



The Better Chicken Commitment (BCC) is the leading set of standards for broiler welfare driving the food industry towards higher welfare practices. The BCC is a sustainable and science-based policy that addresses key chicken welfare protections missing from other standards.










**COMPLIANT WITH  
BCC STANDARDS**



**NOT COMPLIANT WITH  
BCC STANDARDS**

Better Chicken Commitment (BCC)	Animal Welfare Approved (AWA)
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**Animal Welfare Approved does not meet BCC standards for slaughter. Please see below for more details.**

<b>Maximum Stocking Density</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 lbs/sq ft</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>0.67 sq. ft indoor space per bird plus outdoor foraging OR 2.67 sq. ft indoor space for birds with no outdoor access</li> </ul>
<b>Litter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 3 inches of friable litter covering the whole floor of the house, managed to maintain dry, friable condition and prevent caked or wet areas</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>"Bedding must be clean, dry, mold-free and replenished as needed."</li> </ul>
<b>Lighting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum 8 hours of continuous light (<math>\geq 50</math> lux) and 6 hours of continuous darkness daily (<math>&lt; 1</math> lux)</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Birds must have outdoor access to forage and ranging areas for a minimum of 50% of daylight hours.</li> <li>Poultry housing must be kept at an average of at least 20 lux in daylight hours.</li> <li>Use of artificial light must not extend the maximum day-length beyond 16 hours.</li> </ul>
<b>Enrichments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For every 1,000 sq ft (93 sq m), or part 1000 sq ft (93 sq m) of indoor space there must be a minimum of 1 enrichment</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outdoor enrichments on pasture</li> </ul>
<b>Slaughter</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Process chickens in a manner that avoids pre-stun handling and instead utilizes a multi-step controlled-atmosphere processing system that induces an irreversible stun</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On farm slaughter is recommended and Controlled Atmosphere Killing (CAK), in which birds remain in their crates and their oxygen is slowly replaced by a mixture of argon, nitrogen, or carbon dioxide is the preferred slaughtering method</li> <li>Shackling of live birds is not permitted without prior written consent</li> </ul>
<b>Breed</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adopt breeds that demonstrate higher welfare outcomes, either: Hubbard Norfolk Black, JA757, JACY57, JA787, JA957, JA987, JACY87, REDBRO, or Redbro M; Aviagen Rambler Ranger, Ranger Classic, Ranger Gold, Ranger Premium, or Rowan Ranger; Cobb-Sasso 200 (CS200); Cooks Venture Pioneer, or others that meet the criteria of the RSPCA Broiler Breed Welfare Assessment Protocol or Global Animal Partnership (GAP).</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Breeds and strains must be chosen with consideration of their ability to thrive in the prevailing climatic conditions of the farm, in pasture-based, free range, outdoor systems.</li> <li>When averaged over their entire lives, the rate of growth of meat chickens must not exceed 0.088 lbs (40 g) per day.</li> </ul>
<b>Auditing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate 100% compliance with all standards via third-party auditing</li> </ul>	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>100% compliance with standards</li> </ul>

**REFERENCES**

**Please note:** This document is not intended to be used for official purposes such as auditing. It is a general summary of the key components of the Better Chicken Commitment and Animal Welfare Approved standards. For the complete standards, please reference the resources below:

**Better Chicken Commitment**  
[betterchickencommitment.com](http://betterchickencommitment.com)

**Global Animal Partnership (GAP) standards referenced in the Better Chicken Commitment:**  
[globalanimalpartnership.org/standards/chicken](http://globalanimalpartnership.org/standards/chicken)

**Animal Welfare Approved**  
[agreenerworld.org/certifications/animal-welfare-approved](http://agreenerworld.org/certifications/animal-welfare-approved)