

**THAI AGRICULTURE STANDARD
GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR LAYER FARM**

1. SCOPE

1.1 This Thai agricultural standard provides requirements on good agricultural practices for the management of commercial layer farm of at least 1,000 birds, covering farm components, managements of farm, animal feed, water, personnel, animal health, animal welfare, pullets and laying hens, eggs, and environment including record keeping. This standard aims to support the production of good quality eggs which are safe for consumption.

1.2 This standard does not cover layer farms that are certified by the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) under other standards such as Thai Agricultural Standard on Organic Agriculture Part 2: Organic Livestock (TAS 9000 PART 2) and standards on free range layer farming.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this standard:

2.1 Layer means chicken of the scientific name, *Gallus gallus*, that lays eggs, on a regular basis, for consumption. The term “layer” covers both pullets and laying hens.

2.2 Pullet means chicken at a certain age before starting to lay eggs.

2.3 Laying hen means chicken of an appropriate age to lay eggs until a period of time that it is spent, depending on its breed.

2.4 Layer farm means an establishment for commercial layer farm of at least 1,000 birds.

2.5 Layer house means a building with either controlled or uncontrolled environment used for layer raising.

3. REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for good agricultural practices for layer farm are as in Table 1:

Table 1 Requirements

Item	Requirement
1. Farm components	
1.1 Site	1.1.1 Farm shall be located in an environment that poses no risk of contamination from physical, chemical and biological hazards. If not, sufficient preventive measures shall be in place.
1.2 Farm layout	1.2.1 Farm shall have an appropriate size for layer raising. Layer houses shall not be too dense so as not to cause problem to the environment.

Item	Requirement	
1.3 Layer house	1.2.2 Farm shall be well laid out for good hygienic practices and animal sanitation. The operation areas shall be appropriately separated.	
	1.2.3 An area shall be provided for egg gathering or storage before moving eggs out of the farm.	
	1.3.1 Layer house shall be designed to display locations of equipment to facilitate layer raising.	
	1.3.2 Raising area shall be adequate taking into account the principles of animal welfare.	
	1.3.3 Housing structure shall be strong, hygienic and well ventilated, easy to, clean, maintain and disinfect. Layer house shall be suitably arranged to facilitate egg laying and gathering.	
2. Farm management 2.1 Farm manual	2.1.1 Farm management manual shall be made available, containing details on main operations i.e. raising system, managements of feed, water, animal health and poultry welfare.	
	2.2 Feed and water	2.2.1 Complete and concentrated feeds shall meet their quality and standard in compliance with the Animal Feed Quality Control Act.
		2.2.2 In case of on farm feed preparation or mixing of feed from Section 2.2.1, prohibited substances in accordance with Animal Feed Quality Control Act shall not be used.
2.3 Management of layer house and equipment	2.2.3 Feed shall be preliminarily checked for physical quality. Samples shall be kept for analysis, in case a problem arises.	
	2.2.4 Separated feed storage area shall be provided. Feed shall be stored in a condition that is able to prevent deterioration and contamination.	
	2.2.5 Sufficient feed and water for each layer shall be managed.	
	2.2.6 Water for layer raising shall be clean. Result of water quality analysis shall be made available.	
	2.3.1 Layer house, equipment and surrounding area shall be clean and maintained in good and hygienic condition.	
2.3.2 Layer house and equipment shall be cleaned and disinfected after removing the previous flock of layer. The house shall be kept vacant for a certain period of time sufficient to break the cycle of infectious agents and to		

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	<p>prevent their accumulation, except otherwise specified by the Department of Livestock Development for each area.</p> <p>2.3.3 Egg gathering containers such as egg trays shall be suitable and hygienic.</p> <p>2.3.4 Egg gathering containers shall be cleaned and disinfected every time before bringing in layer house and before each collecting.</p>
3. Personnel	<p>3.1 Duty and responsibility for each personnel shall be clearly assigned.</p> <p>3.2 Number of workers, animal husbandry supervisors or personnel trained on animal husbandry on layer raising and veterinarian holding a certificate of poultry farm shall be suitable for the number of layers.</p> <p>3.3 Workers responsible for layer raising shall have knowledge by being trained or having on-the-job training in order to be able to manage the farm.</p> <p>3.4 Personnel shall have good personal hygiene in order to prevent contamination and spread of disease.</p>
<p>4. Animal health</p> <p>4.1 Disease prevention and control</p>	<p>4.1.1 Evidence or document specifying sources of layers shall be available.</p> <p>4.1.2 Measures for prevention, control and elimination of disease introduced to farm by humans, vehicles, equipment and disease carrier animals shall be available.</p> <p>4.1.3 Disease surveillance and prevention plan shall be established by the farm veterinarian.</p> <p>4.1.4 Health of layer shall be monitored daily and carcass disposal shall be properly managed.</p> <p>4.1.5 In case of a disease outbreak or suspicion of an outbreak, actions shall be taken in compliance with the Animal Epidemic Act .</p>
4.2 Disease therapy	4.2.1 Disease therapy shall be supervised by a farm veterinarian in accordance with the Veterinary Profession Act and related laws and regulations.
5. Animal welfare	5.1 Layers shall be raised in accordance with the animal welfare principles.
<p>6. Management of pullets, laying hens and eggs</p> <p>6.1 Pullets and laying hens</p>	<p>6.1.1 Health, size and weight shall be randomly checked.</p> <p>6.1.2 Pullets or laying hens that are abnormal in physical</p>

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6.2 Eggs	condition, unhealthy, different in size and weight, or not suitable for laying eggs shall be culled out.
	6.2.1 Eggs shall be collected. Abnormal, cracked, or broken eggs shall be sorted out. Eggs stained with feces shall be separated for cleaning.
	6.2.2 Eggs shall be stored under shade with good ventilation or under a temperature controlled condition.
	6.2.3 Clean, well-ventilated or temperature controlled vehicle shall be used for egg transportation.
7. Environment	7.1 Garbage, waste water, and other wastes shall be appropriately disposed of so as not to be the sources of unpleasant odour and pathogens.
	7.2 Litter scattering after removing layers from the farm shall be prevented.
8. Recording	8.1 Data on main operations affecting animal health, disease control and egg production shall be recorded.
	8.2 Records shall be kept for at least 3 years.