

**Issues identified for amendment and high-level guide to the proposed amendments**

Issues identified as part of the 5-year review of the 2017 Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens	Amendments proposed by the Code Amendment Committee (for review during the public comment period <sup>1</sup> )
<b>TOPIC #1: ROUND FEEDER SPACE FOR PULLETS AND LAYING HENS</b> <b>Section 1.1.3 – Feeders and Waterers (Pullet Housing and Rearing)   Section 2.3 – Feeders and Waterers (Housing Systems for Layers)</b>	
<p><b>RELEVANT REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 1.1.3:</b> from 8 weeks to layer barn, <b>pullets</b> require a minimum of 4.0 cm (1.6 in) of feeder space per bird;</li> <li>• <b>Section 2.3: laying hens</b> require a minimum of 7.0 cm (2.8 in) of feeder space per bird;</li> <li>• <b>Sections 1 and 2 (Pullets and Laying Hens):</b> footnote included with a formula for converting linear space to perimeter space (multiply by 0.8). Note that Code does not explicitly state minimum round feeder space—only the conversion factor from linear feeder space. Round feeder conversions:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pullets: 3.2 cm (1.28 in)</li> <li>• Laying Hens: 5.6 cm (2.24 in)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>CONTEXT</b></p> <p>This requirement has been challenging to implement for farms that utilize round feeders, primarily because the Code requirement differs significantly from manufacturer recommendations for the maximum number of birds per pan. For laying hens, farmers report that they would have to reduce their flock sizes by over half to become compliant with the 2017 Code. While auditing for pullet farms has not yet commenced, a sampling of data suggests that on average, pullet producers would need to reduce their flocks by nearly half (45%) to meet the 2017 Code requirement.</p> <p>Other Codes and Standards typically require or recommend that a minimum of round feed space of 3.8 cm (1.5 in) be provided for laying hens (~33% less than 2017 Code Requirement for laying hens). Similar comparisons are not available for pullets, as Canada was one of the first countries to introduce standards for pullets.</p> <p>Producers assert that it has not been demonstrated that the 2017 Code requirements are defensible, given that feeder space provided at lower numbers does not appear to negatively impact bird welfare from a biological functioning perspective. Moreover, there does not seem to be any rationale (scientific or otherwise) for the linear-to-round feeder space conversion factor that was included in the 2017 Code, leading the industry and the Code Amendment Committee to question whether this may have been included in error. In addition, producers report that feeder space over that recommended by manufacturers can result in stale feed due to under-triggering. Finally, increasing feeder space impacts available floor space and may add navigational challenges for birds.</p>	<p><b>Section 1.1.3: Feeders and Waterers (Pullet Housing and Rearing)</b></p> <p><b>AMENDED REQUIREMENT</b></p> <p>The scope of the amendment is only for <u>pullets from 8 weeks of age to layer barn</u>; as such, the only tangible change to the table amends the minimum round feeder space requirement to 1.8 cm (0.7 in). All other changes are intended to add clarity.</p> <p>Table 1.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A column has been introduced to specify requirements for minimum round feeder space for all birds in the rearing phase, as opposed to only including linear space with a footnote with the conversion factor;</li> <li>• As water space was not included in the scope of this amendment, the only change for waterers in the table was in the <i>Minimum Water Space/Bird</i> column. The <i>converted</i> round waterer space is now specified (along with linear space). In addition, the accompanying footnote, which is no longer needed, was removed. The minimum linear water space/bird did not change (and by extension, neither did the minimum round water space/bird).</li> </ul> <p><b>RECOMMENDED PRACTICES</b></p> <p>Two Recommended Practices have been added to encourage producers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• add more feeder space on a per-bird basis if competition or aggression is observed;</li> <li>• ensure that augers are triggered regularly to make sure that fresh feed is available in all pans.</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 2.3: Feeders and Waterers (Housing Systems for Layers)</b></p> <p><b>AMENDED REQUIREMENT:</b></p> <p>The first requirement is amended to clarify minimum feeder space for both linear feeders (7.0 cm / 2.8 in) and round feeders (2.8 cm / 1.1 in).</p> <p>The footnote that offers guidance for converting linear space to round space is amended so that it now applies only to converting linear waterers to round waterers.</p>

<sup>1</sup> Please see all tracked changes in the specific sections.

**Issues identified for amendment and high-level guide to the proposed amendments**

Issues identified as part of the 5-year review of the 2017 Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens	Amendments proposed by the Code Amendment Committee (for review during the public comment period <sup>1</sup> )
<b>TOPIC #2: MINIMUM SPACE ALLOWANCE FOR PULLETS IN MULTI-TIER SYSTEMS</b> <b>Section 1.1.4 – Space Allowance (Pullet Housing and Rearing)</b>	
<p><b>RELEVANT REQUIREMENT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Section 1.1.4:</b> for pullets from 8 weeks of age to layer barn, the 2017 Code requires at least 283.9 cm<sup>2</sup> (44 sq in) in space allowance <u>plus</u> an additional 58.1 cm<sup>2</sup> (9 sq in) in litter space for multi-tier systems.</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTEXT</b></p> <p>Concern that the minimum space allowance required in the Code for pullets aged 8 weeks and older housed in multi-tier systems was insufficient and may lead to serious bird welfare challenges was raised by industry. With many pullet growers poised to rebuild or replace existing pullet housing, a need was identified to review the 2017 Code requirement prior to the planned full Code update so that rebuilding to the appropriate minimum space allowances could commence as soon as possible. Many pullet growers were stuck in a holding pattern until such time that the Code was amended to specify increased minimum space allowances.</p>	<p><b>Section 1.1.4: Space Allowance (Pullet Housing and Rearing)</b></p> <p><b>AMENDED REQUIREMENT</b></p> <p>Minimum space allowances have been amended <i>only</i> for pullets housed in <u>multi-tier rearing systems</u> from 8 weeks of age until they transition to the layer barn. For purposes of this amendment, the increased space allowance requirement will only apply to new holdings for which the planning/building process commenced after the publication date of this amendment. The transition timeline for barns built before the amendment publication date will be decided by the Code Committee that is established to oversee the full Code update in or around 2028.</p> <p>For added clarity, the single table (Table 1.2) in the 2017 Code has been amended to apply solely to birds housed in pullet cages. Other tables have been added for birds in multi-tier systems to differentiate by the age of the bird and between those categories for which there is no change (Tables 1.3 and 1.4), as well for amended minimum space allowances for older pullets housed in facilities that are built after the publication date of this amendment (Table 1.5).</p> <p>The scope of this amendment was limited to space allowance for pullets in multi-tier systems from the age of 8 weeks to transition to layer barn, which did not include an upper age limit. However, the Code Amendment Committee recognized that pullets kept in rearing systems past 17 weeks of age are at greater risk for poor welfare due to changes associated with the onset of lay. For that reason, the Code Amendment Committee is introducing a Recommended Practice that has been elevated (Table 1.6) to prominently reinforce the importance of providing additional space for birds that remain in the pullet barn after 17 weeks of age. This is intended to signal to producers the expectation that this Recommended Practice will become a Requirement for older pullets when the full Code is updated in or around 2028.</p> <p>There was agreement by the Code Amendment Committee that the minimum space allowance requirement for system space should be maintained, as the existing welfare challenge is associated with insufficient litter space. The amended total required minimum useable space of 464.5 cm<sup>2</sup> (72 sq in) represents ~36% increase in space on a per-bird basis, and the increase in litter space amounts to nearly 2.5 times more than that required in the 2017 Code.</p>

**Issues identified for amendment and high-level guide to the proposed amendments**

Issues identified as part of the 5-year review of the 2017 Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pullets and Laying Hens	Amendments proposed by the Code Amendment Committee (for review during the public comment period <sup>2</sup> )
<p><b>TOPIC #3: MINIMUM SPACE ALLOWANCE FOR PULLETS IN MULTI-TIER SYSTEMS</b>  <b>Section 1.1.5 – Special Considerations for Multi-Tier Rearing Systems (Pullet Housing and Rearing)</b>  <b>Section 2.6 – Special Considerations for Multi-Tier Systems (Housing Systems for Layers)</b></p>	
<p><b>RELEVANT REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Section 1.1.5:</b> The number of tiers must not exceed 4 where the ground level is considered to be one tier.</li> <li>• <b>Section 2.6:</b> The number of tiers must not exceed 4 where the ground level is considered to be one tier.</li> </ul> <p><b>CONTEXT</b></p> <p>This requirement has been interpreted in different ways by equipment manufacturers for laying hen aviaries. One interpretation is only 4 levels in an aviary are allowed, period. The other is that no more than 4 levels are allowed on one vertical plane. The latter resulted in new aviary designs being installed in Canada, which represents a significant investment by the egg farmers who purchased the systems. As such, Egg Farmers of Canada had to develop additional criteria to interpret the requirement to ensure that the intention to protect animal welfare in multi-level systems was ensured, while allowing for innovative new aviary designs that still met this requirement to continue to be designed. While the modified interpretation has been applied to laying facilities, it is possible that it might also be applicable to rearing facilities, as the requirement is identical for both pullet and laying hen housing systems.</p>	<p><b>Section 1.1.5 – Special Considerations for Multi-Tier Rearing Systems (Pullet Housing and Rearing)</b>  <b>Section 2.6 – Special Considerations for Multi-Tier Systems (Housing Systems for Layers)</b></p> <p><b>AMENDED REQUIREMENT</b></p> <p>The Code Committee determined that the intent of the existing requirement had not changed, and that rather than needing an outright amendment, the second requirement in section 1.1.5 and the fourth requirement in section 2.6 would benefit from additional clarification. Both identical requirements have been amended to clarify that the number of tiers must not exceed 3 <i>in a vertical plane</i>, where the ground level is <b>not</b> considered to be a tier.</p> <p>For added clarity, other identical requirements in both sections (first in section 1.1.5; third in section 2.6) have been amended. In addition, given that the floor is no longer considered to be a “tier,” the second requirement in section 2.6 (vertical space between tiers) has also been amended for consistency and clarity.</p> <p><b>AMENDED GLOSSARY</b></p> <p>To ensure consistency with terminology throughout the Code, the Code Amendment Committee has revised one term (Terrace) in the glossary, and added a new term (Tier) to the glossary.</p>

<sup>2</sup> Please see all tracked changes in the specific sections.