

UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION



**MINISTERIAL REGULATION
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THAI AGRICULTURAL STANDARD ON
GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR LAYER FARM
AS A MANDATORY STANDARD
B.E. 2563 (2020)**

By virtue of Section 5 paragraph one and Section 15 paragraph two of the Agricultural Standards Act, B.E. 2551 (2008), the Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives hereby issues this Ministerial Regulation as follows:

Section 1 This Ministerial Regulation shall come into force after five years as from the date of its publication in the Royal Gazette. Except for the commercial layer farm of at least 100,000 birds, farm shall come into force after one year as from the date of its publication in the Royal Gazette.

Section 2 The Thai Agricultural Standard TAS 6909-2019 in accordance with the Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on the Establishment of Thai Agricultural Standard : Good Agricultural Practices for Layer Farm under the Agricultural Standards Act, B.E. 2551 (2008) dated on 25th February B.E. 2562 (2019) shall be established as a mandatory standard.

Given on the 5th February B.E. 2563 (2020)

(Prapat Potasuthon)
Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Acting Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives

Remark : Rationale for the promulgation of this Ministerial Regulation is that : Layer industry in Thailand has confronted with the problem on surveillance and monitoring of diseases, egg safety and quality control, domestic market management and international market access for eggs. A control of the management of commercial layer farm of at least 1,000 birds is required thereof, in order to enhance the good agriculture practices for layer farm, obtain good quality eggs which are safe for consumption and increase the competitiveness of good agricultural practices for layer farm in Thailand. The Notification of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives on the Establishment of Thai Agricultural Standard on Good Agricultural Practices for Layer Farm has been established under the Agricultural standard Act. B.E. 2551 (2008), dated 25th February B.E. 2562 (2019), followed by public hearing from stakeholders in accordance with Section 18 of the Agricultural standard Act B.E. 2551 (2008). It is deemed necessary to establish the Thai Agricultural Standard: Good Agricultural Practices for Layer Farm as a mandatory standard.

**THAI AGRICULTURE STANDARD
GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES FOR LAYER FARM**

1. SCOPE

1.1 This standard provides requirements on good agricultural practices for the management of commercial layer farms of more than 1,000 birds, covering farm components, farm management, animal feed, water, personnel management, animal health, animal welfare, pullet and brooder management, product management, environment and record keeping. This standard aims to support the production of good quality eggs and safe for consumption.

1.2 This standard does not involve layer farms that are certified under other standardization system issued by the Department of Livestock Development (DLD) such as Organic Agriculture part 2: Organic Livestock (TAS. 9000 vol. 2), Free-ranging layer farm.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this standard:

2.1 Layer means chicken of the scientific name *Gallus gallus*. This breed lays eggs regularly for human consumption which cover both pullets and laying hens.

2.2 Pullet means chicken at the age before start laying eggs.

2.3 Laying hen means chicken of the appropriate age to lay egg until the hen is spent. The time periods of active laying hens are different, depending on breed.

2.4 Layer farm means establishment for commercial layer farm of more than 1,000 birds.

2.5 Layer house means the building of both controlled and uncontrolled environment used for layer hens.

3. REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for Good Agriculture Practices for layer farm are described in Table 1 as follow:

Table 1 Requirements for Good Agriculture Practices for layer farm

Items	Requirements
1. Farm components	
1.1 Site	1.1.1 Locate in a risk-free environment from contamination of physical, chemical and biological hazards or provide sufficient prevention measure.
1.2 Farm layout	1.2.1 Allocate sufficient area for the operation. The area should not be to large so it may cause environmental problem.
	1.2.2 Clearly separate the operation area to facilitate the sanitation of the operation and animal hygiene.
	1.2.3 Provide area for egg storage before moving eggs out of the farm.
1.3 Layer housing	1.3.1 Availability of housing layout, displaying the positions of all equipment.
	1.3.2 Availability of adequate raising area, according to the principle of animal welfare.
	1.3.3 Housing structure shall be sturdy, hygienic and well ventilated. The structure should be easily cleaned and maintained. Layer house and egg collecting equipment shall facilitate egg gathering.
2. Farm management	
2.1 Farm manual	2.1.1 Availability of standard operating procedure, illustrating the details of important farm operation such as raising system, feed and water management, health management and animal welfare.
2.2 Feed and water	2.2.1 Commercial feed and concentrates should meet its good quality and standard in compliance with the Feed Quality Control Act and its amendments.
	2.2.2 In case of self-mixed feed are used or mixed with feed from article 2.2.1. Prohibit substances according to the Feed Quality Control Act and its amendments shall not be used.
	2.2.3 Incoming feed inspection and preliminary quality check shall be in place. Feed shall be sampled and held for further laboratory testing in case of problem or suspicion.
	2.2.4 Separate feed storage area. Keep feed in a condition that prevent deterioration and contamination.

Items	Requirements
2.3 housing and equipment	2.2.5 Provide sufficient feed and water for layers.
	2.2.6 Water for layer shall be clean. Result of water analysis shall be made available.
	2.3.1 Clean and maintain layer house, equipment and surrounding area to be in good and hygienic condition.
	2.3.2 Clean and disinfect layer house and equipment after depopulation. The house should be vacated for sufficient amount of time to prevent accumulation of pathogens, unless otherwise specified by the Department of Livestock Development (DLD).
	2.3.3 Egg gathering containers shall be appropriate and hygienic.
	2.3.4 Clean and disinfect egg gathering containers every time before enter layer housing area and after use.
3. Personnel	3.1 Clearly assign duty and responsibility for each personnel.
	3.2 Availability of sufficient number of animal husbandry supervisors or trained person and veterinarian who hold a certificate of poultry farm supervisor.
	3.3 All workers responsible for layers caring must be trained to have sufficient knowledge in farm management.
	3.4 Operators/workers shall have good personal hygiene in order to prevent contamination and spread of disease.
4. Animal health 4.1 Disease prevention and control 4.2 Disease treatment	4.1.1 Provide prove or document that specify source of layers.
	4.1.2 Availability of control measures, preventing disease introduction into farm by human, vehicle, equipment and animal carriers.
	4.1.3 Availability of disease prevention program by farm veterinarian.
	4.1.4 Monitor health of layer hens daily and dispose carcass properly.
	4.1.5 In case of disease outbreak or infected animal is suspected, follow the Animal Epidemic Act and its amendments.
	4.2.1 Treatment should be done under supervision of veterinarian and adhere to the laws according to veterinary practices.

Items	Requirements
5. Animal welfare	5.1 Maintain the animals under the animal welfare principle.
6. Pullets, laying hens and egg product management 6.1 Pullets and laying hens 6.2 Eggs	6.1.1 Randomly check for health, size and weight. 6.1.2 Separate pullets or laying hens that have abnormal physical condition, not healthy or smaller in size. 6.2.1 Remove abnormal egg, cracked egg or broken egg. Separate dirty egg or soiled eggs with manure to be cleaned. 6.2.2 Store eggs away from sunlight with good ventilation or store eggs in temperature controlled room. 6.2.3 Use clean, well-ventilated vehicle for egg transportation.
7. Environment	7.1 Appropriately dispose garbage, waste water, and other wastes, to prevent accumulation of unpleasant odor and pathogens. 7.2 Prevent litter scattering after moving layer hens out of the farm (depopulation).
8. Record keeping	8.1 Availability of records on significant operations that affect animal health, disease prevention and egg production. 8.2 Keep all records for at least 3 years.