L.N. 50 of 1997

# PREVENTION OF DISEASE ORDINANCE (CAP. 36)

## Poultry Breeding Stock Regulations, 1997

IN exercise of powers conferred by section 87 of the Prevention of Disease Ordinance, the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, on the advice of the Council of Health, has made the following regulations:–

**1.** These regulations may be cited as the Poultry Breeding Stock Regulations, 1997. Citation.

**2.** In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires: Interpretation.

"approved disinfectant" means such disinfectant as is approved by the Director and appearing in the Second Schedule to these regulations, or any other disinfectant that the Director may approve for specific need;

"breed" means to rear poultry stock of different kinds particularly by mingling or crossing one species or variety thereof with another, and includes the keeping, rearing, fattening and selling of poultry and broodstock;

"breeding stock" means collection of poultry reared on a farm with an aim of commercially reproducing particular species or varieties thereof;

"Director" means the Director responsible for the Veterinary Service and includes any officer of the department duly authorised by the Director to act on his behalf;

"farm" means a breeding stock farm made up of one or more poultry houses together with all their annexes as specified in these regulations in which poultry breeding stock are reared;

"flock" means a collection of living poultry of the same health and immunity status, reared on the same premises or in the same enclosure and constituting a single zootechnical unit;

"licensee" means a husbandryman who is licensed in terms of the rules in the First Schedule to these regulations to keep a poultry house for the breeding of poultry;

"notifiable disease" means a disease listed in the Third Schedule to these regulations;

"parent stock flock" means poultry kept for the production of commercial hatching eggs;

"poultry " means fowl, turkeys, geese, ducks, guinea fowls, quails, pigeon, pheasants and partridges;

"poultry chick" means the young offspring of poultry being under three days old and weighing under 185 grams and that has not been fed;

"poultry house" means a house or shelter for poultry which is licensed in terms of the rules in the First Schedule to these regulations for the keeping of breeding stock by a licensee.

Licence to breed poultry.

**3.** (1) No person shall breed any poultry, whether as owner, part-owner or helper, unless he holds a licence issued to him by the Director.

(2) No premises shall be used for the breeding of poultry unless such premises are licensed by the Director to be used as a poultry-house.

(3) The Director may only grant a licence for the keeping of a farm after considering the application therefor, and that any further requirements he may have requested the applicant to perform prior to the granting of such licence, have actually been performed. In the case of existing farms the Director is to allow a six month period for the licensee to upgrade the farm.

(4) The licensee shall be responsible for the running of the farm according to the Rules for Local Breeding Stock appearing in the First Schedule to these regulations, and the Director may at any time revoke a licence if a farm is found lacking in any of the conditions mentioned in the licence, or if in the opinion of the Director there is a risk of spread of disease.

(5) Licences shall be valid for one calendar year, and may be renewed from year to year.

(6) No extensions or alterations in any licensed farm may be carried out unless previously authorised by the Director.

(7) The Director may inspect a farm and its records at any time in order to ensure that the licence conditions are being complied with.

**4.** The Director shall keep a Breeding Flock Register in which thereshall be kept the following information:– Breeding Flock Register.

(a) the name, address and telephone number of the licensee;

(b) the address and telephone number, site plan and elevation plan of the farm;

(c) the type and species of poultry to be kept;

(d) the name of the manager of the farm;

(e) the capacity of each poultry-house or section thereof.

**5.** For the purposes of these regulations the terms "washing" and "disinfecting" mean: Wshing and disinfecting.

(a) thorough soaking of bedding and litter as well as faecal matters with disinfectant;

(b) washing and cleaning by careful scrubbing and brushing of ground, wall and floors;

(c) further washing with disinfectant;

(d) washing and disinfecting the outside of vehicles in such manner that this washing will be carried out with liquids applied under pressure.

## FIRST SCHEDULE

### Rules for Local Breeding Stock

(1) The farm shall not be used for any purpose other than rearing breeding stock birds.

(2) Persons registered in the Breeding Flock Register must allow departmental inspectors to enter and inspect the farm and its records on demand.

(3) Persons registered in the Breeding Flock Register shall keep the following records regarding the movement of poultry, chicks, other fowl and eggs:–

(a) Date of movement

(b) Number moved

(c) Identity of house/s into which poultry, chicks, fowl or eggs are placed

(d) Identity of house or houses from which poultry, chicks, fowl or eggs are moved

(e) Address of premises from which chicks, poultry, fowl or eggs originate

(f) Address of destination of chicks, poultry, fowl or eggs.

(4) A licensee who is registered in the Breeding Stock Register shall keep records of any vaccinations or medicinals administered. Any vaccination programme shall be approved by the Director.

(5) The Director shall be duly responsible for the screening of any breeding flock against any Notifiable Disease and *Salmonellosis* and any other disease as the need arises, and no private tests will be allowed unless authorised by the Director.

(6) The Director shall keep a register on each breeding flock containing the following information:–

(a) Date of sampling

(b) Number and type of samples taken

(c) Tests carried out

(d) Results.

This register shall be made available to the licensee registered in the Breeding Flock Register on demand.

(7) Poultry houses and egg storing rooms shall be screened against vermin, birds and other animals.

(8) No other animals shall be allowed access to poultry houses.

(9) Footbaths containing an approved disinfectant shall be maintained at the entrance of each house.

(10) No person shall enter a poultry house unless wearing protective clothing.

(11) No person shall enter or leave a poultry house before cleaning and disinfecting his boots and washing his hands with soap and water. Such facilities should be available at the entrance of each poultry house.

(12) On depopulation of a poultry house all manure shall be removed and the poultry house cleansed and disinfected with approved disinfectants.

(13) Eggs are to be collected from a flock at least twice daily. Broken, leaking or dirty eggs are to be collected in separate containers from other eggs and shall not be incubated.

(14) All eggs intended for incubation shall be sanitised on the farm unless transported within 12 hours to a hatchery and shall be stored in dust-free rooms to which poultry, vermin, other birds and animals are not permitted access. These rooms shall be used exclusively for egg storing and should be kept at a temperature of 13 – 15°C and a relative humidity of 70 – 80%.

(15) All equipment for catching and transporting poultry shall be cleansed and disinfected with approved disinfectants before it is used.

(16) The farm premises shall be surrounded by a boundary wall or fence and access to the farm shall be through a security gate.

(17) Farm premises shall be situated at least 200 metres from any other livestock farm, habitable buildings or processing plants.

(18) The packing of eggs shall comply with regulations issued for imported hatching eggs.

(19) The following structure must also be present:–

(a) vermin-proof food store;

(b) incinerator or an approved form of organic matter, disinfection and decontamination;

(c) washroom for the disinfection of personnel;

(d) a room for the disinfection of equipment and protective clothing. This must be sited at the perimeter fence and be supplied with hot and cold running water;

(e) post-mortem room also supplied with hot and cold running water;

(f) store room and office supplied with a lockable medicine cabinet;

(g) toilet facilities and changing room;

(h) a suitable drainage system.

(20) The Director must be informed of any medications administered to a flock.

(21) Licensees keeping a breeding flock shall submit a monthly report to the Director with the following information:–

(a) the number of hatching eggs produced and destroyed

(b) the identification of type of poultry

(c) batch numbers

(d) destination.

(22) The Director shall be duly informed of the date of slaughter of each parent stock flock.

SECOND SCHEDULE

**List of Approved Disinfectants**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | HATCHERY EQUIPMENT | Chlorine<br>Iodine<br>Phenol<br>Quaternary Ammonium Compounds |
| (2) | WATER DISINFECTION | Chlorine<br>Iodine<br>Quaternary Ammonium Compounds |
| (3) | PERSONNEL | Chlorine<br>Iodine<br>Quaternary Ammonium Compounds |
| (4) | EGG WASHING | Chlorine<br>Quaternary Ammonium Compounds |
| (5) | FLOOR AND FOOTBATHS | Phenol<br>Quaternary Ammonium Compounds |
| (6) | ROOMS | Iodine<br>Quaternary Ammonium Compounds |

THIRD SCHEDULE
**List of Notifiable Diseases**

(1) Newcastle Disease
(2) Fowl Plague.

Ippubblikat mid-Dipartiment ta' l-Informazzjoni – 3, Pjazza Kastilja – *Published by the Department of Information – 3, Castille Place*
Mitbugh fl-Istamperija tal-Gvern – *Printed at the Government Printing Press* Prezz 6c — *Price 6c*