



British Egg Industry Council

20th September 2022

To: All Lion registered sites
Cc Subscribers, PHBA, PRA, BEA, BEPA, Packaging Committee,
Packaging Suppliers Committee, Council, NSF, Poultry vets

Lion Code of Practice (version 7, as amended) – amendments relating to Biosecurity

Implementation date: 1st October 2022

To be audited from: 17th October 2022

Please see below the amendments to the Lion Code of Practice relating to Biosecurity.

These are being circulated to you as an amendment to version 7, before we (fully) get into the next Avian Influenza season (i.e., Autumn/Winter 2022/2023), and ahead of version 8 of the Lion Code of Practice.

Please note that normal text is the scheme requirement, and *italic* text is guidance.

Key amendments:

- Three 'tiers' of biosecurity are introduced, based on the risk level:
 - o 'Peacetime' i.e., when the risk of AI is low
 - o when an 'Avian Influenza Prevention Zone' (AIPZ) is in place
 - o when a site is caught within a Protection Zone / Surveillance ZoneBiosecurity measures are therefore to be raised as the risk level of a Notifiable Avian Disease increases. Please note that what is good biosecurity to protect against a NAD, can also protect against Salmonella and other endemic diseases.
- Requirement for a named 'Biosecurity Officer' – can be the owner of the business, or an appointed member of staff.
- New definition of 'Intermediate' biosecure area – As has been seen in cases of AI ingress, it is the area immediately outside the poultry house - into the house - where risk is greatest.
- Double step-over barriers
 - o When moving from the 'General' biosecure area to the 'Intermediate' biosecure area, a change of footwear is required.
 - o When moving from the 'Intermediate' biosecure area to the 'Specific' biosecure area, both change of footwear and protective clothing is required.

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- On Laying Farms, where access to the egg store is through the egg room, the first step-over barrier will need to be removeable to enable pallet truck access. Cleaning and disinfection is imperative after the egg collection.
- An 'Attendance Book' is required for site staff.
- Animal By Product collection – an ABP wagon collecting carcasses must be kept off site. Therefore, bins containing dead birds need to be moved to the outside of the 'General' biosecure area on the day of collection.

Kind regards

Mark

Mark Williams
Chief Executive

Section 2 – Breeder Pullet Rearing Farms

Section L is deleted and replaced by:

L BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity is categorized as follows:

- Standard requirements
- Enhanced requirements e.g., when Avian Influenza Prevention Zone is in place
- Site/farm located in 3km Protection Zone or 10km Surveillance Zone

Standard requirements

L1. The site/farm shall have a designated (named) Biosecurity Officer with appropriate knowledge, training and authority to implement proportionate biosecurity measures.

The Biosecurity Officer shall be present during the bi-annual (Subscriber accompanied) self-audit. This shall be recorded. The Biosecurity Officer shall be responsible for demonstrating compliance with Section L.

L2. A written biosecurity plan, including at least the minimum measures provided for in the relevant government body's biosecurity guidance for protection against Avian Influenza is to be available.

Useful information can be obtained from the relevant government website.

An up to date biosecurity procedures document shall be available, which shall be reviewed annually.

L3. Visitors must be kept to a minimum and those allowed access into houses where poultry are kept (including service staff) must wear clean protective farm specific clothing that is kept on the farm.

Clean overalls or coat, plus feet covering, must be available on site.

L4. A Visitors' Book shall be available and maintained on the site/farm.

Visitors include: service engineers, feed delivery drivers, Animal By-product (ABP) collection drivers etc. The following is required: full name; business address; mobile or landline contact telephone number; vehicle registration number; date; time in / time out; including if the visitor has access to the 'Specific' biosecure area (poultry house/birds); reason for visit.

Ask to see Visitors Book. Sign it. Look for evidence of use. The 'Specific' biosecure area is defined in L7 below. In this context the anteroom may be considered to be part of the poultry house.

L5. An Attendance Book shall be available and maintained on the site/farm.

Attendance Book shall include site/farm staff (but not staff who live on site, e.g., site manager). This shall include: name; date; time in / time out. If the staff member has visited poultry prior to attending this site, this must be listed. Ask to see Attendance Book. Look for evidence of use.

L6. Control measures must be in place to minimise the spread of disease within the site/farm and between other sites/farms.

It is the responsibility of senior management of the site/farm (who may also be the Biosecurity Officer) to ensure that effective control measures are in place and enforced at all times. Movement of farm staff across multiple sites/farms should ideally be minimised. Where staff look after poultry on other premises, or livestock of any other kind, suitable precautions must be taken against cross-contamination. These would include washing hands and the use of clean protective clothing and footwear kept and used only on the site.

L7. There must be a minimum of three levels of biosecurity: a defined 'General' biosecure area, a defined 'Intermediate' biosecure area and a defined 'Specific' biosecure area on each site/farm.

Three levels of biosecurity shall be defined;

A 'General' area of biosecurity which may refer to the site/farm at large (e.g., inside the perimeter), depending on the individual site. This may exclude any property not associated with the poultry enterprise, e.g., car park, dwelling house, other farm buildings and other farm areas.

There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the 'General' biosecure area.

All personnel and visitors entering a 'General' biosecure area must comply with the biosecurity requirements of the site. A foot-dip/bath facility, with a cover, must be provided. Wheels and wheel arches of vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area to be disinfected.

An 'Intermediate' area of biosecurity refers to the immediate access to the poultry house itself (not the birds). It is the division between outside and inside. This area will include the anteroom, but there should be no birds or direct contact with birds in this area. Access to this area must incorporate a barrier arrangement where staff/visitors can physically change into indoor dedicated footwear.

This could be a lobby just within the entrance or a small shed/lean-to that can be incorporated into the entrance.

A 'Specific' area of biosecurity refers to each poultry house where birds are housed on the site/farm.

Entry to a 'Specific' biosecure area requires further measures (noting that a poultry house may have more than one entrance/exit) including a change of footwear (to 'indoor' colour coded footwear) over a barrier arrangement, and the wearing of different protective clothing.

A 'Specific' biosecure area therefore requires a higher level of biosecurity.

Clear signage showing the 'General', 'Intermediate' and 'Specific' biosecure areas shall be in place.

A site plan shall clearly show all biosecure areas and their perimeters, with an identifiable key.

L8. The site must have an area of clean concrete, metallised surface or rolled stone which is large enough for a chick delivery/feed delivery/pullet collection vehicle to stand and for the normal operations associated with the vehicle to be carried out.

For concrete/metallised (e.g., tarmac) surface, a wash with a hose to remove debris would demonstrate 'clean'.

A new build poultry house is required to have an area of concrete/metallised surface large enough for a chick delivery/feed delivery/pullet collection vehicle to stand and for the normal operations associated with the vehicle to be carried out. Existing poultry houses should consider replacing rolled stone with a concrete/metallised surface.

L9. Consideration should be given to any vehicle and/or equipment which enters the 'General' biosecure area. Is it visibly clean?

The wheels and wheel arches of vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area to be disinfected.

Consideration should be given to where the vehicle and/or equipment has come from. Is it visibly clean? If not, more thorough cleaning and disinfection of the vehicle and/or equipment to be undertaken.

Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from 'cab to ground' and suitable measures put in place to prevent this.

L10. Foot-dip/bath facilities, with a cover, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' biosecure area, and must be used by all who enter and exit.

Footwear must be able to be fully dipped in the foot dip/bath.

An additional foot-scrub e.g., stiff bristled brush, is to be provided so that organic matter can be removed prior to dipping, as it is essential to remove debris before dipping footwear.

Check disinfectants against the BEIC list of relevant government body (Defra) approved disinfectants.

L11. The foot-dip/bath facility shall be replenished with fresh disinfectant at a minimum frequency of once weekly. Only disinfectants on the BEIC list of relevant government body (DEFRA/DAERA) approved disinfectants shall be used. Records of disinfectants in use, including dilution, and when changed, are to be kept.

Only relevant government body (DEFRA/DAERA) approved disinfectants (on the BEIC list) shall be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Disinfectant solutions must also be replaced on a regular basis (a minimum weekly, or earlier if contaminated by debris/dirt, or if affected by the weather) and this recorded. The foot-dip/bath must have a cover in place to prevent dilution by rain or sunlight.

L12. Step-over barrier from 'General' to 'Intermediate' biosecure zone:

A solid physical barrier footwear system, with dedicated footwear, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' area. A hand sanitizer is to be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' biosecure area.

All staff and visitors must change into the anteroom dedicated footwear upon each entry, and vice versa on exit.

The barrier is to be solid: no less than 30cm high; the area inside the barrier is considered to be the 'Intermediate' biosecure area; staff to remove outdoor footwear on the external side of the barrier; staff to then put on dedicated indoor footwear in the internal area of the barrier; provision to be seated, or supported, when changing footwear.

The auditor will look to see that debris from the 'General' biosecure area is not getting into the 'Intermediate' area and that appropriate footwear is provided and located on the correct sides of the barrier.

L13. Step over barrier from 'Intermediate' to 'Specific' biosecure area:

A solid physical barrier footwear system, with colour coded dedicated footwear, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Specific' biosecure bird area. A hand sanitizer is to be provided at the entrance to the 'Specific' biosecure area.

All staff and visitors must change into colour coded dedicated footwear upon each entry and vice versa on exit. Therefore, footwear must be a different colour to that used in the 'Intermediate' biosecure area and footwear used in the 'General' biosecure area. As the poultry house can have more than one entrance, each entry point must provide for a physical barrier footwear system, with dedicated footwear, at the entrance to each 'specific' biosecure bird area.

The barrier is to be solid: no less than 30cm high; the area inside the barrier is considered to be the 'Specific' biosecure area; staff remove indoor footwear on the external side of the barrier; staff then put on colour coded dedicated footwear in the internal area of the barrier; provision to be seated, or supported, when changing footwear.

The auditor will look to see that debris from the 'Intermediate' biosecure area is not getting into the 'Specific' area and vice versa. Both areas should be maintained in a tidy state, e.g., cleaned daily.

L14 On farms where showers are available there must be a showering policy in operation.

If showers are available, a showering policy must be in place. The use of showers on arrival is normal practice for staff and visitors to breeder sites. Auditors will be expected to shower and will be provided with a change of clean clothing to be worn on the site.

L15. The use of clean protective clothing is required, which shall be changed and laundered regularly.

The use of farm dedicated protective clothing is required to be worn when entering the 'Specific' biosecure area. This shall be changed and laundered regularly. 'Regularly' is defined as a minimum of twice weekly. Ideally, protective clothing should not be taken home to be laundered. However, where it is, cross-contamination must be avoided. The use of disposable protective clothing is allowed.

L16. On a free range and organic unit, the use of foot-dips/baths and vehicle wheel disinfection is required at the entrance to the range area (where birds would normally have daytime access).

There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the range area. Personnel and vehicles entering the range area must ensure both footwear and vehicle wheels are clean before being disinfected. This will require the use of a foot-dip/bath and means of disinfecting vehicle wheels. It is noted that agricultural machinery may need to enter the range area e.g., for grass cutting, therefore it is important to ensure that the vehicle(s) and equipment is visibly clean before disinfection.

L17. Birds must be effectively contained within the defined 'Specific' biosecure area, and the range (where present). Remedial action must be taken to prevent birds leaving these areas.

Birds must be prevented from having access to 'Intermediate' and 'General' biosecure areas and aprons. Suitable fencing must be in place.

L18. On the day of collection, carcass bins to be moved to a carcass collection point located outside of the 'General' biosecure area.

Animal by-product contractors will not be given access into the 'General' biosecure area.

Following collection of ABPs, bin handles, lids and wheels to be disinfected before being moved back into the 'General' biosecure area. If bins are exchanged, more thorough disinfection required. Attention should be paid to bin security on day of collection.

L19. Tractors and other equipment used for handling manure/litter must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before being used for other operations.

Records must be available. Auditor to ask and check records. (Verbal/Written)

L20. There should not be a pond on the premises. Where present, poultry must not have access to a pond or 'open' water. There shall be no areas of standing water on the premises.

If ponds are present, steps must be taken to prevent access to the pond by the birds. Where possible, ponds should be filled in. Where this is not possible, fencing-off and netting is required. Steps should be taken to discourage waterfowl from the premises (i.e., not encourage them onto the premises). The use of wires across ponds can be a useful deterrent.

Whilst it is accepted that during periods of heavy rain, puddles may appear, there must be no persistent standing water on the site/farm.

Ask what action senior management has taken (to assess the risk) to minimise contact between wild birds / waterfowl and poultry.

L21. Before any new site/farm is planned and built, the senior management of the site/farm must conduct a written assessment.

The senior management of the site/farm must undertake a full written risk assessment which considers the proximity of (as a minimum): ponds, lakes, open water, or other watercourses and the associated risks from migratory wildfowl.

Enhanced Requirements (when AIPZ is in place)

Section L1 - L21 applies, with the addition of:

L22. During periods of increased risk from a Notifiable Avian Disease, only essential visitors are to be allowed access to poultry houses (including service staff). All visitors must be provided with clean protective clothing, that is kept on the site/farm.

Clean overalls, plus feet covering must be available on the site/farm. Before entering the site, all vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected. Essential visitors would include auditors/inspectors.

L23. Increased control measures must be in place to minimise the spread of disease within the site/farm and between other sites/farms.

Movement of farm staff across multiple sites/farms should stop where possible. Where staff look after poultry on other premises, or livestock of any other kind, suitable precautions must be taken against cross-contamination. These would include change of clothing and footwear and hand washing. A showering facility could be considered (or staff could shower at separate facilities between farm visits). The use of clean protective clothing and footwear must be kept and used only on the site. Vehicles used by staff must be kept clean inside and out.

L24. Consideration should be given to any vehicle and/or equipment which enters the 'General' biosecure area. Is it visibly clean?

Vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area are to be cleaned and disinfected. Consideration should be given to where vehicles and/or equipment has come from. Is it visibly clean? If not, more thorough disinfection of the vehicles and/or equipment to be undertaken. Possible means of vehicle disinfection include disinfectant mats, vehicle washers and wheel troughs. Wheel and wheel arch washing must be conducted with sufficient water (e.g., not misting) prior to application of disinfectant. Farms may need to invest in e.g., a raised or pumped IBC (intermediate bulk container) at the entrance. Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from 'cab to ground' and suitable measures put in place to prevent this.

L25. The area of clean concrete/metalled surface or rolled stone immediately outside the poultry house must be cleaned and disinfected before and after a delivery/collection vehicle, or feed lorry.

L26. Feed delivery vehicles: Drivers must not enter the 'Intermediate' biosecure area

As feed deliveries can take place outside of normal site/farm operating times, a facility that is outside of the 'Intermediate' biosecure area must be available for the driver to put on protective footwear. A Visitors Book must be available and be signed by the driver.

Site/farm located in 3km Protection Zone or 10km Surveillance Zone

Section L1 – L26 apply, with the addition of:

L27. Cleaning and disinfection of all vehicles entering the 'General' biosecure area is required.

In reality this can only be achieved by the use of a pressure washer. Therefore, the provision of water and a power source at the entrance to the 'General' biosecure area are needed during the time the PZ/SZ are in place.

Section 3 – Breeder Laying Bird Farms

Section M deleted and replaced by:

M BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity is categorized as follows:

- Standard requirements
- Enhanced requirements e.g., when Avian Influenza Prevention Zone is in place
- Site/farm located in 3km Protection Zone or 10km Surveillance Zone

Standard requirements

M1. The site/farm shall have a designated (named) Biosecurity Officer with appropriate knowledge, training and authority to implement proportionate biosecurity measures.

The Biosecurity Officer shall be present during the bi-annual (Subscriber accompanied) self-audit. This shall be recorded. The Biosecurity Officer shall be responsible for demonstrating compliance with Section M.

M2. A written biosecurity plan, including at least the minimum measures provided for in the relevant government body's biosecurity guidance for protection against Avian Influenza is to be available.

Useful information can be obtained from the relevant government website.

An up to date biosecurity procedures document shall be available, which shall be reviewed annually.

M3. Visitors must be kept to a minimum and those allowed access into houses where poultry are kept (including service staff) must wear clean protective farm specific clothing that is kept on the farm.

Clean overalls or coat, plus feet covering, must be available on site.

M4. A Visitors' Book shall be available and maintained on the site/farm.

Visitors include: service engineers, feed delivery drivers, egg collection drivers, Animal By-product (ABP) collection drivers etc. The following is required: full name; business address; mobile or landline contact telephone number; vehicle registration number; date; time in / time out; including if the visitor has access to the 'Specific' biosecure area (poultry house/birds); reason for visit.

Ask to see Visitors Book. Sign it. Look for evidence of use. The 'Specific' biosecure area is defined in M7 below. In this context the anteroom/egg room may be considered to be part of the poultry house.

M5. An Attendance Book shall be available and maintained on the site/farm.

Attendance Book shall include site/farm staff (but not staff who live on site, e.g., site manager). This shall include: name; date; time in / time out. If the staff member has visited poultry prior to attending this site, this must be listed. Ask to see Attendance Book. Look for evidence of use.

M6. Control measures must be in place to minimise the spread of disease within the site/farm and between other sites/farms.

It is the responsibility of senior management of the site/farm (who may also be the Biosecurity Officer) to ensure that effective control measures are in place and enforced at all times. Movement of farm staff across multiple sites/farms should ideally be minimised. Where staff look after poultry on other premises, or livestock of any other kind, suitable precautions must be taken against cross-contamination. These would include washing hands and the use of clean protective clothing and footwear kept and used only on the site.

M7. For permanent housing:

There must be a minimum of three levels of biosecurity: a defined 'General' biosecure area, a defined 'Intermediate' biosecure area and a defined 'Specific' biosecure area on each site/farm.

Three levels of biosecurity shall be defined;

A 'General' area of biosecurity which may refer to the site/farm at large (e.g., inside the perimeter), depending on the individual site. This may exclude any property not associated with the poultry enterprise, e.g., car park, dwelling house, other farm buildings and other farm areas.

There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the 'General' biosecure area.

All personnel and visitors entering a 'General' biosecure area must comply with the biosecurity requirements of the site. A foot-dip/bath facility, with a cover, must be provided. Wheels and wheel arches of vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area to be disinfected.

An 'Intermediate' area of biosecurity refers to the immediate access to the poultry house itself (not the birds). It is the division between outside and inside. This area will include the egg collection and storage area, but there should be no birds or direct contact with birds in this area.

Access to this area must incorporate a barrier arrangement where staff/visitors can physically change into indoor dedicated footwear.

This could be a lobby just within the entrance or a small shed/lean-to that can be incorporated into the entrance.

A 'Specific' area of biosecurity refers to each poultry house where birds are housed on the site/farm.

Entry to a 'Specific' biosecure area requires further measures (noting that a poultry house may have more than one entrance/exit) including a change of footwear (to 'indoor' colour coded footwear) over a barrier arrangement, and the wearing of different protective clothing.

A 'Specific' biosecure area therefore requires a higher level of biosecurity.

Clear signage showing the 'General', 'Intermediate' and 'Specific' biosecure areas shall be in place.

A site plan shall clearly show all biosecure areas and their perimeters, with an identifiable key.

M8. For Mobile housing:

There must be a minimum of two levels of biosecurity: a defined 'General' biosecure area, and a defined 'Specific' biosecure area on each site/farm.

Two levels of biosecurity shall be defined, with a robust biosecure control point between the two in place.

A 'General' area of biosecurity which may refer to the site/farm at large (e.g., inside the perimeter), depending on the individual site. This may exclude any property not associated with the poultry enterprise, e.g., car park, dwelling house, other farm buildings and other farm areas.

There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the 'General' biosecure area.

All personnel and visitors entering a 'General' biosecure area must comply with the biosecurity requirements of the site. A foot-dip/bath facility, with a cover, must be provided. Wheels and wheel arches of vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area to be disinfected.

For mobile houses, it is recognised that personnel access to the mobile house may be across the range, however, a biosecurity point must be present at the entrance to the mobile house itself.

There must be an area for footwear change which can be easily cleaned and disinfected. No outdoor material must enter the house and a procedure shall be in place to describe how personnel enter and leave the house.

A 'Specific' area of biosecurity refers to each poultry house where birds are housed on the site/farm.

Entry to a 'Specific' biosecure area requires further measures (noting that a poultry house may have more than one entrance/exit) including a change of footwear (to

'indoor' colour coded footwear) over a barrier arrangement, and the wearing of different protective clothing.

A 'Specific' biosecure area therefore requires a higher level of biosecurity.

Clear signage showing the 'General', and 'Specific' biosecure areas shall be in place.

A site plan shall clearly show all biosecure areas and their perimeters, with an identifiable key.

M9. The site must have an area of clean concrete, metalled surface or rolled stone which is large enough for a pullet delivery/egg collection/feed delivery vehicle to stand and for the normal operations associated with the vehicle to be carried out.

For concrete/metalled (e.g., tarmac) surface, a wash with a hose to remove debris would demonstrate 'clean'.

A new build poultry house is required to have an area of concrete/metalled surface large enough for a pullet delivery/egg collection/feed delivery vehicle to stand and for the normal operations associated with the vehicle to be carried out. Existing poultry houses should consider replacing rolled stone with a concrete/metalled surface.

M10. Consideration should be given to any vehicle and/or equipment which enters the 'General' biosecure area. Is it visibly clean?

The wheels and wheel arches of vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area to be disinfected.

Consideration should be given to where the vehicle and/or equipment has come from. Is it visibly clean? If not, more thorough cleaning and disinfection of the vehicle and/or equipment to be undertaken.

Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from 'cab to ground' and suitable measures put in place to prevent this.

M11. Foot-dip/bath facilities, with a cover, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' biosecure area, and must be used by all who enter and exit.

Footwear must be able to be fully dipped in the foot dip/bath.

An additional foot-scrub e.g., stiff bristled brush, is to be provided so that organic matter can be removed prior to dipping, as it is essential to remove debris before dipping footwear.

Check disinfectants against the BEIC list of relevant government body (Defra) approved disinfectants.

M12. The foot-dip/bath facility shall be replenished with fresh disinfectant at a minimum frequency of once weekly. Only disinfectants on the BEIC list of relevant government body (DEFRA/DAERA) approved disinfectants shall be used. Records of disinfectants in use, including dilution, and when changed, are to be kept.

Only relevant government body (DEFRA/DAERA) approved disinfectants (on the BEIC list) shall be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Disinfectant solutions must also be replaced on a regular basis (a minimum weekly, or earlier if contaminated by debris/dirt, or if affected by the weather) and this recorded. The foot-dip/bath must have a cover in place to prevent dilution by rain or sunlight.

M13. Step-over barrier from 'General' to 'Intermediate' biosecure zone:

A solid physical barrier footwear system, with dedicated footwear, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' area. A hand sanitizer is to be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' biosecure area.

All staff and visitors must change into the egg room/anteroom dedicated footwear upon each entry, and vice versa on exit.

The barrier is to be solid: no less than 30cm high; the area inside the barrier is considered to be the 'Intermediate' biosecure area; staff to remove outdoor footwear on the external side of the barrier; staff to then put on dedicated indoor footwear in the internal area of the barrier; provision to be seated, or supported, when changing footwear.

The auditor will look to see that debris from the 'General' biosecure area is not getting into the 'Intermediate' area and that appropriate footwear is provided and located on the correct sides of the barrier.

Ideally, separate access to the egg store should be available. If separate access is not available there must be a clear written procedure for egg collection to control the risk of introduction of infection. This will include cleaning and disinfection of all areas which the egg collection driver comes into contact with.

M14. Step over barrier from 'Intermediate' to 'Specific' biosecure area:

A solid physical barrier footwear system, with colour coded dedicated footwear, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Specific' biosecure bird area. A hand sanitizer is to be provided at the entrance to the 'Specific' biosecure area.

All staff and visitors must change into colour coded dedicated footwear upon each entry and vice versa on exit. Therefore, footwear must be a different colour to that used in the 'Intermediate' biosecure area and footwear used in the 'General' biosecure area. As the poultry house can have more than one entrance, each entry point must provide for a physical barrier footwear system, with dedicated footwear, at the entrance to each 'specific' biosecure bird area.

The barrier is to be solid: no less than 30cm high; the area inside the barrier is considered to be the 'Specific' biosecure area; staff remove indoor footwear on the external side of the barrier; staff then put on colour coded dedicated footwear in the internal area of the barrier; provision to be seated, or supported, when changing footwear.

The auditor will look to see that debris from the 'Intermediate' biosecure area is not getting into the 'Specific' area and vice versa. Both areas should be maintained in a tidy state, e.g., cleaned daily.

For multi-tier units, where regular access to the muck belts is required, staff involved must follow all biosecurity procedures in accessing the 'specific' biosecure area.

M15 On farms where showers are available there must be a showering policy in operation.

If showers are available, a showering policy must be in place. The use of showers on arrival is normal practice for staff and visitors to breeder sites. Auditors will be expected to shower and will be provided with a change of clean clothing to be worn on the site.

M16. The use of clean protective clothing is required, which shall be changed and laundered regularly.

The use of farm dedicated protective clothing is required to be worn when entering the 'Specific' biosecure area. This shall be changed and laundered regularly. 'Regularly' is defined as a minimum of twice weekly. Ideally, protective clothing should not be taken home to be laundered. However, where it is, cross-contamination must be avoided.

The use of disposable protective clothing is allowed.

M17. On a free range and organic unit, the use of foot-dips/baths and vehicle wheel disinfection is required at the entrance to the range area (where birds would normally have daytime access).

There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the range area. Personnel and vehicles entering the range area must ensure both footwear and vehicle wheels are clean before being disinfected. This will require the use of a foot-dip/bath and means of disinfecting vehicle wheels. It is noted that agricultural machinery may need to enter the range area e.g., for grass cutting, therefore it is important to ensure that the vehicle(s) and equipment is visibly clean before disinfection.

M18. Birds must be effectively contained within the defined 'Specific' biosecure area, and the range (where present). Remedial action must be taken to prevent birds leaving these areas.

Birds must be prevented from having access to 'Intermediate' and 'General' biosecure areas and aprons. Suitable fencing must be in place.

M19. On the day of collection, carcass bins to be moved to a carcass collection point located outside of the 'General' biosecure area.

Animal by-product contractors will not be given access into the 'General' biosecure area.

Following collection of ABPs, bin handles, lids and wheels to be disinfected before being moved back into the 'General' biosecure area. If bins are exchanged, more thorough disinfection required. Attention should be paid to bin security on day of collection.

M20. Tractors and other equipment used for handling manure/litter must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before being used for other operations.

Records must be available. Auditor to ask and check records. (Verbal/Written)

M21. There should not be a pond on the premises. Where present, poultry must not have access to a pond or 'open' water. There shall be no areas of standing water on the premises.

If ponds are present, steps must be taken to prevent access to the pond by the birds. Where possible, ponds should be filled in. Where this is not possible, fencing-off and netting is required. Steps should be taken to discourage waterfowl from the premises (i.e., not encourage them onto the premises). The use of wires across ponds can be a useful deterrent.

Whilst it is accepted that during periods of heavy rain, puddles may appear, there must be no persistent standing water on the site/farm.

Ask what action senior management has taken (to assess the risk) to minimise contact between wild birds / waterfowl and poultry.

M22. Before any new site/farm is planned and built, the senior management of the site/farm must conduct a written assessment.

The senior management of the site/farm must undertake a full written risk assessment which considers the proximity of (as a minimum): ponds, lakes, open water, or other watercourses and the associated risks from migratory wildfowl.

Enhanced Requirements (when AIPZ is in place)

Section M1 - M22 applies, with the addition of:

M23. During periods of increased risk from a Notifiable Avian Disease, only essential visitors are to be allowed access to poultry houses (including service staff). All visitors must be provided with clean protective clothing, that is kept on the site/farm.

Clean overalls, plus feet covering must be available on the site/farm. Before entering the site, all vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected. Essential visitors would include auditors/inspectors and the collection of Official NCP samples.

M24. Increased control measures must be in place to minimise the spread of disease within the site/farm and between other sites/farms.

Movement of farm staff across multiple sites/farms should stop where possible. Where staff look after poultry on other premises, or livestock of any other kind, suitable precautions must be taken against cross-contamination. These would include change of clothing and footwear and hand washing. On some sites, a showering facility could be considered (or staff could shower at separate facilities between farm visits). The use of clean protective clothing and footwear must be kept and used only on the site. Vehicles used by staff must be kept clean inside and out.

M25. Consideration should be given to any vehicle and/or equipment which enters the 'General' biosecure area. Is it visibly clean?

Vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area are to be cleaned and disinfected. Consideration should be given to where vehicles and/or equipment has come from. Is it visibly clean? If not, more thorough disinfection of the vehicles and/or equipment to be undertaken. Possible means of vehicle disinfection include disinfectant mats, vehicle

washers and wheel troughs. Wheel and wheel arch washing must be conducted with sufficient water (e.g., not misting) prior to application of disinfectant. Farms may need to invest in e.g., a raised or pumped IBC (intermediate bulk container) at the entrance. Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from 'cab to ground' and suitable measures put in place to prevent this.

M26. The area of clean concrete/metalled surface or rolled stone immediately outside the poultry house must be cleaned and disinfected before and after a delivery/collection vehicle, or feed lorry.

M27. Egg Collection vehicles: Drivers should not enter the 'Intermediate' biosecure area.

As every farm is different and there are many different configurations of egg stores, a risk assessment must be carried out to ensure that, as much as practically possible, farm staff and the driver are always segregated.

Ideally, separate access to the egg store should be available. If separate access is not available and farm staff are not able to move pallets of eggs to the entrance of the poultry house, the driver is to put on protective clothing and disinfect footwear. The floor of the egg store must be cleaned and disinfected after collection. A Visitors Book must be available and be signed by the driver.

M28. Feed delivery vehicles: Drivers must not enter the 'Intermediate' biosecure area

As feed deliveries can take place outside of normal site/farm operating times, a facility that is outside of the 'Intermediate' biosecure area must be available for the driver to put on protective footwear. A Visitors Book must be available and be signed by the driver.

Site/farm located in 3km Protection Zone or 10km Surveillance Zone

Section M1 – M28 apply, with the addition of:

M29. Cleaning and disinfection of all vehicles entering the 'General' biosecure area is required.

In reality this can only be achieved by the use of a pressure washer. Therefore, the provision of water and a power source at the entrance to the 'General' biosecure area are needed during the time the PZ/SZ are in place.

Section 4 – Pullet Hatcheries

Section I to be deleted and replaced by:

I BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity is categorized as follows:

- Standard requirements
- Enhanced requirements e.g., when Avian Influenza Prevention Zone is in place
- Site located in 3km Protection Zone or 10km Surveillance Zone

Standard requirements

I1. The site shall have a designated (named) Biosecurity Officer with appropriate knowledge, training and authority to implement proportionate biosecurity measures.

The Biosecurity Officer shall be present during the bi-annual (Subscriber accompanied) self-audit. This shall be recorded. The Biosecurity Officer shall be responsible for demonstrating compliance with Section I.

I2. A written biosecurity plan, including at least the minimum measures provided for in the relevant government body's biosecurity guidance for protection against Avian Influenza is to be available.

An up to date biosecurity procedures document shall be available, which shall be reviewed annually.

I3 Visitors must be kept to a minimum and those allowed access to chick areas, (including service staff) must wear clean protective clothing that is kept on the site.

Clean overalls or coat, plus feet covering, must be available on site.

I4. A Visitors' Book shall be available and maintained on the site.

The following is required: full name; business address; mobile or landline contact telephone number; vehicle registration number; date; time in / time out; including if the visitor has access to the 'Specific' biosecure area; reason for visit.

Ask to see Visitors Book. Sign it. Look for evidence of use. The 'Specific' biosecure area is defined in I7 below. The egg store, incubators, hatchers and chick take-off area shall be considered to be part of the 'Specific' biosecure area.

I5. An Attendance Book shall be available and maintained on the site.

Attendance Book shall include site staff (but not staff who live on site, e.g., manager). This shall include: name; date; time in / time out. If the staff member has visited poultry prior to attending this site, this must be listed. Ask to see Attendance Book. Look for evidence of use.

I6. Control measures must be in place to minimise the spread of disease within the site and between other sites.

It is the responsibility of senior management of the site (who may also be the Biosecurity Officer) to ensure that effective control measures are in place and enforced at all times.

I7. There must be a minimum of two levels of biosecurity: a defined 'General' biosecure area, and a defined 'Specific' biosecure area on the site.

Two levels of biosecurity shall be defined, with a robust biosecure control point between the two in place.

A 'General' area of biosecurity which may refer to the site at large (e.g., inside the perimeter), depending on the individual site. This may exclude any property not associated with the hatchery, e.g., car park, dwelling house, other buildings and other areas.

*There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the 'General' biosecure area.
All personnel and visitors entering a 'General' biosecure area must comply with the biosecurity requirements of the site.
Vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area must be disinfected.
A 'Specific' area of biosecurity refers to the egg store, incubators, hatchers, chick take-off area, and dispatch, on the site.
Entry to a 'Specific' biosecure area requires further measures (noting that the site may have more than one entrance/exit).
A 'Specific' biosecure area therefore requires a higher level of biosecurity.
Clear signage showing the 'General' and 'Specific' biosecure areas shall be in place.
A site plan shall clearly show all biosecure areas and their perimeters, with an identifiable key.*

I8. A physical barrier shower or footwear system, with dedicated footwear, must be provided at the entrance to each 'Specific' biosecure bird area. Hand sanitisers are to be provided at the entrance to the 'Specific' biosecure area.

*A barrier system is to be established at the entry to the 'Specific' biosecure area.
The auditor will look to see that debris from the 'General' biosecure area is not getting into the 'Specific' area and vice versa. Both areas should be maintained in a tidy state, e.g., cleaned daily.
The use of dedicated protective clothing is required to be worn when in the 'Specific' biosecure area. This shall be changed and laundered regularly.
'Regularly' is defined as a minimum of twice weekly. Protective clothing shall not be taken home to be laundered. The use of disposable protective clothing is allowed.*

I9. On sites where showers are available there must be a showering policy in operation.

If showers are available a showering policy must be in place. The use of showers on arrival is normal practice for staff and visitors to hatcheries. Auditors will be expected to shower and will be provided with a change of clean clothing to be worn on the site.

I10. Work-wear should be colour coded for clean and dirty areas.

Auditor to check (Written & Verbal).

I11. Work-wear shall be clean and appropriate.

Staff must have access to work wear that is clean and appropriate. (Visual/Verbal)

I12. The site must have an area of clean concrete or metalled surface which is large enough for a vehicle to stand and for the normal operations associated with the vehicle to be carried out.

I13 Separate vehicles should be used for the transport of chicks and eggs.

View system. Dual purpose vehicles are acceptable providing that they are washed and disinfected between batches of eggs and chicks.

I14. Consideration should be given to any vehicle and/or equipment which enters the 'General' biosecure area. Is it visibly clean?

Consideration should be given to where the vehicle and/or equipment has come from. Is it visibly clean? If not, more thorough cleaning and disinfection of the vehicle and/or equipment to be undertaken.

Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from 'cab to ground' and suitable measures put in place to prevent this.

I15 There shall be documented protocols for cleaning vehicles.

Ask to see written protocol.

I16 There shall be driver work-wear and hygiene controls operating.

Ask for written instructions for drivers. Observe drivers if present. Ideally, they should be wearing readily washable clothing (e.g., boiler suits etc.) Are these clean & tidy?

I17. Foot-dip/bath facilities, with a cover, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' biosecure area, and must be used by all who enter and exit.

Footwear must be able to be fully dipped in the foot dip/bath.

I18. The foot-dip/bath facility shall be replenished with fresh disinfectant at a minimum frequency of once weekly. Only disinfectants on the BEIC list of relevant government body (DEFRA/DAERA) approved disinfectants shall be used. Records of disinfectants in use, including dilution, and when changed, are to be kept.

Only relevant government body (DEFRA/DAERA) approved disinfectants (on the BEIC list) shall be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Disinfectant solutions must also be replaced on a regular basis (a minimum weekly, or earlier if contaminated by debris/dirt, or if affected by the weather) and this recorded. The foot-dip/bath must have a cover in place to prevent dilution by rain or sunlight.

I19. There should not be a pond on the premises. There shall be no areas of standing water on the premises.

If ponds are present, steps must be taken to discourage waterfowl from the premises (i.e., not encourage them onto the premises). The use of wires across ponds can be a useful deterrent.

Whilst it is accepted that during periods of heavy rain, puddles may appear, there must be no persistent standing water on the site.

Ask what action senior management has taken to assess the risk.

I20 Before any new site is planned and built, the senior management of the site must conduct a written assessment.

The senior management of the site must undertake a full written risk assessment which considers the proximity of (as a minimum): ponds, lakes, open water, or other watercourses.

Enhanced Requirements (when AIPZ is in place)

Section I1 - I20 applies, with the addition of:

I21. During periods of increased risk from a Notifiable Avian Disease, only essential visitors are to be allowed access to the site. All visitors must be provided with clean protective clothing, that is kept on the site.

Essential visitors would include auditors/inspectors.

I22. Consideration should be given to any vehicle and/or equipment which enters the 'General' biosecure area. Is it visibly clean?

Before entering the 'General' biosecure area site, all vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected.

Consideration should be given to where vehicles and/or equipment has come from. Is it visibly clean? If not, more thorough disinfection of the vehicles and/or equipment to be undertaken. Possible means of vehicle disinfection include disinfectant mats, vehicle washers and wheel troughs.

I23. The area of clean concrete/metalled surface or rolled stone immediately outside the hatchery building must be cleaned and disinfected before and after an egg / chick delivery vehicle.

Hatchery located in 3km Protection Zone or 10km Surveillance Zone

Section I1 – I23 apply, with the addition of:

I24. Cleaning and disinfection of all vehicles entering the 'General' biosecure area is required.

In reality this can only be achieved by the use of a pressure washer. Therefore, the provision of water and a power source at the entrance to the 'General' biosecure area are needed during the time the PZ/SZ are in place.

Section 5 – Pullet Rearing Farms

Section L deleted and replaced by:

L BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity is categorized as follows:

- Standard requirements
- Enhanced requirements e.g., when Avian Influenza Prevention Zone is in place
- Site/farm located in 3km Protection Zone or 10km Surveillance Zone

Standard requirements

L1. The site/farm shall have a designated (named) Biosecurity Officer with appropriate knowledge, training and authority to implement proportionate biosecurity measures.

The Biosecurity Officer shall be present during the bi-annual (Subscriber accompanied) self-audit. This shall be recorded. The Biosecurity Officer shall be responsible for demonstrating compliance with Section L.

L2. A written biosecurity plan, including at least the minimum measures provided for in the relevant government body's biosecurity guidance for protection against Avian Influenza is to be available.

Useful information can be obtained from the relevant government website.

An up to date biosecurity procedures document shall be available, which shall be reviewed annually.

L3. Visitors must be kept to a minimum and those allowed access into houses where poultry are kept (including service staff) must wear clean protective farm specific clothing that is kept on the farm.

Clean overalls or coat, plus feet covering, must be available on site.

L4. A Visitors' Book shall be available and maintained on the site/farm.

Visitors include: service engineers, feed delivery drivers, Animal By-product (ABP) collection drivers etc. The following is required: full name; business address; mobile or landline contact telephone number; vehicle registration number; date; time in / time out; including if the visitor has access to the 'Specific' biosecure area (poultry house/birds); reason for visit.

Ask to see Visitors Book. Sign it. Look for evidence of use. The 'Specific' biosecure area is defined in L7 below. In this context the anteroom may be considered to be part of the poultry house.

L5. An Attendance Book shall be available and maintained on the site/farm.

Attendance Book shall include site/farm staff (but not staff who live on site, e.g., site manager). This shall include: name; date; time in / time out. If the staff member has visited poultry prior to attending this site, this must be listed. Ask to see Attendance Book. Look for evidence of use.

L6. Control measures must be in place to minimise the spread of disease within the site/farm and between other sites/farms.

It is the responsibility of senior management of the site/farm (who may also be the Biosecurity Officer) to ensure that effective control measures are in place and enforced at all times. Movement of farm staff across multiple sites/farms should ideally be minimised. Where staff look after poultry on other premises, or livestock of any other kind, suitable precautions must be taken against cross-contamination. These would include washing hands and the use of clean protective clothing and footwear kept and used only on the site.

L7. For permanent housing:

There must be a minimum of three levels of biosecurity: a defined 'General' biosecure area, a defined 'Intermediate' biosecure area and a defined 'Specific' biosecure area on each site/farm.

Three levels of biosecurity shall be defined;

A 'General' area of biosecurity which may refer to the site/farm at large (e.g., inside the perimeter), depending on the individual site. This may exclude any property not associated with the poultry enterprise, e.g., car park, dwelling house, other farm buildings and other farm areas.

There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the 'General' biosecure area.

All personnel and visitors entering a 'General' biosecure area must comply with the biosecurity requirements of the site. A foot-dip/bath facility, with a cover, must be provided. Wheels and wheel arches of vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area to be disinfected.

An 'Intermediate' area of biosecurity refers to the immediate access to the poultry house itself (not the birds). It is the division between outside and inside. This area will include the anteroom and storage area, but there should be no birds or direct contact with birds in this area.

Access to this area must incorporate a barrier arrangement where staff/visitors can physically change into indoor dedicated footwear.

This could be a lobby just within the entrance or a small shed/lean-to that can be incorporated into the entrance.

A 'Specific' area of biosecurity refers to each poultry house where birds are housed on the site/farm.

Entry to a 'Specific' biosecure area requires further measures (noting that a poultry house may have more than one entrance/exit) including a change of footwear (to 'indoor' colour coded footwear) over a barrier arrangement, and the wearing of different protective clothing.

A 'Specific' biosecure area therefore requires a higher level of biosecurity.

Clear signage showing the 'General', 'Intermediate' and 'Specific' biosecure areas shall be in place.

A site plan shall clearly show all biosecure areas and their perimeters, with an identifiable key.

L8. For Mobile housing:

There must be a minimum of two levels of biosecurity: a defined 'General' biosecure area, and a defined 'Specific' biosecure area on each site/farm.

Two levels of biosecurity shall be defined, with a robust biosecure control point between the two in place.

A 'General' area of biosecurity which may refer to the site/farm at large (e.g., inside the perimeter), depending on the individual site. This may exclude any property not associated with the poultry enterprise, e.g., car park, dwelling house, other farm buildings and other farm areas.

There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the 'General' biosecure area.

All personnel and visitors entering a 'General' biosecure area must comply with the biosecurity requirements of the site. A foot-dip/bath facility, with a cover, must be provided. Wheels and wheel arches of vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area to be disinfected.

For mobile houses, it is recognised that personnel access to the mobile house may be across the range, however, a biosecurity point must be present at the entrance to the mobile house itself.

There must be an area for footwear change which can be easily cleaned and disinfected. No outdoor material must enter the house and a procedure shall be in place to describe how personnel enter and leave the house.

A 'Specific' area of biosecurity refers to each poultry house where birds are housed on the site/farm.

Entry to a 'Specific' biosecure area requires further measures (noting that a poultry house may have more than one entrance/exit) including a change of footwear (to

'indoor' colour coded footwear) over a barrier arrangement, and the wearing of different protective clothing.

A 'Specific' biosecure area therefore requires a higher level of biosecurity.

Clear signage showing the 'General', and 'Specific' biosecure areas shall be in place.

A site plan shall clearly show all biosecure areas and their perimeters, with an identifiable key.

L9. The site must have an area of clean concrete, metalled surface or rolled stone which is large enough for a chick delivery/feed delivery/pullet collection vehicle to stand and for the normal operations associated with the vehicle to be carried out.

For concrete/metalled (e.g., tarmac) surface, a wash with a hose to remove debris would demonstrate 'clean'.

A new build poultry house is required to have an area of concrete/metalled surface large enough for a chick delivery/feed delivery/pullet collection vehicle to stand and for the normal operations associated with the vehicle to be carried out. Existing poultry houses should consider replacing rolled stone with a concrete/metalled surface.

L10. Consideration should be given to any vehicle and/or equipment which enters the 'General' biosecure area. Is it visibly clean?

The wheels and wheel arches of vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area to be disinfected.

Consideration should be given to where the vehicle and/or equipment has come from. Is it visibly clean? If not, more thorough cleaning and disinfection of the vehicle and/or equipment to be undertaken.

Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from 'cab to ground' and suitable measures put in place to prevent this.

L11. Foot-dip/bath facilities, with a cover, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' biosecure area, and must be used by all who enter and exit.

Footwear must be able to be fully dipped in the foot dip/bath.

An additional foot-scrub e.g., stiff bristled brush, is to be provided so that organic matter can be removed prior to dipping, as it is essential to remove debris before dipping footwear.

Check disinfectants against the BEIC list of relevant government body (Defra) approved disinfectants

L12. The foot-dip/bath facility shall be replenished with fresh disinfectant at a minimum frequency of once weekly. Only disinfectants on the BEIC list of relevant government body (DEFRA/DAERA) approved disinfectants shall be used. Records of disinfectants in use, including dilution, and when changed, are to be kept.

Only relevant government body (DEFRA/DAERA) approved disinfectants (on the BEIC list) shall be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Disinfectant solutions must also be replaced on a regular basis (a minimum weekly, or earlier if contaminated by debris/dirt, or if affected by the weather) and this recorded. The foot-dip/bath must have a cover in place to prevent dilution by rain or sunlight.

L13. Step-over barrier from 'General' to 'Intermediate' biosecure zone:

A solid physical barrier footwear system, with dedicated footwear, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' area. A hand sanitizer is to be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' biosecure area.

All staff and visitors must change into the anteroom dedicated footwear upon each entry, and vice versa on exit.

The barrier is to be solid: no less than 30cm high; the area inside the barrier is considered to be the 'Intermediate' biosecure area; staff to remove outdoor footwear on the external side of the barrier; staff to then put on dedicated indoor footwear in the internal area of the barrier; provision to be seated, or supported, when changing footwear.

The auditor will look to see that debris from the 'General' biosecure area is not getting into the 'Intermediate' area and that appropriate footwear is provided and located on the correct sides of the barrier.

L14. Step over barrier from 'Intermediate' to 'Specific' biosecure area:

A solid physical barrier footwear system, with colour coded dedicated footwear, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Specific' biosecure bird area. A hand sanitizer is to be provided at the entrance to the 'Specific' biosecure area.

All staff and visitors must change into colour coded dedicated footwear upon each entry and vice versa on exit. Therefore, footwear must be a different colour to that used in the 'Intermediate' biosecure area and footwear used in the 'General' biosecure area. As the poultry house can have more than one entrance, each entry point must provide for a physical barrier footwear system, with dedicated footwear, at the entrance to each 'specific' biosecure bird area.

The barrier is to be solid: no less than 30cm high; the area inside the barrier is considered to be the 'Specific' biosecure area; staff remove indoor footwear on the external side of the barrier; staff then put on colour coded dedicated footwear in the internal area of the barrier; provision to be seated, or supported, when changing footwear.

The auditor will look to see that debris from the 'Intermediate' biosecure area is not getting into the 'Specific' area and vice versa. Both areas should be maintained in a tidy state, e.g., cleaned daily.

For multi-tier units, where regular access to the muck belts is required, staff involved must follow all biosecurity procedures in accessing the 'specific' biosecure area.

L15. The use of clean protective clothing is required, which shall be changed and laundered regularly.

The use of farm dedicated protective clothing is required to be worn when entering the 'Specific' biosecure area. This shall be changed and laundered regularly. 'Regularly' is defined as a minimum of twice weekly. Ideally, protective clothing should not be taken home to be laundered. However, where it is, cross-contamination must be avoided.

The use of disposable protective clothing is allowed.

L16. On a free range and organic unit, the use of foot-dips/baths and vehicle wheel disinfection is required at the entrance to the range area (where birds would normally have daytime access).

There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the range area. Personnel and vehicles entering the range area must ensure both footwear and vehicle wheels are clean before being disinfected. This will require the use of a foot-dip/bath and means of disinfecting vehicle wheels. It is noted that agricultural machinery may need to enter the range area e.g., for grass cutting, therefore it is important to ensure that the vehicle(s) and equipment is visibly clean before disinfection.

L17. Birds must be effectively contained within the defined 'Specific' biosecure area, and the range (where present). Remedial action must be taken to prevent birds leaving these areas.

Birds must be prevented from having access to 'Intermediate' and 'General' biosecure areas and aprons. Suitable fencing must be in place.

L18. On the day of collection, carcass bins to be moved to a carcass collection point located outside of the 'General' biosecure area.

Animal by-product contractors will not be given access into the 'General' biosecure area.

Following collection of ABPs, bin handles, lids and wheels to be disinfected before being moved back into the 'General' biosecure area. If bins are exchanged, more thorough disinfection required. Attention should be paid to bin security on day of collection.

L19. Tractors and other equipment used for handling manure/litter must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before being used for other operations.

Records must be available. Auditor to ask and check records. (Verbal/Written)

L20. There should not be a pond on the premises. Where present, poultry must not have access to a pond or 'open' water. There shall be no areas of standing water on the premises.

If ponds are present, steps must be taken to prevent access to the pond by the birds. Where possible, ponds should be filled in. Where this is not possible, fencing-off and netting is required. Steps should be taken to discourage waterfowl from the premises (i.e., not encourage them onto the premises). The use of wires across ponds can be a useful deterrent.

Whilst it is accepted that during periods of heavy rain, puddles may appear, there must be no persistent standing water on the site/farm.

Ask what action senior management has taken (to assess the risk) to minimise contact between wild birds / waterfowl and poultry.

L21. Before any new site/farm is planned and built, the senior management of the site/farm must conduct a written assessment.

The senior management of the site/farm must undertake a full written risk assessment which considers the proximity of (as a minimum): ponds, lakes, open water, or other watercourses and the associated risks from migratory wildfowl.

Enhanced Requirements (when AIPZ is in place)

Section L1 - L21 applies, with the addition of:

L22. During periods of increased risk from a Notifiable Avian Disease, only essential visitors are to be allowed access to poultry houses (including service staff). All visitors must be provided with clean protective clothing, that is kept on the site/farm.

Clean overalls, plus feet covering must be available on the site/farm. Before entering the site, all vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected. Essential visitors would include auditors/inspectors and the collection of Official NCP samples.

L23. Increased control measures must be in place to minimise the spread of disease within the site/farm and between other sites/farms.

Movement of farm staff across multiple sites/farms should stop where possible. Where staff look after poultry on other premises, or livestock of any other kind, suitable precautions must be taken against cross-contamination. These would include change of clothing and footwear and hand washing. On some sites, a showering facility could be considered (or staff could shower at separate facilities between farm visits). The use of clean protective clothing and footwear must be kept and used only on the site. Vehicles used by staff must be kept clean inside and out.

L24. Consideration should be given to any vehicle and/or equipment which enters the 'General' biosecure area. Is it visibly clean?

Vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area are to be cleaned and disinfected. Consideration should be given to where vehicles and/or equipment has come from. Is it visibly clean? If not, more thorough disinfection of the vehicles and/or equipment to be undertaken. Possible means of vehicle disinfection include disinfectant mats, vehicle washers and wheel troughs. Wheel and wheel arch washing must be conducted with sufficient water (e.g., not misting) prior to application of disinfectant. Farms may need to invest in e.g., a raised or pumped IBC (intermediate bulk container) at the entrance. Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from 'cab to ground' and suitable measures put in place to prevent this.

L25. The area of clean concrete/metalled surface or rolled stone immediately outside the poultry house must be cleaned and disinfected before and after a delivery/collection vehicle, or feed lorry.

L26. Feed delivery vehicles: Drivers must not enter the 'Intermediate' biosecure area

As feed deliveries can take place outside of normal site/farm operating times, a facility that is outside of the 'Intermediate' biosecure area must be available for the driver to put on protective footwear. A Visitors Book must be available and be signed by the driver.

Site/farm located in 3km Protection Zone or 10km Surveillance Zone

Section L1 – L26 apply, with the addition of:

L27. Cleaning and disinfection of all vehicles entering the 'General' biosecure area is required.

In reality this can only be achieved by the use of a pressure washer. Therefore, the provision of water and a power source at the entrance to the 'General' biosecure area are needed during the time the PZ/SZ are in place.

Section 6 – Laying Bird Farms

Section N deleted and replaced by:

N BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity is categorized as follows:

- Standard requirements
- Enhanced requirements e.g., when Avian Influenza Prevention Zone is in place
- Site/farm located in 3km Protection Zone or 10km Surveillance Zone

Standard requirements

N1. The site/farm shall have a designated (named) Biosecurity Officer with appropriate knowledge, training and authority to implement proportionate biosecurity measures.

The Biosecurity Officer shall be present during the bi-annual (Subscriber accompanied) self-audit. This shall be recorded. The Biosecurity Officer shall be responsible for demonstrating compliance with Section N.

N2. A written biosecurity plan, including at least the minimum measures provided for in the relevant government body's biosecurity guidance for protection against Avian Influenza is to be available.

Useful information can be obtained from the relevant government website.

An up to date biosecurity procedures document shall be available, which shall be reviewed annually.

N3. Visitors must be kept to a minimum and those allowed access into houses where poultry are kept (including service staff) must wear clean protective farm specific clothing that is kept on the farm.

Clean overalls or coat, plus feet covering, must be available on site.

N4. A Visitors' Book shall be available and maintained on the site/farm.

Visitors include: service engineers, feed delivery drivers, egg collection drivers, Animal By-product (ABP) collection drivers etc. The following is required: full name; business address; mobile or landline contact telephone number; vehicle registration number; date; time in / time out; including if the visitor has access to the 'Specific' biosecure area (poultry house/birds); reason for visit.

Ask to see Visitors Book. Sign it. Look for evidence of use. The 'Specific' biosecure area is defined in N7 below. In this context the anteroom/egg room may be considered to be part of the poultry house.

N5. An Attendance Book shall be available and maintained on the site/farm.

Attendance Book shall include site/farm staff (but not staff who live on site, e.g., site manager). This shall include: name; date; time in / time out. If the staff member has visited poultry prior to attending this site, this must be listed. Ask to see Attendance Book. Look for evidence of use.

N6. Control measures must be in place to minimise the spread of disease within the site/farm and between other sites/farms.

It is the responsibility of senior management of the site/farm (who may also be the Biosecurity Officer) to ensure that effective control measures are in place and enforced at all times. Movement of farm staff across multiple sites/farms should ideally be minimised. Where staff look after poultry on other premises, or livestock of any other kind, suitable precautions must be taken against cross-contamination. These would include washing hands and the use of clean protective clothing and footwear kept and used only on the site.

N7. For permanent housing:

There must be a minimum of three levels of biosecurity: a defined 'General' biosecure area, a defined 'Intermediate' biosecure area and a defined 'Specific' biosecure area on each site/farm.

Three levels of biosecurity shall be defined;

A 'General' area of biosecurity which may refer to the site/farm at large (e.g., inside the perimeter), depending on the individual site. This may exclude any property not associated with the poultry enterprise, e.g., car park, dwelling house, other farm buildings and other farm areas.

There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the 'General' biosecure area.

All personnel and visitors entering a 'General' biosecure area must comply with the biosecurity requirements of the site. A foot-dip/bath facility, with a cover, must be provided. Wheels and wheel arches of vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area to be disinfected.

An 'Intermediate' area of biosecurity refers to the immediate access to the poultry house itself (not the birds). It is the division between outside and inside. This area will include the egg collection and storage area, but there should be no birds or direct contact with birds in this area. In terms of general food hygiene and safety this is an area that should meet food hygiene standards with clean floors and surfaces and with cleaning Standard Operating Procedures in place.

Access to this area must incorporate a barrier arrangement where staff/visitors can physically change into indoor dedicated footwear.

This could be a lobby just within the entrance or a small shed/lean-to that can be incorporated into the entrance.

A 'Specific' area of biosecurity refers to each poultry house where birds are housed on the site/farm.

Entry to a 'Specific' biosecure area requires further measures (noting that a poultry house may have more than one entrance/exit) including a change of footwear (to 'indoor' colour coded footwear) over a barrier arrangement, and the wearing of different protective clothing.

A 'Specific' biosecure area therefore requires a higher level of biosecurity.

Clear signage showing the 'General', 'Intermediate' and 'Specific' biosecure areas shall be in place.

A site plan shall clearly show all biosecure areas and their perimeters, with an identifiable key.

N8. For Mobile housing:

There must be a minimum of two levels of biosecurity: a defined 'General' biosecure area, and a defined 'Specific' biosecure area on each site/farm.

Two levels of biosecurity shall be defined, with a robust biosecure control point between the two in place.

A 'General' area of biosecurity which may refer to the site/farm at large (e.g., inside the perimeter), depending on the individual site. This may exclude any property not associated with the poultry enterprise, e.g., car park, dwelling house, other farm buildings and other farm areas.

There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the 'General' biosecure area.

All personnel and visitors entering a 'General' biosecure area must comply with the biosecurity requirements of the site. A foot-dip/bath facility, with a cover, must be provided. Wheels and wheel arches of vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area to be disinfected.

For mobile houses, it is recognised that personnel access to the mobile house may be across the range, however, a biosecurity point must be present at the entrance to the mobile house itself.

There must be an area for footwear change which can be easily cleaned and disinfected. No outdoor material must enter the house and a procedure shall be in place to describe how personnel enter and leave the house.

A 'Specific' area of biosecurity refers to each poultry house where birds are housed on the site/farm.

Entry to a 'Specific' biosecure area requires further measures (noting that a poultry house may have more than one entrance/exit) including a change of footwear (to 'indoor' colour coded footwear) over a barrier arrangement, and the wearing of different protective clothing.

A 'Specific' biosecure area therefore requires a higher level of biosecurity.

Clear signage showing the 'General', and 'Specific' biosecure areas shall be in place.

A site plan shall clearly show all biosecure areas and their perimeters, with an identifiable key.

N9. The site must have an area of clean concrete, metalled surface or rolled stone which is large enough for a pullet delivery/egg collection/feed delivery vehicle to stand and for the normal operations associated with the vehicle to be carried out.

For concrete/metalled (e.g., tarmac) surface, a wash with a hose to remove debris would demonstrate 'clean'.

A new build poultry house is required to have an area of concrete/metalled surface large enough for a pullet delivery/egg collection/feed delivery vehicle to stand and for the normal operations associated with the vehicle to be carried out. Existing poultry houses should consider replacing rolled stone with a concrete/metalled surface.

N10. Consideration should be given to any vehicle and/or equipment which enters the 'General' biosecure area. Is it visibly clean?

The wheels and wheel arches of vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area to be disinfected.

Consideration should be given to where the vehicle and/or equipment has come from. Is it visibly clean? If not, more thorough cleaning and disinfection of the vehicle and/or equipment to be undertaken.

Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from 'cab to ground' and suitable measures put in place to prevent this.

N11. Foot-dip/bath facilities, with a cover, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' biosecure area, and must be used by all who enter and exit.

Footwear must be able to be fully dipped in the foot dip/bath.

An additional foot-scrub e.g., stiff bristled brush, is to be provided so that organic matter can be removed prior to dipping, as it is essential to remove debris before dipping footwear.

Check disinfectants against the BEIC list of relevant government body (Defra) approved disinfectants.

N12. The foot-dip/bath facility shall be replenished with fresh disinfectant at a minimum frequency of once weekly. Only disinfectants on the BEIC list of relevant government body (DEFRA/DAERA) approved disinfectants shall be used. Records of disinfectants in use, including dilution, and when changed, are to be kept.

Only relevant government body (DEFRA/DAERA) approved disinfectants (on the BEIC list) shall be used in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Disinfectant solutions must also be replaced on a regular basis (a minimum weekly, or earlier if contaminated by debris/dirt, or if affected by the weather) and this recorded. The foot-dip/bath must have a cover in place to prevent dilution by rain or sunlight.

N13. Step-over barrier from 'General' to 'Intermediate' biosecure zone:

A solid physical barrier footwear system, with dedicated footwear, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' area. A hand sanitizer is to be provided at the entrance to the 'Intermediate' biosecure area.

All staff and visitors must change into the egg room/anteroom dedicated footwear upon each entry, and vice versa on exit.

The barrier is to be solid: no less than 30cm high; the area inside the barrier is considered to be the 'Intermediate' biosecure area; staff to remove outdoor footwear on

the external side of the barrier; staff to then put on dedicated indoor footwear in the internal area of the barrier; provision to be seated, or supported, when changing footwear.

The auditor will look to see that debris from the 'General' biosecure area is not getting into the 'Intermediate' area and that appropriate footwear is provided and located on the correct sides of the barrier.

Ideally, separate access to the egg store should be available. If separate access is not available there must be a clear written procedure for egg collection to control the risk of introduction of infection. This will include cleaning and disinfection of all areas which the egg collection driver comes into contact with.

N14. Step over barrier from 'Intermediate' to 'Specific' biosecure area:

A solid physical barrier footwear system, with colour coded dedicated footwear, must be provided at the entrance to the 'Specific' biosecure bird area. A hand sanitizer is to be provided at the entrance to the 'Specific' biosecure area.

All staff and visitors must change into colour coded dedicated footwear upon each entry and vice versa on exit. Therefore, footwear must be a different colour to that used in the 'Intermediate' biosecure area and footwear used in the 'General' biosecure area. As the poultry house can have more than one entrance, each entry point must provide for a physical barrier footwear system, with dedicated footwear, at the entrance to each 'specific' biosecure bird area.

The barrier is to be solid: no less than 30cm high; the area inside the barrier is considered to be the 'Specific' biosecure area; staff remove indoor footwear on the external side of the barrier; staff then put on colour coded dedicated footwear in the internal area of the barrier; provision to be seated, or supported, when changing footwear.

The auditor will look to see that debris from the 'Intermediate' biosecure area is not getting into the 'Specific' area and vice versa. Both areas should be maintained in a tidy state, e.g., cleaned daily.

For multi-tier units, where regular access to the muck belts is required, staff involved must follow all biosecurity procedures in accessing the 'specific' biosecure area.

N15. The use of clean protective clothing is required, which shall be changed and laundered regularly.

The use of farm dedicated protective clothing is required to be worn when entering the 'Specific' biosecure area. This shall be changed and laundered regularly. 'Regularly' is defined as a minimum of twice weekly. Ideally, protective clothing should not be taken home to be laundered. However, where it is, cross-contamination must be avoided.

The use of disposable protective clothing is allowed.

N16. On a free range and organic unit, the use of foot-dips/baths and vehicle wheel disinfection is required at the entrance to the range area (where birds would normally have daytime access).

There must be a gate or barrier at the entry to the range area. Personnel and vehicles entering the range area must ensure both footwear and vehicle wheels are clean before being disinfected. This will require the use of a foot-dip/bath and means of disinfecting vehicle wheels. It is noted that agricultural machinery may need to enter the range area e.g., for grass cutting, therefore it is important to ensure that the vehicle(s) and equipment is visibly clean before disinfection.

N17. Birds must be effectively contained within the defined 'Specific' biosecure area, and the range (where present). Remedial action must be taken to prevent birds leaving these areas.

Birds must be prevented from having access to 'Intermediate' and 'General' biosecure areas and aprons. Suitable fencing must be in place.

N18. On the day of collection, carcass bins to be moved to a carcass collection point located outside of the 'General' biosecure area.

Animal by-product contractors will not be given access into the 'General' biosecure area.

Following collection of ABPs, bin handles, lids and wheels to be disinfected before being moved back into the 'General' biosecure area. If bins are exchanged, more thorough disinfection required. Attention should be paid to bin security on day of collection.

N19. Tractors and other equipment used for handling manure/litter must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected before being used for other operations. Records must be available. Auditor to ask and check records. (Verbal/Written)

N20. There should not be a pond on the premises. Where present, poultry must not have access to a pond or 'open' water. There shall be no areas of standing water on the premises.

If ponds are present, steps must be taken to prevent access to the pond by the birds. Where possible, ponds should be filled in. Where this is not possible, fencing-off and netting is required. Steps should be taken to discourage waterfowl from the premises (i.e., not encourage them onto the premises). The use of wires across ponds can be a useful deterrent.

Whilst it is accepted that during periods of heavy rain, puddles may appear, there must be no persistent standing water on the site/farm.

Ask what action senior management has taken (to assess the risk) to minimise contact between wild birds / waterfowl and poultry.

N21. Before any new site/farm is planned and built, the senior management of the site/farm must conduct a written assessment.

The senior management of the site/farm must undertake a full written risk assessment which considers the proximity of (as a minimum): ponds, lakes, open water, or other watercourses and the associated risks from migratory wildfowl.

Enhanced Requirements (when AIPZ is in place)

Section N1 - N21 applies, with the addition of:

N22. During periods of increased risk from a Notifiable Avian Disease, only essential visitors are to be allowed access to poultry houses (including service staff). All visitors must be provided with clean protective clothing, that is kept on the site/farm.

Clean overalls, plus feet covering must be available on the site/farm. Before entering the site, all vehicles must be cleaned and disinfected. Essential visitors would include auditors/inspectors and the collection of Official NCP samples.

N23. Increased control measures must be in place to minimise the spread of disease within the site/farm and between other sites/farms.

Movement of farm staff across multiple sites/farms should stop where possible. Where staff look after poultry on other premises, or livestock of any other kind, suitable precautions must be taken against cross-contamination. These would include change of clothing and footwear and hand washing. On some sites, a showering facility could be considered (or staff could shower at separate facilities between farm visits). The use of clean protective clothing and footwear must be kept and used only on the site. Vehicles used by staff must be kept clean inside and out.

N24. Consideration should be given to any vehicle and/or equipment which enters the 'General' biosecure area. Is it visibly clean?

Vehicles entering a 'General' biosecure area are to be cleaned and disinfected. Consideration should be given to where vehicles and/or equipment has come from. Is it visibly clean? If not, more thorough disinfection of the vehicles and/or equipment to be undertaken. Possible means of vehicle disinfection include disinfectant mats, vehicle washers and wheel troughs. Wheel and wheel arch washing must be conducted with

sufficient water (e.g., not misting) prior to application of disinfectant. Farms may need to invest in e.g., a raised or pumped IBC (intermediate bulk container) at the entrance. Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from 'cab to ground' and suitable measures put in place to prevent this.

N25. The area of clean concrete/metalled surface or rolled stone immediately outside the poultry house must be cleaned and disinfected before and after a delivery/collection vehicle, or feed lorry.

N26. Egg Collection vehicles: Drivers should not enter the 'Intermediate' biosecure area.

As every farm is different and there are many different configurations of egg stores, a risk assessment must be carried out to ensure that, as much as practically possible, farm staff and the driver are always segregated.

Ideally, separate access to the egg store should be available. If separate access is not available and farm staff are not able to move pallets of eggs to the entrance of the poultry house, the driver is to put on protective clothing and disinfect footwear. The floor of the egg store must be cleaned and disinfected after collection. A Visitors Book must be available and be signed by the driver.

N27. Feed delivery vehicles: Drivers must not enter the 'Intermediate' biosecure area

As feed deliveries can take place outside of normal site/farm operating times, a facility that is outside of the 'Intermediate' biosecure area must be available for the driver to put on protective footwear. A Visitors Book must be available and be signed by the driver.

Site/farm located in 3km Protection Zone or 10km Surveillance Zone

Section N1 – N27 apply, with the addition of:

N28. Cleaning and disinfection of all vehicles entering the 'General' biosecure area is required.

In reality this can only be achieved by the use of a pressure washer. Therefore, the provision of water and a power source at the entrance to the 'General' biosecure area are needed during the time the PZ/SZ are in place.

Section 7 – Packing Centres

The following biosecurity amendments were made from 1st January 2018, (shown in purple text).

Title of Section C changed to “Hygiene, Housekeeping and Biosecurity

C26. A visitors’ book (including full name, business address and contact mobile or landline contact telephone numbers, vehicle registration number, including if the visitor had access to the egg processing, handling and storage areas) shall be available and maintained on site.

Ask to see visitors’ book. Sign it. Look for evidence of use. (See Annex M as an example).

C27. All transit packaging must be visibly clean and free of debris. Where plastic trays are used, suitable provision to wash plastic keys trays must be available on the premises, or available elsewhere.

Transit packaging includes plastic keys trays, dividers and pallets.

Where plastic trays are used, suitable provision to wash plastic keys trays must be available on the premises, or available elsewhere. The tray washer should be checked for effectiveness and that packaging is clean. A non-conformance can be issued if dirty trays are found easily post cleaning e.g. soiling can be seen by the auditor without moving or lifting packaging to check for cleanliness.

C28. If using fibre keys trays, only new trays may be brought into the system (closed loop) by the packing centre.

The purchase of used or second-hand fibre keys trays and boxes, to be used as packaging to top up the system, is not permitted. Only new keys trays can be used.

C29. Consideration should be given to egg vehicles and pallet trucks. Are they visually clean?

Consideration should be given to where vehicles have come from. Are they visually clean? If not, provision must be made to be able to clean and disinfect egg vehicles and pallet trucks.

Possible means of vehicle disinfection include disinfectant mats, vehicle washers and wheel troughs. Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from ‘cab to ground’.

C30. Egg collection drivers shall demonstrate competence in the implementation of effective biosecurity measures.

Ask for written evidence of the biosecurity training plan. Relevant staff should attend a refresher training course every 3 years.

Where appropriate, conduct visual assessment of the biosecurity measures.

The following requirements to be deleted:

- C1 (replaced by L6)
- C26 (replaced by L3)
- C27 (replaced by L10, L11, L12)
- C28 (replaced by L9)
- C29 (replaced by L8)

The following section L to be added.

L BIOSECURITY

Biosecurity is categorized as follows:

- Standard requirements
- Enhanced requirements e.g., when Avian Influenza Prevention Zone is in place
- Packing centre located in 3km Protection Zone or 10km Surveillance Zone

Standard requirements

L1 The site shall have a designated (named) Biosecurity Officer with appropriate knowledge, training and authority to implement proportionate biosecurity measures.

The Biosecurity Officer will be able to communicate the biosecurity policy of the Licensee (subscriber) to all registered sites/farms. The Biosecurity Officer shall be present during the bi-annual (Subscriber accompanied) self-audit. This shall be recorded. The Biosecurity Officer shall be responsible for demonstrating compliance with Section L.

L2 A written biosecurity plan, including at least the minimum measures provided for in the relevant government body's biosecurity guidance for protection against Avian Influenza is to be available.

Useful information can be obtained from the relevant government website. An up to date biosecurity procedures document shall be available, which shall be reviewed annually.

L3 A Visitors' Book shall be available and maintained on the site.

Visitors include: service engineers etc. The following is required: full name; business address; mobile or landline contact telephone number; vehicle registration number; date; time in / time out; reason for visit. Ask to see Visitors Book. Sign it. Look for evidence of use.

L4 An Attendance Book shall be available and maintained on the site.

Attendance Book shall include site staff. This shall include; name, date, time in / time out. If the staff member has visited poultry prior to attending this site, this must be listed. Ask to see Attendance Book. Look for evidence of use.

L5 Control measures must be in place to minimise the spread of disease within the site and between other sites and farms.

It is the responsibility of senior management of the site (who may also be the Biosecurity Officer) to ensure that effective control measures are in place and enforced at all times. Movement of staff across multiple sites and farms should ideally be minimised. Suitable precautions must be taken against cross-contamination. These would include washing hands and the use of clean protective clothing and footwear used only on the site.

L6 The use of clean protective clothing is required, which shall be changed and laundered regularly.

This includes suitable hair covering (Visual). This shall be changed and laundered regularly. 'Regularly' is defined as a minimum of twice weekly. Ideally, protective clothing should not be taken home to be laundered. However, where it is, cross-contamination must be avoided. The use of disposable protective clothing is allowed.

L7 The site must have an area of clean concrete, metalled surface or rolled stone which is large enough for a delivery / collection vehicle to stand and for the normal operations associated with the vehicle to be carried out.

For concrete/metalled (e.g., tarmac) surface, a wash with a hose to remove debris would demonstrate 'clean'.

A new build packing centre is required to have an area of concrete/metalled surface large enough for a vehicle to stand and for the normal operations associated with the vehicle to be carried out. Existing packing centres should consider replacing rolled stone with a concrete/metalled surface.

L8 Consideration should be given to egg vehicles and pallet trucks, which must be 'visibly clean' when departing the packing centre and before arriving on the Laying Bird farm.

Whilst a vehicle is to be visually clean on departure from the PC, at certain times of year weather conditions and highways access may result in road dirt on the vehicle. Consideration should be given to where vehicles have come from. Are they visually clean? If not, provision must be made to be able to clean and disinfect egg vehicles and pallet trucks. Possible means of vehicle disinfection include disinfectant mats, vehicle washers and wheel troughs. Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from 'cab to ground'. A documented inspection protocol must be in place.

L9 If using fibre keyes trays, only new trays may be brought into the system (closed loop) by the packing centre.

The purchase of used or second-hand fibre keyes trays and boxes, to be used as packaging to top up the system, is not permitted. Only new fibre keyes trays can be used.

L10 CRITICAL All transit packaging must be washed and sanitised before being returned to a Laying Bird Farm.

Transit packaging includes plastic trays, dividers and pallets. All plastic packaging shall be washed using a detergent/sanitiser which is effective against Salmonella at normal operating temperatures and dilutions. A critical non-conformance will be issued if unwashed packaging is identified e.g., soiling can be seen by the auditor. The auditor is to move / lift packaging to check for cleanliness.

L11 CRITICAL Where plastic transit packaging is used, automated equipment to wash and clean/sanitise packaging must be available on the premises, or available elsewhere.

In the event of a breakdown of the transit packaging equipment, BEIC is to be informed immediately and alternative means of washing the transit packaging put in place.

L12 CRITICAL Cleaning procedures of transit packaging and checks for effectiveness shall be documented.

Temperature is to be maintained at the manufacturer's recommended operating temperature, which is documented. The tray washer must be checked for effectiveness and that packaging (including dividers and pallets) is clean. Where tray wash machines recycle sump water, regular checks must be made to ensure effective concentrations of the detergent/sanitiser throughout the washing period. Assessment of efficacy of cleaning and disinfection should be carried out weekly and in particular when chemicals are changed. Monitoring of counts of total viable bacteria and enterobacteriaceae must be included in packing centre and tray wash hygiene plans to demonstrate effective disinfection. Plastic trays should be swabbed post cleaning; washing equipment prior to cleaning. Chemicals used in the cleaning of plastic packaging to be documented in the Packing Centre Hygiene and Biosecurity Plan. Results must be recorded.

L13 CRITICAL Eggs traded on plastic transit packaging - it shall be the responsibility of the packing centre receiving the eggs to wash and hygienically store all packaging prior to return.

Where possible, plastic transit packaging, where in use should be returned to Laying Bird Farms registered to the Subscriber (Licensee).

L14 Post washing and sanitizing, transit packaging must not be stored unprotected outside to reduce the biosecurity risk, prior to sending to a Laying Bird Farm.

L15 Before any new site is planned and built, the senior management of the site must conduct a written assessment.

The senior management of the site must undertake a full written risk assessment which considers the proximity of (as a minimum): ponds, lakes, open water, or other watercourses and the associated risks from migratory wildfowl.

Advisory note

Due to the risk of a Notifiable Avian Disease, ideally live birds should not be kept on the same site as the packing centre. The exception to this is for in-line systems. In this case, eggs from birds housed elsewhere should not enter the packing centre. If unavoidable, the PC and the poultry houses are to be epidemiologically separated by e.g., separate road to clearly delineate the two areas; no use of shared equipment as far as possible; and with dedicated staff for each operation.

Enhanced Requirements (when AIPZ is in place)

Section L1 – L15 applies, with the addition of:

L16 Increased control measures must be in place to minimise the spread of disease within the site and between other sites and farms.

Movement of staff across multiple sites and farms should stop where possible. Where staff look after poultry on other premises, or livestock of any other kind, suitable precautions must be taken against cross-contamination. These would include change of clothing and footwear and hand washing. On some sites, a showering facility could be considered (or staff could shower at separate facilities between site and/or farm visits). The use of clean protective clothing and footwear must be kept and used only on the site. Vehicles used by staff must be kept clean inside and out.

L17 Consideration should be given to egg vehicles and pallet trucks, which must be ‘visibly clean’ when departing the packing centre and before arriving on the Laying Bird farm.

Vehicles entering the site are to be cleaned and disinfected. Consideration should be given to where vehicles and/or equipment has come from. Is it visibly clean? If not, more thorough disinfection of the vehicles and/or equipment to be undertaken. Possible means of vehicle disinfection include disinfectant mats, vehicle washers and wheel troughs. Wheel and wheel arch washing must be conducted with sufficient water (e.g., not misting) prior to application of disinfectant. Attention should also be paid to the potential transmission of material from ‘cab to ground’ and suitable measures put in place to prevent this. A documented inspection protocol must be in place.

Site/farm located in 3km Protection Zone or 10km Surveillance Zone

Section L1 – L17 apply, with the addition of:

L18 Cleaning and disinfection of all vehicles entering the site is required.

In reality this can only be achieved by the use of a pressure washer or automated disinfectant sprayer at the site entrance. Therefore, the provision of water and a power source at the entrance to the site area are needed during the time the PZ/SZ are in place.