FACTA

Animal Welfare Assurance, Certification & Training

HUMANE CERTIFED
ANIMAL WELFARE BROILER AUDIT PROGRAM

Audit Standards
2018 Version

PAACO
Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization Inc.
CERTIFIED AUDIT

ANIMAL WELFARE
HUMANE
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SCIENCE BASED
TM

Introduction

The Farm Animal Care Training and Auditing ("FACTA") Humane Certified Animal Welfare Broiler Audit Program has been designed to implement acceptable animal welfare through the various stages of broiler production. FACTA strives to ensure that the Humane Certified standards not only meet industry expectations, but exceed them. In order to accomplish this, FACTA's Humane Certified Broiler Animal Welfare Audit Program is reviewed annually by our Scientific Advisory Committee ("SAC") and is certified by the Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization ("PAACO"). Certification with PAACO requires that FACTA's standards meet their standards for animal welfare assessments and is review annually by their SAC. In addition, audits are conducted by PAACO certified poultry animal welfare auditors.

The Humane Certified Animal Welfare Broiler Audit Program is comprised of seven sections:

Section 1 – Hatchery Welfare Audit
Section 2 – Pullet Animal Welfare Policies and Observations Audit
Section 3 – Breeder Animal Welfare Policies and Observations Audit
Section 4 – Broiler Animal Welfare Policies and Observations Audit
Section 5 – Catching and Transportation Welfare Audit
Section 6 – Plant and Processing Welfare Audit
Section 7 – Corporate Review and Responsibility Audit

The auditor will award points for each standard in compliance, except for questions labeled as "major nonconformances," which are scored on a pass or fail basis. Question numbers followed by an * indicates questions that are production related and could lead to animal welfare issues if they are not managed correctly. Each pullet, breeder and broiler house serves as an individual audit; therefore, Sections 2 - 4 will be completed for each house audited. In the event that a company does not have a pullet or breeder operation, these sections will be marked as not applicable ("N/A"). A total of two broiler houses near the end of production will be selected for paw and gait score observations. For all houses with birds longer than seven days from slaughter, gait and paw scoring questions will be marked N/A and points will be subtracted from the total points available in Section 4. Each pullet and breeder house audited will be observed for gait scores. Should one or more houses fail the audit, the entire company will not receive FACTA's Humane Certification until a corrective action has been documented and a re-audit of the house(s) has been conducted.

Audit Failure Scenarios:

1. The presence of a major nonconformance.

Any major nonconformance(s) will result in the immediate failure of that audit section. The rest of the audit will still be completed in its entirety, however, a corrective action and re-audit on the section where the major nonconformance(s) occurred is required.

2. Willful acts of animal abuse or neglect.

During the audit, if an animal welfare auditor witnesses a willful act of animal abuse or neglect, it will result in an immediate failure of the audit. If this occurs, and it is safe to do so, the animal welfare auditor should intervene to stop the situation and report this incident to the site representative. The audit will still be conducted in its entirety, however, a corrective action and re-audit of the section where the animal abuse or neglect was witnessed will be required. Willful animal abuse and neglect is determined by, but not limited to, hitting, kicking or other forms of malicious intent to cause harm to a bird, aggressive handling such as picking up and/or carrying a bird by one wing, head or neck, at any time.

3. Any audit section receiving a score less than 80% is an audit failure.

Any section that receives a score of 79% or lower will require a re-audit of that section after a corrective action has been submitted and approved by FACTA. After the corrective action has been approved, a re-audit of that section will be conducted within 30 days.

Corrective Actions/Re-audit:

A corrective action and re-audit are required for every failure described previously. Corrective actions must be submitted within seven days of the audit failure to FACTA. The corrective action must include, at a minimum, the details of which type of failure occurred, why it occurred and what steps the company has/will take to address the circumstance(s) that led to failure (major nonconformance(s), willful act of abuse or neglect, or a score of less than 80%). FACTA recognizes that some corrective actions may take longer than seven days to complete. FACTA may extend the timeline on corrective actions on a case by case basis. Once FACTA has approved the corrective action, a re-audit must occur within 30 days from the initial audit date, unless otherwise approved by FACTA.

Please note: Throughout the audit there are requirements for internal corrective actions. These types of corrective actions should be documented for the company's records and verified during internal or FACTA audits, but do not need to be submitted to FACTA for approval. While auditing, if the company falls below the FACTA certified standards and an internal corrective action is required, it should be provided to the auditor for their records, however, a re-audit is not required.

Hatchery Welfare Audit – Section #1

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
1.1.0	Is someone responsible for ensuring proper animal welfare of the chicks in the hatchery?	The hatchery must have a designated employee responsible for obtaining and ensuring animal welfare throughout the processing of chicks. The auditor must document the name and title of the employee.	5
1.2.0	Signature of the site manager that ensures corrective action is taken when a chick's well-being is jeopardized by injury or when animal welfare is compromised.	The auditor will obtain the signature of the individual responsible for ensuring animal welfare and recording corrective actions when welfare is jeopardized.	5
1.3.0	Are employees trained in chick welfare? Are on-site workers going through an orientation program, i.e., are employees trained in chick welfare before handling live animals? Does the hatchery have a documented chick welfare training program conducted annually for all employees involved in the handling of live animals (multilingual, if necessary; verbal translation of materials at the time of training is acceptable)?	Any individual that is responsible for animal welfare/care or handling must be trained. This includes full-time and contract employees. Orientation training must be completed prior to any individual responsible for animal care or handling. Orientation, at minimum, must cover; the company's animal abuse policy, humane handling, euthanasia (if applicable) and any task specific training relating to that employees job description. Task specific training is defined as any training that focuses on acceptable procedures for the daily or routine activities for a particular location. Full-time hatchery and contract employees must also have documented annual training of animal welfare. Training records must include: • Name(s) of trainees. • Name(s) of trainer. • Date(s) of training. • Description of procedures and/or policies trained on.	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
1.4.0	Does the hatchery have a posted emergency plan? Are emergency contacts and emergency plans posted on-site for emergencies, i.e. fire, weather and power outages? Does the site have procedures and/or equipment to prevent the death of animals in the event of extreme weather or a mechanical ventilation failure?	Emergency contacts must include the names and phone numbers of all individuals that must be notified in emergency situations. Emergency plans must include, at a minimum, a contingency plan for fire, power outages or any other natural disaster that are common to that specific location.	10
1.5.0	Does the hatchery have an alarm system or regular monitoring program in use to alert hatchery personnel of failure of critical systems including, but not limited to, adverse temperature shifts or loss of electricity of setters and hatchers.	An alarm system or regular monitoring program must be in place. This system, at a minimum, must be calibrated, maintained and verified as working by trained individuals at least twice a year. The regular testing of thermostats in the hatchery is included.	15
1.6.0	Is there a functional generator on-site?	A functional generator must be on-site or readily available.	10
1.6.1	Is there a generator check in place and available for review? How often are generators tested?	Generators must be tested at a minimum of once a month and must be documented. The auditor must check the previous month's generator maintenance logs to determine the completion of routine checks.	5
1.7.0	Does the company have a written temperature range goal for the holding room in the hatchery?	The holding room is designated as the location chicks are housed after processing until shipment. A temperature plan must be in place which details the targeted temperature range (i.e. must include a minimum and maximum temperature) for the holding room. The auditor must document this written program.	10
1.7.1	Is the temperature at the time of the audit within the documented temperature range goal stated in 1.7.0?	The holding room temperature at the time of the audit must be recorded.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
1.7.2	Are the temperatures in the holding room being recorded twice daily?	Temperatures must be checked and documented twice daily, at a minimum. Temperature logs may be recorded and stored in a digital format, but they must be accessible for review. The auditor will only award points if the temperature is consistently recorded.	5
1.7.3*	Are thermostats, data loggers and/or thermometers in the holding room calibrated periodically? Is there evidence that corrective action is taken when temperatures fall out of the specified range of the company?	Thermostats, data loggers and/or thermostats must be calibrated per the manufacturer's recommendations. The company must have a written policy and documentation of calibration logs. If temperatures go out of specified ranges, an internal corrective action must be documented. The auditor should verify any past internal corrective actions.	5
1.8.0	Observe chicks for 120 seconds during the separation process. Are any chicks injured during the takeoff procedure whether manual or mechanical separation?	The separation process will be observed for 120 seconds and any injures will be recorded.	10
1.9.0	Does the hatchery have employees who are responsible for recording and reporting chick injuries to management?	A reporting system for chick injuries must be in place. The auditor must document the name and title of employees responsible for these tasks and verifying past corrective actions. **<u>Examples of preventable injuries include:</u>** • Improperly clipped toes • Broken legs • Broken wings Note: Pictures of these are included in supplemental information for the hatchery and other personnel to view for reference and training purposes.	15
1.9.1	Are corrective actions taken when (1.9.0) preventable injuries are reported to management? Injuries do not include cull chicks.	When preventable chick injuries occur, a corrective action report must be issued. These reports must include, at a minimum, the type of injury, cause of injury, location of the injury at the hatchery and the corrective action taken. The auditor will verify documentation of any internal corrective actions.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
1.10.0	Prior to shipping, visually observe 10 boxes of chicks (total of approximately 1,000 chicks). Are there more than .1% of chicks with evidence of obvious severe equipment injuries?	There should be no more than one chick within a 1,000 bird sample with obvious severe equipment injuries. Severe equipment injuries include torn legs, broken legs and/or wings. Document in the notes section how many birds you observe with these injuries and the total percentage out of all birds observed. During internal audits performed by company personnel, a corrective action should be written when chicks are observed with over .1% equipment injuries because these welfare issues are preventable. If over .1% of chicks are injured due to equipment during the FACTA audit, an internal corrective action must be submitted to the auditor within seven days.	25
1.10.1	Are there more than .1% of cull chicks in the shipping boxes?	There should be no more than one cull chick within a 1,000 bird sample. Using the same 1,000 bird sample as 1.10.0, record all cull chicks in shipping boxes. **Sliding scale for awarding points:** 0.1% or less cull chicks = 25 points 0.2 to 0.4% cull chicks = 15 points 0.5% or more cull chicks = 0 points During internal audits performed by company personnel, a corrective action should be written when chicks are observed with over .5% cull chicks. If over .5% of cull chicks are present during the FACTA audit, an internal corrective action must be submitted to the auditor within seven days.	25

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
1.11.0	Is the macerator working properly? If the hatchery is not using a macerator, the auditor must observe the euthanasia practices to ensure they are effective and meet the American Veterinary Medical Association's ("AVMA") guidelines.	In order to ensure proper animal welfare during euthanasia, the macerator must be in proper working condition. The auditor must confirm that after use, no live birds are present inside the macerator blade area. Visual observations on the effectiveness of the macerator must be documented. If the macerator is working properly, all of the chicks placed inside will be euthanized immediately. FACTA audits require visual verification of this. If it is not possible to view the macerator, this must be discussed with FACTA <u>prior</u> to the audit date. According to the AVMA's euthanasia guidelines, "Maceration requires special equipment that must be kept in excellent working order. Chicks must be delivered to the macerator in a way and at a rate that prevents a backlog of chicks at the point of entry into the macerator and without causing injury, suffocation, or avoidable distress to the chicks before maceration" and must cause… "Immediate fragmentation and death of broiler." (*AVMA Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2013 Editions, pg. 43)*	50
1.11.1	Is the macerator inspected on a routine basis?	The macerator must be inspected and maintained by trained individuals. All routine maintenance must occur every month, be recorded and available for review during the audit. All records must be recent, within one year of the audit.	5
1.11.2	Are cull, non-viable and injured chicks euthanized in a timely manner?	Chicks must be euthanized once every flock change or once every hour if the flock change exceeds one hour. This can either be verified by company policy, hatchery documentation or visual observation of the auditor.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
1.12.0	Are chick processing systems designed, maintained and operated in a manner that prevents injuries to the chicks?	All chick processing systems must adhere to the National Chicken Council's ("NCC") guidelines regarding the height chicks are dropped from in the hatchery. (See below). The NCC recommends both manual and automated chick processing systems be designed, maintained and operated in a manner that prevents injuries to the chicks. The speed of the belt, belt material, slides and chutes all play a role in preventing injury to chicks. In the hatchery, chicks must not be dropped from heights more than 12 inches. Written injury reports must be reviewed by the hatchery manager. If injuries occur during processing, an internal corrective action must be submitted to the auditor within seven days. There should be no high speed impacts on hard surfaces or projections.	10
1.13.0	Are there any live chicks observed in the hatchery waste collection area?	The hatchery waste area is a designated area where waste is collected for disposal. In order to maintain animal welfare, no live chicks must be present in the hatchery waste area. If possible, the auditor must observe the hatchery waste collection area for signs of live chicks. If the system is enclosed, the auditor must observe the euthanasia process to ensure no live chicks enter the hatchery waste. A live chick in the hatchery waste collection is a major nonconformance and will be reported to the hatchery and company personnel.	Major nonconformance
1.14.0	Does the hatchery have a written program in place to retrieve loose chicks from the floor at a minimum of once every flock change with documented checks?	A written loose chick program that details how often chicks are checked for must be in place. FACTA requires that this check occur at a minimum of every two hours if the flock change does not occur more frequently. Furthermore, a designated employee(s) must make documented checks on a daily basis. The auditor must verify the loose chick plan is in place and that checks are being recorded.	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
1.15.0	Does the hatchery have a written euthanasia protocol that adheres to the AVMA's guidelines?	The hatchery must have a written protocol, including all euthanasia methods utilized on-site and that all methods follow the AVMA's guidelines for the euthanasia of poultry.	20
1.15.1	Observe the euthanasia method to verify it is in compliance with the hatchery's protocol.	If possible, the auditor must interview at least one hatchery employee and observe the euthanasia method. The method observed and described by the employee must follow hatchery protocols to receive full points. If it is not possible to view euthanasia, this must be documented and discussed with FACTA prior to the audit date. It is always preferred that the euthanasia process is viewed. An example of an acceptable instance where euthanasia might not be viewed is when a hatchery transports chicks to another hatchery for separation and processing.	10
1.16.0	Is there documentation of a vaccination program with proper disinfection and calibration procedures? If the hatchery does not perform vaccination on-site, the points are marked as N/A and taken out of the total.	A written vaccination program detailing the vaccines used at the hatchery must be in place. In addition, the vaccination equipment must be disinfected after daily use. The machine should also be calibrated at the minimum recommended intervals by the manufacturer. The auditor must be able to verify the vaccination program, disinfection and calibration during the audit to award points.	5 / N/A
1.17.0	Are hatcher baskets/trays in good condition to prevent injuries to the chicks?	Hatcher baskets/trays must be well maintained so any broken or cracked trays that may cause any type of injury to the chick are not used. The auditor will select 50 hatcher baskets/ trays and use the following sliding scale to award points. **Sliding scale for awarding points:** 48 - 50 trays in proper condition = 20 points 46 - 47 trays in proper condition = 10 points 45 - less trays in proper condition = 0 points	20

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
1.18.0	Does the hatchery require cleaning, washing and sanitizing of specialized equipment for egg handling, incubation and hatching to protect the newly hatched chick from infectious agents or trauma from equipment after each use?	The hatchery must clean, wash and sanitize equipment for egg handling, incubation and hatching after daily chick processing. The auditor may verify the required sanitation by reviewing records, conducting employee interviews or visually inspecting the hatchery.	10
1.19.0	Is the stocking density of chicks placed in transportation boxes equal to or greater than 4.11 in^2 per chick? This is completed along with question 1.10.1.	The stocking density of transportation boxes must not exceed 4.11 in^2 per chick. The auditor must document the box dimensions and list the range of chicks boxed. Standard shipping boxes are 24 in wide and 18 in long. The stocking density must be 105 birds or less in order to receive points. If standard shipping boxes are not used, the auditor must calculate the space per chick based on the area of the box (in inches) and divide it by the number of chicks placed.	5
1.20.0	Do chick transportation boxes have holes for proper breathing of chicks?	The chick boxes must have holes to allow chicks to breathe properly. The auditor must evaluate transportation boxes and if unacceptable, must not award points.	5
1.21.0*	Are transportation boxes cleaned and sanitized to prevent contamination after each delivery?	In the interest of promoting health and animal welfare, all transportation boxes must be cleaned and sanitized after each use. The auditor must evaluate transportation boxes and if unacceptable, must not award points.	10
1.22.0	Does the hatchery have a licensed veterinarian available for consultation as needed?	The hatchery must have proof of the veterinarian-client relationship by one of the following ways: • Direct contact with the veterinarian. • Documented letter signed and dated by the veterinarian pertaining to the veterinarian-client relationship. • Viewing vaccination/medication prescriptions. • Veterinarian-client contract.	20

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
1.23.0	Is there a written temperature and ventilation monitoring program for chick transport?	The hatchery must have a written temperature and ventilation monitoring program in place. This program must detail the acceptable temperature during extreme weather conditions during transportation. Truck and ventilation conditions must also be monitored. The auditor must document this procedure and verify that the company's procedures are being followed.	5
1.24.0	Does the chick transport department have a posted emergency plan? Are emergency contacts and emergency plans posted on-site/in trucks for emergencies such as fire, weather and power outages?	Emergency contacts must include the name and phone numbers of all individuals that must be notified in emergency situations. Emergency plans must include, at a minimum, a contingency plan for fire, power outages, traffic accidents and any other natural disaster that are common to that specific location.	10
1.25.0	Driver/transport records are kept for each delivery that include: • Loading start and stop times/date. • Departure and arrival times. • Unloading start and stop times/date. • House conditions at placement. • Log emergency stops/delays.	Records must be reviewed by the auditor for compliance. If the hatchery does not maintain a particular record, it can be verified by another department within the company. For example, if house condition reports are filled out by a grower or service representative, the auditor would verify these records and award points.	10
1.26.0	Do dead on arrivals ("DOA") exceed .1% from hatchery to the grower farm in the previous 30 (working) days of hatchery production?	The hatchery is responsible for recording any DOA chicks during transportation. Chicks must be checked thoroughly within 12 hours of placement and all DOA must be reported to the hatchery at that time. For any 30-day period, the average DOA percentage must not fall below .1%. The auditor may look at written or electronic delivery records to verify DOA. In the event that DOA exceed .1%, a written internal corrective action should be submitted to the auditor within seven days.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
1.27.0	Did the auditor witness any acts of animal abuse or neglect?	Animal abuse or neglect is a major nonconformance. Abuse and neglect include, but are not limited to, hitting, kicking or other forms of improper handling.	Major nonconformance
	Hatchery Welfare Audit – Section #1		380

Pullet Animal Welfare Policies and Observations Audit – Section #2

Please note: This section will be filled out for each pullet house visited.

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
2.1.0	Is someone responsible for ensuring proper animal welfare for the pullet sites?	The pullet department must have a designated employee responsible for obtaining and ensuring animal welfare during pullet rearing. The auditor must document the name and title of the employee.	5
2.2.0	Signature of the farm worker or grower that ensures corrective action is taken when a pullet's well-being is jeopardized by injury.	The auditor will obtain the signature of the individual responsible for ensuring animal welfare and recording corrective actions when welfare is jeopardized.	5
2.3.0	Are contractors/employees, vaccination and catch crews that handle pullet flocks trained on animal welfare and handling? Do all on-farm employees, vaccination and catch crews go through an orientation program, i.e., are employees trained in pullet welfare before handling live animals? Do all on-farm employees, vaccination and catch crews have a documented pullet flock welfare training program conducted annually for all employees involved in the handling of live animals (multilingual, if necessary; verbal translation of materials at the time of training is acceptable)?	Any individual that is responsible for animal welfare, care or handling must be trained. This includes on-farm employees/growers, vaccination and catch crews that move pullet flocks to breeder houses. Orientation training must be completed prior to any individual responsible for animal care or handling. Orientation, at a minimum, must cover; the company's animal abuse policy, humane handling, euthanasia (if applicable) and any task specific training relating to that employees job description. Task specific training is defined as any training that focuses on acceptable procedures for the daily or routine activities for a particular location. This includes the training for pullet vaccination and catch crews. On-farm employees must also have documented annual training of animal welfare. Training records must include: • Name(s) of trainees. • Name(s) of trainer. • Date(s) of training. • Description of procedures and/or policies trained on.	10
Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value

2.4.0	Does the company have a written euthanasia protocol that adheres to the AVMA's guidelines?	The company must have a written protocol, including all euthanasia methods utilized on-site and that all methods follow the AVMA's guidelines for the euthanasia of poultry.	20
2.4.1	Is the company's euthanasia protocol that adheres to the AVMA's guidelines available on-site?	The company's euthanasia protocol must be available on-site.	5
2.4.2	Are all contractors/employees trained on methods of euthanasia in compliance with the company's protocol and the AVMA's guidelines at orientation and on an annual basis?	Employees or growers that are responsible for performing euthanasia must be trained on the company's euthanasia methods at orientation and receive retraining on an annual basis.	20
2.5.0	Does the pullet and breeder department have a written emergency plan that includes emergency contacts in the event of fires, weather and power outages? Does the pullet and breeder department have procedures and/or equipment in place to prevent the death of animals in the event of extreme weather or a mechanical ventilation failure on all farms?	Emergency contacts must include the name and phone numbers of all individuals that must be notified in emergency situations. Emergency plans must include, at a minimum, a contingency plan for fire, power outages or any other natural disaster that are common to that specific location.	10
2.5.1	Are emergency contacts and emergency plans posted or visibly available on-site in case of fire, weather, power outages and other natural disasters?	The emergency contacts and emergency plans must be posted or visibly available on-site.	5
2.6.0	Is there a functional generator on-site?	A functional generator must be on-site or readily available.	10
2.6.1	Is there a generator check in place and available for review?	Generators must be tested at a minimum of once a month and must be documented. The auditor must check the previous month's generator maintenance logs to determine the completion of routine checks.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
2.7.0	Does the company have a written lighting program?	The company must have a written lighting program available. As described in the NCC's guidelines, FACTA requires that this lighting program allows for a contrast between day and night periods. Birds must have access to at least eight hours of constant light on a daily basis. The program should take into account the availability of natural lighting, and the age and strain of the flock. The auditor will document the lighting program in place and directly observe the birds to ensure animal welfare has not been compromised due to the lighting procedures.	10
2.7.1	Is the company's lighting program available on-farm and is it being followed?	The company's lighting program must be available on the farm. The auditor should also confirm that the lighting program is being followed by the growers on-site.	5
2.8.0	Does the company have a documented written brooding program in place?	The company must have a written brooding program that discusses information on housing and bedding temperature, house conditions prior to placement, as well as throughout brooding. House conditions include, but are not limited to, ammonia levels, feed and water availability and light intensity.	10
2.8.1	Is the company's brooding program available on-farm and is it being followed?	The company must have a written brooding program that is available on-farm and is being followed. Auditors may verify that this brooding program is being followed by checking the light settings in the house, checking house temperatures, and/or observing the birds' behavior.	5
2.9.0	Does the company have a written maximum and minimum temperature policy based on the age of the birds?	The company must have a written temperature policy that discusses the temperature range based on the age of the birds.	10
2.9.1	Is the company's maximum and minimum temperature policy available on-site?	The company's temperature policy must be available on-site. In addition, the auditor must ensure the policy is being followed by observing the current house temperature, set temperature in the house, and/or observing the thermoregulatory behavior of the birds.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
2.10.0	Does the company have a written biosecurity plan that discusses how to prevent rodent and pest access to pullets?	The company must have a written biosecurity plan that includes visitor policies, mortality disposal and rodent management. Rodent management is defined as a way to reduce and/or prevent rodents from gaining access to the pullet houses and must include, maintaining bait boxes, managing vegetation around the perimeter of the house, immediate removal of feed spills and other general practices to restrict flies, rodents or other pests access to the houses.	10
2.10.1	Is the company's biosecurity program available on-site and being followed?	Verify that the company's biosecurity protocol is available on-site and the grower(s) is following the protocol. The auditor must verify that a visitor policy is in place, vegetation is well maintained, feed spills are not present on-site, and bait boxes are in place, and appropriately filled.	5
2.11.0	Is the downtime between pullet flocks 14 days or more?	The downtime between flocks must be at least 14 days or more. However, 28 days of downtime is strongly recommended by the NCC and FACTA.	5
2.12.0	Are feed formulations approved by an animal nutritionist?	All feed formulations must be approved by an animal nutritionist. This relationship can be verified by: • Verify a contract between the animal nutritionist and the company. • Feed order or feed formulations with the animal nutritionist's name present. • Auditor's direct contact with the animal nutritionist.	10
2.13.0	Is feed and water consumption monitored daily?	Feed and water consumption must be recorded on a daily basis.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
2.14.0	Are feeders and drinkers regularly being checked for litter and free of debris? Also, are feeders and drinkers in proper working condition?	Feeders and drinkers must be free of debris and litter and in working condition, so as not to obstruct the bird's ability to eat and drink. Growers should verify that feeders and drinkers are in proper condition on a daily basis. While on-site, the auditor must observe feeders and drinkers to ensure they are properly working. In the event that a feeder(s) or drinker(s) are obstructed with litter, debris and/or not properly working, the auditor will removed the points and report it to the grower(s) and/or company personnel.	5
2.15.0	Is feed and water withdrawal kept to the minimum level consistent with good processing practices?	Feed and water withdrawal is only acceptable in order to prepare the flock for catching and transportation. The company must have records or documentation supporting the company's policy on feed and water withdrawal times. These written policies must include that water withdrawal does not exceed one hour prior to the start of catching. For pullets, feed withdrawal must not exceed 16 hours prior to transportation. Water should also be available until the time catching begins.	5
2.16.0	Is the flock assessed at minimum of once daily by trained on-farm employees to identify any birds that need to be culled?	In the interest of decreasing the suffering of cull birds, grower(s) must be responsible for assessing the flock on a daily basis and recording if any cull birds are observed. The auditor must verify documentation of daily farm records that cull birds are checked for, euthanized when needed and this information is recorded. If possible, the auditor must interview the grower(s) to determine if they are able to identify cull birds. For more information on how to identify cull birds, please see Appendix A.	40
2.16.1	Are mortality and culls being checked and documented at a minimum of once daily?	Cull and mortality must be removed from the general population and recorded on a daily basis. The auditor must observe these mortality sheets to determine if cull and mortalities are documented.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
2.17.0	If the total mortality and culling exceeds normal flock expectations, are there preventative measures being performed to reduce mortality and culls?	Mortality and culls must be recorded daily and noted separately on the farm mortality chart. Mortality and culls must be monitored and if it falls outside the company's normal range, preventative measures must be taken. The mortality range must be based off the expected morality of the flock as stated in the breeder's management guidelines for the specific breed used. The auditor will verify the company's normal mortality range and document the mortality rate at the time of the audit.	5
2.18.0	Do no more than five birds have a gait score of 2?	*Gait scores will be assessed in each pullet house audited.* Use the NCC's guidelines to perform this standard. Walk approximately 100 feet of the house between the wall and the first line of drinkers and observe the birds' gait. Record the number of birds unable to walk or move after gentle encouragement (Score of 2) using the U.S. Gait Scoring System: Hens and roosters may need to be gently encouraged to walk. If the birds become stressed, especially in hot weather, discontinue scoring immediately. **Score 0** – Bird should walk at least five feet, and while the bird may appear ungainly, there are no visible signs of lameness. **Score 1** – Bird should walk at least five feet, but appears awkward, uneven in steps. **Score 2** – Bird will not walk five feet without sitting down or there is obvious lameness.	20

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
2.19.0	Did you observe the same injury on multiple birds throughout the flock?	Flocks must be assessed during the audit and observed for injuries, which is defined as a chicken that is harmed, damaged or impaired not related to a disease outbreak. If any injuries are observed, the auditor must document the injuries and interview the grower(s) and/or company personnel in order to gather the following information: 1. Is/are the grower(s) aware of these injuries? 2. What do the grower(s) think is the cause of the injuries? 3. What steps have been taken to address the issue? Full points are awarded for no issues observed. If injuries are observed, but have been identified by the caretaker and are being addressed, then partial points will be awarded. The auditor must document what steps the caretaker has taken to address the injuries. The caretaker can verbally describe the action plan in place and, therefore, does not need to be documented in writing.	15
2.20.0	Is the litter in the house dry and of good quality?	Litter must be dry, friable and well maintained in order to promote animal health and welfare, and allow the birds to exhibit their natural behaviors. Litter conditions must be observed by the auditor. A “squeeze test” may be performed in three separate areas in order to determine if it is suitable. The auditor may also determine if the caked litter covers a majority of the house. Litter that is unacceptable is defined as caked litter past the water lines and into the center of the aisle. For more information on performing a squeeze test, see Appendix A.	15

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
2.21.0	Is the ammonia level in the house below 25 ppm? Are steps taken when this level is exceeded?	Ammonia levels must never exceed 25 ppm at bird height. The auditor must document ammonia levels from a digital ammonia reading device or ammonia test strips and award points based on the results. If unacceptable ammonia levels are observed, the auditor must record the grower(s) or company personnel internal corrective actions to correct high ammonia levels. For more information on performing an ammonia test, see Appendix A.	20
2.22.0	Are structural integrity and environmental controls set up to protect birds from extreme cold weather and heat during the growing cycle?	The structural integrity of the house must be well maintained so that no holes, broken fans or other structural damage are observed. In addition, the environmental controls must be in proper working condition and set up to avoid thermal distress. The auditor must observe the circumference of the housing condition and environmental controls. If applicable, the auditor must document any issues related to structural integrity and environmental controls.	10
2.23.0	Is the facility in a good state of repair and not posing a threat of injury to the birds?	All parts of the facility must be in good condition and not posing a threat of injury to the birds. Examples of items that could potentially cause injury to animals include: sharp edges or broken feeders, waterers, nest boxes (breeders only), etc. If the auditor observes improper facility conditions, no points will be awarded.	15
2.24.0	In pullet houses, are houses stocked so that birds are still able to move freely around the houses?	The company must have a space density protocol for pullet facilities. The auditor will observe the birds' behavior and mobility on-site and evaluate the space adequacy based on those observations. For any houses that are overstocked so that birds cannot access feeders, waterers and in general, cannot move freely around the houses, no points will be awarded.	20

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
2.25.0	If the company practices beak trimming, toe trimming, comb dubbing or spur removal, are there written policies on each of these applicable practices? Are employees responsible for performing these procedures trained?	According to the NCC's broiler breeder requirements, beak trimming, toe trimming, comb dubbing or spur removal may be necessary to provide long-term welfare to breeder operations. If these practices are used, the company is required to have a written policy justifying the reasoning behind using these practices, and how the procedure is performed. The company must also provide records of the routine maintenance of any equipment used, as well as the annual training of employees performing these procedures. Training records must include: • Name(s) of trainees. • Name(s) of trainer. • Date(s) of training. • Description of procedures and/or policies trained on. If the company does not utilize these practices, this standard will be marked as N/A and the points will be removed from the total available.	20 or N/A
2.26.0	Is there a written program detailing the vaccination schedule that has been reviewed by a veterinarian?	This written program must include details on the vaccination schedule that is designed or reviewed by a veterinarian. This must include the description of regular maintenance and disinfection of any vaccination equipment that is used.	10
2.27.0	Is there a written program detailing pullet handling techniques during vaccination?	This written program must detail how pullets are handled during vaccination. Pullets can be handled by the base of their wings, as long as they are supported elsewhere by the vaccinator. Pullets should also be carried one bird per hand by the vaccinators. Pullets must never be lifted or carried by the wing or neck, and must not be thrown.	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
2.28.0	Are there records of any injuries or deaths during vaccination and is the average percentage of injuries or deaths less than 1%?	Injuries or deaths resulting from vaccinations must be recorded and available to the auditor. Records from the last round of vaccinations conducted by the company will be viewed to verify that less than 1% of the birds were injured or died during this process. If the injury and death percentage is more than 1%, and there is an internal corrective action available at the time of the audit, partial points will be awarded. However, if an internal corrective action is not available, no points will be awarded.	10
2.29.0	For any pullet movements, is there a functional emergency plan posted? Are emergency contacts and emergency plans available in trucks during transport for emergencies, i.e. fire, weather and power outages? Does the pullet department have procedures and/or equipment to prevent the death of animals in the event of extreme weather or a mechanical failure?	Emergency contacts must include the name and phone numbers of all individuals that must be notified in emergency situations. Emergency plans must include, at a minimum, a contingency plan for fire, weather related issues, mechanical failure and power outages. The processing plant must have a procedure/plan in place to prevent the death of animals in the event of a power outage, etc.	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
2.30.0	Is there a written program detailing the number of birds placed into each coop and handling techniques the catcher must use?	This written program must include details on how many birds are handled by the catchers at one time. Birds must be carried correctly to reduce struggling and placed in the coops without hitting the sides or edges of the coop. Birds must never be lifted or carried by the wing or neck, and birds must never be thrown. Instead, birds must be carried by the base of the wings or by legs. This written program must also include details on how many birds are placed into each coop. The transportation coops must be large enough for the birds to sit down and move around without being pinned by other birds in the cage. Gates or doors on each coop must close completely to prevent the accidental escape of birds during transport. This written program must be available for review by the auditor during the audit.	10
2.31.0	Does the company have a written program to protect pullet flocks from temperature extremes during holding, loading and transportation, and to provide the pullet flocks with adequate ventilation while moving to breeder sites?	The company must have a written temperature program for pullet flocks during all stages of pullet movement. This program must be on-site and the auditor should confirm the program is being followed by conducting interviews of the employees. In addition, the auditor should document what procedures are in place during the catching and transportation portion of the audit to mitigate temperature extremes. Examples of such programs can include, but are not limited to; stocking density (number of birds/weight), fans and water, tarps/boards for wind cold barriers, etc.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
2.32.0	Are there records of any injuries or deaths during pullet movement and is the average percentage of injuries or deaths less than 1%?	Injuries or deaths resulting from moving pullets to breeder houses must be recorded and available to the auditor. Records from the last pullet movement made by the company will be viewed to verify that less than 1% of the birds were injured or died during this process. If the injury and death percentage is more than 1%, and there is an internal corrective action present at the time of the audit, partial points will be awarded. However, if an internal corrective action is not available, no points will be awarded.	10
2.33.0	Did the auditor witness any acts of animal abuse or neglect?	Animal abuse or neglect is a major nonconformance. Abuse and neglect include, but are not limited to, hitting, kicking or other forms of improper handling.	Major Nonconformance
		N/A Points	
		Possible Points	
	Pullet Animal Welfare Policies and Observations Audit – Section #2		435

Breeder Animal Welfare Policies and Observations Audit – Section #3

Please note: This section will be filled out for each breeder house visited.

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
3.1.0	Is someone responsible for ensuring proper animal welfare for the breeder sites?	The breeder department must have a designated employee responsible for obtaining and ensuring animal welfare on breeder sites. The auditor must document the name and title of the employee.	5
3.2.0	Signature of the farm worker or grower that ensures corrective action is taken when a breeder's well-being is jeopardized by injury.	The auditor will obtain the signature of the individual responsible for ensuring animal welfare and recording corrective actions when welfare is jeopardized.	5
3.3.0	Are contractors/employee(s) and catch crews that handle breeder flocks trained on animal welfare and handling? Do all on-farm employees and catch crews go through an orientation program, i.e., are employees trained in breeder welfare before handling live animals? Do all on-farm employees and catch crews have a documented breeder flock welfare training program conducted annually for all employees involved in the handling of live animals (multilingual, if necessary; verbal translation of materials at the time of training is acceptable)?	Any individual that is responsible for animal welfare, care or handling must be trained. This includes on-farm employees/growers, and catchers that move spent breeder flocks. Orientation training must be completed prior to any individual responsible for animal care or handling. Orientation, at a minimum, must cover; the company's animal abuse policy, humane handling, euthanasia (if applicable) and any task specific training relating to that employees job description. Task specific training is defined as any training that focuses on acceptable procedures for the daily or routine activities for a particular location. This includes the training for catch crews. On-farm employees must also have documented annual training of animal welfare. Training records must include: • Name(s) of trainees. • Name(s) of trainer. • Date(s) of training. • Description of procedures and/or policies trained on.	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
3.4.0	Does the company have a written euthanasia protocol that adheres to the AVMA's guidelines?	The company must have a written protocol, including all euthanasia methods utilized on-site and that all methods follow the AVMA's guidelines for the euthanasia of poultry.	20
3.4.1	Is the company's euthanasia protocol that adheres to the AVMA's guidelines available on-site?	The company's euthanasia protocol must be available on-site.	5
3.4.2	Are all contractors/employees trained on methods of euthanasia in compliance with the company's protocol and the AVMA's guidelines at orientation and on an annual basis?	Employees or growers that are responsible for performing euthanasia must be trained on the company's euthanasia methods at orientation and receive retraining on an annual basis.	20
3.5.0	Does the breeder department have a written emergency plan that includes emergency contacts in the event of fires, weather and power outages? Does the breeder department have procedures and/or equipment in place to prevent the death of animals in the event of extreme weather or a mechanical ventilation failure on all farms?	Emergency contacts must include the name and phone numbers of all individuals that must be notified in emergency situations. Emergency plans must include, at a minimum, a contingency plan for fire, power outages or any other natural disaster that are common to that specific location.	10
3.5.1	Are emergency contacts and emergency plans posted or visibly available on-site in case of fire, weather, power outages and other natural disasters?	The emergency contacts and emergency plans must be posted or visibly available on-site.	5
3.6.0	Is there a functional generator on-site?	A functional generator must be on-site or readily available.	10
3.6.1	Is there a generator check in place and available for review?	Generators must be tested at a minimum of once a month and must be documented. The auditor must check the previous month's generator maintenance logs to determine the completion of routine checks.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
3.7.0	Does the company have a written lighting program?	The company must have a written lighting program available. As described in the NCC's guidelines, FACTA requires that this lighting program allows for a contrast between day and night periods. Birds must have access to at least eight hours of constant light on a daily basis. The program should take into account the availability of natural lighting, and the age and strain of the flock. The auditor will document the lighting program in place and directly observe the birds to ensure animal welfare has not been compromised due to the lighting procedures.	10
3.7.1	Is the company's lighting program available on-farm and is it being followed?	The company's lighting program must be available on the farm. The auditor should also confirm that the lighting program is being followed by the growers on-site.	5
3.8.0	Does the company have a documented written brooding program in place?	The company must have a written brooding program that discusses information on housing and bedding temperature, house conditions prior to placement, as well as throughout brooding. House conditions include, but are not limited to, ammonia levels, feed and water availability and light intensity.	10
3.8.1	Is the company's brooding program available on-farm and is it being followed?	The company must have a written brooding program that is available on-farm and is being followed. Auditors may verify that this brooding program is being followed by checking the light settings in the house, checking house temperatures, and/or observing the birds' behavior.	5
3.9.0	Does the company have a written maximum and minimum temperature policy based on the age of the birds?	The company must have a written temperature policy that discusses the temperature range based on the age of the birds.	10
3.9.1	Is the company's maximum and minimum temperature policy available on-site?	The company's temperature policy must be available on-site. In addition, the auditor must ensure the policy is being followed by observing the current house temperature, set temperature in the house, and/or observing the thermoregulatory behavior of the birds.	5
3.10.0	Does the company have a written	The company must have a written biosecurity	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
	biosecurity plan that discusses how to prevent rodent and pest access to breeders?	plan that includes visitor policies, mortality disposal and rodent management. Rodent management is defined as a way to reduce and/or prevent rodents from gaining access to the breeder houses and must include, maintaining bait boxes, managing vegetation around the perimeter of the house, immediate removal of feed spills and other general practices to restrict flies, rodents or other pests access to the houses.	
3.10.1	Is the company's biosecurity program available on-site and being followed?	Verify that the company's biosecurity protocol is available on-site and the grower(s) is following the protocol. The auditor must verify that a visitor policy is in place, vegetation is well maintained, feed spills are not present on-site, and bait boxes are in place and appropriately filled.	5
3.11.0	Is the downtime between breeder flocks 14 days or more?	The downtime between flocks must be at least 14 days or more. However, 28 days of downtime is strongly recommended by the NCC and FACTA.	5
3.12.0	Are feed formulations approved by an animal nutritionist?	All feed formulations must be approved by an animal nutritionist. This relationship can be verified by: • Verify a contract between the animal nutritionist and the company. • Feed order or feed formulations with the animal nutritionist's name present. • Auditor's direct contact with the animal nutritionist.	10
3.13.0	Is feed and water consumption monitored daily?	Feed and water consumption must be recorded on a daily basis.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
3.14.0	Are feeders and drinkers regularly being checked for litter and free of debris? Also, are feeders and drinkers in proper working condition?	Feeders and drinkers must be free of debris and litter and in working condition, so as not to obstruct the bird's ability to eat and drink. Growers should verify that feeders and drinkers are in proper condition on a daily basis. While on-site, the auditor must observe feeders and drinkers to ensure they are properly working. In the event that a feeder(s) or drinker(s) are obstructed with litter, debris and/or not properly working, the auditor will removed the points and report it to the grower(s) and/or company personnel.	5
3.15.0	Is feed and water withdrawal kept to the minimum level consistent with good processing practices?	Feed and water withdrawal is only acceptable in order to prepare the flock for catching and transportation. The company must have records or documentation supporting the company's policy on feed and water withdrawal times. These written policies must include that water withdrawal does not exceed one hour prior to the start of catching. For spent hens or roosters, feed withdrawal must not exceed 16 hours prior to transportation. Water should also be available until the time catching begins.	5
3.16.0	Is the flock assessed at minimum of once daily by trained on-farm employees to identify any birds that need to be culled?	In the interest of decreasing the suffering of cull birds, grower(s) must be responsible for assessing the flock on a daily basis and recording if any cull birds are observed. The auditor must verify documentation of daily farm records that cull birds are checked for, euthanized when needed and this information is recorded. If possible, the auditor must interview the grower(s) to determine if they are able to identify cull birds. For more information on how to identify cull birds, please see Appendix A.	40
3.17.0	Are mortality and culls being checked and documented at a minimum of once daily?	Cull and mortality must be removed from the general population and recorded on a daily basis. The auditor must observe these mortality sheets to determine if cull and mortalities are documented.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
3.18.0	If the total mortality and culling exceeds normal flock expectations, are there preventative measures being performed to reduce mortality and culls?	Mortality and culls must be recorded daily and noted separately on the farm mortality chart. Mortality and culls must be monitored and if it falls outside the company's normal range, preventative measures must be taken. The auditor will verify the company's normal mortality range and document the mortality rate at the time of the audit.	5
3.19.0	Do no more than five birds have a gait score of 2?	*Gait scores will be assessed in each breeder house audited.* Use the NCC's guidelines to perform this standard. Walk approximately 100 feet of the house between the wall and the first line of drinkers and observe the birds' gait. Record the number of birds unable to walk or move after gentle encouragement (Score of 2) using the U.S. Gait Scoring System: Birds may need to be gently encouraged to walk. If the birds become stressed, especially in hot weather, discontinue scoring immediately. **Score 0** – Bird should walk at least five feet, and while the bird may appear ungainly, there are no visible signs of lameness. **Score 1** – Bird should walk at least five feet, but appears awkward, uneven in steps. **Score 2** – Bird will not walk five feet without sitting down or there is obvious lameness.	20

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
3.20.0	Did you observe the same injury on multiple birds throughout the flock?	Flocks must be assessed during the audit and observed for injuries, which is defined as a bird that is harmed, damaged or impaired not related to a disease outbreak. If any injuries are observed, the auditor must document the injuries and interview the grower(s) and/or company personnel in order to gather the following information: 1. Is/are the grower(s) aware of these injuries? 2. What do the grower(s) think is the cause of the injuries? 3. What steps have been taken to address the issue? Full points are awarded for no issues observed. If injuries are observed, but have been identified by the caretaker and are being addressed, then partial points will be awarded. The auditor must document what steps the caretaker has taken to address the injuries. The caretaker can verbally describe the action plan in place and, therefore, does not need to be documented in writing.	15
3.21.0	Is the litter in the house dry and of good quality?	Litter must be dry, friable and well maintained in order to promote animal health and welfare, and allow the birds to exhibit their natural behaviors. Litter conditions must be observed by the auditor. A “squeeze test” may be performed in three separate areas in order to determine if it is suitable. The auditor may also determine if the caked litter covers a majority of the house. Litter that is unacceptable is defined as caked litter past the water lines and into the center of the aisle. For more information on performing a squeeze test, see Appendix A.	15

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
3.22.0	Is the ammonia level in the house below 25 ppm? Are steps taken when this level is exceeded?	Ammonia levels must never exceed 25 ppm at bird height. The auditor must document ammonia levels from a digital ammonia reading device or ammonia test strips and award points based on the results. If unacceptable ammonia levels are observed, the auditor must record the grower(s) or company personnel internal corrective actions to correct high ammonia levels. For more information on performing an ammonia test, see Appendix A.	20
3.23.0	Are structural integrity and environmental controls set up to protect birds from extreme cold weather and heat during the growing cycle?	The structural integrity of the house must be well maintained so that no holes, broken fans or other structural damage are observed. In addition, the environmental controls must be in proper working condition and set up to avoid thermal distress. The auditor must observe the circumference of the housing condition and environmental controls. If applicable, the auditor must document any issues related to structural integrity and environmental controls.	10
3.24.0	Is the facility in a good state of repair and not posing a threat of injury to the birds?	All parts of the facility must be in good condition and not posing a threat of injury to the birds. Examples of items that could potentially cause injury to animals include: sharp edges or broken feeders, waterers, nest boxes (breeders only), etc. If the auditor observes improper facility conditions, no points will be awarded.	15
3.25.0	In breeder houses, are houses stocked so that birds are still able to move freely around the houses?	The company must have a space density protocol for breeder facilities. The auditor will observe the birds' behavior and mobility on-site and evaluate the space adequacy based on those observations. For any houses that are overstocked so that birds cannot access feeders, waterers and in general, cannot move freely around the houses, no points will be awarded.	20

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
3.26.0	Are hens provided with adequate nest space?	Breeder houses must be equipped with nest boxes. The style and design of nest boxes may vary between systems, but the number of hens per nest must follow the manufacturers' recommendation. The auditor must be able to verify the hens per nest criteria during the audit. Therefore, a written program must be observed.	20
3.26.1	Do nest boxes have a floor substrate and dividers or curtains to encourage nesting behaviors?	Breeder houses must have nest boxes equipped with a floor substrate and dividers or curtains to encourage nesting behaviors. An example of suitable floor substrates is nest pads, straw, etc.	10
3.27.0	Are hens gradually introduced to replacement males in consideration for the overall health of the flock?	Replacement males or "spiking" the flock is a common practice for breeder operations. When this practice is applied, hens must be slowly introduced to these replacement males in order to decrease animal welfare issues. The auditor must verify this policy in written or verbal communications with the breeder department.	10
3.28.0	Are slats in the breeder house 24 inches high or less?	Slats in breeder houses must not exceed 24 inches high unless a ramp or steps are provided to allow for ease of bird movement between the littered space and the slats.	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
3.29.0	If the company practices beak trimming, toe trimming, comb dubbing or spur removal, are there written policies on each of these applicable practices? Are employees responsible for performing these procedures trained?	According to the NCC's broiler breeder requirements, beak trimming, toe trimming, comb dubbing or spur removal may be necessary to provide long-term welfare to breeder operations. If these practices are used, the company is required to have a written policy justifying the reasoning behind using these practices, and how the procedure is performed. The company must also provide records of the routine maintenance of any equipment used, as well as the annual training of employees performing these procedures. Training records must include: • Name(s) of trainees. • Name(s) of trainer. • Date(s) of training. • Description of procedures and/or policies trained on. If the company does not utilize these practices, this standard will be marked as N/A and the points will be removed from the total available.	20 or N/A
3.30.0	For the end of cycle transportation, is there a posted functional emergency plan? Are emergency contacts and emergency plans available in trucks during transport for emergencies, i.e. fire, weather and power outages? Does the breeder department have procedures and/or equipment to prevent the death of animals in the event of extreme weather or a mechanical failure?	Emergency contacts must include the name and phone numbers of all individuals that must be notified in emergency situations. Emergency plans must include, at a minimum, a contingency plan for fire, weather related issues, mechanical failure and power outages. The processing plant must have a procedure/plan in place to prevent the death of animals in the event of a power outage, etc.	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
3.31.0	Is there a written program detailing the number of birds placed into each coop and handling techniques the catcher must use?	This written program must include details on how many birds are handled by the catchers at one time. Birds must be carried correctly to reduce struggling and placed in the coops without hitting the sides or edges of the coop. Birds must never be lifted or carried by the wing or neck, and birds must never be thrown. Instead, birds must be carried by the base of the wings or by legs. This written program must also include details on how many birds are placed into each coop. The transportation coops must be large enough for the birds to sit down and move around without being pinned by other birds in the cage. Gates or doors on each coop must close completely to prevent the accidental escape of birds during transport. This written program must be available for review by the auditor during the audit.	10
3.32.0	Does the company have a written program to protect breeder flocks from temperature extremes during holding, loading, and transportation and provide the flock with adequate ventilation?	The company must have a written temperature program for the flock during all stages of transportation. This program must be on-site and the auditor should confirm the program is being followed by conducting interviews of the employees. In addition, the auditor should document what procedures are in place during the catching and transportation portion of the audit to mitigate temperature extremes. Examples of such programs can include, but are not limited to; stocking density (number of birds/weight), fans and water, tarps/boards for wind cold barriers, etc.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
3.33.0	Are there records of any injuries or death during depopulation of breeder houses and is the average percentage of injury or death less than 1%?	Injuries or deaths resulting from depopulating breeder houses must be recorded and available to the auditor. Records from the last depopulation will be viewed to verify that less than 1% of the birds were injured or died during this process. If the injury and death percentage is more than 1%, and there is an internal corrective action present at the time of the audit, partial points will be awarded. However, if an internal corrective action is not available, no points will be awarded. In the case when a company sells spent birds for further processing and does not have access to DOA records, this standard will be marked as N/A.	20 or N/A
3.34.0	Did the auditor witness any acts of animal abuse or neglect?	Animal abuse or neglect is a major nonconformance. Abuse and neglect include, but are not limited to, hitting, kicking or other forms of improper handling.	Major Nonconformance
		N/A Points	
		Possible Points	
	Breeder Animal Welfare Policies and Observations Audit – Section #3		465

Broiler Field Animal Welfare Policies and Observations Audit – Section #4

Please note: This section will be filled out for each broiler house visited.

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
4.1.0	Is someone responsible for ensuring proper animal welfare of the birds during the growout period?	The broiler department must have a designated employee responsible for obtaining and ensuring animal welfare during broiler growout. The auditor must document the name and title of the employee.	5
4.2.0	Signature of the farm worker or grower that ensures corrective action is taken when a broiler's well-being is jeopardized by injury.	The auditor will obtain the signature of the individual responsible for ensuring animal welfare and recording corrective actions when welfare is jeopardized.	5
4.3.0	Are contractor/employee(s) trained in broiler welfare? Do all on-site workers go through an orientation program, i.e., are employees trained in broiler welfare before handling live animals? Do on-farm employees have a documented broiler welfare training program conducted annually for all employees involved in the handling of live animals (multilingual, if necessary; verbal translation of materials at the time of training is acceptable)?	Any individual that is responsible for animal welfare/care or handling must be trained. This includes on-farm employees and growers. Orientation training must be completed prior to any individual responsible for animal care or handling. Orientation, at a minimum, must cover; the company's animal abuse policy, humane handling, euthanasia (if applicable) and any task specific training relating to that employees job description. Task specific training is defined as any training that focuses on acceptable procedures for the daily or routine activities for a particular location. On-farm employees must also have documented annual training of animal welfare. Training records must include: • Name(s) of trainees. • Name(s) of trainer. • Date(s) of training. • Description of procedures and/or policies trained on.	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
4.4.0	Does the company have a written euthanasia protocol that adheres to the AVMA's guidelines?	The company must have a written protocol, including all euthanasia methods utilized on-site and that all methods follow the AVMA's guidelines for the euthanasia of poultry.	20
4.4.1	Is the company's euthanasia protocol that adheres to the AVMA's guidelines available on-site?	The company's euthanasia protocol must be available on-site.	5
4.4.2	Are all contractors/employees trained on methods of euthanasia in compliance with the company's protocol and the AVMA's guidelines at orientation and on an annual basis?	Employees or growers that are responsible for performing euthanasia must be trained on the company's euthanasia methods at orientation and receive retraining on an annual basis.	20
4.5.0	Does the broiler department have a written emergency plan that includes emergency contacts in the event of fires, weather and power outages? Does the broiler department have procedures and/or equipment in place to prevent the death of animals in the event of extreme weather or a mechanical ventilation failure on all farms?	Emergency contacts must include the name and phone numbers of all individuals that must be notified in emergency situations. Emergency plans must include, at a minimum, a contingency plan for fire, power outages or any other natural disaster that are common to that specific location.	10
4.5.1	Are emergency contacts and emergency plans posted or visibly available on-site in case of fire, weather, power outages and other natural disasters?	The emergency contacts and emergency plans must be posted or visibly available on-site.	5
4.6.0	Is there a functional generator on-site?	A functional generator must be on-site or readily available.	10
4.6.1	Is there a generator check in place and available for review?	Generators must be tested at a minimum of once a month and must be documented. The auditor must check the previous month's generator maintenance logs to determine the completion of routine checks.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
4.7.0	Does the company have a written lighting program?	The company must have a written lighting program. FACTA requires light intensity be maintained at 0.5 foot candle. Written documentation of a consultation with the veterinarian is required if the period(s) of light is below 0.5 foot candle at bird height. FACTA reserves the right to remove points if the veterinarian's findings are not adequate to suggest animal welfare is not compromised by low light intensity.	10
4.7.1	Is the company's lighting program available on-farm and is it being followed?	The company's lighting program must be available on the farm. The auditor should also confirm that the lighting program is being followed by the growers on-site.	5
4.7.2	Is light intensity a minimum of 0.5 foot candle during production?	The auditor should document light levels at the time of the audit with the FACTA digital light intensity reader.	5
4.8.0	Does the company have a documented written brooding program in place?	The company must have a written brooding program that discusses information on housing and bedding temperature, house conditions prior to placement, as well as throughout brooding. House conditions include, but are not limited to, ammonia levels, feed and water availability and light intensity.	10
4.8.1	Is the company's brooding program available on farm and is it being followed?	The company must have a written brooding program that is available on-farm and is being followed. Auditors may verify that this brooding program is being followed by checking the light settings in the house, checking house temperatures, and/or observing the chicks' behavior.	5
4.9.0	Does the company have a written maximum and minimum temperature policy based on the age of the birds?	The company must have a written temperature policy that discusses the temperature range based on the age of the birds.	10
4.9.1	Is the company's maximum and minimum temperature policy available on-site?	The company's temperature policy must be available on-site. In addition, the auditor must ensure the policy is being followed by observing the current house temperature, set temperature in the house, and/or observing the thermoregulatory behavior of the birds.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
4.10.0	Does the company have a written biosecurity plan that discusses how to prevent rodent and pest access to broilers?	The company must have a written biosecurity plan that includes visitor policies, mortality disposal and rodent management. Rodent management is defined as a way to reduce and/or prevent rodents from gaining access to the broiler houses and must include, maintaining bait boxes, managing vegetation around the perimeter of the house, immediate removal of feed spills and other general practices to restrict flies, rodents or other pests access to the houses.	10
4.10.1	Is the company's biosecurity program available on-site and being followed?	Verify that the company's biosecurity protocol is available on-site and the grower(s) is following the protocol. The auditor must verify that a visitor policy is in place, vegetation is well maintained, feed spills are not present on-site, and bait boxes are in place, and appropriately filled.	5
4.11.0	Does the downtime between flocks exceed 10 days?	The downtime between flocks must exceed 10 days.	5
4.12.0	Are feed formulations approved by an animal nutritionist?	All feed formulations must be approved by an animal nutritionist. This relationship can be verified by: • Verify a contract between the animal nutritionist and the company. • Feed order or feed formulations with the animal nutritionist's name present. • Auditor's direct contact with the animal nutritionist.	10
4.13.0	Is feed and water consumption monitored daily?	Feed and water consumption must be recorded on a daily basis.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
4.14.0	Are feeders and drinkers regularly being checked for litter and free of debris? Also, are feeders and drinkers in proper working condition?	Feeders and drinkers must be free of debris and litter and in working condition, so as not to obstruct the bird's ability to eat and drink. Growers should verify that feeders and drinkers are in proper condition on a daily basis. While on-site, the auditor must observe feeders and drinkers to ensure they are properly working. In the event that a feeder(s) or drinker(s) are obstructed with litter, debris and/or not properly working, the auditor will removed the points and report it to the grower(s) and/or company personnel.	5
4.15.0	Is feed and water withdrawal kept to the minimum level consistent with good processing practices?	Feed and water withdrawal is only acceptable in order to prepare the flock for catching and transportation. The company must have records or documentation supporting the company's policy on feed and water withdrawal times. These written policies must include that water withdrawal does not exceed one hour prior to the start of catching. For spent hens or roosters, feed withdrawal must not exceed 16 hours prior to transportation. Water should also be available until the time catching begins.	5
4.16.0	Is the flock assessed at minimum of once daily by trained on-farm employees to identify any birds that need to be culled?	In the interest of decreasing the suffering of cull birds, grower(s) must be responsible for assessing the flock on a daily basis and recording if any cull birds are observed. The auditor must verify documentation of daily farm records that cull birds are checked for, euthanized when needed and this information is recorded. If possible, the auditor must interview the grower(s) to determine if they are able to identify cull birds. For more information on how to identify cull birds, please see Appendix A.	40
4.17.0	Are mortality and culls being checked and documented at a minimum of once daily?	Cull and mortality must be removed from the general population and recorded on a daily basis. The auditor must observe these mortality sheets to determine if cull and mortalities are documented.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
4.18.0	If mortality and culling exceeds 5% for the flock, are there preventative measures being performed to reduce the high percentage?	Mortality and culls must be recorded daily and noted separately on the farm mortality chart. If morality exceeds 5%, but preventative measures are being taken prior to the audit, the auditor must record these actions and award the points. However, if mortality exceeds 5% and no preventative measures are being taken, no points will be awarded.	5
4.19.0	Do no more than five birds have a gait score of 2?	*Gait scoring must be performed once per flock no earlier than seven days prior to slaughter. Gait scores will be assessed in at least two houses with broilers at least one week from slaughter. If a flock is too young to observe gait scoring, mark the question as Not Applicable or N/A.* Use the NCC's guidelines to perform this standard. Walk approximately 100 feet of the house between the wall and the first line of drinkers and observe the birds' gait. Record the number of birds unable to walk or move after gentle encouragement (Score of 2) using the U.S. Gait Scoring System: Birds may need to be gently encouraged to walk. If the birds become stressed, especially in hot weather, discontinue scoring immediately. **Score 0** – Bird should walk at least five feet, and while the bird may appear ungainly, there are no visible signs of lameness. **Score 1** – Bird should walk at least five feet, but appears awkward, uneven in steps. **Score 2** – Bird will not walk five feet without sitting down or there is obvious lameness.	20 or N/A

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
4.20.0	Did you observe the same injury on multiple birds throughout the flock?	Flocks must be assessed during the audit and observed for injuries, which is defined as a chicken that is harmed, damaged or impaired not related to a disease outbreak. If any injuries are observed, the auditor must document the injuries and interview the grower(s) and/or company personnel in order to gather the following information: 1. Is/are the grower(s) aware of these injuries? 2. What do the grower(s) think is the cause of the injuries? 3. What steps have been taken to address the issue? Full points are awarded for no issues observed. If injuries are observed, but have been identified by the caretaker and are being addressed, then partial points will be awarded. The auditor must document what steps the caretaker has taken to address the injuries. The caretaker can verbally describe the action plan in place and, therefore, does not need to be documented in writing.	15
4.21.0	During a count of 100 birds in the flock (200 paws) are at least 95% (190 out of 200) of the paws scored at a 0?	Paw burns are a result of high ammonia, wet litter and other housing condition issues. Auditors must sample 200 paws on broilers one week from processing age. If a flock is too young to observe paw scores, mark the question as Not Applicable or N/A. If possible, the auditor should sample birds from multiple areas in the house. Paws will be scored using the AAAP Paw Scoring System to score paws as either a 0 or 1. At least 95% of the paws sampled (190 out of 200) must have a paw score of 0.	20 or N/A

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
4.22.0	Do the processing plant and on-farm personnel have a system in place in which hock burns, paws and breast blisters are communicated between each other?	A system must be in place to discuss common physical deformations between the processing plant and on-farm personnel. It is recommended that this communication system is presented in a structured plan and includes some form of documentation. However, the auditor may verify this communication system through verbal interview of the appropriate staff and review documentation of these interactions.	5
4.23.0	Is the litter in the house dry and of good quality?	Litter must be dry, friable and well maintained in order to promote animal health and welfare, and allow the birds to exhibit their natural behaviors. Litter conditions must be observed by the auditor. A "squeeze test" may be performed in three separate areas in order to determine if it is suitable. The auditor may also determine if the caked litter covers a majority of the house. Litter that is unacceptable is defined as caked litter past the water lines and into the center of the aisle. For more information on performing a squeeze test, see Appendix A.	15
4.24.0	Is the ammonia level in the house below 25 ppm? Are steps taken when this level is exceeded?	Ammonia levels must never exceed 25 ppm at bird height. The auditor must document ammonia levels from a digital ammonia reading device or ammonia test strips and award points based on the results. If unacceptable ammonia levels are observed, the auditor must record the grower(s) or company personnel internal corrective actions to correct high ammonia levels. For more information on performing an ammonia test, see Appendix A.	20

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
4.25.0	Are structural integrity and environmental controls set up to protect birds from extreme cold weather and heat during the growing cycle?	The structural integrity of the house must be well maintained so that no holes, broken fans or other structural damage are observed. In addition, the environmental controls must be in proper working condition and set up to avoid thermal distress. The auditor must observe the circumference of the housing condition and environmental controls. If applicable, the auditor must document any issues related to structural integrity and environmental controls.	10
4.26.0	Is the facility in a good state of repair and not posing a threat of injury to birds?	All parts of the facility must be in good condition and not posing a threat of injury to birds. Examples of items that could potentially cause injury to animals might include: sharp edges or broken feeders, waterers, etc. If the auditor observes improper facility conditions, no points will be awarded.	15
4.27.0	Is enrichment provided to flocks?	Enrichment, whether occupational or physical, must be available to the broilers during the growout period. The company is encouraged to select an enrichment type that works best for its particular facility. However, enrichment must be available so that all birds have access to it. Birds must also be observed using this type of enrichment. Types of enrichments include: 1. Occupational enrichment, which encompasses both sociological enrichment (e.g., devices that provide broilers with control or challenges) and enrichment that encourages exercise. 2. Physical enrichment, which can involve altering the size or complexity of the animal's enclosure or adding accessories to the enclosure such as objects, substrate or permanent structures (e.g., nest boxes).	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
4.28.0	Is company's stocking density being followed to meet or exceed the NCC's guidelines?	The space density will be based on number of birds placed, target market weight and square footage of the facility. The initial placement number should be adjusted by utilizing the average mortality of the flock. **Stocking density must at least meet the NCC's recommended density.** **Maximum Bird Weight Range — Maximum Stocking Densities** Below 4.5 lbs. liveweight — 6.5 lbs. per square foot 4.5 to 5.5 lbs. liveweight — 7.5 lbs. per square foot 5.6 to 7.5 lbs. liveweight — 8.5 lbs. per square foot More than 7.5 lbs. liveweight — 9.0 lbs. per square foot	20
4.29.0	Did the auditor witness any acts of animal abuse or neglect?	Animal abuse or neglect is a major nonconformance. Abuse and neglect include, but are not limited to, hitting, kicking or other forms of improper handling.	Major Nonconformance
		N/A Points	
		Possible Points	
	Broiler Animal Welfare Policies and Observations Audit – Section #4		385

Catching and Transportation Welfare Audit – Section #5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
5.1.0	Is someone responsible for ensuring proper animal welfare of the birds during catch and transportation?	The live haul department must have a designated employee responsible for obtaining and ensuring animal welfare during the catch and transportation of broilers. The auditor must document the name and title of the employee.	5
5.2.0	Signature of the site manager ensures that corrective action is taken when a broiler's well-being is jeopardized by injury.	The auditor will obtain the signature of the individual responsible for ensuring animal welfare and recording corrective actions when welfare is jeopardized.	5
5.3.0	Are employees trained in broiler welfare? Are on-site workers going through an orientation program, i.e., are employees trained in broiler welfare before handling live animals? Does the live haul department have a documented broiler welfare training program conducted annually for all employees involved in the handling of live animals (multilingual, if necessary; verbal translation of materials at the time of training is acceptable)?	Any individual that is responsible for animal welfare/care or handling must be trained. Orientation training must be completed prior to any individual responsible for animal care or handling. Orientation, at a minimum, must cover; the company's animal abuse policy, humane handling, euthanasia (if applicable) and any task specific training relating to that employees job description. Task specific training is defined as any training that focuses on acceptable procedures for the catch and transportation of birds. On-farm employees must also have documented annual training of animal welfare. Training records must include: • Name(s) of trainees. • Name(s) of trainer. • Date(s) of training. • Description of procedures and/or policies trained on.	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
5.4.0	Does the live haul department have a posted functional emergency plan? Are emergency contacts and emergency plans available in trucks during transport for emergencies, i.e. fire, weather and power outages? Does the live haul department have procedures and/or equipment to prevent the death of animals in the event of extreme weather or a mechanical failure?	Emergency contacts must include the name and phone numbers of all individuals that must be notified in emergency situations. Emergency plans must include, at a minimum, a contingency plan for fire, weather related issues, mechanical failure and power outages. The processing plant must have a procedure/plan in place to prevent the death of animals in the event of a power outage or any other natural disaster that are common to that specific area.	10
5.5.0	How many birds per hand and total birds do catchers carry at once? If the company is using mechanical loaders, do they do so in a manner to prevent harm or injury to the broilers?	The auditor should observe loading for a minimum of 10 modules in order to make an accurate evaluation of the handling procedures during the catch. The number of birds in the catchers' hand depends on the size of the bird. Birds should be carried in a way that will not cause injury to the birds. For birds weighing more than four pounds, FACTA requires the maximum number of birds per hand is three. Mechanical loaders should be observed and set up in a way as to prevent any injury or harm to a broiler during the loading process to the mechanical loader.	10
5.6.0	Are catchers placing broilers carefully into the transport coop?	Broilers must be carried correctly to reduce struggling and birds should be placed in the coop without hitting the sides or edges of the coop. Birds must never be lifted or carried by the wing or neck, and birds must never be thrown. The auditor should observe loading until they feel they can make an accurate evaluation of the handling procedures. At a minimum, the auditor should watch the loading of 10 modules.	Major nonconformance

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
5.6.1	Are coops properly designed for the number and weight of birds being placed per coop? Are coops designed to prevent birds from escaping during transport and causing injury to themselves?	Live haul coops must be large enough for the birds to sit down and move around without being pinned by other birds in the cage. Gates or doors on each coop must close completely to prevent the accidental escape of birds during transport.	Major nonconformance
5.7.0	Does the company have a written program to protect birds from temperature extremes during holding, loading and transportation, and provide birds with adequate ventilation?	The company must have a written temperature program for birds during holding, loading, and transportation. This program must be on-site and the auditor should confirm the program is being followed by conducting interviews of the employees. In addition, the auditor should document what procedures are in place during the catching and transportation portion of the audit to mitigate temperature extremes. Examples of such programs can include, but are not limited to; stocking density (number of birds/weight), fans and water, tarps/boards for wind cold barriers, etc.	5
5.8.0	Are at least 97% of the observed coops in proper condition?	At least 120 coops must be observed at either catching or the holding shed. The number and percentage of coops that are in proper condition will be documented. “Proper condition” is defined as coops that are free of broken metal objects and bent metal. The integrity of the floors should be in good condition with no signs of sagging or holes. Gates or doors on each coop must close completely to prevent the escape of birds during transport. The coops must be free of gaps four inches or more.	10
5.9.0	Is there a documented protocol in place to address coop damage and make necessary repairs?	The company must have a documented protocol in place that discusses the routine maintenance of coops. This program must be reviewed and documented by the auditor. The protocol could include, but is not limited to, fixtures to broken metal, rough flooring and nonworking doors to minimize injury opportunities during transport.	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
5.10.0	Transport records must be kept by flock and include: • Load ID. • Loading start and complete time. • Delivery time. • Any emergency related issues.	Transport records must include, at a minimum, Load ID, load start and finish time, time in which the truck arrived at the processing plant, and a note section where emergency issues can be documented. The auditor will examine the previous week's transportation records to verify the company is recording all of the required information. A total of five points will be awarded for each bullet point that is satisfied.	20
5.11.0	Is the average DOA for the previous week less than 0.5%?	The live haul department must provide DOA records from the previous week in order for the DOA percentage to be verified. The auditor will award points if the DOA percentage is less than 0.5%. If the DOA percentage is more than 0.5%, the auditor will document the internal corrective action and will award only partial points.	20
5.12.0	Did the auditor witness any acts of animal abuse or neglect?	Animal abuse or neglect is a major nonconformance. Abuse and neglect include, but are not limited to, hitting, kicking or other forms of improper handling.	Major Nonconformance
	Catching and Transportation Welfare Audit – Section #5		105

Plant and Processing Welfare Audit – Section #6

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
6.1.0	Is someone responsible for ensuring proper animal welfare of the birds during processing?	The processing plant must have a designated employee responsible for obtaining and ensuring animal welfare during processing. The auditor must document the name and title of the employee.	5
6.2.0	Signature of the site manager ensures corrective action is taken when a broiler's well-being is jeopardized by injury.	The auditor will obtain the signature of the individual responsible for ensuring animal welfare and recording corrective actions when welfare is jeopardized.	5
6.3.0	Are employees trained in broiler welfare? Are on-site workers going through an orientation program, i.e., are employees trained in broiler welfare before handling live animals? Does the plant have a documented broiler welfare training program conducted annually for all employees involved in the handling of live animals (multilingual, if necessary; verbal translation of materials at the time of training is acceptable)?	Any individual that is responsible for animal welfare/care or handling must be trained. This includes on-farm employees and growers. Orientation training must be completed prior to any individual responsible for animal care or handling. Orientation, at a minimum, must cover; the company's animal abuse policy, humane handling, euthanasia (if applicable) and any task specific training relating to that employees job description. Task specific training is defined as any training that focuses on acceptable procedures for the daily or routine activities for a particular location. Processing plant employees must also have documented annual training of animal welfare. Training records must include: • Name(s) of trainees. • Name(s) of trainer. • Date(s) of training. • Description of procedures and/or policies trained on.	10

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
6.4.0	Does the plant have a posted emergency plan? Are emergency contacts and emergency plans posted on-site for emergencies, i.e. fire, weather, and power outages? Does the plant have procedures and/or equipment to prevent the death of animals in the event of extreme weather or a mechanical ventilation failure?	Emergency contacts must include the name and phone numbers of all individuals that must be notified in emergency situations. Emergency plans must include, at a minimum, a contingency plan for fire, weather related issues and power outages. The processing plant must have a procedure/plan in place to prevent the death of animals in the event of a power outage or any other natural disaster that are common to that specific area.	10
6.5.0	Does the company have a written program and equipment for keeping birds comfortable in holding sheds?	The plant must have a written program outlining the steps taken to ensure the birds are kept in a comfortable environment while in the holding sheds.	10
6.6.0	Are holding areas covered and equipped with an adequate number of fans to ensure proper ventilation for birds?	The company must have written guidelines and temperature ranges for birds at the holding shed in order to ensure bird comfort. The auditor must verify that this program is in place and being followed. This plan could include, but is not limited to, providing fans or tarps/boards to avoid heat and cold stress, respectively. For processing plants that are utilizing fans, the auditor should review all documentation regarding fan maintenance to ensure that preventative maintenance is being performed on fans in the holding sheds on a regular basis.	10
6.7.0	Are there written procedures in place to retrieve loose birds in a timely manner?	The company must have a written procedure in place for loose birds. If loose birds are observed during the audit, the auditor must document if the written procedure is being followed. If no loose birds are observed during the audit, the auditor must confirm verbally with a plant employee that loose birds are retrieved in a timely manner (minimum of every two hours).	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
6.8.0	Are holding times kept to the minimum consistent with good processing practices?	Individual holding time for a truck must not exceed 24 hours at the processing plant. Records must be provided to the auditor to verify the previous week's holding time.	10
6.9.0	Are there any live birds in the DOA bin?	The presence of a live bird in the DOA bin is unacceptable and is a major nonconformance. The auditor must visually verify that there are no live birds present in the DOA bin during the audit. The auditor should also document the process used by the processing plant to ensure live birds do not enter the DOA bin.	Major nonconformance
6.10.0	When unloading birds, are cages lifted and moved from trailers in a manner not to injure the birds? Additionally, are birds unloaded on the conveyor belt on top of other birds?	Birds must not be unloaded on top of other birds; this includes where cages are emptied and where birds transfer from one conveyor belt to another. Birds must also never be handled by the wings or head. The auditor must observe at least three modules of birds being unloaded. If cages are not being used and birds are being unloaded by hand, the standard will be marked as N/A and the points will be removed from the total available to the processing plant.	10 or N/A
6.10.1	When birds are handled by the unloading operator or by hand are they handled properly?	Birds must never be handled by the wings or head. Birds stuck on coops must not be shoved or otherwise mishandled with a catch hook.	10
6.11.0	Do the hanging/unloading areas have lower light levels or are covered in order to keep birds calm?	The auditor must observe lighting conditions in the hanging/unloading areas for lowered light levels during the audit. Altered light (Blue or Red) is also acceptable in order to keep birds calm.	5
6.12.0	At live hang, are management practices in place to minimize worker fatigue (rotation or similar practices)?	A system to avoid worker fatigue at live hang must be communicated to the auditor. These practices should be verified by both interviewing employees and observing the practices in real time.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
6.13.0	In electrical stunning, are the proper amperage, voltage and salt solution known and checked hourly for the equipment used? (Except for Kosher or Halal slaughter, which have separate guidelines). Is stunning with CO_2, or other gases, proper outcome measurements known and checked each hour of operation?	The processing plant must have a written program detailing the amperage, voltage and amount of salt solution utilized for its electrical stunning system. Amperage, voltage and salt solution must be checked hourly for all equipment in use. If the processing plant has a written program in place, but is not making documented hourly checks, then only partial points will be awarded. If the processing plant uses CO2, or other gases, the written program must include the proper outcome measurements and those measurements must be checked for each hour of operation. These hourly checks must be documented; digital or written records are acceptable. *Please note: FACTA does not have required parameters. The audit requires that a program be in place and that the auditor validates that the processing plant is following the program protocols.*	20
6.14.0	Are appropriate measures taken to prevent wing flapping and birds raising their heads before reaching the stunning bath?	Appropriate measures to avoid wing flapping and birds raising their heads must be in place at the processing plant. The auditor must inspect the hanging area and visually verify that steps have been taken to satisfy this standard. Examples of appropriate measures would include lower light levels and a breast bar to reduce flapping and promote calmness of the broilers. Any equipment used must not pose a risk of injury to the birds. For processing plants using CAS systems, this standard will be marked as N/A and the points will be removed from the total points available.	10
6.15.0	Are shackles of a size and type, and the slaughter line run at a speed, which permits the birds to be shackled properly?	Slaughter lines must run at a speed that allows for all birds to be properly shackled. Shackle sizes and types must allow birds to be properly hung and free of any debris, such as paws from previous birds.	5

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
6.16.0	Are broilers suspended for more than 120 seconds before they are stunned? Broilers must not be suspended for more than 120 seconds before they are stunned.	The auditor will verify the time from live hang to the stunner with a stopwatch. This observation must be recorded during a complete 120 second cycle.	15
6.17.0	Is the stunning system operating effectively by stunning at least 99% of all birds in a 1,000 bird sample?	A total of 1,000 birds going into the stunner will be observed during the audit. Of this sample, at least 99% of the birds must be effectively stunned. In other words, no more than 10 birds can be ineffectively stunned.	60
6.18.0	Does more than 20 seconds elapse between stunning and neck cutting?	The auditor will verify the time from the stunner to the neck cutter with a stopwatch. The line must be in working order for the duration of this observation. If line stoppage occurs, the auditor must start this portion of the audit over.	10
6.19.0	Does the facility have a backup person in place to ensure the bleed-out of all birds?	There must be at least one backup person in place to induce bleed-out in any birds not effectively killed by the automatic knife. While conducting the audit, visually verify the backup person is in place. It is unacceptable to not have a backup person in place, and is a major nonconformance.	Major nonconformance
6.19.1	Does the automatic knife effectively cut blood vessels to induce bleed-out in at least 99% of birds observed in a 1,000 bird sample?	A total of 1,000 birds will be observed leaving the automatic knife. Of this sample, as least 99% must be effectively cut by the automatic knife. In other words, no more than 10 birds can be ineffectively cut.	30
6.20.0	Are any live birds entering the scalder?	A total of 1,000 birds will be observed entering the scalder. The presence of live birds entering the scalder is unacceptable and is a major nonconformance.	Major nonconformance

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
6.21.0	During a count of 500 birds leaving the de-feathering area, were there more than two bruised legs observed?	A count of 500 birds leaving the de-feathering area must show no more than two birds with bruised legs. The auditor will record bruises that are larger than 2 cm in diameter (about the size of quarter or larger). Regardless of the suspected cause of defect, the auditor must judge this criteria based on the total number of birds with bruised legs. Any trend of bruising should be investigated and addressed by the company. Auditing Note: Initially, a fresh bruise may actually appear reddish. Throughout the progress of time, the bruise will change colors and may appear varying shades of red/purple/blue/black and tends to end up a greenish-yellow color as it heals. Recent bruises on thighs and drumsticks could indicate recent rough handling. Green trim defects are not fresh and typically have occurred on farm (dependent on length of transport and plant holding time).	10
6.22.0	During a count of 500 birds, were there more than 15 broken or dislocated wings observed?	The auditor's observation must occur before the birds go into the scalder. Whenever possible, the observations should begin as birds are leaving the stunner and before they reach the scalder. The goal is to have 3% or less broken or dislocated wings. An internal corrective action must be submitted to the auditor within seven days if the level of broken or dislocated wings exceeds 5%. (Protruding bones or wings hanging straight down is visual evidence of broken or dislocated wings.) No more than 15 broken or dislocated wings should be observed in a 500 bird sample (3% of birds) for a maximum score. **Sliding scale for awarding points:** 0.0 - 3% (0 - 15 wings) = 25 points 3.01 - 4% (16 - 20 wings) = 15 points 4.01 - 5% (21 - 25 wings) = 5 points > 5% (> 25 wings) = 0 points	25

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
6.23.0	Is there a minimum of 90 seconds of bleed time on the line before the broilers reach the first scalding tank?	The auditor will verify the time from the neck cutter to the scalder with a stopwatch. Broilers must not be immersed in a scalding tank or plucked until at least 90 seconds have elapsed since the major blood vessels in their necks have been severed. The line must be in working order for the duration of this observation. If line stoppage occurs, the auditor must start this portion of the audit over.	50
6.24.0	Did the auditor witness any acts of animal abuse or neglect?	Animal abuse or neglect is a major nonconformance. Abuse and neglect include, but are not limited to, hitting, kicking or other forms of improper handling.	Major nonconformance
	Plant and Processing Welfare Audit – Section #6		330

Corporate Review and Responsibility Audit – Section #7

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
7.1.0	Does the company have a written program for animal welfare with a clear understanding of how the program is operated throughout the company?	The company must have a written animal welfare program that defines the company's policies regarding the welfare of all birds under its care.	Major nonconformance
7.2.0	Does current senior management sign off on the animal welfare program annually? Is there a review of documented operating procedures being performed annually?	The animal welfare program must be updated annually and be signed off on by senior management.	Major nonconformance
7.3.0	Does the company have an internal auditing inspection process in place? If so, how frequently is it to be completed?	The company must have an internal audit conducted annually, at a minimum. The auditor will verify past audit reports in order to be in compliance with this standard. All areas of production must be included during internal audits; hatchery, growout, catching/transportation and processing plant.	Major nonconformance
7.4.0	Does the company have a licensed veterinarian available for consultation as needed?	A veterinarian must be available for consultation regardless of the stage of production. The auditor will verify the veterinarian-client/company relationship by one of the following ways: • The auditor's direct contact with the veterinarian. • Documented letter signed by the veterinarian pertaining to the veterinarian-client relationship. • Viewing vaccination/medication prescriptions. • Veterinarian-client signed and dated contract. This contract must be dated within one year of the audit.	Major nonconformance

Q#	Audit Tool	Verification/Guideline Process	Numerical Value
7.5.0	Does the company have a process in place whereby animal welfare violations can be reported without the threat of retaliation?	The company must have a process in place whereby animal welfare violations can be reported without the threat of retaliation. Signs stating the importance of animal welfare with contact information for reporting incidents should be posted prominently in locations where birds are handled.	Major nonconformance
	Corporate Review and Responsibility Audit – Section #7		Pass/Fail

Summary Sheet and Score

Audit Section	Possible Points	Actual Points	Percentage
Hatchery Welfare Audit – Section #1	**380**	**( )**	
Pullet Animal Welfare Policies and Observations Audit – Section #2 **Pullet House 1**	**435**	**( )**	
Breeder Animal Welfare Policies and Observations Audit – Section #3 **Breeder House 1**	**465**	**( )**	
Broiler Animal Welfare Policies and Observations Audit – Section #4 **Broiler House 1**	**385**	**( )**	
Catching and Transportation Welfare Audit – Section #5	**105**	**( )**	
Plant and Processing Welfare Audit – Section #6	**330**	**( )**	
Corporate Review and Responsibility Audit – Section #7	**Pass/Fail**	**( )**	
Average Score	**2,100**		

Please note: In order for the company to be FACTA Humane Certified, each section must receive a percentage of 80% or higher and pass all major nonconformances. Sections #2 - 4 of the audit will be completed for each pullet, breeder and broiler house audited.

Appendix A

Supplemental Material for Conducting Audits

Instructions on Conducting a Squeeze Test:

To conduct a squeeze test, remove the top portion of the litter and grab a handful of litter. Squeeze the litter and if it does not form a clump, then the litter is dry and in an acceptable condition. If litter clumps together, the litter is considered too wet and unacceptable.

Instructions on Testing Ammonia Levels:

If a digital ammonia reader is used, walk the length of the house with the reader at bird height. Check the ammonia reader to record the reading at various parts in the house in order to calculate an average ppm. If the ammonia reader reads over 25 ppm, points for air quality should not be awarded.

If ammonia test strips are used, dampen the strips for five seconds with suitable water and shake off excess water. The ammonia test strip will start showing discoloration immediately and the most accurate reading is two-three seconds after exposure to water. Use the color guide to determine ammonia levels and retest if necessary. When using the ammonia test strips, ammonia should be tested in at least three areas of the house at bird height to calculate an average ppm.

Determining Cull Chicks:

The determination of whether or not to cull a bird can be easily made by answering the questions listed below:

a. Is the bird experiencing pain or distress? If yes, cull the bird.
b. Is the bird able to access the feed and water? If no, cull the bird.
c. Can or should the bird be treated? If no, cull the bird.
d. Is recovery likely? If no, cull the bird.
e. Is the bird likely to transmit disease to other birds? If yes, cull the bird.
f. Is the bird suitable for human consumption or will it be suitable for consumption after recovery or treatment? If no, cull the bird.