



World Organisation
for Animal Health



WOAH Standards Facilitating Safe International Trade

Commodity: Poultry Meat

Dr. Mekonnen Addis

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Commodity: Poultry Meat

Certification of Hatching Eggs, Day-Old Chicks, Broilers, Dressed
Poultry and Offal: Who is the Competent Authority?



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**Certification of Hatching Eggs, Day-Old Chicks, Broilers
and Dressed Poultry and Offal: Who is the Competent Authority?**



Talk Plan

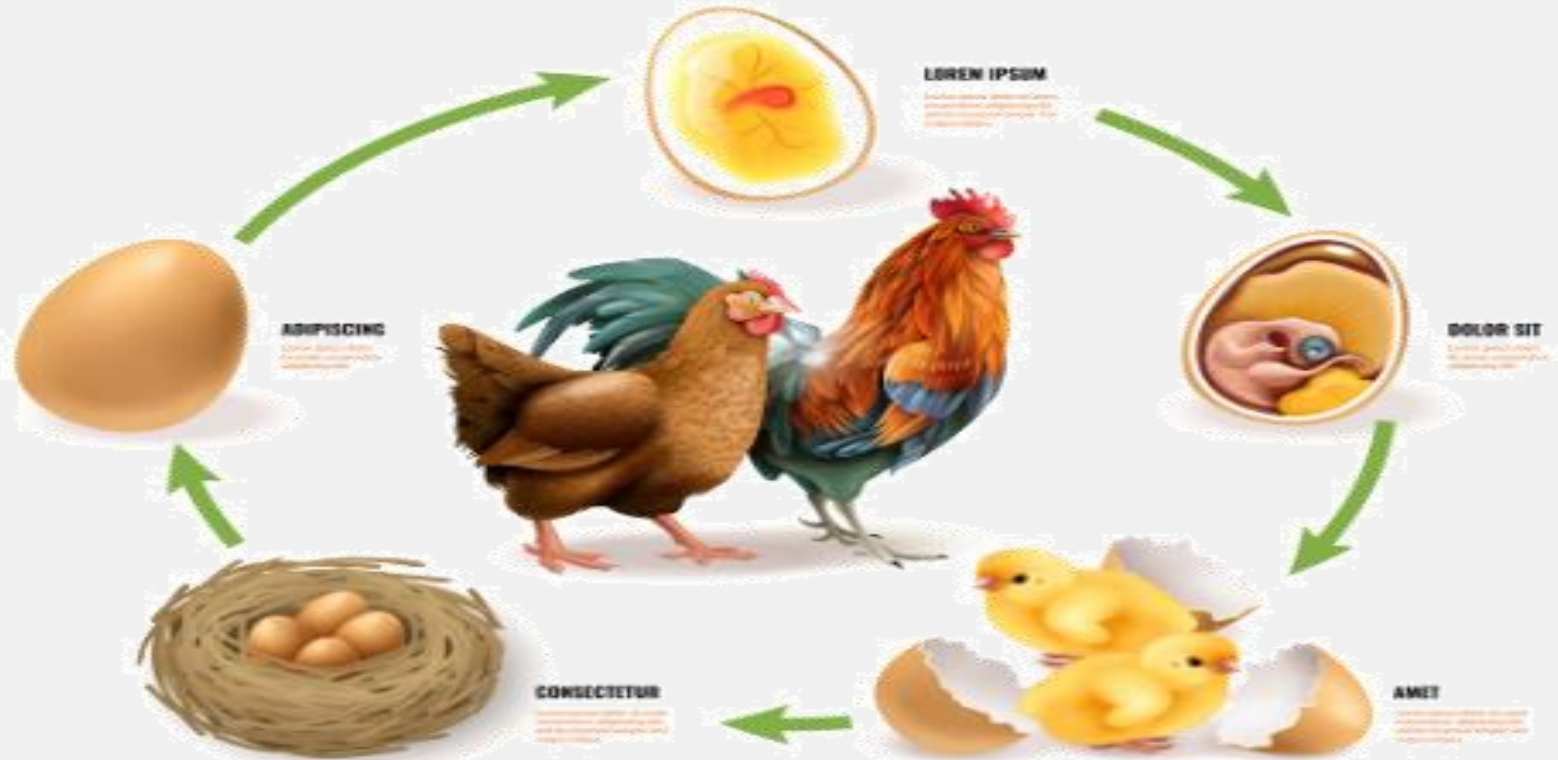


1. Certification of Hatching Eggs
2. Certification of Day-Old Chicks
3. Certification of Broilers
4. Certification of Dressed Poultry and Offal
5. Who is the Competent Authority for Certification?



Chicken Life Cycle Infographic

— CHICKEN LIFE CYCLE INFOGRAPHICS —





Certification of Hatching Eggs



- ◆ Certification of hatching eggs is **Inspection** and **officially approving** eggs intended for incubation to ensure they meet required standards for **producing healthy chicks**
- ◆ Certification of hatching eggs ensures that flock is **free from diseases**, **vaccinated** according to international standards, and **packaged** in sanitized, traceable materials





Certification of Hatching Eggs Cont...



- ◆ Certification helps maintain poultry health, improves hatchability, and prevents the spread of diseases
- ◆ The certification process shall be managed by government veterinary authorities
- ◆ **The Key Requirements for Certification Typically Include:**
 - ✓ **Flock Health:** Proof flock of origin is free from communicable diseases (Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease) and tested negative within the previous 90 days



Certification of Hatching Eggs Cont...



- ✓ **Vaccination Records:** Documentation that the flock has not been vaccinated with restricted vaccines (e.g., H5 or H7 subtypes)
- ✓ **Traceability:** The exact addresses of the flocks of origin must be listed, along with records confirming the eggs were packed in new or appropriately sanitized materials
- ✓ Eggs must come from healthy breeder flocks that are free from major poultry diseases



Certification of Hatching Eggs Cont...



- ✓ The breeder flock should be registered and regularly monitored by the relevant veterinary authority
- ✓ Eggs should be **clean, fresh, and have normal shape and shell quality, with no cracks or defects**
- ✓ Eggs must be collected, handled, stored, and transported under hygienic conditions
- ✓ Each batch should be properly identified & traceable to the breeder flock
- ✓ A veterinary or official health certificate may accompany the shipment, confirming that the eggs meet national or international health standards



Certification of Hatching Eggs Cont...



◆ The Benefits of Certification of Hatching Eggs Include:

- ✓ Higher hatchability
- ✓ Ensures chick quality
- ✓ Reduced risk of disease transmission
- ✓ Compliance with legal and trade requirements
- ✓ Increased confidence for buyers and hatcheries



Certification of Day-Old Chicks



- ◆ Certification of day-old chicks is inspection & approval process that verifies that newly hatched chicks are **healthy, originate from certified breeder flocks, and meet the required standards for sale, transport, or export**





Certification of Day-Old Chicks



- ◆ Certification for day-old chicks requires an official **Veterinary Health Certificate** issued by an **authorized government veterinarian** or **agricultural authority** at the point of origin
- ◆ This documentation verifies that the source flock is free of infectious diseases (Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease) and that the chicks are healthy and fit for transport



Certification of Day-Old Chicks Cont...



- ◆ **Key Components of Chick Certification:** To obtain export or transit certification, the hatchery and the chicks must meet global health and quality standards:
 - ✓ **Health and Vaccination Status:** The chicks must be certified as clinically healthy, and documentation must prove they are vaccinated against **Newcastle** and **Marek's** disease
 - ✓ **Flock Surveillance:** The source farm or hatchery must be free from notifiable avian diseases within a specified timeframe (21–30 days) prior to export
 - ✓ **Quality and Vitality Checks:** An official inspector evaluates the chicks for physical vitality, ensuring they are alert, dry, and free from deformities (**Navels must be fully closed, yolk sacs fully retracted, and beaks even**)



Certification of Day-Old Chicks Cont...



- ✓ Hatchery must follow strict biosecurity practices during hatching & handling
- ✓ Packaging and transportation must provide adequate ventilation, appropriate temperature, and protection from injury and stress
- ✓ **An official veterinary health certificate** should accompany the shipment confirming that the chicks meet the required health and quality standards





Certification of Day-Old Chicks Cont...



◆ **Benefits of Day-old Chicks Certification:**

- ✓ Ensures healthy, high-quality chicks
- ✓ Prevents the spread of poultry diseases
- ✓ Protects farmers and the poultry industry
- ✓ Facilitates legal trade and export
- ✓ Improves survival and productivity of chicks



Certification of Broilers



- ◆ Broiler certification involves validating poultry farming practices, usually covering **housing, nutrition, disease control, and animal welfare**
- ◆ To achieve certification ensure flocks are **properly vaccinated, processed hygienically, and managed safely**
- ◆ Producers must undergo audits evaluating
 - ✓ Stocking densities
7-8 broilers per m²
 - ✓ Feed quality (no growth antibiotics)
 - ✓ Access to clean water
 - ✓ Slaughtering conditions





Certification of Broilers Cont...



◆ The Certification of Broilers Generally Include:

- ✓ **Identification of the Consignment** – number of birds, breed, age, farm of origin, and destination
- ✓ **Health Status** – certification that the flock is free from specified poultry diseases (Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease)
- ✓ **Farm Inspection** – confirmation that the farm follows good biosecurity and disease surveillance measures
- ✓ **Clinical Examination** – a veterinarian confirms the birds are healthy and fit for transport



Certification of Broilers Cont...



- ✓ **Vaccination and Testing Records** – verification of required vaccinations and laboratory test results, where applicable
- ✓ **Animal Welfare** – confirmation that the birds are transported according to animal welfare standards
- ✓ **Official Veterinary Certificate** – issued and signed by the **Competent Veterinary Authority** (usually the government's veterinary service)



Certification of Dressed Poultry and Offal



◆ Certification of dressed poultry and edible offal is the official process that confirms these products are **safe, wholesome, and comply with national and importing-country requirements** before they are marketed or exported

◆ **The Certification Process Generally Include:**

1. Source Verification

- ✓ Poultry must come from registered and approved farms
- ✓ Birds should be healthy and traceable

2. Ante-mortem Inspection

- ✓ Live birds are inspected before slaughter to ensure they are fit for human consumption



Certification of Dressed Poultry and Offal Cont...



3. Post-mortem Inspection

- ✓ Each carcass and edible offal (liver, heart, and gizzard) is examined for signs of disease, contamination, or abnormalities
- ✓ Unfit carcasses and organs are condemned and disposed of safely

4. Hygiene and Food Safety

- ✓ Slaughtering, dressing, evisceration, chilling, packaging, and storage must follow good hygienic practices and food safety systems such as **Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)**



Certification of Dressed Poultry and Offal Cont...



5. Laboratory Testing (When Required)

- ✓ Microbiological analysis, residue monitoring, and other quality assessments

6. Packaging and Labeling

- ✓ Products must be properly packaged and labeled with information such as establishment identification, production date, expiry date, and storage conditions

7. Official Certification

- ✓ An official veterinarian or another legally designated competent authority verifies compliance and issues the required veterinary health certificate



Who is the Competent Authority for Certification?



- ◆ The competent authority for the certification of hatching eggs, day-old chicks, broilers, dressed poultry, and offal is the **National Veterinary Authority** or the **Ministry of Agriculture/Livestock** of the exporting or producing country
- ◆ In my country, **Ethiopian Agricultural Authority** is responsible for robust regulatory



Thank You !



www.woah.org woah@woah.org



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