



British Game Alliance

Shoot Assurance Scheme

Grouse Moor Standards

2021

Version 1

Published: 03 August 2021

Applicable from 02 September 2021

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Introduction

The British Game Alliance (BGA) sets the standards for the gamebird sector in the UK. The BGA Shoot Assurance Scheme has been devised in association with organisations including the GWCT, BASC, the Countryside Alliance and the NGO.

The BGA's main aims are:

- to increase the demand for game meat
- to return a commercial value back to the product
- to encourage shoots of all sizes to join the scheme,
- to implement a credible self-regulation across the shooting industry.

The BGA Shoot Assurance Scheme supports the industry in maintaining regulatory compliance and demonstrates “best practice” by focusing on these key areas:

- Management of the environment
- Predator and pest control
- Bird health and welfare
- Medicines
- Traceability
- Game handling and food safety

How the BGA Scheme Works

- 1.1 This standards sets out the conditions for participation in the BGA Shoot Assurance Scheme for Grouse Moor Shoots. 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 This manual contains standards that all grouse shoots must follow in order to participate In the BGA Shoot Assurance Scheme.
- 1.4 The BGA Shoot Assurance Scheme for Grouse Moor Shoots will enable individual scheme licensees 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 game that has been produced to a high standard.
- 1.5 Participation is voluntary and is open to grouse shoots of all sizes across the United Kingdom who demonstrate compliance with scheme standards, which will be verified by independent auditing specialist, SAI Global.
- 1.6 Following an audit, shoots will be given 28 days to address any Non-Conformances that arise from the audit.
- 1.7 If you have any questions on the content of the manual, or about the scheme in general, please contact: BGA via our contact page.
- 1.8 SAI Global is the Independent Certification Body appointed by the BGA to provide the auditing services for the scheme. SAI Global service the BGA's Advisory Committee (AC), which is responsible for advising on all technical

matters relating to the scheme. All scheme participants must comply with all the requirements detailed here.

How to Join the BGA Scheme

New Participants

- Application to participate in the scheme must be made by registering online with the BGA or SAI Global.
- Each individual shoot must register with the BGA.
- Prosecutions – at the time of the application, participants will be asked to declare any past/current/pending prosecutions relating to their business which are relevant to the BGA scheme standards.
- On receipt of a registration a welcome pack will be issued.
- Approved Participants
- Ongoing approval of existing participants will be subject to ongoing compliance with scheme standards and payment of scheme fees to the BGA.

General

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

Audit and Approval

2.1 Auditing Body

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

2.2 Audits

- Audits are made via an appointment on a mutually agreed date and time between the shoot and the auditor.
- The auditing company typically endeavour to provide more than one week's notice for routine inspections, which are carried out throughout the year.
- All formal credible complaints will result in an audit within 48 hours of the complaint being received. Scheme participants will be obliged to ensure that a representative is available to meet the auditor and cooperate fully with their investigation.
- Prosecutions – at the time of the audit, participants will be asked to declare any past/current/pending prosecutions relating to their business which are relevant to the BGA scheme standards. They must not have engaged in any activity that would bring the scheme, BGA or SAI Global into disrepute.

2.3 What the Auditor will Check

On initial contact from the auditor a pre-audit check will be carried out and the auditor will talk through the audit process and explain what is required. The auditor will want to assess a number of areas, which will include, where applicable:

- Planning and procedures
- Environmental management
- Predator and pest control
- Feed
- Bird health and welfare
- Medicines (including medicated grit)
- Game handling/game larder and chiller
- Marketing of game
- Records relevant to the management of the shoot

Once the audit has been completed the auditor will agree with the participant any areas that do not comply with the scheme 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 (where applicable) 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 (where applicable) or food safety.

2.4 At the End of the Audit

The auditor will complete a visit record and if applicable will record any non-compliances found. The visit record will also detail the type of evidence required to demonstrate compliance with the BGA scheme standards.

The participant will then be asked to sign the visit record to confirm agreement with the non-compliances, and agreement to carry out the action required, providing objective evidence that the necessary action has been taken within 28 days as specified by the scheme rules. Subject to the type of non-compliance raised (where a major non-conformance is raised during the assessment, 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 timescale 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).

Submission of evidence of compliance with the BGA scheme standards within 28 days is necessary to maintain scheme approval (subject to type of non-compliance raised (major or minor)).

Shoots may be subject to a re-audit 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 compulsory standard in the future.
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Note:

- an asterisk '*' alongside the standard number indicates that a regulatory requirement underpins this standard. It is the licensee's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to all relevant legislation. The BGA is not a regulatory authority.

The Standards

1 Planning and Documentation		
Standard	Guidance	Comment
<p>1.1 Shoots must have a copy of the current relevant BGA standards available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up to date hard copy or electronic copy of the standards available to all staff working for the shoot business. 	
<p>1.2 A site map of the shoot must be available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The site map must be available at the audit. ● The shoot map should detail all areas covered by the shoot. ● Details of any environmental schemes, for example Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), SPA, SAC, RAMSAR sites. <p>For more Information see BASC Green Shoots Mapping https://basc.org.uk/conservation/green-shoots-mapping/</p>	
<p>1.3 A Risk assessed emergency action plan must be in place and known to key staff.</p>	<p>The plan must consider risks to the shoot and actions to be taken in the event of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fire. ● Extreme weather. ● Disease outbreak. ● Activist activity. ● Failure of chiller while in use. ● The absence of a 'trained person' to ensure game meat hygiene on a shoot day. <p>The plan must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Include key contact numbers. ● Be available to key staff. ● Include key contact details for vet, Environment Agency/SEPA, APHA, energy, feed and water suppliers, refrigeration engineers. <p><u>There is a template contact sheet available.</u></p>	
<p>1.4 A prominently positioned action board must be in place with details of emergency procedures.</p>	<p>The board must detail as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The procedures to follow in the event of an emergency. ● Emergency contact numbers. ● The location of the site, including GPS Coordinates, OS grid reference and postcode. ● The location of water sources for use by the fire brigade. 	

<p>1.5 In the event of an outbreak of a notifiable disease, (for example, Avian Influenza) a visitor record must be kept and completed by all visitors before entering the site. Records must be kept for at least 3 years.</p>	<p>The record must include as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name. • Address or who they represent. • Date and place of last contact with poultry/game. • Declaration of any illness in previous 48 hours. • Declaration if carrying any recording equipment. • Signature. <p><u>There is a template visitor record available.</u></p>	
<p>1.6 There must be systems in place for recording complaints that are relevant to the scheme standards. The shoot must keep a record of written complaints made directly to the shoot.</p>	<p>Complaints might be made by Local Authorities, the general public, customers or others. The following must be recorded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nature of the complaint. • The details of the investigation, including the result. • Action taken to prevent the issue happening again. 	
<p>1.7 The shoot needs to be maintained in a manner that does not bring the industry or the BGA or the Assurance Scheme into disrepute.</p>	<p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible disposal of spent cartridges • Accumulated rubbish, redundant equipment or scrap must be controlled and disposed of legally. • Waste must be kept separate from birds, feed storage, game storage, public access areas. • Correct management of animal/bird by products. 	

2 Environmental Management		
Standard	Guidance	Comment
<p>2.1 Shoot operators must ensure that shoot is managed to continually benefit wildlife and the environment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of any environmental management schemes; SSSI, SPA, SAC and RAMSAR must be documented, included on the shoot map and available at audit. • Details of any wildlife or environmental surveys are encouraged and the results made available at audit to evidence compliance with this standard. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate at audit any agri environment schemes relevant to the shoot/land shot over. • Demonstrate at audit a range of cover crops. • Provision of unharvested crops/wild bird food crops/grain in the hoppers at appropriate time of year. <p>For further information see GWCT Biodiversity Audits https://www.gwct.org.uk/advisory/face-to-face-advice/shoot-biodiversity-audits/</p>	
<p>2.2R It is recommended that the shoot have a plan in place to ensure the shoot is delivering a net biodiversity gain.</p>	<p>Ideally the plan should contain :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An audit of the effect on the environment of the introduction quarry species over and above of the natural population levels. • Evidence of habitat improvement measures to enhance biodiversity. <p>For further information see: GWCT Biodiversity Gain https://gwct.org.uk/advisory/face-to-face-advice/shoot-biodiversity-audit Wildlife Estates Scotland https://scottishlandandestates.co.uk/wildlife-estates-scotland</p>	
<p>2.3R It is recommended that the shoot take part in the GWCT Big Bird Count and submit their findings to the GWCT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a simple means of recording the effect of any conservation schemes • It helps to demonstrate the combined benefits of habitat management, winter feeding for birds and targeted legal predator control <p>For further information see: https://www.gwct.org.uk/news/news/2019/december/the-2020-big-farmland-bird-count-needs-your-support/</p>	
<p>2.4 Shoots must abide by The Blanket Bog Land Management Guidance and The Heather & Grass Burning Code for England, similarly the Code for Wales and in Scotland must abide</p>	<p>Information about these requirements and associated obligations can be accessed via the link provided - https://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/</p>	

by the Muirburn Code and all the associated regulations		
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3 Staff		
Standard	Guidance	Comment
3.1* All new full-time staff must be effectively trained and deemed competent to undertake the tasks they are employed to do.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before anybody starts work there must be an induction, supervision or explanation of the tasks they will carry out. • For specific tasks related directly to bird health and welfare training - e.g using medicated grit 	
3.2* The performance of full-time staff must be regularly reviewed, and refresher training implemented as required.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training must be reviewed annually. • Examples of where training may be required for staff include management of health and welfare of birds, management of medicines and medicated grit, use of pesticides, predator and pest control, and game meat hygiene. The list is not exhaustive and other training may be required, depending on the individual's roles and responsibilities. <p><u>For information see training template.</u></p>	
3.3 Records of training of full-time staff must be kept.	<p>These must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name. • Start date. • Dates of training. • Details of induction/training given. • Who provided the training. • Copies of certificates where appropriate. <p>Details of specific training and audit of competence to be detailed in the training records.</p> <p><u>For information see training template.</u></p>	
3.4* Training and supporting documents must be delivered in all necessary languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This must be declared on the training record. 	

where English is not the first language.		
3.5 Where a shoot or its employees are successfully prosecuted for wildlife crimes, the shoot will be expelled from the BGA and their membership revoked.	As per the BGA Complaints and Disciplinary Procedures, any Member Shoot that is either itself successfully prosecuted for a wildlife crime, or one of its employees is successfully prosecuted for a wildlife crime, shall be deemed to have committed a breach of the Standards and will be subject to expulsion from the BGA and its activities. Depending on the circumstances of the conviction, the BGA may rule that the Member Shoot may be able to apply for membership after a predetermined amount of time if the Member Shoot is able to demonstrate that it is now complying with this Standard.	
3.6 Individuals with an unspent conviction for wildlife crimes must not be employed in any capacity directly relating to the management of the shoot	Unspent convictions are those records that have not yet reached a set period as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 and will appear on a Basic Criminal Record Check. The length of time it takes a conviction to become "spent" depends on the sentence. This information can be provided by Disclosure Scotland or the Disclosure and Barring Service as appropriate.	

5 Predator and Pest Control		
Standard	Guidance	Comment
5.1 A documented predator and pest control plan must be in place.	As a minimum this will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All types of predator and pest targeted on the shoot. • All methods of control used and reasons/justifications for the control being undertaken. • Copies of current General Licences where applicable, annotated to highlight the relevant justifications. • Copies of Class or Individual licences where applicable. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training records for all staff involved in predator and pest control must be available at audit. 	
5.2 In areas around buildings and feed storage areas, systems must be in place to exclude and discourage predators and pests.	<p>Systems should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining the site in a clean and tidy state. • Removal of overgrown vegetation. • Clean and secure storage of feed. • Maintenance and proofing of buildings against predators and pests. 	
5.3* Where rodenticides are used the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU code) must be adhered to.	<p>This can be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of an external contractor. • Use of trained and competent staff. <p>The CRRU code requires as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of an environmental risk audit and a site survey prior to the decision to use rodenticide. • Only use of rodenticide where it is required. • All rodenticide points must be mapped, with records of checks and findings recorded. <p>For more information see the CRRU Code https://www.thinkwildlife.org/code-of-best-practice/crru-code/</p>	
5.4* Records of snaring and trapping must be kept.	<p>Records for all snares and traps must be include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map or GPS plot showing location of all snares and traps whilst in use. • Records of all predators and pests trapped. • Records of any non-target species trapped. • Records must be available at audit. <p>For more information see BASC Green Shoots Mapping https://basc.org.uk/conservation/green-shoots-mapping/</p>	

6 Bird Health and Management		
Standard	Guidance	Comment
6.1*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine review of records to identify key issues. 	

The health and welfare of birds must always be ensured.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any health or welfare issues are detected and managed. 	
6.2 The shoot must have a named person who is responsible for bird welfare.		
6.3 Adequate picking-up must be available to ensure all birds are quickly accounted for and wounded birds are dispatched accordingly.	Member shoots must ensure that they organise a sufficient number of experienced pickers to comply with this standard	

7 Grit		
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Standard	Guidance	Comment
7.1 Grit must be purchased from an Assured source.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UFAS or equivalent. 	
7.2* Records of all grit purchased must be kept.	<p>As a minimum, records must show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplier name. Date of delivery. Quantity. Load/batch number. <p>Delivery documents/invoices must be kept and made available for inspection. Records must be kept for at least 2 years.</p>	
7.3* All stored grit must be clearly labelled, either on the bag or bulk store.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This applies to both medicated and non-medicated grit. 	
7.4* Grit must be stored in a manner that minimises the risk of contamination.	<p>This includes contamination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From other feed. By other substances. From machinery or equipment. From birds/predators/dogs/cats. 	

8 Medicines Usage (including medicated grit)		
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Standard	Guidance	Comment
8.1* Medicines (including vaccines and medicated grit) must only be used when necessary or when prescribed by an approved veterinary surgeon.		

<p>8.2 *</p> <p>Medicines and veterinary treatments must be authorised for use in the UK and used appropriately.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Prescription Only Medicines (POM) must be prescribed by the vet. ● General Sales Medicines (non-prescription) must be used in accordance with manufacturers' or veterinary instructions. ● 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. ● The BGA CIA use template can be found at https://www.britishgamealliance.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Justification-for-the-Use-of-Highest-Priority-Critically-Important-Antibiotics.pdf 	
<p>8.3</p> <p>Staff administering medicines must be guided by the vet.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff training records must record this. 	
<p>8.4*</p> <p>Medicine, vaccines and medicated grit must be stored in a secure store and in accordance with the manufacturers' instructions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Particular care must be taken to ensure both vaccines, medicines and medicated grit are stored according to manufacturers' instructions. 	
<p>8.5*</p> <p>Records for all medicines purchased must be kept for a minimum of 5 years.</p>	<p>Purchase records must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The date of acquisition. ● The name of the product. ● The batch number(s) of the product. ● The expiry date of the product. ● The quantity purchased. ● The name and address of the supplier. <p>For information see template in https://www.britishgamealliance.co.uk/bga-records/</p>	

<p>8.6*</p> <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</p> <p>Administration records must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The date administration started and finished. ● The name of the product. ● The batch number(s) of the product. ● The expiry date of the product. ● The quantity administered. ● The length of the withdrawal period and date of the end of the withdrawal period. ● The identification of the birds treated. ● The name of the person administering the product. ● The reason for treatment. ● Treatment outcome. <p>Good practice is to include any homeopathic remedies (including those with zero withdrawal).</p> <p>For information see template in https://www.britishgamealliance.co.uk/bga-records/</p>	
<p>8.7*</p> <p>Records for 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"> ● Date of disposal. ● Quantity of product disposed. ● Name of product. ● How and where disposed. <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> <p>For Information see template in https://www.britishgamealliance.co.uk/bga-records/</p>	
<p>8.8*</p> <p>Shoots mixing their own medicated grit must meet the regulatory requirements.</p>	<p>If mixing medicated grit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approval is also required from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). <p>Records and samples must be kept.</p>	

9 Game Handling		
Standard	Guidance	Comment
9.1* The use of lead shot must be legally compliant.	The shoot must follow the law on the use of lead shot. During audit you will be asked: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where, when and on what species lead shot may/may not be used. • How this is communicated to guns. • If lead free shot is supplied to guns. For more Information see GWCT guidance https://www.gwct.org.uk/advisory/briefings/lead-ammunition/	
9.2 R It is <u>recommended</u> that lead free shot is used.	Where lead shot is used it is recommended that shoots should be working towards a lead-free policy.	
9.3 Any shoot registered as lead free with the BGA must not commit the use of lead ammunition on a shoot day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign up to the lead free register here. • A credible protocol to prevent the use of lead ammunition must be documented in writing and made available for assessment. 	
9.4* All shot game must be regarded as food and treated as such unless due to damage or contamination it is to be disposed of, in which case this must be done in a legal manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the legal responsibility of all involved in managing the shoot to demonstrate due diligence by ensuring that game entering the commercial food chain is safe to eat. • Food safety legislation relating to the handling and storage of game must be adhered to. It is the responsibility of all involved in managing the shoot to be aware of and adhere to all relevant food safety legislation. • The BGA have a voluntary scheme for Game Dealers, giving them the opportunity to report their findings when they collect game from a shoot. Adverse reports from the game dealer may result in spot checks and possible suspension from the BGA scheme. 	
9.5* Where game is intended for supply to an Approved Game Handling	The 'Trained Person' is someone with sufficient knowledge of wild game diseases to undertake an initial examination of shot game on the spot.	

<p>Establishment there must be a 'Trained Person' present to examine the game throughout every shoot day.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each shoot must have at least one Trained Person at every shoot. • The Trained Person must have undertaken a Wild Game Meat Hygiene Course for <u>small game</u> in the last 5 years. A course for large game only is not acceptable. • There must be a record of the course and/or a Course Certificate available at audit. • The emergency action plan (standard 1.3) must detail the actions to be taken in the event a Trained Person is not available throughout the shoot day. <p>For more Information of becoming qualified or updating skills a range of organisations provide accredited courses. See links below for some of the course providers - other courses are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.nationalgamekeepers.org.uk/training/game-meat-hygiene-course • https://www.lantra.co.uk • https://www.sqa.org.uk 	
<p>9.6 All shot game must be regarded as food and treated in accordance with the 'Guide To Good Game Handling'.</p>		
<p>9.7* Any suspected notifiable disease (eg Avian Influenza) must immediately be reported to the Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA).</p>	<p>Contact details for the APHA must be recorded in the emergency action plan (Standard 1.3).</p> <p>If a report has to be made, a record must be kept of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The location where the relevant bird was shot - OS Grid reference should be used. • The carcass(es) must be kept separate from all other carcasses and kept in safe storage pending further guidance from APHA. <p>For details of the Animal & Plant Health Agency, and procedures for reporting any suspected notifiable disease see link:</p>	

	https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/notifiable-diseases-in-animals	
9.8* Carcasses that are grossly contaminated, diseased or seriously damaged must not be presented for human consumption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contamination may occur, for example, from landing in contaminated water, fields recently spread with manure/slurry. • Note that shooting activity must not take place on contaminated ground and care must be taken to reduce incidences of contamination. • Care must be taken when handling these birds to avoid the spread of contamination/disease. 	•
9.9 Shot game must be transferred to the larder at the earliest opportunity after dispatch to allow active chilling to commence as soon as possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where possible birds should be transferred into the chiller within 2 hrs of being shot. • The daytime temperature must be considered when planning the transfer of birds to the chiller. On days with high temperature there must be provision to transfer birds as soon as possible, and in less than 2 hrs. • If you shoot just for your own consumption, or game is given to family and friends for their own consumption, this is considered legally to be 'primary production for private domestic use' and therefore a chiller is not required but is advised. • However, you are still required to demonstrate due diligence by ensuring you have done everything you can to ensure the food you have produced is safe to eat. 	
9.10 Game must be placed into an ambient temperature of 4c or below within a reasonable timeframe and where possible within 2 hours of being shot	If a shoot is supplying in feather wild game directly to the final consumer, or to local retailers who supply the final consumer, or supply to a game dealer, direct to an Approved Game Handling Establishment then they are subject to the EU Food Hygiene Regulations and must have access to a personal/shared chiller and make every effort to ensure that game enters the cold chain within the 2 hour best practice window.	

	In particular, in warm weather, shoots in this situation must still show that they are demonstrating due diligence by doing everything they can to ensure that the food they have produced is safe to eat. This can be primarily achieved through the use of a chiller, or by hanging the shot game in a cool, dark place with ample air circulation around the birds (birds should not be stacked or put in trays).	
9.11* Game carts must be constructed in such a way to allow air circulation and allow game to be transported in a hygienic way.	Game carts must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow game to be transported without risk of contamination. • Allow adequate air flow around the birds so the cooling process can occur. Game must not be allowed to heat up in transit. • Game must be hung or laid out in trays - heaping of game is not allowed. 	
9.12 Dogs, equipment, and anything else that might cause contamination must not be transported with the game		
9.13* The Game Cart must be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to each day's shoot.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the game cart becomes contaminated during the day it must be cleaned and disinfected before further use. 	

10 Larder and Chiller		
Standard	Guidance	Comment
10.1* Shoots that are supplying 'in feather' or 'in fur' game to an Approved Game Handling Establishment, or which supply wild game meat to the final consumer or local retailers, are legally required to register with their	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The auditor will ask to see confirmation of registration as a Food Business with the Environmental Health Department of your Local Authority if applicable. 	

Local Authority as a Food Business.		
<p>10.2*</p> <p>Shoots that are supplying 'in feather' and 'in fur' game directly into the commercial food chain (for example - Approved Game Handling Establishment, Game Dealer, Restaurant) must have access to a personal or shared game chiller.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chillers can be fixed structures, mobile or just hired in for the shoot day provided they meet the regulatory and BGA standards. 	
<p>10.3</p> <p>A documented Hygiene Hazard Audit Plan must be in place identifying hazards that may risk the food hygiene status of game during shooting and carcass handling , and detailing mitigations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine hygiene of people handling game and visiting larders and chillers must be documented in a Hygiene Hazard Audit Plan. • Hygiene related management of facilities must also be detailed in the Hygiene Hazard Audit Plan. • Identify and record hazards applicable to the shoot. • Detail what actions are required to minimise those hazards. • All staff handling game must have access to a copy of the plan. • A copy of the Hygiene Hazard Audit Plan must be available at audit. <p>For information see template in https://www.britishgamealliance.co.uk/bga-records/</p>	
<p>10.4</p> <p>Routine hygiene of people handling game and visiting larders and chillers must be documented in a Hygiene Hazard Audit Plan and the plan adhered to in practice.</p>	<p>This must be documented In the Hygiene Hazard Audit Plans and will be verified during the audit. The plan must include the following actions, but this list is not exhaustive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There must be facilities for people handling game and visiting larders and chillers to wash their hands / have access to hand sanitisers/wipes. • People handling game and visiting larders and chillers must keep cuts / sores covered with food grade (blue) waterproof dressings. • People handling game and visiting larders and chillers must notify management if they are suffering 	

	<p>from any condition likely to be transmitted to food through the skin, including infections / sores / sickness / diarrhoea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoking / drinking / eating is not permitted in larders / chillers. • No live animals must be allowed in to larders/chillers. • Larders / chillers must not be used as storage areas except for equipment directly and immediately in use for the handling of game. (For example, they must not be used for storage of cleaning chemicals and cleaning equipment, clothing and non-specific equipment). 	
10.5* 'In feather' and 'in fur' game must not be stored in the same chiller without a floor to ceiling barrier to prevent cross contamination.		
10.6* Processed game must not be stored in the larder/chiller at same time as 'in fur' or 'in feather' game.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition, game carcasses unfit for human consumption and awaiting disposal must not be stored in the larder/chiller. 	
10.7* Larders and chillers must be designed, constructed and maintained to enable all game to be stored in a clean, hygienic condition, free from contamination.		
10.8 Chiller units must be serviced at least annually to ensure they are functioning correctly.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service and maintenance must be carried out by competent and qualified refrigeration engineers. • Records of the servicing must be available at audit. 	
10.9 When in use the temperature of the chiller must be recorded at least twice daily.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This can either be by use of a written record or use of a temperature logger. • Records must be available for inspection at audit. 	
10.10R It is <u>recommended</u> there is a means of		

<p>notifying key personnel in the event of a fail in the chiller when it is in use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fail could include a power failure, or the temperature exceeding predetermined levels. • A contingency plan should be in place to deal with such incidents. 	
<p>10.11 Exterior areas around the larder/chiller must be kept clear of debris and non-essential equipment. Vegetation must be kept short and managed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This should preferably be a concrete apron outside the entrance that can be cleaned. • A clean and tidy area maintains a good appearance and reduces the risk of predators and pests being attracted to the site. 	
<p>10.12* The size of the larder/chiller must be adequate for the quantity game to be handled and stored.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There must be adequate space to allow good air circulation around the game for rapid cooling. • Consideration must be made of action that may be required should the game dealer be unable to collect game as expected. 	
<p>10.13 Larders/chillers must always have adequate natural and/or artificial lighting to allow thorough inspection of the game.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artificial lights must either have protective covers or shatterproof bulbs to avoid the risk of glass contamination. 	
<p>10.14* Floor and wall surfaces must be maintained in sound condition, easy to clean and disinfect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be constructed of Impervious, non-absorbent, washable and non-toxic materials. • Joints/angles with the walls must be sealed. • Paint/floor coverings must not be peeling. • Cracks/holes in the fabric must be sealed. 	
<p>10.15* All fixtures and fittings must be constructed of Impervious, non-absorbent, washable and non-toxic materials. Surfaces must be well maintained and in good condition.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wooden fixtures/fittings are not allowed. • Metal work must be clean and rust free. 	
<p>10.16* Doors to the chiller units must be well fitting to prevent</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doors in chiller units must be able to be opened from both sides. 	

access by pests and able to be opened from both sides.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other openings - for example air inlet/outlets must be designed to prevent the entry by pests. 	
10.17* Surfaces In the larder/chiller in contact with food must be made of smooth, washable non-toxic materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They must be maintained in sound condition and easy to clean and disinfect. 	
10.18* Larders/chillers must be washed and disinfected as soon as possible after game is collected and is recommended after each collection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food grade cleaning materials must be used for the cleaning of facilities and equipment. Documentation showing the products used are food grade must be available at audit. Safety data sheets must be available. Records of cleaning must be kept. 	
10.19* All drains must be free running and all traps must be regularly emptied.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disposal of all washings must comply with current legislation. 	
10.20* There must be a sufficient supply of potable (drinking quality) water for hand basins and the cleaning of the larder/chiller.	<p>Where the water supply is private:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The supply must be tested at least annually to determine the water is potable. Test results must be available for inspection at the audit. In the event of a water test failure, an alternative source of water must be made available until remedial action has been taken. This must be detailed in the emergency action plan. 	
10.21* Wash basins with hot/cold or mixed water must be available. Taps must be elbow/knee/foot operated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Materials for cleaning hands and hygienic drying (e.g. paper towels) must be provided. 	
10.22 First Aid Kits must be available.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid Kits must be checked to ensure the contents are in date. Contents must be Food Grade. Food grade plasters (blue) must be provided. 	

11 Marketing Game		
Standard	Guidance	Comment
11.1 Game must not be shot without an agreed market.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There must be an agreed marketing plan for game. • Planned dates of shoots and expected numbers of game to be shot and outlets must be detailed before the season - this Information must be available at audit. • There must be confirmation from the shoot's customer(s) that they will collect all the game the shoot is proposing to shoot on any given day. 	
11.2 Shoots must offer guns and beaters the opportunity to take home game or game products.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As well as offering game or game products to take home, where possible game products should also be used in meals and offered to all present on shoot days. 	
11.3* Shoots must keep adequate records to allow full traceability of game that goes into the food chain.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Records for marketing game must include details of the customer/date of supply/ number and species supplied. • Total numbers given to guns/beaters or sold (for example via an estate shop/farmers market) must be recorded, but the Individual customers do not need to be named. • Records must be available at audit. 	

12 Game Unfit for Human Consumption		
Standard	Guidance	Comment
12.1* Game unfit for human consumption, along with processed game carcasses, must be disposed of by legal methods.	<p>Game carcasses must be disposed of before they present an infestation or health risk.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While awaiting disposal, they must be stored in leak proof containers, which are either locked, or stored in a locked building. This could include use of chest freezers to store game until there is adequate quantity to dispose of by other means. • 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 	

	<p>person to ensure it continues to operate correctly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash must be either disposed of either via licenced premises or, with a permit from the Environment Agency or SEPA, can be mixed with manure and spread on agricultural land. • Records of the use of National Fallen Stock Companies or an Approved and Registered Animal By-Products Premises must be kept for at least 2 years. • Burial is only permitted in 'remote' areas of Scotland as designated by the Scottish Government. In these cases, the site must be registered and approved by the appropriate regulatory authorities. <p>For information see: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fallen-stock https://www.businesscompanion.info/en/quick-guides/animals-and-agriculture/fallen-stock-and-the-disposal-of-animal-by-products-s</p>	
<p>12.2 Records should be kept of birds euthanised or found dead, noting the method of disposing of carcasses. This will help give early Indication of disease or welfare problems.</p>	<p>Where dead birds are found or birds require to be euthanised, the numbers of birds, the cause of death or the reason for euthanasia must be recorded if known.</p>	

Appendices

Useful Links:

The Environment

BASC Green Shoots Mapping

<https://basc.org.uk/conservation/green-shoots-mapping/>

GWCT Biodiversity Audits

<https://www.gwct.org.uk/advisory/face-to-face-advice/shoot-biodiversity-audits/>

GWCT Big Farmland Bird Count

<https://www.gwct.org.uk/news/news/2019/december/the-2020-big-farmland-bird-count-needs-your-support/>

Animal Health and Welfare

Animal and Plant Health Agency - procedures for reporting any suspected notifiable disease:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/notifiable-diseases-in-animals>

Industry Code for On-farm Feeding.

<https://assurance.redtractor.org.uk/contentfiles/Farmers-5417.pdf>

National Fallen Stock Company

<http://www.nfsco.co.uk/>

'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>

Safe disposal of dead animals

Government Guidance on Fallen Stock

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/fallen-stock>

Statutory Guidance for Animal Carcass Incineration

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/393703/animal-carcass-incineration.pdf

The Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture in Agriculture Alliance

www.ruma.org.uk

VMD Code of Practice on the Responsible Use of Animal Medicines on the Farm

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/424685/Responsible_use_COP_April_2015.pdf

Predator & Pest Management

Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use (CRRU)

<https://www.thinkwildlife.org/code-of-best-practice/crru-code/>

The Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards (AIHTS)

<https://www.face.eu/international-agreements/aihts/>

Code of Best Practice on the Use of Snares for Fox Control in England

<https://www.businesscompanion.info/en/quick-guides/animals-and-agriculture/fallen-stock-and-the-disposal-of-animal-by-products-s>

Code of best practice on the use of snares in fox control in Wales

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-05/code-of-best-practice-use-snares-fox-control.pdf>

Snaring in Scotland – a Practitioners' Guide

[file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/snaring_in_scotland_-_a_practitioners_guide_december_2012%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/snaring_in_scotland_-_a_practitioners_guide_december_2012%20(1).pdf)

General Licences – England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/general-licences-for-wildlife-management>

General Licences – Scotland

<https://www.nature.scot/sites/default/files/2020-03/General%20Licensing%20Changes%20Briefing%20-%20March%202020.pdf>

General Licences – Wales

<https://cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk/permits-and-permissions/species-licensing/uk-protected-species-licensing/general-licences-for-birds-2020/?lang=en>

Food Safety

Food Standards Agency – Wild Game Guide

<https://www.food.gov.uk/business-guidance/wild-game-guidance>

BGA Grouse Moor Standards

V1 03.08.21

'Trained Person' Training courses

<https://www.nationalgamekeepers.org.uk/training/game-meat-hygiene-course>

<https://www.lantra.co.uk>

<https://www.sqa.org.uk>

Recording Templates

<https://www.britishgamealliance.co.uk>

Guide to Relevant Legislation:

The list below is not exhaustive. It is the licensee's responsibility to be aware of and adhere to all relevant legislation.

licensees should also be mindful where the Regulatory Body for their shoot is a Devolved Authority, and there may be differences in the regulatory requirements.

The BGA is not a Regulatory Authority.

Animal Welfare Act 2006

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/pdfs/ukpga_20060045_en.pdf

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations 2010

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/3033/contents/made>

Welfare of Animals (Slaughter or Killing) Regulations 1995

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1995/731/contents/made>

Animal By-Products Regulations 2005

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2005/2347/contents/made>

The Veterinary Medicine Regulations 2013

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2013/2033/contents/made>

The Welfare of Farmed Animals Cross compliance/Statutory Management Requirements

SMR 4 - Food & Feed Law; SMR 13 Animal Welfare

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5e05ef55ed915d1f6d7a92dd/Cross_Compliance_2020_rules_v1.0.pdf

<https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/inspections/all-inspections/cross-compliance/detailed-guidance/statutory-management-requirements/>

Wildlife & Countryside Act (1981)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69/contents>

Habitat Regulations 1994 (as amended)

[Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 \(England & Wales\)](#)

[Conservation \(Natural Habitats, &c.\) Amendment \(Scotland\) Regulations 2012](#)

The Wildlife & Natural Environment (Scotland) Act (WANE)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/asp/2011/6/contents/enacted>

Humane Trapping Standards Regulation 2019

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2019/22/contents/made>

The Deer Act 1991

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1991/54/contents>

Deer (Scotland) Act 1996

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/58>

The Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (England) Regulations 1999

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1999/2170/contents/made>

The Environmental Protection (Restriction on the Use of Lead Shot) (Scotland) Regulations 2004

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/environmental-protection-restriction-use-lead-shot-scotland-2-regulations-2004/>

The Environmental Protection (Restriction on Use of Lead Shot) (Wales) Regulations 2002

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2002/1730/contents/made>

Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (England) Regulations 2006

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2006/2701/contents/made>

Avian Influenza (Preventive Measures) (Wales) Regulations 2006

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2006/2803/made>

BGA Grouse Moor Standards

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Avian Influenza (Slaughter and Vaccination) (Scotland) Regulations 2006

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ssi/2006/337/contents/made>

The Food Safety Act 1990

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/16/contents>

Regulation (EC) 178/2002

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32002R0178>

Regulation (EC) 852/2003

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32004R0852>

Regulation (EC) 853/2003

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32004R0853>

Regulation (EC) 931/2011

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:32011R0931>

Regulation (EC) 1069/2009

<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:300:0001:0033:EN:PDF>

Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/eur/2002/1774/contents>