



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NDU

ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINE No. 1

POULTRY REARING

1.0 PURPOSE OF GUIDELINE

This environmental guideline for the rearing of up to **5000 poultry heads** has been prepared by the Ministry of Environment & NDU to ensure that all environmental issues are duly taken into consideration by stakeholders.

2.0 NATURE OF DEVELOPMENT

The poultry sector has undergone a very rapid development from a part time backyard activity to a more intensive method of rearing. The most common methods of rearing are the deep litter system and the battery system.

3.0 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Poultry rearing is associated with various aspects, impacts and nuisances as listed below:-

Activity	Aspects	Impacts/ Nuisances
Construction phase		
Design of pens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor ventilation - Pens incompatible with the surrounding environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Odour - Aesthetics and visual impacts
Site preparation / Construction of buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Removal of vegetation - Use of heavy machinery - Generation of excavated soil / construction wastes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Loss of flora and fauna - Loss of topsoil - Noise, mud ,dust, traffic - Visual impacts - Dumping into barelands and water courses
Operation phase		
Rearing activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Solid wastes generation , poultry litter/ droppings , rotten eggs , hatchery wastes, dead birds - Poor husbandry practices - Poor housekeeping (including cleaning and maintenance) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Odour and dust -Risks of contamination of water courses and groundwater - Flies / pests/ rodents - Risks of diseases (Health impacts and biosecurity risks)
Washing of poultry pens	Wastewater generation	Risks of contamination of water courses and groundwater

4.0 SITING OF ACTIVITY

In accordance with the Planning Policy Guidance 2004 of the Ministry of Housing and Lands and policies of the Ministry of Environment & NDU, the selected site shall:-

- ◆ Satisfy a minimum distance of 200 m from the settlement boundaries and sensitive land uses
- ◆ Not occur within an Irrigation Zone
- ◆ Be limited to agricultural land only
- ◆ Be at least 200 m from any slaughter house
- ◆ Be at least 200m from any borehole
- ◆ The wastewater disposal system shall be at least 30 m from any water course.
- ◆ In view of biosecurity risks, the distances allowed between poultry farms operating at different scale of activities are as follows:

Scale of activity	Distances between two poultry farms
Small scale poultry farm of up to 5000 birds	100 m
Medium scale poultry farm of 5000 to 20 000 birds	200 m
Large scale poultry farm of more than 20 000 birds	300 m

- In the case of the presence of more than one existing poultry farm at the same distance of the proposed development, the buffer distance required would be that of the largest poultry farm.
- In the case of several existing poultry farm at different distances, the buffer distance required would be that of the nearest poultry farm.

- ◆ Not found within the quarry area of a priority Mineral Resource Site or within 200m of its buffer.
- ◆ Not found within the buffer areas around stone crushing plants

5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

The major environmental issues are **odour, wastewater disposal and solid waste** and the following conditions shall be observed:

- i. The farm premises shall be kept clean and tidy at all times to prevent any form of nuisance such as odour, flies and rodents. The proponent shall maintain good housekeeping practices, and implement proper husbandry practices and other management operations as per the recommendations of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Production and Security and other relevant authorities.
- ii. All wastewater shall be disposed of as per the recommendations of the Wastewater Management Authority.

- iii. No wastewater shall be discharged either on the surface of the ground or into rivers/streams.
 - iv. Droppings shall be collected and contained in plastics bags before stacking in a sheltered place pending transportation for treatment or re-use.
 - v. *Droppings collected by conveyor belt may be loaded directly onto licensed waste carriers.
 - vi. Δ Litter shall be loaded directly into licensed waste carriers as storage on site is not practical due to the large volume which is generated.
 - vii. All collected organic solid waste shall be composted in a watertight pit before reuse as per the recommendations of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Production and Security.
 - viii. All other solid waste shall be regularly collected in bins or waste handling receptacles and disposed of as per the recommendations of the Local Authority
 - ix. Appropriate measures such as application of lime on the droppings shall be taken to abate odour nuisance.
 - x. All dead birds shall be disposed of by deep burial within the farm premises and same be disinfected with slaked lime or co-composted with litter/droppings, to the satisfaction of the Sanitary Authority and the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Production and Security.
 - xi. Poultry pens should have wire netting of mesh size 12mm \times 12mm to ease proper ventilation and prevent entry of rodents and pests. The droppings/litter during the rearing activities should be kept dry at all times to discourage breeding of flies. Soiled litter and droppings shall be removed at the end of each cycle. Appropriate measures such as use of fly-repellants and approved insecticide shall be taken to control fly proliferation as per recommendations of the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life. Self closing devices shall be fitted to the doors.
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- Condition No. 16 is applicable for rearing of layers.
 - * Condition No. 17 is applicable to proponents having a conveyor belt system for collection of solid wastes.
 - Δ Condition No. 18 is applicable for rearing of broilers

6.0 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The following measures are recommended in order to minimize environmental nuisances:

- (i) All necessary permits from relevant authorities including a Building and Land Use Permit from the Local Authority shall be obtained and all the conditions attached therein shall be scrupulously observed.
- (ii) Necessary precautions shall be taken during site preparation and construction works so as not to cause any nuisance by way of noise, obstruction, mud or dust or any form of pollution to the public and surrounding environment.
- (iii) Necessary measures shall be taken for the evacuation of surface runoff so as not to cause flooding/water logging of the site and adjoining areas.
- (iv) The flock density shall conform to the recommendations of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Production and Security.
- (v) Water storage of adequate capacity shall be provided to cater for daily requirements of the activity.
- (vi) Any unusual death or outbreak of disease shall be reported immediately to the Ministry of Agro Industry, Food Production and Security (Veterinary Services), the Ministry of Health and Quality of Life and the Ministry of Environment and NDU.
- (vii) The design of the poultry houses shall be to the satisfaction of the Agricultural Research and Extension Unit.
- (viii) All the poultry pens shall be restricted to ground floor only and the watchman's quarter shall not exceed 30 m².
- (ix) A footbath containing disinfectants shall be provided at the entrance of each poultry pen.
- (x) No slaughtering or processing activities shall be undertaken on site.
- (xi) The development shall be properly fenced and the farm shall be embellished by ornamental plants to enhance its aesthetic value.

7.0 ENFORCEMENT

Under section 13 of the Environment Protection Act 2002, the enforcing agencies for the different environmental media or pollutants are as follow:

SN	Environmental media/pollutant	Enforcing Agency
1.	Odour	Ministry of Health and Quality of Life
2.	Inland waters, effluents	Ministry of Renewable Energy and Public Utilities
3.	Solid wastes	Ministry of Local Government

The above-mentioned enforcing agencies shall monitor compliance with the conditions falling under their purview.

8.0 OFFENCES

Any person who fails to comply with any requirements referred to in this guideline shall commit an offence and shall:

- i. On a first conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 50, 000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.
- ii. On a second or subsequent conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding 100,000 rupees and to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 8 years.

9.0 ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

The following Ministries / Authorities should also be consulted for more information in order to address other relevant issues pertaining to poultry rearing:-

Ministry of Health & QL, Ministry of Agro- Industry, Food Production & Security, Ministry of Local Government , Local Authority , Wastewater Management Authority , Water Resources Unit , Irrigation Authority , Ministry of Housing & Lands , Central Water Authority.

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