



On Farm Visitor and Inspector Safety Policy for Egg and Pullet Farms

amended July 3, 2020

Egg Farmers of Ontario has regulations, policies, and programs that require EFO staff to come to the farm to perform a variety of tasks, some of which include flock counts, Salmonella testing, HACCP inspections, and other types of inspections or other farm related activities.

Under the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act, an employer must prepare and review at least annually a written occupational health and safety policy, and must develop and maintain a program to implement that policy (clause 25 (2) (j)). As a part of the Egg Farmers of Ontario Safety Program, the farm visitor and inspector safety policy will ensure that our employees are working in a safe environment.

EFO will require all egg and pullet farmers to address all areas of safety on and around their farms for any EFO staff or EFO visitors who may come onto their farm. This should encompass all activities from the time of arrival onto the property to the time that they leave. This includes all areas around the farm buildings and inside any barns or buildings that need to be entered. Any equipment to be supplied and used by EFO Inspectors must also be deemed safe for use.

The following are some specific areas that need to be addressed:

1. General areas around the home, barn yard, and buildings need to be safe from trips, slips, falls, and collisions (ice, snow, vehicle and farm equipment traffic). Any aggressive pets need to be restrained.
2. Farms that supply bio-security clothing and or footwear must be clean and laundered. Footwear should be specific for those visiting the farm and need to be safety shoes with the green CSA tag. Farms that have shower-in facilities will provide a private, clean, and sanitary area and provide clean and laundered towels. The area needs to be safe from slips and from loose floor mats.
3. Areas inside the barn or buildings need to be safe from trips, slips, and falls.
4. All fans and drive units need to be covered.
5. Any electrical hazards need to be addressed.
6. Manure augers will be covered to provide a safe walk-over. Any manure chutes or clean outs need to be secure and be built in a way to support persons walking on them.
7. Any low-hanging equipment, beams, or protrusions need to be marked and addressed (where possible).
8. For barns that have conventional housing systems where the floor of a cage is higher than 5 feet from ground, it is required that equipment be provided for the inspector's use to aid in the count of the flock. This equipment needs to be of a design that will prevent falls from heights. It needs to be designed to safely support the person or persons using it and the person or persons cannot fall off of while using it. It cannot tip over forward, backward or sideways. It needs to be designed in a way that it can be easily used and rolled around with ease. Carts that are supplied will be inspected and assessed by the inspector who will determine whether he or she feels it is safe to use or not. It may be required that the farmer or a staff person either operates the cart or needs to push the inspector through the cage rows while doing the count. For cage rows that have tiers of cages where the floor of the cage is less than 2 feet from the ground that a small roll stool be provided by EFO to aid in counting the lower levels. These roll stools will stay at each farm and will be made available when needed. Homemade carts should have railings/guards on at least three sides of the cart that are tall enough to protect the inspector in case of a sudden lurch in movement (i.e. guard rails that are hip height or higher). Electric carts should be charged and have stable handlebars. If there is no cart provided and a ladder is being used on farm to see the top tiers, the farmer or employee must be present during all EFO inspector visits in order to carry the ladder around the barn if requested by the inspector.
9. For barns that have low light levels, it will be required to provide adequate light levels to work in.
10. As inspectors can be working alone for extended periods of time while on the farm, they are required to carry their cell phones with them.



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11. Any identified or potential safety hazards as brought up by the EFO inspector(s) will be addressed and discussed with the farmer or farm manager. It will also be brought to the attention of the Director of Operations at EFO to rectify the hazard.
 12. Failure to provide a safe working environment, and / or failure to provide safe equipment within 30 days will be considered as an inspection refusal and could potentially result in a board hearing. For example upon a visit where a previously noted health and safety concern has not been addressed as determined by the inspector.
 13. No smoking is permitted while EFO inspectors or other EFO staff is in attendance at the registered premises which must be maintained free of all second-hand smoke.