

Overview

This standard deals with the competence required by individuals who are involved in production of gamebird chicks. It can be applied to any game bird eggs which are incubated and hatched under controlled conditions. This standard is aimed at those who work in game conservation on either a full- or part-time basis.

To meet this standard you will be able to:

1. plan the production of game chicks
2. establish and maintain hygienic incubation
3. manage the incubation process
4. maintain the production of farmed day-old gamebird chicks.

This standard relates to the following applications or context:

Establishing the condition of equipment used for:
incubating
hatching

Establishing procedures to deal with the following factors:
variations in environmental conditions
resources shortfalls
equipment failure

Establishing a recording system to record:
fertility
percentage hatch of fertile eggs
percentage overall hatch
numbers in incubation

Developing hatchery operations relating to:
egg preparation
egg incubation
egg hatching
dispatch of deformed chicks
boxing day-old chicks

Taking action to deal with factors which can disrupt production:
incubation failure
environmental changes
resource shortages
disease and abnormality

LANGa17v1

Manage the incubation of gamebird eggs

Maintaining production according to the availability of the following resources:

people

materials

feed and water

equipment

power

time

LANGa17v1

Manage the incubation of gamebird eggs

Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Plan and organise incubation

- P1 plan hatchery production such that targets can be achieved in accordance with legal requirements
- P2 develop hatchery operations to achieve required production in compliance with organisational and legal requirements
- P3 test and establish the working condition and hygiene of hatchery equipment
- P4 establish procedures to establish and compare fertility in gamebird eggs
- P5 establish procedures to be followed to minimise the effect of factors which can disrupt production
- P6 establish a recording system to support the planned production programme

You must be able to:

Manage incubation

- P7 ensure eggs are selected and prepared to support planned hatchery production
- P8 operate incubation and hatching equipment to maintain the temperature and humidity essential to chick production
- P9 maintain chick production within known resource constraints and according to welfare requirements
- P10 ensure that the welfare of chicks is maintained during hatching and boxing
- P11 maintain communication with those implementing hatchery operations to facilitate effective hatchery production
- P12 modify production operations to take account of factors which affect production
- P13 maintain accurate records in respect of the production of gamebirds

LANGa17v1

Manage the incubation of gamebird eggs

Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Plan and organise incubation

- K1 the legal requirements and relevant codes of practice pertaining to the production, transport and welfare of reared game chicks
- K2 legal constraints controlling hatchery production
- K3 how to establish and maintain the hygienic condition of incubation equipment
- K4 the problems associated with poor hatchery hygiene
- K5 how to establish a production programme to achieve planned targets
- K6 how to test and establish the working condition of incubation equipment
- K7 the conditions and time required for a successful incubation, hatching and transport
- K8 the record keeping requirements associated with the production of gamebird chicks
- K9 how to minimise the potential impact of factors which disrupt production
- K10 how to monitor and control temperature and humidity
- K11 the manufacturer's operating procedures including the emergency back-up systems associated with the incubation equipment and the time period of insulation

You need to know and understand:

Manage incubation

- K12 the legal requirements and relevant codes of practice pertaining to production and welfare of reared gamebirds
- K13 the legal requirements associated with the disposal of dead stock
- K14 specialist handling requirements of gamebird chicks
- K15 how to prepare eggs to maximise production
- K16 the importance of good hygiene practices
- K17 the environmental conditions required to support successful incubation, hatching and transport
- K18 the methods used to humanely dispatch chicks
- K19 how the external environment can impact on the operation of hatchery processes
- K20 the voluntary codes of practice which support the production of game chicks
- K21 the reasons for keeping records and the importance of their accuracy
- K22 the boxing requirements for day-old chicks
- K23 the impact of fluctuations in temperature and humidity on incubation and hatching
- K24 manufacturer instructions controlling the regulation of temperature and humidity
- K25 causes of abnormality in game chicks

LANGa17v1

Manage the incubation of gamebird eggs

Glossary

For you to fully understand the content of the standard, and the activities it describes, it is important that you are able to understand the terms used within the standard.

The definitions below should help you with this.

Incubation

Process used to support the development of chicks inside the egg

Hatching

Process used to support the hatching of chicks from the egg

Game

Pheasant, partridges, duck

LANGa17v1

Manage the incubation of gamebird eggs

Developed by LANTRA

Version number 1

Date approved April 2009

Indicative review date April 2011

Validity Current

Status Original

Originating organisation LANTRA

Original URN NGa17

Relevant occupations Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Care; Agriculture; General

Suite Gamekeeping and Wildlife Management

Key words plan, organise, hatched, chicks