

GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

**FOR ONGOING OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT
OF NEW OR EXPANDED
VICTORIAN BROILER CHICKEN FARMS**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE
*VICTORIAN CODE FOR BROILER FARMS***

Recommended by: Broiler Code Committee which oversees the
Victorian Code for Broiler Farms

Date submitted to Minister for Agriculture: 22 October, 2001

Date approved by the Hon Keith Hamilton, Minister for Agriculture: _____

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The meat chicken or broiler industry provides a highly efficient method of protein production and its products are increasingly popular with consumers. It has however, been the subject of complaints from the community regarding odour, amenity loss or other environmental problems.

Following four years of discussion between government authorities, members of the community and the industry (which were co-ordinated by a Broiler Code Committee), public exhibition of a draft document and further review by an Advisory Committee appointed by the Minister, the new Victorian Code for Broiler Farms (the Code) was approved and introduced into all Victorian Planning Schemes in September 2001.

Applications for Planning Permits for new or expanding chicken farms will now be assessed against the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms.

The Code provides guidance to chicken growers on the desired standards for farm location, design and establishment. In reaching planning decisions for both farms and neighbouring land uses local government will also have regard to the requirements of the Broiler Code. The industry will work with local Councils to be aware of proposed developments around broiler farms within the Boundary buffer and Separation distances specified in the Code.

1.2 Purpose

A key element of the Code is an emphasis on ongoing environmental management and an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) is required to be submitted with every application for a new farm or farm expansion.

The objective of an EMP is to ensure best practice management and a commitment to continuous improvement in environmental performance. It is intended to minimise the risk of any adverse event with potential to impact on the environment or the surrounding community during the ongoing operation of a new or expanded farm.

This generic EMP reflects the recommendations of the Code Advisory Committee (Final Report, November 2000) and the requirements in the Victorian Government Response (June 2001) to it. It incorporates to the maximum current practical extent the requirements of the Operations and Management Section (Element 8) of the Code and is subject to a process of continuous improvement.

This generic Environmental Management Plan (EMP) was prepared by industry in consultation with the Code Committee. It is a guide to farm owners and responsible authorities for developing and assessing a site specific EMP

which addresses the ongoing management and operations of a new or expanding farm.

This generic EMP includes the basic standards for the Management Measures to be addressed in a site specific EMP in order that the objectives below are achieved. Where any Management Measure of the generic EMP is not addressed in the site specific EMP, the application for the planning permit must satisfactorily explain why it is not relevant or applicable.

Each grower will define the way the measures will be implemented on his/her farm, depending on topography, weather patterns, birds, equipment and facilities involved. The grower will meet the requirements of the Code by defining the key parameters, performance goals and targets for the farm based on the generic EMP, on past farm performance and on the concerns of neighbours.

By application of this generic EMP, the site EMP for a proposed development will achieve continuous improvement in environmental performance and ensure that broad community expectations and government standards are understood and addressed.

1.3 Principles

The generic EMP has been written to reflect the principles outlined in the Final Report of the Code Advisory Committee including:

- Pursuit of continuous improvement in environmental performance.
- Pursuit of outcomes rather than prescription of specific methods or processes.
- Provision of flexibility but without vagueness that could permit selective interpretation of acceptable performance.
- Provision where possible of plans or actions, not merely statements of good intentions.
- Compatibility with the need for objective independent auditing.
- Support to the Code objective, which encourages investment decisions consistent with a long term strategy for the industry.

1.4 Scope

The generic EMP covers best practice measures to minimise offsite environmental impacts from the operation of new or expanding broiler chicken farms. Many of these measures are also beneficial to farm safety and animal welfare. However, comprehensive best practice guidance and models addressing these issues and the requirements of State Environmental Protection Policies and standards are covered in other government documents and meat chicken industry programs.

The generic EMP defines the mandatory practices to be implemented by new and expanding farms and complements the separate Victorian Code for Broiler Farms and the EMP Audit documents.

The Code defines the design and location requirements for assessment of an application for a land use permit for a farm. The EMP Audit document allows the assessment of each practice in the EMP and the Planning Permit for the farm, the rationale for the rating of current performance and the plans, responsibilities and timing of improvement actions to be undertaken.

This generic EMP provides guidance relative to new and expanding broiler farms. For guidance on the operational, environmental and safety performance of existing broiler farms, industry programs such as, for example Chicken Care provide a source of advice.

The generic EMP comprises twelve categories of environmental issues. Each has an objective and a series of Generic Management Measures required to achieve the objective. Prime responsibility for each measure is indicated. In appropriate cases, additional information such as standards, quantification, contingency actions and timings are also provided in the right hand column. Additional information has not been given for Management Measures where the requirements are clear and where Growers and Auditors can readily assess compliance.

1.5 Sources of EMP Models and Issues

The EMP framework chosen is based on that provided in the Draft Broiler Chicken Farm Code (July 1999), recommendations from the Code Advisory Committee reports (March and November 2000), the Draft Piggery Code (June 2000), the Cattle Feedlot Code (August 1995) and on codes from other industries including Golf Course Development (March 2000), Chemical Industry (September 1989) and Mining Industry (June 1996).

The environmental issues identified for broiler chicken farms are based on submissions to the Advisory Committee and Code Committee of the Victorian Code for Broiler Farms, the Draft Industry Environmental Management Plan (June 1999) and on inputs from the community, industry growers and processors.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Following review of the documents listed in the previous section and based on comments of the Code Advisory Committee, the environmental issues have been grouped in the following twelve categories:

1. Landscaping
2. Facilities Standards
3. Roads and Traffic
4. Feed, Water and Electricity Supply
5. Odour
6. Noise
7. Litter and Dust
8. Chemicals
9. Bird Management
10. Other Environmental Controls
11. Contingency Plans
12. Community Participation

Overall strategies and control measures to minimise impacts and continuously improve environmental performance on each issue are provided in the following sections.

Potential impacts in relation to each issue can be managed by careful monitoring and application of these appropriate measures.

2.1 LANDSCAPING

EMP Objective: To maintain and enhance the landscaping, visual screening and other environmental management systems as specified in the planning permit.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.1.1 The landscape plan approved by the responsible authority in the planning permit to screen broiler farm sheds and assist with odour and noise dispersion is in place.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection confirms planting has been established in accordance with the approved landscaping plan • Trees and understorey plants will be selected incorporating advice from Council and local nurseries
2.1.2 Workplans and timelines for further stages of the landscaping plan are in place	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans take into account seasonal conditions and requirements
2.1.3 Landscaping is well maintained with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watering system or arrangements in place • Dead/diseased plants regularly replaced and • Dust/soil erosion controlled 	Grower Both(1) Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Watering, weed control and mulching incorporate advice from Council and local nurseries • Plant replacements are consistent with the approved landscaping plan and have regard to seasonal and weather conditions requirements • Refer to number of trees planted and landscaping expenditures in accordance with permit conditions.
2.1.4 Changes that would improve farm performance against EMP 2.1 objectives above are identified and included in the future development plan for the farm	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A process for definition of future development and improvement plans for the farm is outlined in Section 3.8 below

Note (1) : “Both” means responsibility shared by both Grower and Processor

2.2 FACILITY STANDARDS

EMP Objective: To maintain and enhance buildings, site drainage and equipment in order to minimise off-site impacts and maximise operational efficiency and safety.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.2.1 Sheds and associated areas are maintained to the Processor and Grower agreed best practice specifications and to planning permit requirements	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comparison and inspection demonstrate compliance with both Processor and Permit requirements
2.2.2 Equipment and structures are in place and maintained to enable odour, dust and noise control as required in the planning permit	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manufacturer documentation for major equipment should be available to demonstrate design performance standards are achieved Failures in existing equipment or structures will be repaired within one month unless there is potential for immediate offsite noise or other effects. In these cases, timings in Sections 5, 6 and 11 apply. Upgrades identified through the audit process will be installed within one year or an alternative period agreed with the responsible authority.
2.2.3 Shed walls and roof surfaces are maintained to achieve low reflection and off-farm visual screening where required in the planning permit. Energy consumption, additional fan usage and animal welfare should also be considered when selecting the preferred roof surface.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection confirms compliance with planning permit requirements and maintenance of external cladding in a sound condition.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.2.4 Best practice equipment for monitoring and control of temperature, ventilation, cooling and water consumption is in place, maintained to manufacturer's specifications and used.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison demonstrates compliance with latest Processor requirements or achievement of equivalent environmental performance and bird welfare. • Typically each shed will have working programmable controllers (to adjust heaters, fans and cooling systems) and remote readouts of shed temperatures and alarms (to alert on temperature and electricity excursions)
2.2.5 Drainage to soil or waterways is not impaired or unduly contaminated by shed or farm operations	Grower	
2.2.6 Stormwater systems including drains, silt traps and dams are maintained in accordance with planning permit requirements to ensure no pollution of surface or groundwater	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater runoff from roofs, roads and hardstand aprons is controlled and collected via approved drains and dams • Drains are maintained in shape and slope (typically greater than 1:200) and are free of weeds and blockages
2.2.7 Changes that would improve farm performance against EMP 2.2 objectives above are identified and included in the future development plan for the farm.	Both	

2.3 ROADS AND TRAFFIC

EMP Objective: To maintain and enhance roads, gates and turning areas in good condition and in accordance with the planning permit in order to prevent interference with other traffic or the generation of unreasonable off-site noise or dust.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.3.1 The surface of vehicle crossovers, access roads, loading areas and car parking spaces as required by the planning permit are maintained to allow safe entry, all weather access and minimise generation of dust.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Repairs or upgrades where needed will be completed prior to the next major period of truck movements.
2.3.2 Road drains, stormwater runoff areas and culverts etc., are maintained and all requirements specified in the planning permit are in place.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection confirms compliance with planning permit requirements.
2.3.3 All vehicles and machinery, including that used by contractors servicing the farm, are maintained to ensure that noise or emissions do not exceed the manufacturer's specification and meet limits for country and metropolitan areas as tabulated in the Code (Appendix 4)	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where offsite noise has been identified as a concern, testing of vehicles by an EPA authorised tester may be utilised to ensure compliance with the noise standards listed below. Registered vehicles will conform to Environmental Protection (Vehicle Emission) Regulations 1992 which incorporate Australian Design Rule 28 relating to noise performance. Unregistered farm vehicles (with spark ignition engines) should generate no more than 90 dB(A) as determined by Schedule 6 of the Regulations.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.3.4 Where required by a risk assessment of terrain, neighbour proximity and the potential for offsite noise impacts, a register of all transport contractors and written confirmations from major firms of their noise controls is maintained on farm.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation would cover these items and the use of effective noise mufflers on all vehicles
2.3.5 Farm layout and standing instructions to transport contractors ensure that all vehicles leave the property in a forward direction.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These instructions are an identifiable part of contracts or communications with transport companies
2.3.6 Bird pick-up contractors are instructed and supervised to ensure bird pick-up and associated activities completed during the night are undertaken with care to reduce the generation of noise.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise control is an identifiable part of transport company contracts and training
2.3.7 Special speed limits if necessary on the farm are identified by training, signs or instructions to drivers in order to limit noise and dust levels.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documentation of instructions, where needed, to contractors is maintained on farm
2.3.8 Contract transport drivers are aware of their responsibilities and are familiar with their transport accident emergency plan.	Process or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emergency plans comply with industry emergency procedures and with VicRoads Transport Regulations

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.3.9 Changes that would improve farm performance against EMP 2.3 objectives above are identified and included in the future development plan for the farm.	Both	

2.4 FEED, WATER AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

EMP Objective: To ensure the quality and continuity of feed, water and shed ambient conditions in order to protect animal welfare and prevent environmental impacts.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.4.1 Well designed, constructed and totally enclosed silos and feed systems are installed in order to provide fresh and wholesome feed without any contamination or generation of dust.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspection indicates no evidence of breaches in the feed system
2.4.2 Wild-bird proofing on sheds and silos are installed and maintained, and vermin and rodents are controlled by targeted and environmentally safe baiting, using substances and protocols that meet Government and Processor requirements.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison demonstrates compliance with National Biosecurity Manual guidelines
2.4.3 Equipment and procedures for clean-up of feed spills are available and any such spills are removed daily.	Grower	Inspection indicates no evidence of spillage or breach of the feed system
2.4.4 Potable water is provided. This may be provided from reticulated town water supply or bore. When dam or river water is used, chlorination, ultraviolet light systems or other appropriate sanitation procedures are used.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparison demonstrates compliance with dosage levels and procedures recommended by suppliers

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.4.5 Electrical power and phase supply alarms are installed to alert the Grower of supply failure and a standby generator is provided to maintain normal operating conditions.	Grower	
2.4.6 Changes that would improve farm performance against the EMP 2.4 objectives above are identified and included in the future development plan for the farm.	Both	

2.5 NOISE

EMP Objective: To ensure that farm operations control transmission of unreasonable noise by using appropriate design, maintenance and operating procedures.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.5.1 Operation of all mechanical equipment, including shed fans, feed systems and other equipment minimises the offsite transmission of mechanical noise or vibration.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment and electrical generators have effective noise suppressors
2.5.2 Equipment is installed, operated and maintained according to manufacturer's requirements or to the instructions from an appropriately qualified technical source.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register of manufacturer instructions is available for all equipment with potential for off-site noise
2.5.3 Where risk assessment indicates off-site noise is likely, vehicle reversing is minimised and visual alarms are used (subject to safety considerations also being met).	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farm layout and operational practices are designed to minimise reversing
2.5.4 Where risk assessment indicates off-site noise is likely, the use of outside alarms is minimised. At night (10pm to 7am) only house alarms, visual alarms and pagers are used to minimise the occurrence and duration of noise affecting neighbours	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspection confirms installation of house alarms, visual alarms and paging systems where needed

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.5.5 Ventilation fans, tractors, farm vehicles, transport vehicles and other equipment are maintained, repaired and operate to the manufacturer's requirements.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An annual farm equipment checklist or equivalent precautions are in place and used • Equipment failures causing increased off-site noise are repaired within one week. Other equipment problems are repaired in a timely manner to prevent deterioration and occurrence of excessive offsite noise
2.5.6 Bird pick-up contractors have the equipment and training specified by Processors and comply with procedures that minimise noise.	Process or	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noise control practices requiring arrival, operation and departure as quietly as possible are an identifiable part of the communications or contract with pick-up companies
2.5.7 Bird pick-up contractors are supervised and suggested practical improvements or details of noisy contractor performance are reported to the Processor for action.	Both	
2.5.8 Feed deliveries do not take place before 7.00am or after 10.00pm except with the formal consent of the Local Council or in emergencies.	Both	

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.5.9 Farm noise levels comply with the noise criteria specified in the planning permit or with published Victorian industrial noise standards.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Typical limits for country and metropolitan areas are tabulated in the Code (sourced from EPA Publication 3/89 and SEPP N-1 respectively) • Where off-site noise problems persist, the Grower and/or Processor will initiate advice from a noise consultant
2.5.10 All physical noise barriers specified in the planning permit (e.g., baffles, sound barriers, landscaping, mounds, etc.) are maintained in effective condition.	Grower	
2.5.11 Changes that would improve farm performance against EMP 2.5 objectives above are identified and included in the future development plan for the farm.	Both	

2.6 ODOUR

EMP Objective: To ensure that farm operations do not produce odours that unreasonably impact on neighbours.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
<p>2.6.1 A log of key conditions and activities with potential to affect odour generation is in place, maintained and periodically reviewed as the basis for minimisation and control of odours. It addresses relevant factors including feed, drinker, litter and climate conditions and flock age.</p>	<p>Both</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency action plans including those detailed in Section 11.1 and in industry information such as for example the Chicken Care Contingency Plans Guidance Note are used. These cover odour caused by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Drinker Malfunction -Fogging Systems -Poor Ventilation -Poor Drainage -Wet Droppings -Dead Birds -Chemicals
<p>2.6.2 Drinker technology equivalent in performance to industry best practice is installed and maintained to minimise formation of wet litter.</p>	<p>Both</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Periodic comparisons with other Growers in the Processor group, benchmarking between Processors and reviews of research and commercial literature confirms the farm is achieving best practice operating performance

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
<p>2.6.3 Feed is sourced only from mills capable of producing an output of assured quality. Feed formulation objectives for meat chicken diets demonstrably minimise the risk of feed-sourced odour on farms.</p>	<p>Process or</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feed formulations suspected to be causing excessive odour or wet litter will be adjusted no later than for the next bird growing cycle. • Any individual feed batches strongly linked to excessive odour will be reported to the Processor, reviewed, changed or removed immediately when the sources of the problem are known. • Feed delivery flexibility will be typically provided by availability of 3 silos (typically of 25 tonne capacity) for every 2 sheds
<p>2.6.4 The prevailing weather conditions and forecasts are taken into account when scheduling and planning farm operations in order to minimise offsite impacts.</p>	<p>Grower</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These should be included in the log of key conditions in Clause 2.6.1, which for example should include recording of wind direction at the time of shed clean-out.
<p>2.6.5 Changes that would improve farm performance against the EMP 2.6 objectives above are identified and included in the future development plan for the farm.</p>	<p>Both</p>	

2.7 LITTER AND DUST

EMP Objective: To minimise odour or dust generation with potential for off-site impact and to ensure that no land or water contamination occurs.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.7.1 Prior to the introduction of the birds to the sheds, a 6 to 8 centimetre layer of dry sawdust, wood shavings or rice hulls (deep litter) is distributed over the entire shed floor..	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry litter is material that does not form a single stable ball when squeezed by hand. • Where more precise control is required due to a history of litter or odour concerns, measurement to confirm that litter moisture is below 20% by weight may be required.
2.7.2 A concrete hardstand of area sufficient for clean-out operations is provided and maintained at the shed entrance.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Area dimensions are greater than door width and typically at least 3 metres by 4 metres

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
<p>2.7.3 Litter moisture is monitored and kept in a dry condition below the level for the farm known to cause odour (typically below 30 to 40% by weight throughout the batch). This is achieved by the shed floors built up above adjacent surface levels with compacted clay (thus ensuring no moisture seepage into the shed), by best practice drinkers (to ensure that overflowing and flooding of the deep litter does not occur) and by checking of the litter and drinkers in the shed at least daily.</p>	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litter monitoring (at least on a 6-point visual scale of “dusty, friable, moist, sticky, wet/sticky/caking or very wet/sticky”) will be recorded weekly at nine points per shed, as defined by DNRE and outlined in the Code or by a method of equivalent performance. Measurement of litter moisture percentage by weight is recommended where persistent odour problems are occurring. • Major drinker leakages will be detected by regular shed inspections (typically 3 to 4 times daily) • Contingency actions including gas heating, ventilation adjustment and others detailed in industry information (such as for example the Chicken Care Contingency Plans Guidance Note) are implemented to dry litter and counteract high moisture levels prior to onset of excessive odour generation.
<p>2.7.4 Any major wet litter areas are removed and replaced with dry litter where practicable.</p>	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of wet litter exceeding 2 square metres will be replaced with dry litter on no less than a daily basis. Removal of any such wet litter follows litter procedures in this Section.
<p>2.7.5 Pastoral applications of the litter are in accordance with approved litter management plans based on relevant advisory guidelines and are monitored to ensure no nutrient overload can occur.</p>	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant guides include the DNRE Manure Management Guidelines (under development) and advice in the interim from DNRE. • Monitoring is in accord with the requirements of the responsible authority

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.7.6 The timing of litter removal is chosen, where it is reasonably possible, to minimise off-site impacts by taking into account weather conditions such as temperature, wind direction, turbulence and time of day.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turbulence for example can help odour dispersion while calm conditions can make the odour impact worse • Evening conditions usually are unfavourable
2.7.7 Litter transported off-site is free of dead birds.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every effort, for example by inspection of empty sheds before litter removal is undertaken
2.7.8 Litter cleaned out after each batch following removal of all chickens is removed from each shed as part of the cleaning process and loaded directly onto trucks for transport off- site for further processing, reuse or disposal. Sheds are closed before and after clean-out to reduce odour.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there is a history of litter or odour concerns, clean- out conditions should be included in the log of key conditions in Clause 2.6.1
2.7.9 Contractors responsible for delivery and pick-up of litter ensure that all trucks delivering and collecting litter at the beginning/end of each batch have secured covers, which are used to prevent any dust or spillage of the litter on arrival at and departure from site.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where problems have been identified, evidence of arrangements with contractors and actions taken should be available

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
<p>2.7.10 When immediate removal is not possible, litter may be stored for a short term in stockpile areas effectively designed with low permeability to avoid contamination of surface water, groundwater and land. Water runoff is prevented (for example, through use of bunding control) and stockpile dust, moisture and odour are controlled.</p>	<p>Grower</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of stockpiles is as per the DNRE Manure Management Guidelines (under development) or advice in the interim from DNRE. Such storage is also established and maintained as detailed in industry information (such as for example the Chicken Care Guidance Note for Temporary Litter Stockpiles)
<p>2.7.11 Stockpiling and subsequent collection of stockpiled litter are done where practical at times to minimise odour generation (taking into account temperature, wind direction and turbulence).</p>	<p>Grower</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stockpiles are located in accordance with the approved litter management plan, based on relevant advisory guidelines • Where odour problem may occur, issues relating to forming or collecting stockpiled litter are resolved with neighbours on a case by case basis
<p>2.7.12 Provision is made to contain and promptly clean up any litter spillage in order to minimise generation of contaminated stormwater or dust.</p>	<p>Both</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Such events and actions are documented in farm logbooks
<p>2.7.13 If dust is visible with potential for off-site impact, action is taken to control the level of dust emissions.</p>	<p>Both</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency actions include adjustment of litter moisture levels or fan cowls • Careful maintenance of strategically located tree/vegetation belts will also assist in control of any airborne dust
<p>2.7.14 Changes that would improve farm performance against EMP 2.7 objectives above are identified and included in the future development plan for the farm.</p>	<p>Both</p>	

2.8 CHEMICALS

EMP Objective: To identify all environmental and safety hazards associated with chemicals and fuels used on the farm, to ensure systems are in place to handle accidents and to prevent on-site and off-site impacts.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.8.1 The Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all chemicals used are available on the farm, are reviewed and the implications for use of the substances are assessed and understood. Risk controls are in place before a new substance is received on the farm.	Both	
2.8.2 A list of the maximum quantities of chemicals and fuels typically stored on the farm is available, containers are labelled and HAZCHEM placards posted as required under Dangerous Goods and Workplace Hazardous Substances Regulations.	Both	
2.8.3 All agricultural chemicals used in poultry facilities are registered and approved for the intended use.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual approvals are given by the National Registration Authority
2.8.4 The supply, storage, mixing, application and disposal of farm chemicals is in accordance with the manufacturer's recommended application rates and procedures, with EPA Prescribed Waste Regulations and with the Farm Chemical Spray Application Code	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Farm Chemicals Spray Application Code produced by Avcare includes examples of best practice agricultural chemicals records programs

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.8.5 All persons applying chemicals on broiler chicken farms have successfully completed training in the safe use of chemicals (for example, the Farm Chemical Users Course or equivalent) or are supervised by a person who has.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of successful completion of the training is available
2.8.6 Records are maintained covering the purchase and procurement of chemicals and the details of each chemical application. These records are freely available to responsible authorities to substantiate that the chemical use meets the requirements of the Code of Practice for Farm Chemical Spray Application.	Both	
2.8.7 Storage of farm chemicals prevents contamination of soil or stormwater and prevents uncontrolled reactions in routine operations or through spills.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controls can include selection of lowest risk storage location, sealed flooring, bunding, segregation and provision of spill absorbents
2.8.8 LPG and other fuels storage and handling complies with legal requirements and supplier guidelines.	Grower	

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
<p>2.8.9 No chemical or related odours are detected off-site during or after shed washdown. To minimise the risk of off-site chemical spray drift, sheds are closed immediately after chemical applications and for 12 to 48 hours after spraying with hazardous or highly odorous substances.</p>	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanitation/cleaning of sheds use high pressure low volume sprays to avoid generation of free flowing water or excessive odour or mists • The 48-hour minimum period is required for substances with a history of offsite odours or high potential for health impacts. (Examples could include cresylic acid, formaldehyde or organophosphate pesticides) • Early placement of dry litter and reclosure of doors within the 48 hour period is permissible practice
<p>2.8.10 Controls ensure there is no chemical spray drift into sensitive areas, such as watercourses, residential housing or nearby horticultural enterprises using integrated pest management programs.</p>	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controls can include spraying outside areas only on days with favourable wind conditions, selection of spray method, use of coarser spray nozzles to increase droplet size and precision, etc. • Guidance is available in pamphlets including Reducing Spray Drift (Agriculture Victoria) and Protecting Waterways from Contamination by Pesticides (DNRE Victoria)
<p>2.8.11 Changes that would improve farm performance against EMP 2.8 objectives above are identified and included in the future development plan for the farm.</p>	Both	

2.9 BIRD MANAGEMENT

EMP Objective: To provide a safe and healthy environment for birds that is appropriate for their physical and behavioural needs and for control of odour.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.9.1 Sheds, equipment, management systems and farm practices comply with the <i>Code of Accepted Farming Practice for Welfare of Poultry (Rev 1)</i> .	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparisons and inspections demonstrate compliance. • Heating and cooling systems and the use of roof insulation will control sheds to the temperatures appropriate to bird age and as outlined in the welfare code listed opposite.
2.9.2 Effective biosecurity and general shed management complies with the requirements of the Processor, the National Biosecurity Manual and DNRE guidelines to minimise the risk of disease introduction to the farm.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparisons demonstrate compliance • Facilities and procedures are also in place to allow officers from the responsible authorities to inspect the farm without compromising biosecurity
2.9.3 Monitoring and adjustment are provided at least daily and more often (3 to 4 times daily) in hot weather to feeder availability and height, water availability and drinker height, ventilation rates, air speed, temperature and light intensity.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequencies are as per guidance in welfare code listed in 2.9.1
2.9.4 Fogger/cooling system performance is observed, adjusted and maintained to provide the operating pressures and spray patterns specified by Processors or equipment suppliers and to minimise litter wetting.	Grower	

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.9.5 Any maldigestion of feed or observable increase in shed odour or moisture content of droppings is reported to the Processor for review (by a qualified husbandry officer), bird removal, adjustment of feed formulation or treatment for poor health.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An observable and recorded increase in droppings moisture for a three day period would typically confirm the need for a review and action
2.9.6 Bird density does not exceed those specified in the Code of <i>Accepted Farming Practice for Welfare of Poultry (Rev #1)</i> .	Processor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The standard currently required is 40kg/m² maximum and is reviewed and updated from time to time.
2.9.7 Growers record daily bird mortality and report any abnormal losses or trends to their Processor for review and action.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bird mortalities at double the norm for that week of the batch or unusual flock appearance would typically trigger a review and action. Refer to industry's Chicken Care Performance Indicators Log
2.9.8 The collection of dead birds from within the sheds occurs on a daily basis, or more frequently should conditions so require.	Grower	

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.9.9 Disposal of dead birds is in accordance with the planning permit. It utilises a freezer, composter or other approved method and occurs on a daily basis.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dead birds will be placed in plastic buckets/ bags/bins and stored in a freezer daily. They will be regularly collected and transported to a rendering plant or licenced land-fill or disposed of by an equivalent method as outlined in the industry's Chicken Care Guidance Note and approved by the responsible authority. • On-farm composting of dead birds complies with EPA Environmental Guidelines for Composting (Publication No. 508)
2.9.10 Freezers or approved alternative disposal methods are maintained in accordance with manufacturer's specifications and provided with on-farm standby power.	Grower	
2.9.11 Changes that would improve farm performance against EMP 2.9 objectives above are identified and included in the future development plan for the farm.	Both	

2.10 OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS

EMP Objective: To ensure that those involved in broiler farming are environmentally aware, are trained and implement environmental and fire risk prevention and control practices.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.10.1 Broiler farm personnel participate in briefings and other activities arranged by the industry and other bodies to increase and share knowledge of best practice production and environmental management methods.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples could include attendance or talks at Processor, Grower Branch, Chicken Care, EPA/NRE/TAFE meetings or workshops
2.10.2 The skills needed to carry out all farm activities safely, efficiently and environmentally soundly are defined. Suitable training is identified, planned, attended, recorded and reviewed.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The skills needed and examples of known providers are listed in industry information (such as for example the Chicken Care Broiler Farming Skills Guidance Note)
2.10.3 Environmental Risk Assessments and Contingency Plans demonstrate that farm procedures and practices are proactive and cautious in their approach to foreseeable environmental risk events.	Both	
2.10.4 A Waste Minimisation Plan for all significant farm wastes is defined and being implemented.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The plan covering wastes (including spilt/off-spec feed, packaging, dead birds, chemical containers, etc) and by-products (including used litter) will regularly seek to identify opportunities and methods to reduce such materials

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.10.5 Clear requirements for fire prevention are documented and communicated to all people on the farm. These may include restrictions on smoking, welding, comfort heating, vegetation burnoff or other activities involving sources of ignition.	Grower	
2.10.6 Appropriate facilities to prevent, detect and control fires are provided and maintained.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact with local CFA officers and use of CFA guidelines is advised • Equipment includes fire extinguishers mounted in control rooms and reliable access to mains water or to fire water stored in dams
2.10.7 Changes that would improve farm performance against EMP 2.10 objectives above are identified and included in future development plans for the farm.	Both	

2.11 CONTINGENCY PLANS

EMP Objective: To complement the planning and prevention of environmental impacts in earlier sections of the EMP, well thought out contingency plans and triggers for all foreseeable events are also provided.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
<p>2.11.1 Documented contingency plans for all foreseeable odour and other environmental events and the trigger conditions for their implementation are defined and available on the farm.</p>	<p>Both</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency actions and triggers include those routine measures detailed in industry information (such as for example the Chicken Care Contingency Plans Guidance Note), chemical supplier MSDS and CFA Guidelines. • In cases where persistent or serious odour or dust problems are occurring, possible actions for consideration include increased litter depth, reduction in bird density, increased ventilation to dry litter, changed feed, earlier or emergency bird removal, staggered shed wake-up times, dietary or odour control additives, air/dust system redesign, dispersion stacks and others. • Operational changes for persistent problems should be made within one week. Plans for changes to operational practices or equipment should be available to the responsible authority and discussed with interested neighbours before the start of the next batch.
<p>2.11.2 Arrangements for more frequent than usual dispatch of dead birds and for alternative means of collection/disposal in the case of an emergency are available.</p>	<p>Both</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of such preplanned options are available

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.11.3 Adequate means of disposal in the event of an emergency disease outbreak or catastrophic mortalities are available, are used under direction of the Chief Veterinary Officer and achieve the optimum overall health, environmental and economic outcome.	Both	
2.11.4 Chemical or fuel spill contingency plans and suitable access to clean-up equipment and materials are available and meet the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) and other supplier recommendations.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requirements are covered in Farm Chemical Users Training courses regularly run by TAFE colleges and by chemical and oil industry groups
2.11.5 Documented fire emergency control and response plans are practiced and updated for lessons learned from drills or actual events.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples and details for these plans are available in guidelines published by CFA, Emergency Management Australia and chemical and oil industry groups
2.11.6 Contract transport drivers are trained and familiar with their transport emergency response plan.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evidence of familiarity with a documented transport emergency plan is part of the transport company's contracts
2.11.7 All foreseeable environment and safety emergencies including odour, wet litter, feed spills, dust plumes, noise, fire, gas release, chemical leak and flooding are identified. Control and response plans for these are documented, practiced and updated with lessons learned from drills or actual events.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some control actions are included in industry information such as for example the Chicken Care Contingency Plans Guidance Notes which will be regularly updated Grower branch meetings are one method of experience sharing to assist all Growers to implement changes and improvements.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.11.8 Changes that would improve farm performance against EMP 2.11 objectives above are identified and included in the future development plan for the farm.	Both	

2.12 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

EMP Objective: To provide processes for consultation with farm neighbours and the local Council so that their concerns and expectations are understood and met.

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.12.1 All involved company and farm staff members demonstrate commitment to openness and two- way dialogue with all interested parties.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and use Performance Indicator Log entries on Neighbour Contacts and Complaints. Compare with published industry average performance
2.12.2 Ways are sought to brief the community on the risks, controls and benefits of the meat chicken industry.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Refer Performance Indicator Log entries on Neighbour Contacts and Complaints. Refer to lists of activities done by Grower and by Industry
2.12.3 Farm owners have briefed staff, neighbours and local Councils on the selected goals and targets, their rationale and historical performance.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration and discussion with immediate neighbours of the development plans for new and expanding farms is recommended, where possible, prior to submission of a formal planning permit application. • New and expanding farms (and existing farms where needed) are providing briefings at frequency agreed with neighbours and Council. Implementation is recorded in farm logbooks (or for example the Chicken Care Performance Indicator Log)

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.12.4 All complaints received are viewed as opportunities for improvement and addressed in a positive and cooperative manner.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A written copy of complaint details using forms in the VCBF or similar will be provided by Council or other responsible authority to Growers promptly (typically within one day) to allow remedial action to be undertaken
2.12.5 A log of complaints received including their type, complainant details and actions taken is maintained. The log is periodically reviewed to identify and remedy recurring causes where possible.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to Performance Indicator Log entries on Neighbour Contacts and Complaints which provides for Formal Complaints, Formal/Validated Complaints and Observations from neighbours
2.12.6 Regular liaison with the local Council takes place over complaints received and on upset conditions that occur with potential to impact nearby residents.	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to farm logbooks (or for example the Chicken Care Performance Indicator Log and list of events)
2.12.7 Complaints resolution using the local Council and industry processes and the Supplementary Audits as outlined in the Code are followed where required.	Both	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to <i>Victorian Code for Broiler Farms</i> (Appendix 5) and to industry guidance documents Maintaining good neighbour relationships in advance may allow issues to be resolved before a formal complaint is required
2.12.8 The results of complaints, corrective actions, complaint resolution activities and audits are available to local Council and to neighbours.	Grower	

Generic Management Measures	Prime Resp.	Performance Measure, Trigger Level or Contingency Actions/Timing
2.12.9 Records of the properties, procurement and use of chemicals are maintained and available to local Council and farm neighbours.	Grower	
2.12.10 Changes that would improve farm performance against EMP 2.12 objectives above are identified and included in the future development plan for the farm.	Both	

3. IMPLEMENTING THE EMP

3.1 Environmental Performance Targets

The objectives, strategies and generic management measures for each Environmental Issue covered in the previous section should be made specific to the conditions of each farm and the expectations of its neighbours.

The extent to which the objectives are met should be made measurable in terms of specific levels and timeframes wherever possible. Therefore each Grower will identify the key performance parameters, long-term goals and measurable current year targets for the key issues relevant to his/her farm operation. Issue relevance will be defined after consideration of past problems and the expectations of neighbours for the near future.

Where possible, these targets will be discussed with the local Council and interested parties.

3.2 Regular Monitoring and Contingency Plan Triggers

The site EMP requires contingency plans for excessive odour, noise or dust generation, for chemical, fuel, feed or litter spills, for bird illness and for other environmental events.

Growers will define and monitor indicators of such key events relevant to their farm and pre-define the specific trigger level beyond which the Event Contingency Plan will be implemented. The indicators and triggers in the site EMP will be discussed with the local Council and where appropriate with other interested parties.

3.3 Operations and Incident Records

Analysis and continuous improvement is a key objective of the site EMP. Accordingly, Growers will maintain a log of their regular monitoring of the parameters or indicators identified above and of other indicators of good practice generally used by industry participants.

An environmental log will also be maintained on the farm to record the monitoring and corrective/contingency actions taken in situations and incidents considered to be outside normal operating parameters.

These logs will be used in formulating operating targets for the next year and may be of assistance in the resolution of complaints.

3.4 Incident Investigation

The Grower and his/her Processor will carry out a post-incident review of the causes of any significant incident and of the effectiveness of actions taken under the documented contingency plan. Corrections to root causes of the problem will be undertaken by both Grower and Processor when identified. Results of individual incidents will be provided to the local Council and discussed with neighbours when requested.

3.5 Industry Support from Peers and Suppliers

The Grower will share information on safety and environmental improvements and on community interactions with other Growers and Processors. Methods for this will include participation at industry network meetings, briefing talks and farm visits.

The Grower will provide information to his/her Processor, local Councils or the broiler industry to assist in performance reviews of industry progress and in the development of new regulations, codes or standards.

3.6 EMP Approval

The EMP for a new or expanding farm will be approved to the satisfaction of the local Council as part of the Planning Permit. It will also be jointly signed by the Grower and the Processor.

3.7 Signatories to EMP and Review

The site EMP, the annual review of farm performance and the updated strategies and targets for the following year will be signed by both the Grower and Processor. The documents will be revised and signed by a new Grower or Processor on change of the parties contracting to operate the farm.

3.8 Future Development Plans for the Farm

The Code and the generic EMP are based on a principle of continuous improvement as outlined in Section 1.3 above. Each Grower will therefore collect ideas for the development and improvement of the farm and use them in prioritising action plans for the current and future years.

These ideas will come from changes identified to improve performance against each category of the EMP objectives (Sections 2.1 to 2.12) and from reviews of Performance Targets (Section 3.1), Operations Records (Section 3.3), Incident Investigations (Section 3.4), Annual and any Supplementary Audits (Section 4.1) and Complaint Resolution actions (Section 4.2)

4. EMP AUDITING AND REPORTING

4.1 Annual Farm Assessment against EMP and Planning Permit

Each Grower will maintain a manual and be aware of the Planning Permit, the site EMP and regulatory obligations relating to his/her farm operation.

An annual assessment of the compliance with the site EMP and the Planning Permit and of the adequacy of the actions taken to meet farm improvement objectives and targets will be made and signed by the Grower, the Processor and a JASANZ accredited auditor. The latter will in many cases be a Processor employee.

This assessment will use an audit document containing all the elements of the generic EMP and be conducted in detail sufficient to evaluate or confirm to the responsible authority that planning permit requirements are met.

Audit documents will be retained by the Grower and the Processor for five years.

The frequency of assessments may be adjusted based on the performance of the farm and with the agreement of the local Council.

4.2 Complaints Handling

As outlined under measures for Community Participation, complaints will be addressed as legitimate community concerns and opportunities for improvement. It is important therefore that all complaints wherever received are passed on to the Grower within one working day and that the Grower is advised in writing of a validated complaint within one day of its confirmation, so that causes and corrective actions can be identified and implemented.

When received, the Grower, a suitably qualified Processor employee and where possible a local Council or EPA officer and the complainant will investigate the problem. Complaints lodged with the responsible authority may trigger a supplementary Audit as outlined in the Code. Results will be provided to the local Council or EPA.

Complaints about a farm that are not satisfactorily addressed above will be resolved by use of a Complaints Resolution Process to be developed by the EPA, local Councils, industry and the community.

4.3 Public and Local Council Reporting

A summary of the results of the Audit will be provided on request to local Council and the Code Committee. Other interested parties may request summaries from the local Council. The full documents will also be made

available on request to ensure that community expectations and government standards are met and as part of the ongoing reviews of the EMP and the Code.

4.4 Broiler Chicken Farm Generic EMP Review

The content of this broiler chicken farm generic EMP will be reviewed and updated by industry and reviewed by the Code Committee every three years or sooner if required. The review will take into account the results of farm EMP Audits, the status of industry programs such as for example Chicken Care and the inputs of broad community stakeholders and government bodies.