

E 4.2

NEW Verandas must:

- a) have a total floor area of at least 20% of the usable area of the main house
- b) be a minimum of two metres in width and height
- c) not be used in the calculated floor area for stocking density
- d) provide natural air circulation and natural light to achieve an outdoor climate through openings that represent 70% of the external side wall
- e) protect birds from adverse weather conditions (see information box below)
- f) have a solid concrete floor, in the case of static buildings (see information box below)
- g) have fully littered flooring (see E 3.3 and E 3.5)
- h) be available to hens by no later than one week after placement
- i) have popholes to enable full separation from the main building for climate control (see E 3.6)
- j) be available to the hens according to the standard R 3.1 and R 3.1.1
- k) have popholes that meet standard R 3.7 and R 3.8
- l) have adequate provisions to prevent the area surrounding the veranda from flooding during wet weather
- m) have an insulated roof (see information box below)
- n) have an entirely waterproof roof
- o) be designed to prevent access by other animals (excluding the popholes).

NEW In relation to E 4.2 e), adverse weather includes rain, snow, high wind speeds, and high temperatures.

Natural daylight



NEW Natural light encourages a range of activities, such as foraging and dustbathing. Providing an environment with more natural light also enables birds to utilise their full visual light spectrum.

In free-range systems, the addition of more natural light inside the house reduces the variation in light intensity between the inside and the outside, which encourages range use.

Practical experience suggests that it is still important to be able to manage all lighting within the house. Housing birds at greater light intensities allows more flexibility when a reduction in light levels is required as a management tool to reduce injurious pecking (see E 5.4 b)).

E 6.1 **NEW** Natural daylight within the main laying house must be provided by no later than 1st January 2031.



NEW Due to the welfare benefits natural daylight provides to birds, the RSPCA strongly encourages natural daylight to be provided in buildings as soon as is practically possible.

E 6.1.1 **NEW** Natural daylight must be provided:

- a) to give a minimum of 8 hours continuous daylight per day, except where the natural daylight period is shorter
- b) by 21 weeks of age at the latest
- c) through all the required openings (see E 6.2).

E 6.2 **NEW** The natural daylight openings in the house must correspond to at least 3.0% of the total floor area of the house.

E 6.3 **NEW** Where popholes are used to meet the requirements of E 6.2:

- a) natural daylight must enter into the house through the popholes at all times during the required period (see E 6.1.1) (see information box below)
- b) during periods where the popholes may need to be closed during the day, and where windows are not installed in the pophole doors, the pophole openings must be covered with a solid material that allows natural daylight to enter the house, e.g. clear perspex (see information box below).

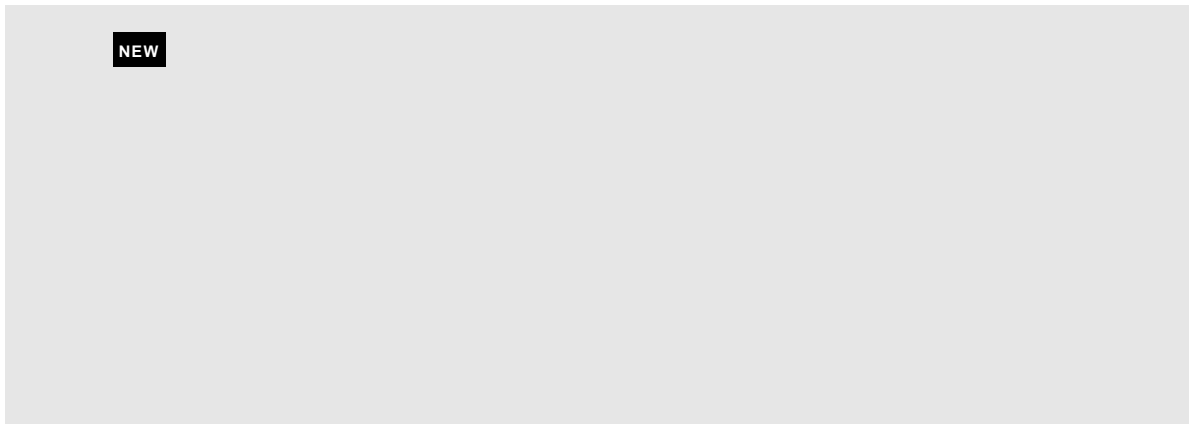


NEW To remain compliant with standard E 6.1.1 and E 6.2, natural daylight will need to enter the house through the popholes during periods where the pophole doors may need to be closed during the day, e.g. in the event of a compulsory housing order (when birds need to be housed). To achieve this, windows could be installed in the pophole doors. Alternatively, pophole doors can be opened to provide natural daylight into the house via the pophole opening. However, for the pophole door to remain open, it will be necessary to cover the pophole opening with a solid material that prevents birds accessing the range but allows natural daylight to enter the house, e.g. clear perspex.

E 6.4

NEW To ensure that streams of daylight do not cause areas of bright light on the floor of the house, light openings must:

- a) be of a sufficient size,
- b) be well distributed (see information box below).



NEW With regards to M 2.5 a) v), avian influenza has become more prevalent in recent years, resulting in an increased incidence of mass on-farm culling of poultry. Contingency plans are required to ensure that mass culling can be carried out without delay, effectively and humanely. Contingency plans should include:

details of the on-farm mass culling method/s that can be usctu



NEW In England and Wales, the following legislation applies to the management of wildlife:

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Animal Welfare Act 2006

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010

Protection of Badgers Act 1992

Pests Act 1954

The Spring Traps Approval (England) Order 2012

The Spring Traps Approval (Wales) Order 2012

The Small Ground Vermin Traps Order 1958

Food and Environment Protection Act 1985

The Control of Pesticides Regulations 1986

Animals (Cruel Poisons) Act 1962

Equivalent legislation applies in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

M 6.3 **NEW** The primary means of protecting livestock from wild animals, as documented in the WACP, must be by:

- a) physical exclusion methods
- b) the removal of elements in the vicinity that might encourage the presence of wild animals
- c) maintaining units in a clean and tidy condition to minimise the risk of wild animals gaining access to the unit.

M 6.6 **NEW** The WACP must include provisions that specifically exclude the following methods of control:

- a) snaring
- b)

M 6.12 **NEW** Bait points must:

- a) be monitored regularly, and
- b) records or monitoring must be kept, including:
 - i. levels of any activity at each bait point
 - ii. any missing or disturbed bait
 - iii. the name of the person responsible for monitoring the bait points.

M 6.13 **NEW** Trap points must:

- a) be monitored at least twice a day, ideally at dawn and dusk, and
- b) records of monitoring must be kept, including:
 - i. levels of activity at each trap
 - ii. any missing or disturbed traps
 - iii. the name of the person responsible for monitoring traps.

M 6.14 **NEW** Any injured, sick or dying wild animals found that have been targeted for control must be humanely dispatched immediately to prevent further suffering.

Regular replenishment of bait will help to prevent sub-lethal doses, which can result in a build-up of resistance to the active ingredient.

M 6.15 **NEW**
product label.

Safe disposal of wild animals that have died as a result of poisoning reduces the risk of secondary poisoning in non-target species, such as domestic and other wild animals (including birds), that may consume the carcasses.

M 6.16 **NEW**

NEW Managers are encouraged to complete a training course that is approved by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use. Such courses are available at: www.thinkwildlife.org/training-certification/#int_lnk

Further information is available on the AHDB website ahdb.org.uk/knowledge-library/rodent-control-on-farms

M 6.19 **NEW** Domestic animals must not have access to the unit, other than farm dogs and cats.

M 6.20 **NEW** Farm dogs and cats must not be permitted in the laying hen house.

M 6.21 **NEW** Farm dogs and cats must be:

- a) in a healthy condition
- b) regularly wormed (record to be kept in the medicine book or VHWP).

Pullets

PLEASE ALSO REFER TO THE *RSPCA WELFARE STANDARDS FOR PULLETS (LAYING HENS)*.

Transport

The depopulation process and transport systems need to be designed and managed to ensure livestock are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The transport and handling of livestock needs to be kept to an absolute minimum. Personnel involved in depopulation and transport need to be thoroughly trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.

Depopulation

Below T 1.20

NEW The RSPCA is considering alternative handling methods for end of lay hens at depopulation.

Poultry do not have a diaphragm and carrying the birds by the l(o)-5()gdsclag sul i93(g)-3resp

Slaughter/killing

All slaughter/killing systems need to be designed and managed to ensure livestock are not caused unnecessary distress or discomfort. The pre-slaughter handling of livestock needs to be kept to an absolute minimum. Personnel involved in the slaughter need to be thoroughly trained and competent to carry out the tasks required of them.

Management and training

- S 2.1** **REVISED** Contingency plans and suitable back up procedures and systems must be in place to:
- a) deal with occasions when unavoidable delays may occur, such as a mechanical breakdown, and it is not possible to process the birds as planned
 - b) ensure the continued killing of animals in the event of an emergency that threatens the ongoing use of the main system, such as a disruption to the supply of gas in the case of gas killing systems.
- S 2.8** **REVISED** Managers, in conjunction with the PWO must:
- a) develop and implement a training programme for all staff involved in the handling and slaughtering/killing of laying hens, and
 - b) ensure that these staff are trained and competent to carry out their duties.
 - c) only mark staff training as completed once a self-declaration of competence has been signed by both the trainee and management staff.

