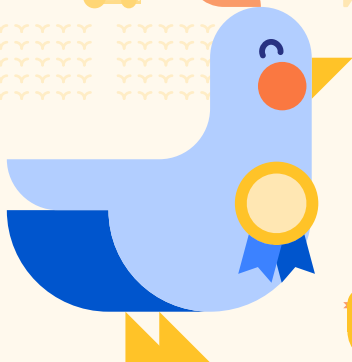


PURCHASING INFORMED: CHICKEN WELFARE

Powered by  Collectiv Food




A CLOSER LOOK

RED TRACTOR

Reference → ● ● ●

Reference → ● ● ●

PRODUCED IN THE UK TO RED TRACTOR CORE STANDARD



RED TRACTOR
CERTIFIED STANDARDS

Red Tractor is the UK's largest food assurance scheme which covers the whole chain on issues including animal welfare, traceability, food safety and environmental protections.

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Preventative use of antibiotics is not permitted. Antibiotics can be used as a last resort and only administered by direction of a vet. No use of growth hormones allowed.

STOCKING DENSITY

Max indoor density?

38

AVAILABILITY

96%

of the UK broiler farms are assured to the Red Tractor

MIN. SLAUGHTER AGE REQUIRED

≥39

REQUIRED TIME OUTSIDE

NONE


MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BETTER CHICKEN COMMITMENT

NO

BREED TYPE

Fast growing birds are allowed

Series B **REDUCED** MINIMUM WELFARE STANDARDS FOR CHICKENS REARED FOR PRODUCTION OF MEAT

 **CoBecTV Food**

REFERENCES

This review has drawn on existing research and resources. Please refer to references and resources linked in this review for more information

COUNTRY APPLICABILITY

Some welfare standards, such as Red Tractor, apply to a specific country of origin.

- STOCKING DENSITY

Research indicates that the health and welfare of broilers is compromised at stocking densities above the range 34-38kg/m² (Source).

REQUIRED TIME OUTSIDE

Welfare issues specific to environmental conditions, including access to the outdoors and natural light & ventilation are well-documented (Source).

MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF
THE BETTER CHICKEN COMMITMENT

A science-based, voluntary policy that aims to address key issues related to broiler chicken welfare. By 2024, it requires that chicken suppliers meet the higher welfare requirements for 100% of products. Over 200 industry players have committed to meet these standards. (source).

A CLOSER LOOK

CERTIFICATION LOGO

Certification logos allow for easy identification and producers which have been independently assessed according to requirements of a third party assurance scheme.

SOURCE

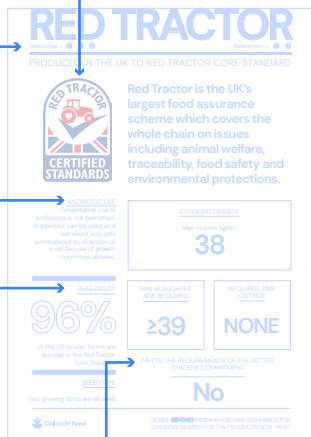
The welfare standards reviewed were necessarily simplified to help draw out key points. There are a number of resources available online to explore each standard in their entirety. Here we have handpicked a few for you.

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Poultry farmers and veterinarians need antibiotics in their toolbox to protect the health and welfare of birds. Delivering excellence in bird health and welfare is the foundation of responsible use of antibiotics and is about so much more than reduction targets. Zero use is neither ethical nor sustainable as it goes against a farmer's duty to address any health and welfare issues. Antibiotic use should be controlled nonetheless as use of antibiotics can lead to bacteria developing resistance to them (Source). Resistant bacteria become difficult to treat, leading to the development of superbugs which are a major threat to human health (source).

AVAILABILITY

Where data is available, this section provides an indication of the availability of chicken assured to a given standard in the UK.



MINIMUM SLAUGHTER AGE & BREED TYPE

Welfare issues, such as higher mortality rates, and increased risk of lameness, & breed type have been linked to fast growth rates and shorter minimum slaughter age. In comparison, slower growth rates exhibited by chickens of slow growing breeds have been linked to substantially lower occurrences of health issues (Source).

UK MINIMUM STANDARD FOR BROILER CHICKENS

JUL 2022

STOCKING DENSITY

England Max indoors kg/m²

North Ireland Max outdoors kg/m²

39

42

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Use of growth promoting antibiotics are banned, but preventative antibiotic use is still permitted. The UK are lagging behind the EU in this respect

MIN. SLAUGHTER
AGE REQUIRED

REQUIRED TIME
OUTSIDE

NONE

NONE

RESOURCES

1

REFERENCES



EU MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR BROILER CHICKENS

JUL 2022

STOCKING DENSITY

Max indoors kg/m²

42

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Bans preventative use of antibiotics and growth promoting substances

MIN. SLAUGHTER
AGE REQUIRED

REQUIRED TIME
OUTSIDE

NONE

NONE

RESOURCES **1**

REFERENCES **★ 1 ★ 2**

UK MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FREE RANGE

JUL 2022

STOCKING DENSITY	Max indoors kg/m ²	Min outdoors m ² /bird
	27.5	1

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Use of growth promoting antibiotics are banned, but preventative antibiotic use is still permitted. The UK are lagging behind the EU in this respect

MIN. SLAUGHTER AGE REQUIRED	AVAILABILITY	REQUIRED TIME OUTSIDE
≥56 Days	~3.5% of total UK poultry meat production	1/2 continuous daytime access to open-air

RESOURCES	1 2	REFERENCES	★ ★
-----------	-----	------------	-----



EU MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR FREE RANGE

JUL 2022

STOCKING DENSITY	Max indoors kg/m ²	Min outdoors m ² /bird
	27.5	1

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Bans preventative use of antibiotics and growth promoting substances

MIN. SLAUGHTER AGE REQUIRED	REQUIRED TIME OUTSIDE
≥ 56 Days	$1/2$ continuous daytime access to open-air
RESOURCES 	REFERENCES 

UK MINIMUM STANDARD

JUL 2022

FOR ORGANIC

STOCKING DENSITY	Max indoors kg/m ²	Min outdoors m ² /bird
	30	4

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Bans preventative use of antibiotics and growth promoting substances

MIN. SLAUGHTER AGE REQUIRED	AVAILABILITY	REQUIRED TIME OUTSIDE
≥ 70 Days	$< 1\%$ of total UK poultry meat production	$1/3$ lifetime with outdoor access

RESOURCES 1 2	REFERENCES ★
-----------------------------	---------------------

EU MINIMUM STANDARD

JUL 2022

FOR ORGANIC

STOCKING DENSITY	Max indoors kg/m ²	Min outdoors m ² /bird
	21	4

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Bans preventative use of antibiotics and growth promoting substances

MIN. SLAUGHTER AGE REQUIRED	REQUIRED TIME OUTSIDE
≥ 81 Days	$1/3$ lifetime with outdoor access
RESOURCES 1	REFERENCES ★ ★

RED TRACTOR

Resources » 1 2 3

References » 1 2

PRODUCED IN THE UK TO RED TRACTOR CORE STANDARD



Red Tractor is the UK's largest food assurance scheme which covers the whole chain on issues including animal welfare, traceability, food safety and environmental protections.

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Preventative use of antibiotics is not permitted. Antibiotics can be used as a last resort and only administered by direction of a vet. No use of growth hormones allowed.

STOCKING DENSITY

Max indoors kg/m²

38

AVAILABILITY

96%

of the UK broiler farms are assured to the Red Tractor Core Standard

MIN. SLAUGHTER AGE REQUIRED

≥39

REQUIRED TIME OUTSIDE

NONE

MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BETTER CHICKEN COMMITMENT

BREED TYPE

Fast growing birds are allowed

No

RSPCA FREE RANGE

Resources » ①

References » ① ②

PRODUCED IN THE UK OR ELSEWHERE TO THE RSPCA ASSURED STANDARD



RSPCA Assured is the RSPCA's farm animal welfare assurance scheme. All farms on the RSPCA Assured scheme must comply with the RSPCA's stringent higher welfare standards. These standards cover every aspect of the animals' lives from birth through to slaughter.

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Preventative use of antibiotics is not permitted. Antibiotics can be used as a last resort and only administered by direction of a vet. No use of growth hormones allowed.

STOCKING DENSITY

Max indoors kg/m²

27.5

AVAILABILITY

~1%

OF THE MARKET IN THE UK

MIN. SLAUGHTER AGE REQUIRED

≥56

REQUIRED TIME OUTSIDE

Outdoor access for

1/2
of life

MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BETTER
CHICKEN COMMITMENT

Yes

BREED TYPE

Slow-growing breed

RED TRACTOR FREE RANGE

Resources » 1 2

References » 1

PRODUCED IN THE UK TO RED TRACTOR FREE RANGE STANDARD



Red Tractor is the UK's largest food assurance scheme which covers the whole chain on issues including animal welfare, traceability, food safety and environmental protections.

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Preventative use of antibiotics is not permitted. Antibiotics can be used as a last resort and only administered by direction of a vet. No use of growth hormones allowed.

STOCKING DENSITY

Max indoors kg/m²

27.5

AVAILABILITY

Red Tractor certify large majority of Free Range farms which account for

~7%

OF THE MARKET IN THE UK

MIN. SLAUGHTER AGE REQUIRED

≥56

REQUIRED TIME OUTSIDE

Outdoor access for

1/2
of life

MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BETTER
CHICKEN COMMITMENT

No

BREED TYPE

Fast growing birds are allowed

LABEL ROUGE

Resources » ①

References » ① ②

PRODUCED IN FRANCE OR ELSEWHERE TO THE LABEL ROUGE STANDARD



Since 1965, Label Rouge poultry has been reared using traditional, free-range production methods based on an official Label Rouge specification approved by the French public authorities.

STOCKING DENSITY

Max kg/m²

25

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Preventative use of antibiotics is not permitted. Antibiotics can be used as a last resort and only administered by direction of a vet. No use of growth hormones allowed.

MIN. SLAUGHTER AGE REQUIRED

≥81

REQUIRED TIME OUTSIDE

≥42

Days after 6 weeks of age

BREED TYPE

Slow-growing breed

MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BETTER
CHICKEN COMMITMENT

Yes

SOIL ASSOCIATION ORGANIC

Resources » 1

References » 1 2

PRODUCED IN THE UK OR ELSEWHERE TO THE SOIL ASSOCIATION ORGANIC STANDARD



Soil Association is the UK's largest organic accreditation body which covers outdoor and free-range farming systems on areas including traceability, pesticides, use of medication, and GM ingredients.

STOCKING DENSITY

Max (fixed housing) kg/m²

21

Max (mobile housing) kg/m²

30

ANTIBIOTIC USE

Preventative use of antibiotics is not permitted. Antibiotics can be used as a last resort and only administered by direction of a vet. No use of growth hormones allowed.

MIN. SLAUGHTER AGE REQUIRED

≥81

REQUIRED TIME OUTSIDE

2/3

lifetime with
outdoor access

MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE BETTER
CHICKEN COMMITMENT

BREED TYPE

Slow-growing breed

Yes

Making a switch to higher welfare



**Stocking
density
impact**

Red Tractor chickens have

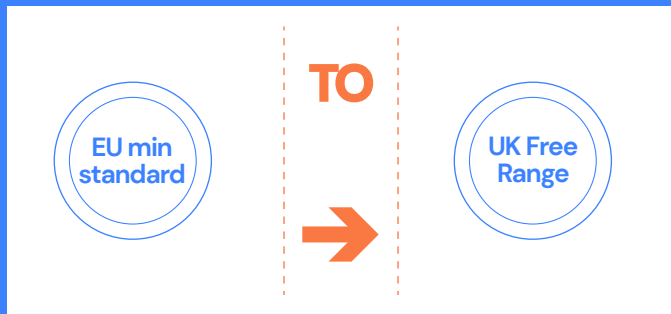
≥10%

more space than what is required
by the EU minimum standard

**Access to
outdoors
impact**

NO CHANGE

Making a switch to higher welfare



Stocking density impact

Free Range chickens have over

≥50%

more space to roam indoors in comparison to the EU minimum standard

Access to outdoors impact

Free Range chickens have outdoor access for ⅓ of their life while birds produced to the EU minimum standard are not required to have access to the outdoors

Making a switch to higher welfare



TO



Stocking density impact

Soanes Higher Welfare chickens enjoy over

$\geq 20\%$

more space to roam indoors than what is required by the Red Tractor core standard*

Access to outdoors impact

NO CHANGE

Making a switch to higher welfare



TO



Stocking density impact

RSPCA Free Range chickens enjoy

$\geq 30\%$

more space indoors than what is required by than is required by the Red Tractor core standard

Access to outdoors impact

RSPCA assured have outdoor access for $\frac{1}{3}$ of their life compared to no outdoor access required by the Red Tractor core standard

Making a switch to higher welfare



TO



Stocking density impact

Red Tractor Free Range chickens enjoy

$\geq 30\%$

more space indoors than what is required by the Red Tractor core standard

Access to outdoors impact

Red Tractor Free Range chickens have outdoor access for $\frac{1}{3}$ of their life to no outdoor access required by the Red Tractor core standard

Making a switch to higher welfare



TO



Stocking density impact

Label Rouge chickens enjoy

$\geq 20\%$

more space to roam indoors compared to chickens produced to the Red Tractor core standard

Access to outdoors impact

Label Rouge chickens have access to the outdoors for 1/3 of their life while Red Tractor birds are kept indoors are not required to have access to natural light or the outdoors

Making a switch to higher welfare



TO



**Stocking
density
impact**

Label Rouge chickens enjoy

15%

more space to roam indoors
compared to UK Free Range birds

**Access to
outdoors
impact**

NO CHANGE

Making a switch to higher welfare



TO



Stocking density impact

Organic chickens produced in the UK enjoy

≥25%

more space to roam indoors compared to chickens produced to the Red Tractor core standard

Access to outdoors impact

Organic chickens produced in the UK enjoy 1/3 of their lifetime with outdoor access while chicken produced to the

Red Tractor core standard are kept indoors and are not required to have access to natural light or the outdoors

Making a switch to higher welfare



TO



Stocking density impact

Organic chickens produced in the EU enjoy

$\geq 80\%$

more space to roam indoors compared to chicken produced to the Red Tractor core standard'

Access to outdoors impact

Organic chickens produced in the EU enjoy +1/3 of their lifetime with outdoor access while Red Tractor birds are kept indoors and not required to have access to natural light or the outdoors

Making a switch to higher welfare



TO



Stocking density impact

Organic chickens enjoy

≥80%

more room compared to chicken produced to the Red Tractor core standard

Access to outdoors impact

Soil Association Organic chickens must spend 2/3 of their lifetime with outdoor access whereas chicken produced to the Red Tractor core standard are kept indoors and are not required to have access to natural light or the outdoors