:

To prevent the introduction and transmission of pathogens through the implementation of a free-range farm biosecurity strategy, including an effective vermin, pest and predator control program.

Standard 7.1	Farmer's requirements:
<p>A copy of the current version of the <i>National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers</i> must be available on farm</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The free-range farm is to hold a copy of the current version of the <i>National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers</i> and to ensure this is accessible. • Farm personnel are to be provided with relevant training in the accepted minimum industry biosecurity standards and any applicable state government biosecurity legislation.
<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>Current <i>National Farm Biosecurity Manual for Chicken Growers</i> Training records</p>

Standard 7.2	Farmer's requirements:
<p>A system must be in place to prevent the entry of pathogens to the indoor housing and the free-range area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All free-range farms are to have appropriate 'Quarantine Area' signage displayed on the front gate of the farm or at the entrance to the production area. The sign is to stipulate that only authorised access is permitted. • There is to be well-maintained footbaths and hand sanitiser present at all shed and free-range area entrances.
<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>Auditor observations</p>

Standard 7.3	Farmer's requirements:
<p>All rodent or pest control programs must be implemented responsibly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An effective rodent control strategy is to be in place within the bio secure production area. • Rodent baiting must only be performed by trained and competent personnel. • Where rodent bait stations are used, a bait station plan is available and kept for a minimum of 12 months. • Rodent bait station plan is available to include map/ location of bait points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bait type used (e.g. pellets, waxed blocks); • bait point inspection dates; and • bait replenishment dates. • Rodent bait stations are to be well maintained to prevent access by non-target animals and minimise the risk of contamination. • Rodent bait stations are to be checked weekly as a minimum. • Dead and dying rodents are to be removed and disposed of appropriately.
<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>Rodent bait plan and bait station records Training records</p>

Standard 7.4	Farmer's requirements:
<p>Other animals and livestock species must not have access to the production area, including the free-range areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If other livestock species are raised on the farm, the other livestock species are to be excluded from entering the production area by installation of appropriate stock proof fencing. • Drainage is to be maintained to avoid contamination of the free-range area by run-off from other livestock pastures or holding areas. • Dogs, cats and other animals must not enter the sheds. • Dogs may be utilised as part of flock security strategy but are not to pose a risk to the safety of the free-range poultry.
<p>EVIDENCE</p>	<p>Auditor observations</p>

Deviations to the Standards

The Board may, at its discretion, allow a farmer or processor to deviate from the Standards, for an agreed time period, in the interest of research. Progress updates and research outcomes are to be communicated to the Board at an agreed frequency during and at the completion of the research.

Glossary

Bio-secure Production Area	The free-range farming area. Includes the poultry sheds, the ranges used for free range production, the areas used for feed storage and handling, and the area immediately surrounding the sheds including pick-up areas.
Extreme Weather	Temperature and climatic conditions (e.g. rain, hail, snow, wind, humidity and heat) that individually or in combination are likely to predispose poultry to heat or cold stress
Stocking Density	Kilograms per indoor square metre of shed floor space
Meat Chicken	Poultry of the sub-species <i>Gallus Gallus Domesticus</i> which is farmed for human meat consumption
Range Area	An outdoor area that can be accessed by the poultry being farmed.
Range doors	Egress points that allow poultry to leave and re-enter the shed
Existing Farm	A farm that was already FREPA accredited (prior to the 2020 FREPA Free Range meat chicken Standard) OR An existing farm that is not purposely built for free-range poultry.
Converting Farms	A farm that already rears and grows poultry and wishes to convert to free-range poultry growing.
Greenfields Farm or Greenfields Site	A newly built farm, yet to be constructed post the 2020 FREPA Free Range meat chicken Standard for the purpose to farm free-range poultry.
Palatable	Pleasant tasting (for the poultry)
Actively discouraged	To actively discourage in a manner pertaining to animal welfare standards, using methods that are allowed within the applicable jurisdiction” (e.g. Duck season in Vic but not QLD etc)
Noxious	Harmful or poisonous (for the poultry)
Lux	Standard unit measurement for illuminance from light sources
Dry and Friable	Minimal water content and easily crumbled
Coccidiosis	Common protozoan disease in poultry characterized by enteritis and bloody diarrhoea

Pinioning	Removal of the outer part of the bird's wing
Dubbing	Removal or part removal of the comb and/or wattles
APVMA	Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authorities

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