

**RSPCA Chicken Standards Technical Advisory Group meeting
on Friday 9th November 2018**

Meeting Summary Notes

360 degree nipple drinkers

The group discussed the use of high flow rate 360 degree nipple drinkers. Discussion focussed on ways to assess what would be a suitable ratio of chickens to drinkers, including the potential for capturing data on water use and health.

Windows and stepped lighting

Whilst there are no immediate plans to amend the standards in these areas, the group discussed current practice in relation to them. Specifically, the group discussed whether any, and if so how may, members provide more windows and a longer stepped lighting period than the minimum required by the RSPCA welfare standards for chickens.

Breeds update

Breeds currently available for use under the RSPCA welfare standards for meat chicken include the JA757, 787, 987, Ranger Classic, Rambler Ranger and the Ranger Gold. Members advised that the most commonly used breed was the JA757.

Proposed changes to the standards

The group discussed minor proposed amendments and areas for upcoming development were highlighted, such as transport for brood and move operations, LED lighting and Low Atmospheric Pressure Stunning.

European Chicken Commitment (formerly known as the European Broiler Welfare Ask)

This initiative, to which the RSPCA are signatories, was discussed in detail at the 2017 meeting of the group. In summary, the Commitment requires all suppliers to meet the requirements laid down by 2026. These requirements relate to the implementation of EU legislation, maximum stocking density, the adoption of breeds that demonstrate higher welfare outcomes, improved environmental standards and slaughter which prohibits live shackling. Discussion focussed on on the latest list of companies that had committed to the initiative.