



To: Egg and Pullet Producers
From: Sara Franklin
Date: August 18, 2020
Re: SC-SC™ Program Amendments – Effective January 1, 2021

Egg Farmers of Canada’s on-farm food safety program Start Clean-Stay Clean™ is designed to evolve over time, to allow for improvements in management practices, address risk factors and improve overall food safety and animal care.

The EFC Board of Directors have approved several **amendments to the SC-SC™ Layers program for implementation on January 1, 2021**.

- Manure Removal Equipment
- Mortality Disposal
- Facility Hygiene
- Pullets Sourced from SC-SC® Participants
- Humidity Level in the Refrigerated Storage
- Feed Bin Element
- On-Farm Feed Mixing

Please note: This information will be posted on the EFNS Producer Website.

Manure Removal Equipment

1.6.i – Manure removal equipment (augers, belts, chutes) are free from built-up manure

SC-SC™ program element 1.6.i requires functionality and appropriate utilization of manure handling systems to prevent and reduce biological contamination of the production unit through improper manure management. This change is to enhance the existing element to strengthen the SC-SC™ Program. The changes are as follows:

- Change the element from Major to Critical Control Element (CCE)
 - The point value will increase from 2 points to 5 points.
 - As a CCE CARs must be closed within 7 days of the rating. If the CAR is not closed within 7 days this will result in an immediate failure of the SC-SC™ program.
- “in good working order” will be added to the element wording

Mortality Disposal

1.10 – Dead birds are removed from the laying facility daily and disposed of in an appropriate manner

The SC-SC™ Layer program requires dead birds be removed from the laying facility daily and disposed of in an appropriate manner. This is a Critical Control Element. Proper disposal is detailed in the Farmer Guidelines. Dead birds may be bagged and frozen for pick-up by a rendering facility, properly composted, buried, or incinerated. Dead birds must not be disposed of in the manure pit located directly below where the birds are housed. The change is as follows:

- Add a requirement “Mortalities must be kept covered and secure from wildlife and public access.”
 - Please note, as a CCE CARs must be closed within 7 days. If the CAR is not closed within 7 days this will result in an immediate failure of the SC-SC™ program.

Facility Hygiene

1.5.a – Facility Hygiene

The facility hygiene elements under section 1.5.a. assess the cleanliness and ongoing sanitation of the laying facility such as the floor, walls, ceiling, equipment, cages, nests, perches, and egg collection systems. These elements are categorized as Major elements and are valued at 1-2 points each. The change is as follows:

- Increase the point value for all elements under section 1.5.a. of the SC-SC® Layer Parts 1 & 2 rating forms to 3 points each.
 - This will result in an 11 – 19 point increase in the total score, depending on your housing type. With this increase if the points are lost for all facility hygiene elements under section 1.5.a you will not pass the SC-SC™ program rating.

Pullets Sourced from SC-SC™ Participants

New Element – Pullets sourced from SC-SC™ program participants

To ensure that EFC’s on-farm programs are robust, defensible and not easily compromised, the supply chain must start at the pullet stage to ensure that the system is monitored and audited from beginning to end.

- An element will be added to the SC-SC™ Layer program requiring egg farmers source pullets from SC-SC™ program participants. (i.e. pullets are sourced from a grower who is rated on the SC-SC™ Pullet program)
 - This will be a Major element, valued at 2 points.
 - Pullet growers must provide egg producers with proof of a passing score within the last 15 months.

Humidity Level in Refrigerated Storage

1.1.b.iv – Humidity level in refrigerated storage

The SC-SC™ Layer Program currently requires that the humidity level in the refrigerated storage is maintained as less than 85%. However, recording humidity has not been a requirement in the past. The changes are as follows:

- Humidity in the refrigerated storage must be recorded daily
 - Humidity must be below 85% within 24 hours
 - If the humidity level exceeds 85% for over 24 hours, corrective action must be taken.

- This will be a major element and the score will be increased from 1 point to 2 points.

Feed Bin Element

New Element – No spillage of feed around the bin

Currently the SC-SC™ program requires that feed storages be constructed and maintained to prevent contamination of feed by water, wild birds, rodents and insects. However, spilled feed can attract rodents, wild birds, flies and other insects as well as provides an environment for bacterial growth. To address this a new element will be added to the program.

- No spillage of feed around the bin.
 - This will be a minor element valued at 2 points.

On-Farm Feed Mixing

2.18 – On-farm feed mixing

The SC-SC™ Layer Program includes requirements for controlling microbiological and chemical contamination of feed mixed on-farm. Changes have been made to the elements to place more emphasis on how the farmer is ensuring the feed supplied to laying hens is safe rather than directly on the processes of the on-farm feed mill.

The changes to the on-farm feed mixing requirements are as follows:

- Remove the requirement to obtain Letters of Assurance from feed ingredient suppliers.
- Remove the current SOP/on-site inspection requirements.
- Add a requirement that the farmer must retain samples of the complete feed mixed on-farm for 4 weeks. Feed samples are to be taken at each ration change and a minimum 500-gram sample size is recommended.
 - It is recommended in that the samples should be routinely tested for microbiological analysis, mycotoxins, and content analysis.
- Add a requirement that the farmer must have a written SOP for handling contaminated feed.
 - This may be determined by the farmer but should include:
 - A method to ensure no contaminated feed is supplied to the birds
 - A procedure for cleaning and disinfecting the affected areas.
- All the above requirements apply regardless of who manages the mill.
- The above requirements only apply to non-accredited on-farm feed mills.
 - Establishments that have been accredited through CFIA inspection or the CQA program are issued equivalency under the SC-SC® Program.