



# BTSF Better Training for Safer Food *Initiative*

Animal welfare in poultry production (chickens kept for meat production) – IV Session

Rome 22-24 November, 2023

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## Introduction to farm and slaughterhouse virtual inspection and related group activity: how to conduct an official control (useful tools and good practices)

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# BTSF Regulation 2017/625 on official controls

- "audit" means a systematic and independent examination to determine whether activities and related results comply with planned arrangements and whether these arrangements are implemented effectively and are suitable to achieve objectives;
- "inspection" means the examination of any aspect of feed, food, animal health and animal welfare in order to verify that such aspect(s) comply with the legal requirements of feed and food law and animal health and animal welfare rules;

# BTSF Evidence:

- “Records, statement of fact or other information, obtained through observation, measurement, test or other means, which are verifiable.”

- **Evidence = information!**

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## 8 types of evidence

Information obtained from:

- Documentation
- Physical examination
- Confirmation (cross-checking)
- Analytical procedures
- Inquiries to the farmer (both documentary and verbal i.e. interview)
- Re-calculation
- Re-performance
- Observation

# BTSF Example of persuasive and sufficient evidence

## Individual animals identified:

Sufficient: extremes, sampling

Types: documentation, inquiries, (re)calculation, observation

Sources: CA, farmer/industry representative, auditor, persons with overview and without conflict of interest

- Collection: observation, interviews
- Analysis: RCA, (re)calculation

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# **BTSF** Official control on broiler farms **IN THE OFFICE**

- **Prepare well for the visit!**
- **Get as much information about the farm as possible!**
- Where to get information?

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# BTSF Official control on broiler farms IN THE OFFICE

- **Records of previous checks** – if multiple houses on the holding it helps to select the house(s) to be inspected

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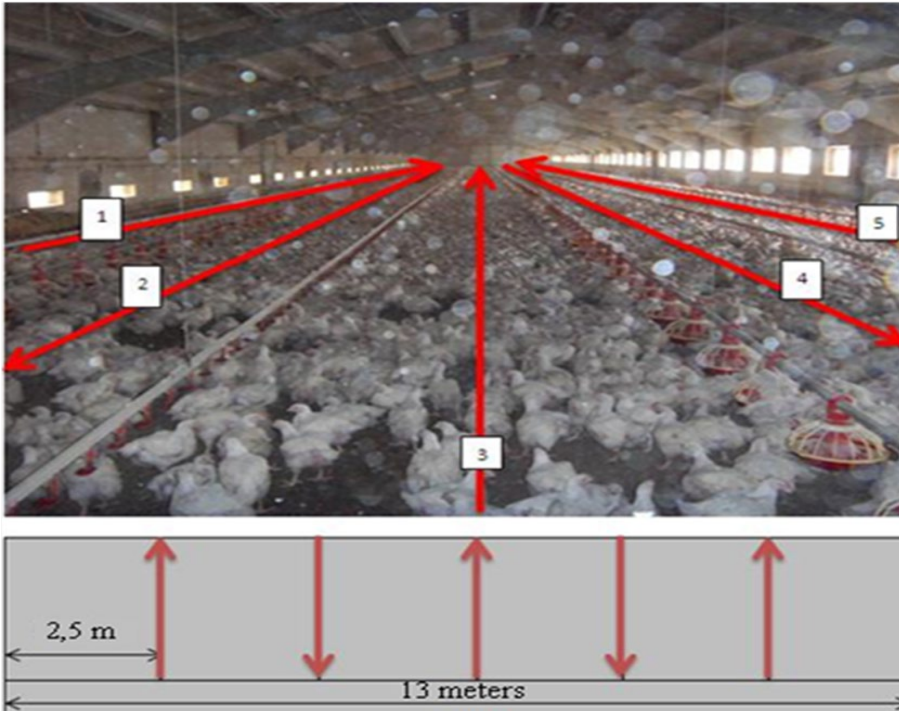


# BTSF Official control on broiler farms ON THE FARM

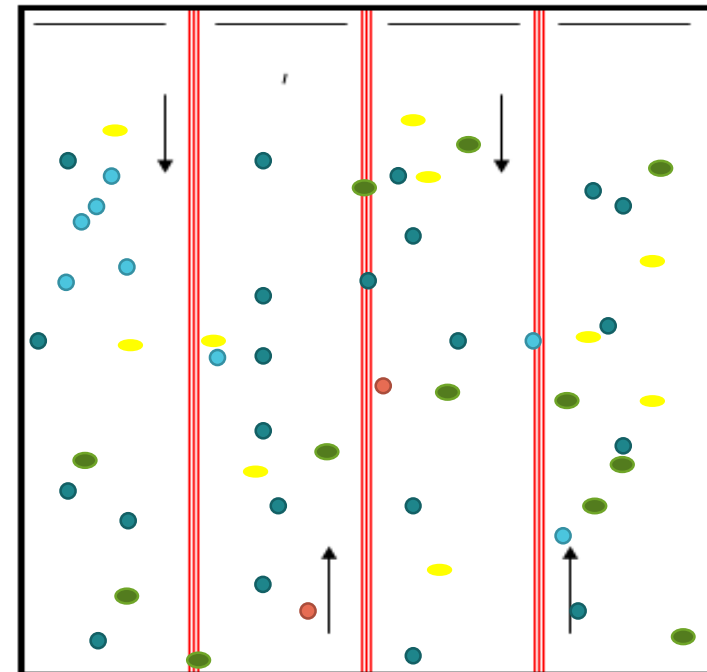
- It is not an interview!
- Remember ... **examination to verify that [...] comply with the legal requirements**
- Ask for farm records and carefully check and examine them

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How to inspect  
the animals?



- Sick
- Dead
- Lamé
- Immobile
- Injured



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# BTSF Inspection of birds

- Birds must be checked daily
- Removal of dead birds
- Check the drinker and feeder (nr and condition)

If you find dead birds in the houses that you assess to be dead for more than a day probably the daily inspection was not carried out properly!!!

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# BTSF Overstocking

- Max capacity of the house/farm - register
- Delivery of chicks records – careful because it can contain forged data
- Production and mortality records

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# BTSF Light regime

- Light for inspection of birds and compartment
- Birds can be seen and see each other
- Rhythm: darkness 6 hours of dark (at least 4 hour uninterrupted)

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# BTSF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OF HIGHER STOCKING DENSITIES

Notification and documentation:

1. The owner or keeper **shall communicate to the competent authority his intention** to use a stocking density of more than 33 kg/m<sup>2</sup> live weight.

He shall indicate the exact figure and inform the competent authority of any change in the stocking density at least 15 days prior to the placement of the flock in the house.

If requested by the competent authority, that notification shall be accompanied by a document summarizing the information contained in the documentation required under point 2.

# BTSF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OF HIGHER STOCKING DENSITIES (2)

2. The owner or keeper shall **maintain** and have available in the house compiled **documentation** describing in detail the production systems.

Technical details of the house and its equipment such as:

- a. a **plan of the house** including the dimensions of the surfaces occupied by the chickens
- b. **ventilation** and, if relevant, cooling and heating system, including their location, a ventilation plan, detailing target air quality parameters, such as airflow, air speed and temperature
- c. **feeding and watering systems** and their location

# BTSF REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OF HIGHER STOCKING DENSITIES (3)

(d) **alarm systems and backup systems** in the event of a failure of any automated or mechanical equipment essential for the health and well-being of the animals;

(e) **floor type and litter** normally used.

The **documentation shall be made available** to the competent authority on request and shall be kept updated. In particular, technical inspections of the ventilation and alarm system shall be recorded.

The owner or keeper shall **communicate to the competent authority any changes** to the described house, equipment or procedures which are likely to influence the welfare of the birds without undue delay.



# BTSF Requirements for the holdings — control of environment parameters

Ensure that each house has ventilation and, if necessary, heating and cooling systems designed:

- a. ammonia ( $\text{NH}_3$ ) max 20 ppm, and concentration of carbon dioxide ( $\text{CO}_2$ ) max 3 000 ppm - measured at the level of the chickens' heads
- b. inside temperature, when the outside temperature measured in the shade exceeds 30 °C, does not exceed this outside temperature by >3 °C
- c. average relative humidity measured inside the house during 48 h max 70 % when the outside temperature is below 10 °C.

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## Thank you

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