



# British Game Assurance

## The Game Bird Producer Assurance Scheme

### Hatching

For eggs and chicks up to 24 hrs old

Version 1

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## Introduction

British Game Assurance (BGA) sets the recognised standards for the gamebird sector in the UK. The BGA Gamebird Production Scheme has been devised in association with the Game Farmers Association (GFA). It is divided into sections for breeding, hatching and rearing operations and includes the recommended paperwork required to demonstrate traceability between these three functions and the end user: the shoots. This document sets out the requirements to comply with the hatching section of the overall scheme.

The Game Bird Producer Assurance Scheme is based on the DEFRA Code of Practice for the Welfare of Game Birds Reared for Sporting Purposes. The purpose of this Code is to provide practical guidance in relation to Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 (the Act) affecting birds bred and reared under controlled conditions for the purpose of release for shooting, together with birds retained for breeding purposes. Failure to comply with a provision of this Code shall not of itself render you liable to proceedings of any kind but a failure to follow the code can be relied on as tending to establish liability for an offence and compliance can tend to negate such liability. During the production and rearing process, birds are protected from unnecessary suffering by section 4 of the Act.

To cause unnecessary suffering to a protected animal (which includes an animal under the control of man) is an offence under section 4 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Section 9 of the Act requires that the birds' needs are adequately catered for (the duty to promote welfare or the 'duty of care').

Section 9(1) of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 states that: A person commits an offence if he does not take such steps as are reasonable in all the circumstances to ensure that the needs of an animal for which he is responsible are met to the extent required by good practice. Section 9(2) states that: For the purposes of this Act, an animal's needs shall be taken to include: its need for a suitable environment, its need for a suitable diet, its need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns; any need it has to be housed with, or apart from other animals; its need to be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

Other laws, including those relating to planning, registration, medicine controls, disposal of animal by-products and animal transport also apply. It is the duty of everyone involved in the production and rearing of gamebirds to be aware of the relevant laws and codes and abide by them. The Defra Code was made under powers conferred by section 14 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, applies in England only and issued under section 15 of that Act by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. There are equivalent Government codes for gamebird production in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

## The BGA Gamebird Producer Scheme

This BGA Scheme refers to all birds bred, hatched and reared under controlled conditions for the purpose of release for shooting, together with birds retained for breeding purposes. All personnel involved with game bird management and husbandry are advised to be acquainted with the principles and content of this Scheme, insofar as they are relevant to their particular tasks and duties.

Whatever the species being produced or reared, or the methods used, the overriding principle that should guide everyone involved is that all due consideration should be given to the health and welfare of the birds concerned. Those responsible for the birds should, therefore, be knowledgeable and competent in gamebird husbandry and management techniques. In order to achieve this, owners and keepers have a duty to ensure bird welfare as detailed in the 'five needs' in section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Therefore, birds must:

1. Have an environment appropriate to their species, age and the purpose for which they are being kept, including adequate heating; lighting, shelter, ventilation and resting areas.
2. Have ready access to fresh water and an appropriate diet to maintain growth, health and vigour.
3. Be provided with appropriate space and facilities to ensure the avoidance of stress and to allow the exhibition of normal behaviour patterns.
4. Be provided with company of their own kind as appropriate for the species concerned.
5. Be adequately protected from pain, suffering, injury, or disease. Should any of these occur a rapid response is required, including diagnosis, remedial action and, where applicable; the correct use of medication.

### How the BGA Scheme Works

- 1.1 This Manual sets out the conditions for participation in and the standards of the BGA Scheme (Hatching). It also provides information on the structure of the company and how it operates.
- 1.2 It is intended as a guide for prospective new applicants and as a source of reference for existing participants.
- 1.3 The Manual contains standards for all game farm hatcheries.
- 1.4 The BGA Scheme will enable individual Scheme members who participate and are approved under the Scheme rules to showcase that they are operating to best practice and, through passported traceability, provide confidence to end consumers that the game they eat has come from animals that have been produced to a high standard.
- 1.5 Participation is voluntary and is open to all game farms of all sizes across the United Kingdom who demonstrate compliance with Scheme standards which will be verified by independent auditing specialist: SAI Global Ltd.
- 1.6 If you have any questions on the content of the Manual, or about the Scheme in general, please contact the BGA via our contact [page](#).
- 1.7 SAI Global Ltd is the Independent Certification Body appointed by BGA to provide auditing services for the Scheme. SAI Global Ltd service the BGA Technical Advisory Group (TAG), which is responsible for advising on all technical matters relating to the Scheme. All Scheme participants must comply with all the requirements detailed in the Scheme Regulations available [here](#).

### How to Join the BGA Scheme

## New Participants

- Application to participate in the Scheme must be made by registering online with the BGA
- Each individual game farm must have its own membership.
- Upon registration, a membership pack will be issued and arrangements shall be made for a desktop assessment of the applicants operation. The purpose of this assessment is to provide a report of the applicant's capability (as appropriate) to breed, hatch and rear gamebirds in accordance with the Scheme's standards. The decision to approve participation will be based on the assessment report.

## Approved Participants

- Ongoing approval of existing participants will be subject to ongoing compliance with Scheme standards and payment of the Scheme fees to the BGA.

## General

- The BGA Scheme year runs from 1 January to 31 December.
- It is the responsibility of the participant to notify BGA of any change to business circumstances.
- Supportive evidence of compliance of standards will be required by the assessor.

## Assessment and Approval

### 2.1 Auditing Body

All audits are carried out by an independent body, SAI Global Ltd which is ISO/IEC 17065 accredited auditing and certification body.

### 2.2 The Assessment

- The initial assessment will be made by appointment with the applicant, typically up to a week prior, and will be carried out during normal seasonal operations with the applicant in attendance.
- All formal credible complaints will result in an audit investigation within 48 hours of the complaint being received. Scheme participants will be obliged to ensure that a representative is available to meet the assessor and cooperate fully with their investigation.
- Prosecutions – at the time of the assessment, participants will be asked to declare any past/current/pending prosecutions relating to their business which are relevant to the BGA Scheme's standards.

### 2.3 What the Assessor Will Check

On initial contact from the assessor a pre-assessment check will be carried out and the assessor will talk through the assessment process and explain what is required.

The assessor will want to assess a number of areas and this will include where applicable:

- Planning of the system and site
- Origin of stock
- Predation and pest control
- Incubation and hatching
- Game birds
- Bird health and welfare
- Medicines and vaccines
- Transport of birds

Once the assessment has been completed the assessor will agree with you any areas that do not comply with the Scheme's standards and require improvement. These will be categorised thus:

'Minor non-compliance' – there has been an attempt to meet the requirements of the standard and there are no immediate risks to Animal Welfare or Food Safety.

'Major non-compliance' – there has been no attempt to meet the requirements of the standard and/or there are immediate risks to Animal Welfare or Food Safety.

The participant will be asked to sign the visit record summarising any agreed non-compliances, and a copy will be left with the participant as a record of the assessment.

## 2.4 At the End of the Assessment

The Assessor will complete a visit record and if applicable they will record any non-compliances found and will detail the type of evidence required to achieve the BGA standard. The participant will then be asked to sign an undertaking of intention to carry out the action required, provide evidence that the necessary action has been taken or be subject to a re-assessment to confirm that the improvements have been completed satisfactorily. The prompt submission of evidence will help to maintain Scheme approval.

## 2.5 Certification Decision

All non-conformances against the standards must be rectified within an agreed timescale of 28 days for minor non-compliances.

The scheme licensee will be notified of the audit outcome. The possible decisions are as follows:

- **Full ongoing approval:** no non-compliances highlighted during the audit.
- **Conditional ongoing approval:** participant approval is maintained pending the completion of corrective action to address any non-compliance(s) within the given timescale e.g. 28 days. Participants will be required to supply evidence to the SAI Global office that non-compliance(s) have been rectified and this can be in the form of photos, copies of records/invoices and declarations. Where SAI Global® has not received adequate evidence of corrective action by 28-days after the assessment, SAI Global® will then chase the member. Failure to do so will result in a suspension for a maximum of 90 days. If adequate corrective action is received within the 90-day period, the member will be 'Approved'. Where SAI Global® have not received adequate evidence of corrective action during the 90-day suspension period the membership will be withdrawn, they will be advised in writing that they will be withdrawn from the scheme and their registration becomes invalid. If they wish to rejoin the scheme, they will need to re-register with the scheme and pay for a new audit prior to regaining approval.
- **Major non-compliance:** The participant will be suspended until rectification of the major non-compliance has been successful. Where the participant has been suspended and failed to undertake the required actions within the permitted time scale of 3 months, (unless otherwise agreed) will result in withdrawal of Scheme Membership. After this, if they wish to rejoin the scheme they will need to re-register and pay for a new audit and successfully comply with scheme requirements prior to regaining approval.

## Colour Coding of Standards

**Recommendation - this may become a standard in the future.**

## The Standards (Hatching)

1 Planning and Documents	
Standard	Guidance
1.1 Game farms must have a copy of the relevant BGA standards available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Up to date hard copy or electronic copy of the standards available to all staff working on the farm.</li> </ul>
1.2 A site plan and details of the housing must be available on site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The site plan should detail all buildings on the site.</li> <li>Details of all housing used, including pen sizes, provision of feed &amp; water, and stocking rates must be available.</li> </ul>
1.3 A documented emergency action plan must be in place and known to key staff.	<p>The plan must consider risks to the farm and actions to be taken in the event of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feed and/or water equipment or supply failure.</li> <li>Fire.</li> <li>Extreme weather.</li> <li>Disease outbreak.</li> <li>Activist activity.</li> <li>The plan must include key contact numbers.</li> <li>The plan must be available for key staff.</li> <li>The plan must include key contact details for the vet, Environment Agency/SEPA, APHA, energy, feed &amp; water suppliers.</li> </ul>
1.4 A prominently positioned action board must be in place with details of emergency procedures.	<p>The board must detail as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The procedures to follow in the event of an emergency.</li> <li>Emergency contact numbers.</li> <li>The location of the site, including GPS Coordinates, OS grid reference and postcode.</li> <li>The location of water sources for use by the fire brigade.</li> </ul>
1.5 There must be systems in place to alert key staff in the event of a malfunction or failure of any automated equipment that could be detrimental to the birds' health and welfare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This may include heating, ventilation, lighting, feeding and water systems as a minimum.</li> <li>Appropriate responses to serious problems must be documented in the emergency action plan.</li> <li>The systems must be tested at least weekly to ensure they are working correctly, and a record of the test and outcome recorded.</li> <li>There must be trained and competent staff available at all times in case of a malfunction or failure of automated equipment.</li> </ul>
1.6 As part of the biosecurity plan a visitor record must be kept and completed by all visitors before	<p>The record must include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Name.</li> <li>Address/or who they represent.</li> </ul>



entering the site. Records must be kept for at least 3 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date and place of last contact with gamebirds/poultry.</li> <li>• Declaration of any illness in previous 48hrs.</li> <li>• Declaration if carrying any recording equipment .</li> <li>• Signature.</li> </ul>
1.7 There must be systems in place for recording complaints that are relevant to the Game Farm Standards.	<p>Complaints might be made by a local authority, the general public, customers or others.</p> <p>The following must be recorded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature of the complaint.</li> <li>• The details of the investigation, including the result.</li> <li>• Action taken to prevent the issue happening again.</li> </ul>
1.8 The site needs to be maintained in a manner that does not present risks to bird welfare or environmental protection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accumulated rubbish, redundant equipment or scrap must be controlled and disposed of legally.</li> <li>• Must be kept separate from birds, feed storage/public access.</li> </ul>
1.9 Eggs, day old chicks and poults may only be sold as BGA Assured from a BGA Assured Game Farm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Please refer to Appendix 5.</li> </ul>

2 Staff	
Standard	Guidance
2.1 All new staff are to be effectively trained and deemed competent to carry out the tasks they are employed to do.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before anybody starts work there must be an induction, supervision or explanation of the tasks they will carry out.</li> <li>• For specific tasks related directly to bird welfare or bird health specific training and assessment of competence must be provided by a nominated qualified person, who in turn is deemed competent by the vet. A written declaration of competence must be provided by the vet.</li> <li>• 'The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2010' Schedule 1 para 1 state that 'animals must be cared for by a sufficient number of staff who possess the appropriate ability, knowledge and professional competence'.</li> </ul>
2.2 The performance of staff must be regularly reviewed, and refresher training implemented as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training must be reviewed annually.</li> </ul>
2.3	

Records of training must be kept.	<p>These must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Name.</li> <li>● Start date.</li> <li>● Dates of training.</li> <li>● Details of induction/training given.</li> <li>● Who provided the training.</li> </ul> <p>Details of specific training and assessment of competence to be detailed in the records.</p>
2.4 Training and supporting documents must be delivered in all necessary languages where English is not the first language.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● This must be declared on the training record.</li> </ul>

3 Origin of Stock	
Standard	Guidance
3.1 Sourcing of birds must comply with the BVPA Mycoplasma Working Group recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Please refer to Appendix 4.</li> </ul>
3.2 Where custom hatching (hatching eggs from external flocks) takes place there must be adequate biosecurity between batches and full records must be kept for each batch.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All equipment, fixtures and fitting must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between each batch of chicks, or fumigated/fogged if a multi-stage system is used.</li> <li>● For each batch of eggs records must include as a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Source of eggs.</li> <li>● Number of eggs.</li> <li>● Health status of parent flock.</li> <li>● Hatching details must specify 'single stage or multi stage' process.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.3 Records must be kept for the source of all eggs in order to trace their origin should this prove necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Records must include as a minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Date of arrival.</li> <li>● Source of eggs.</li> <li>● Number of eggs.</li> <li>● Copies of BGA passports for both incoming and outgoing birds/eggs must be kept for a minimum of 3 years.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.4 R It is <u>recommended</u> that where eggs are sourced from outside the UK, farmers make themselves aware of the conditions under which the eggs have been produced to ensure that these meet the	

requirements of the BGA standards.

#### 4 Predator & Pest Control

Standard	Guidance
4.1 A pest control plan must be in place.	Systems must be adopted to exclude and discourage pests which should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Maintaining the site in a clean and tidy state.</li> <li>● Removal of overgrown vegetation.</li> <li>● Clean and secure storage of feed.</li> <li>● Maintenance and proofing of buildings against pests .</li> </ul>
4.2 Where baits are used the requirements of the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU) must be adhered to.	This can be achieved by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The use of an external contractor.</li> <li>● Use of trained and competent staff.</li> </ul> <p>The CRRU code requires as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Completion of an environmental risk assessment and a site survey prior to the decision to use bait.</li> <li>● Only use of bait where it is required.</li> <li>● All bait points must be mapped, with records of checks and findings recorded.</li> </ul>

#### 5 Incubation and Hatching

Standard	Guidance
5.1 The hatchery facilities must be physically and operationally separate from any rearing facilities.	Measures must be taken to minimise the risk of disease entry into the hatchery and avoid cross contamination. These must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Documented in the Biosecurity Plan</li> <li>● Clearly signed on site.</li> <li>● Staff induction/training must include biosecurity measures.</li> </ul>
5.2 Staff and all visitors must wear appropriate, clean protective clothing.	There must be provision for staff and visitors to change into clean protective clothing and footwear at the entrance to the site: a 'clean/dirty' area. This must be clearly signed.
5.2 The layout must allow all operations to be kept separate.	This can include physical or time measures of separation. The operations will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Egg cleaning and sanitation.</li> <li>● Egg storage.</li> <li>● Incubation.</li> <li>● Hatching.</li> <li>● Preparation and loading of chicks for dispatch.</li> </ul>
5.3	

Buildings must be of sound construction and in good repair.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walls and floors made of hard wearing and washable materials.</li> <li>• Floors well drained.</li> <li>• Protected against entry of wild birds, rodents and pests which may be vectors of disease.</li> </ul>
5.4 Equipment must be kept clean and in good repair. Records must be kept demonstrating that equipment is functioning correctly.	Records must be kept showing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequency of cleaning, disinfection/fumigation of incubators and hatchers.</li> <li>• Hatchers must be cleaned after every hatch.</li> <li>• Records of servicing &amp; maintenance.</li> </ul>
5.4 Eggs must be collected at least daily. Eggs must be cleaned and disinfected or fumigated as soon as possible.	Dirty eggs must not be incubated.
5.5 Eggs that have just arrived from the laying unit must never come into contact with newly hatched birds or hatch debris.	The layout of the operation must ensure that this cannot happen.
5.6 Setters and hatchers must be regularly monitored when in use	Records must be kept showing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temperature and humidity must be accurately monitored.</li> <li>• Ventilation system must be checked to ensure a fresh supply of oxygen is available.</li> </ul>
5.7 Records must be kept ensuring eggs placed in setters are being turned frequently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff must check eggs at least 3 times daily.</li> </ul>
5.8 Birds must not be removed from the hatcher before they are dry enough to maintain body temperature.	
5.9 All newly hatched birds must be examined immediately when removed from the hatchers and separated from the remains of the eggshells.	
5.10 Beak trimming, if carried out, must only be undertaken in the first 24hrs post hatching.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The requirement for beak trimming must be justified in the Veterinary Health Plan.</li> <li>• Must only be carried out after consultation with the vet.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minimum amount of beak must be trimmed, and never greater than one third.</li> <li>• Staff must be trained and deemed competent by the vet before carrying out this task. This must be detailed in the Veterinary Health Plan and their training records.</li> </ul>
5.11 Chemicals for fumigation/disinfection/cleaning must be used in line with the manufacturers' guidelines.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEFRA approved chemicals must be used.</li> <li>• Manufacturers' instructions must be available.</li> <li>• Safety data sheets must be available.</li> <li>• Staff must be trained in the correct use.</li> </ul>

6 Chick Management – Hatching to 48hrs Old (If birds placed onto rearing field within this age limit)	
Standard	Guidance
6.1 Game bird chicks must not be handled more than is necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They are non-domesticated birds and may be more prone to stress when confined.</li> <li>• Staff must be trained how to handle them in an appropriate manner.</li> </ul>
6.2 Buildings must be of sound construction and in good repair.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should be constructed of hard wearing and washable materials.</li> <li>• Floors well drained.</li> <li>• No sharp edges or other hazards.</li> <li>• Protected against entry of wild birds, rodents and insects which may be vectors of disease.</li> </ul>
6.3 Birds must be provided with sufficient feed and access to feed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The diet must be appropriate for the age of the bird.</li> <li>• There must be 1.2cm trough space per chick.</li> <li>• Feeders must be kept clean and free from litter.</li> </ul>
6.4 Birds must have adequate access to a supply of fresh clean drinking water.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There must be sufficient drinkers for the birds.</li> <li>• Drinkers must be kept clean and free from litter.</li> </ul>
6.5 Conditions must be maintained in a manner that ensures birds are able to keep clean	<p>Litter must be maintained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In a dry and friable condition.</li> <li>• Of a suitable material with no large lumps.</li> <li>• Be managed hygienically.</li> </ul>
6.6 Housing must be lit to allow normal behaviours, rest and effective inspection.	In the event of a lighting failure there must be a backup lighting system in place to allow adequate inspection.

<p>6.7 Housing must be adequately ventilated.</p>	<p>Checks must be made, and records kept at least daily to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● No build-up of odours or high humidity.</li> <li>● The housing is thermally comfortable.</li> </ul> <p>There must be procedures in place to follow the event of ventilation failure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● See 'The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2010' Schedules 1 paras 18, 19 &amp; 20.</li> </ul>
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7 Bird Health and Welfare	
Standard	Guidance
<p>7.1 All sites must be registered with a BGA approved vet or vet practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The vet or practice must be an active member of BVPA (British Veterinary Poultry Association).</li> <li>● A representative from the practice must attend the annual ABN game vet meeting.</li> <li>● A register of approved vets and Practices is held by BGA.</li> <li>● (Details of BGA Registration Scheme in Appendix 3).</li> </ul>
<p>7.2 The health and welfare of birds must be met at all times.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Routine review of records to identify key issues.</li> <li>● Any health or welfare issues are detected and managed.</li> </ul>
<p>7.3 The farm must have a named person who is responsible for bird welfare.</p>	
<p>7.4 All birds must be inspected by a trained and competent person at least twice daily.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Records must be kept of checks and any findings.</li> </ul>
<p>7.5 Any bird suffering ill health must receive immediate attention, including, where appropriate, the attendance of an approved veterinary surgeon or euthanasia.</p>	
<p>7.6 A flock health plan must be drawn up in conjunction with the vet and reviewed at least annually.</p>	<p>The flock health plan must as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Be produced by the vet.</li> <li>● Be site specific.</li> <li>● Be reviewed at least annually.</li> <li>● Consider performance results.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Contain a strategy for the prevention and control of disease.</li> <li>● Detail all staff deemed competent for tasks related to health and welfare.</li> <li>● Detail permitted methods for euthanasia, and staff trained and competent to carry out euthanasia.</li> <li>● Contain action plans to address any occurrence that would prevent movement of chicks to customers or the rearing stages.</li> <li>● Include a biosecurity plan.</li> </ul>
<p>7.7 Records of performance must be made and be kept for a minimum of 3 years.</p>	<p>Records must show as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Origin of eggs on arrival.</li> <li>● Egg numbers.</li> <li>● Hatchability.</li> <li>● Any abnormalities.</li> <li>● Mortality (and reason if known).</li> <li>● Birds euthanised (with reasons if known).</li> <li>● Any laboratory tests with results.</li> <li>● Post-mortem results.</li> </ul>
<p>7.8 A biosecurity plan must be drawn up in conjunction with the vet and reviewed at least annually.</p>	<p>The biosecurity plan must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Procedures for visitors.</li> <li>● Procedures for incoming birds/eggs.</li> <li>● Procedures for cleaning/disinfection/fumigation of premises, equipment and vehicles.</li> <li>● Provision and management of foot dips.</li> <li>● Requirements for staff and visitors in clean/dirty areas.</li> </ul>
<p>7.9 Appropriate PPE must be provided for all staff and visitors.</p>	<p>It is recommended that dedicated wellingtons and disposable overalls are provided for all visitors.</p>
<p>7.10 Foot dips should be provided at the entrance to all buildings and housing. All visitors and staff must use them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● If foot dips are outside, they must be covered to prevent dilution by rain.</li> <li>● DEFRA approved disinfectant must be used at the recommended dilution rate.</li> <li>● Manufacturers' instructions and safety data sheets must be available.</li> <li>● They must be kept clean and the disinfectant regularly changed in line with manufacturers' instructions to maintain efficacy.</li> </ul>
<p>7.11 Hand sanitisers or hand washing facilities must be available at the entrance to all buildings and housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● They must be located to ensure ease of use.</li> <li>● They must be correctly maintained.</li> </ul>

All visitors and staff must use them.	
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8 Medicines & Vaccines	
Standard	Guidance
8.1 Medicines (including vaccines) must only be used when necessary or when prescribed by an approved veterinary surgeon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is very rare that day old chicks will require medication but if they do please see below.</li> </ul>
8.2 Antibiotics must not be used prophylactically	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Antibiotics must only be administered when prescribed by a veterinarian for the treatment of a specifically diagnosed condition.</li> <li>Antibiotics must only be administered in strict accordance with the veterinarian's prescription.</li> </ul>
8.3 Medicines and veterinary treatments must be authorised for use in the UK and used appropriately.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prescription only medicines (POM) are prescribed by the vet.</li> <li>General Sales Medicines (non-prescription) are used in accordance with manufacturers' or veterinary instructions.</li> <li>Highest Priority Critically Important Antibiotics must only be used as a last resort under veterinary direction, backed up by either sensitivity or diagnostic testing. Details and justification for each use must be recorded on the BGA CIA use template together with the results of sensitivity or diagnostic testing.</li> <li>BGA CIA use template can be found on <a href="https://www.britishgameassurance.co.uk/">https://www.britishgameassurance.co.uk/</a></li> </ul>
8.4 Staff administering medicines must be trained and deemed competent by the vet.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training records must record this.</li> </ul>
8.5 Medicines and vaccines must be stored in an appropriate locked store in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Particular care must be taken to ensure both vaccines and medicines are stored according to the manufacturer's instructions.</li> </ul>
8.6 Records for all medicines purchased must be kept for a minimum of 5 years.	<p>Purchase records must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The date of acquisition.</li> <li>The name of the product.</li> <li>The batch number(s) of the product.</li> <li>The expiry date of the product.</li> <li>The quantity purchased.</li> <li>The name and address of the supplier.</li> </ul>
8.7	



<p>Records for all medicines administered must be kept for a minimum of 5 years.</p>	<p>This includes in-feed, in-water medications and vaccines. Administration records must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The date of administration started and finished.</li> <li>● The name of the product.</li> <li>● The batch number(s) of the product.</li> <li>● The expiry date of the product.</li> <li>● The quantity administered.</li> <li>● The length of the withdrawal period and date of the end of the withdrawal period.</li> <li>● The identification of the animals/birds treated.</li> <li>● The name of the person administering the product.</li> <li>● The reason for treatment.</li> <li>● Treatment outcome.</li> </ul>
<p>8.8 Records of the disposal of medicines must be kept for a minimum of 5 years.</p>	<p>This could include medicines surplus to requirement, past their expiry date or no longer needed. Records must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Date of disposal.</li> <li>● Quantity of product disposed.</li> <li>● Name of product.</li> <li>● How and where disposed.</li> </ul> <p>It is illegal to sell/pass on unused medicines (or products containing medicines) to anyone else unless you are authorised to supply them.</p>

9 Culling and Killing	
Standard	Guidance
<p>9.1 The killing/slaughter of birds must only be carried out by a trained and competent person.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There must always be a trained and competent person available.</li> <li>● If this is not possible the vet or a licenced slaughter man must be called in.</li> <li>● Where on farm staff are used for culling or killing birds they must be trained and deemed competent in all the methods they may use by the vet. This must be documented in the training records and the Veterinary Health Plan.</li> </ul>
<p>9.2 No bird must be left for more than 15 mins between being killed/culled from the time of removal from the hatcher.</p>	
<p>9.3 Only permitted methods of culling/killing are allowed. Use of 100% carbon dioxide is not permitted.</p>	<p>The permitted methods for chicks are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Instantaneous <a href="#">mechanical destruction</a> (maceration).</li> <li>● Exposure to 2% oxygen by volume and 90% argon (or another inert gas) by volume in atmospheric air, with no more than 2% residual oxygen.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exposure to a maximum of 30% carbon dioxide by volume and minimum of 60% Argon (or other inert gas) by volume in atmospheric air, with no more than 2% residual oxygen.</li> </ul>
<p>9.4 Where the suffering of a bird would be prolonged if left until disposed of by the normal method it must be culled immediately.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It must be killed by dislocation of the neck using a procedure that ensures the severance of all major blood vessels and the spinal cord.</li> <li>Placed in the macerator immediately.</li> <li>Staff must be trained and deemed competent by the vet in this method.</li> </ul>
<p>9.5 All equipment used in the culling and killing of birds must be inspected prior to each hatch by trained operators to ensure that it is working effectively.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Records must be kept of the inspection, findings and any subsequent actions.</li> <li>Please see Appendix 6</li> </ul>
<p>9.6 Where gas mixtures are used, the gas concentration must be controlled and monitored accurately using correctly calibrated and appropriate gas analysis equipment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procedures for monitoring and calibration of equipment must be documented.</li> <li>Records must be kept of inspections, findings and any subsequent actions.</li> </ul>
<p>9.7 Birds must be thoroughly checked to ensure that all are dead before disposing of the carcasses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff must be trained and deemed competent by the vet in this method.</li> </ul>
<p>9.8 Disposal of carcasses must only be done by the use of an incinerator, a National Fallen Stock Company or by means of a Registered Animal By-Products Premises.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Game carcasses and hatchery waste must be disposed of before they present an infestation or health risk.</li> <li>While awaiting disposal, they must be stored in leak proof containers, which are either locked, or stored in a locked building.</li> <li>Incinerators must be registered and approved by the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) and serviced at least annually by the manufacturer or a competent person to ensure they continue to operate correctly.</li> <li>Ash must be either disposed of via licenced premises or, with a permit from the Environment Agency or SEPA, can be mixed with manure and spread on agricultural land.</li> <li>Records of the use of National Fallen Stock Companies or an Approved &amp; Registered Animal By-Products Premises must be kept for at least 2 years.</li> </ul>
9.9	

Daily records must be kept of the death, euthanasia and disposal of carcasses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The cause of death or reason for euthanasia must be recorded if known.</li> </ul>
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10 Transport of Birds	
Standard	Guidance
10.1 The transport of gamebirds for the purpose of an economic activity is covered by the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England/England/Wales) Order 2006.	
10.2 The design of containers must ensure that there is adequate ventilation and air circulation to maintain optimal temperature within the container during transportation.	
10.3 Birds must only be moved in containers that appropriate for the size and number of birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overcrowding must be avoided.</li> <li>Maintain a thermally comfortable environment.</li> <li>The height of the container must allow birds to adopt a normal posture when standing.</li> <li>Must be secure to prevent birds from escaping.</li> </ul>
10.4 Containers must be clean, in good repair, well ventilated and offer protection from the weather.	
10.5 The transporting vehicle must be fitted with appropriate equipment that ensures a controlled environment and maintains a constant internal temperature during transportation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For chicks, the internal temperature must be maintained at +/- 3°C of 24°C throughout the journey.</li> <li>There must be a monitoring system to alert the driver of any changes to this range of temperatures during the journey.</li> </ul>
10.6 Contingency plans must be in place in the event of any failure of the vehicle and/or temperature control system.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contingency plans must include contact numbers for relevant personnel.</li> </ul>
10.7 Procedures must be in place to minimise the risk of heat stress when transporting birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The risk of smothering is increased in hot weather.</li> <li>Procedures could include the use of insulated barns to park a trailer during loading/unloading.</li> <li>Reduced stocking rates in the containers.</li> <li>The use of fans systems.</li> </ul>
10.8	

Birds that are unfit at the time of loading must not be transported.	
10.9 The maximum journey time for all chicks is 24 hrs, provided the chicks are no more than 72 hrs old at the end of the journey.	Care must be taken when planning a journey to ensure minimum waiting time before unloading on arrival.
10.10 Drivers must be trained and competent.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ For journeys over 65km, but less than 8hrs duration the driver must hold a Certificate of Competence for the transport of game birds on short journeys.</li> <li>▪ For journeys over 8hrs duration the driver must hold a Certificate of Competence for the transport of game birds on long journeys.</li> </ul>
10.11 A valid transporter authorisation must be held.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A short journey (Type 1) Authorisation must be held for journeys between 65km and 8 hrs duration.</li> <li>▪ A long journey (Type 2) Authorisation must be held for journeys over 8hrs duration.</li> </ul>
10.12 All containers and vehicles must be thoroughly cleansed and disinfected between each load of birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Plastic containers must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected between each load of birds.</li> <li>▪ Where cardboard containers are used, these must not be reused.</li> <li>▪ Appropriate DEFRA approved disinfectant must be used.</li> <li>▪ Records must be kept of cleaning.</li> </ul>
10.13 All BGA audited game bird producers must supply a completed Chick Passport with each/every delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Copies must be kept at the producer's farm and be available for inspection.</li> </ul>

## **APPENDIX 1 - LEGISLATION**

This list is not exclusive, and it is the responsibility of members to be aware of and adhere to all relevant legislation.

Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (England) Regulations 2006 – those keeping 50 birds or more must provide details of species of bird, husbandry system in which they are kept, the number of species usually kept, number with access to open air, details on seasonal stocking variations and nearby open water. Any changes in stocking rate by an increase or decrease of 20% or more requires notification.

- [The Avian Influenza \(H5N1 in Poultry\) \(England\) Order 2006](#)
- [The Avian Influenza \(H5N1 in Wild Birds\) \(England\) Order 2006](#)
- [The Avian Influenza \(Preventive Measures\) \(England\) Regulations 2006](#)

Animal By-Products Regulations 2005 – require various records to be kept on the disposal of animal by-products such as fallen stock and hatchery waste. In addition game and hatchery waste in the form of surplus chicks, live unhatched birds or embryos must be disposed of in accordance with the Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995 and the Animal By-Products Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002. The Code of Practice issued by the Humane Slaughter Association also provides helpful guidance.

Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 – see Council Regulation (EC) No. 1/2005 (the protection of animals during transport and related operations) and the Welfare of Animals (Transport) (England) Order 2006 and associated guidance for information on transport.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farm-animal-welfare-during-transportation>

<http://adlib.everysite.co.uk/adlib/defra/content.aspx?doc=263156&id=263157>

The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2009 – require records to be kept on medicine usage, administration and disposal of unused medicines. Records must be kept for at least five years. Medicines and veterinary treatments must be stored and used in accordance with current legislation and codes of practice, and manufacturers' instructions should be followed. Records of all medicinal products must be maintained, and all withdrawal periods must be strictly adhered.

## **APPENDIX 2 - CODES OF PRACTICES**

Code Of Practice For The Welfare Of Game Birds Reared For Sporting Purpose (England)

file:///C:/Users/User/Documents/British%20Game%20Alliance/Key%20documents/Codes%20of%20best%20practice/Code%20of%20practice%20for%20the%20welfare%20of%20gamebirds%20reared%20for%20sporting%20purposes%20(England).pdf

Code Of Practice For The Welfare Of Game Birds Reared For Sporting Purpose (Scotland)

file:///C:/Users/User/Documents/British%20Game%20Alliance/Key%20documents/Codes%20of%20best%20practice/Code%20of%20practice%20for%20the%20welfare%20of%20gamebirds%20reared%20for%20sporting%20purposes%20(Scotland).pdf

Code Of Practice For The Welfare Of Game Birds Reared For Sporting Purpose (Wales)

file:///C:/Users/User/Documents/British%20Game%20Alliance/Key%20documents/Codes%20of%20best%20practice/Code%20of%20practice%20for%20the%20welfare%20of%20gamebirds%20reared%20for%20sporting%20purposes%20(Wales).pdf

'Practical Slaughter of Poultry: A Guide for the Small Producer' published by the Humane Slaughter Association (HSA)

<https://www.hsa.org.uk/publications/printed-publications>

## **APPENDIX 3 - REGISTRATION OF BGA APPROVED VETERINARY PRACTICE**

Practice or vet must:

- Register with the BGA
- Be an active member of the BVPA (British Veterinary Poultry Association)
- The Practice must attend or send a delegate to the ABN annual game bird meeting (held at Enstone each year)
- A delegate of the Veterinary practice must attend a one off, one day course that describes the requirements of the BGA Game Bird Producer Assurance Scheme

## **APPENDIX 4**

BVPA Website

- <http://www.bvpa.org.uk>

## **APPENDIX 5**

### Std 1.9 - Assurance Status at sale of BGA Assured and Non-Assured Eggs/Day Old Chicks/Poults

<p>Game Farm catches up own laying birds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>If the Game Farm is <u>BGA Assured</u> the eggs/day old chicks/poults can be sold as BGA Assured.</i></li> </ul>
<p>Game Farm buys in caught up laying birds from non BGA Assured Game Farms or Non BGA Assured Shoot</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>If the Game Farm purchasing the laying birds is <u>BGA Assured</u> the eggs/day old chicks/poults can be sold as BGA Assured.</i></li> </ul>
<p>Game Farm buys eggs to hatch from a non BGA assured source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>If the Game Farm hatching the eggs is BGA Assured then it can sell the hatched birds as BGA Assured.</i></li> <li>• <i>Members must be aware of the requirements of Std 3.4.</i></li> </ul>
<p>Game Farm buys day old chicks from a non BGA Assured source</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>If the Game Farm rearing the day old chicks is BGA Assured then it can sell the <u>reared</u> birds as BGA Assured.</i></li> <li>• <i>Members must be aware of the requirements of Std 3.4R.</i></li> </ul>
<p><u>Game Farm buying in non BGA Assured poults to cover shortfalls.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Only non assured laying birds/eggs/day olds allowed to be brought on to a BGA Game Farm without affecting assurance status</i></li> <li>• <i>any other birds - for example - poults from non assured source brought onto a BGA Game Farm, the whole farm becomes non assured.</i></li> <li>• <i>If birds sent direct to shoot from non assured source to make up order from assured game farm - whole order becomes non assured.</i></li> </ul>
<p>GF buying in non-assured poults late season to sell on for profit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Game Farm loses BGA Accredited status.</i></li> </ul>
<p>People at all stages who trade eggs, d/o's or poults but don't produce anything themselves</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Eggs &amp; Day Old Chicks can become BGA assured as detailed above.</i></li> <li>• <i>Poults can never be sold as assured unless are from a BGA Assured game farm - in which case BGA poults passport needs to accompany them. Non assured poults can never become assured poults.</i></li> </ul>





**GLOSSARY**

Buildings/Housing	An enclosed space that has 4 walls and a roof
Accommodation	Anywhere that birds are kept
Batch	A group of birds that are directly linked with one operation, event or are the same age