

APPENDIX 11

Guidance note for control of birds

1. Newcastle Disease ('Fowl Pest'), Avian Influenza, Avian Tuberculosis and other diseases may all be carried by wild, domestic and feral birds. In addition, birds can be carriers of salmonellae and other pathogens harmful to both livestock and humans. It is therefore crucial to take all reasonable precautions to exclude birds from areas where goods are produced, handled, stored or consumed.

1.1 The presence of any species of bird in the vicinity of food/feed must be considered potentially hazardous in HACCP Studies..

1.2 Birds may be attracted to areas for three main reasons: availability of food and water; availability of shelter and roosting sites; availability of nesting sites. Wherever possible birds must be denied these.

1.3 Making a site unattractive to birds is likely to be more effective in the long-term than trying to control birds already active on the site.

1.4 Wherever possible, birds should be deterred rather than destroyed. Destruction of any bird species must always be a last resort and is not acceptable for any protected species. Where shooting is necessary as a last resort non-toxic ammunition must be used.

1.5 Where netting is used to deter birds, wire netting is preferable to string netting, as it is less likely to tangle birds.

2. Circumstances will vary with individual situations, but in general terms the following guidelines will be applied by assurance schemes:

2.1 The presence of birds, or evidence of nesting or roosting sites in process and storage buildings is not acceptable.

2.2 Where birds are a problem, active programmes must be in place to reduce access to food and shelter

2.3 Doors must be kept closed whenever possible. It is recognised by the industry that operators of flat stores may need to keep doors open for extended periods. Should birds enter stores at these times, they must not be allowed to settle and must be removed as promptly as possible.

2.4 Where necessary, the eaves of buildings must be proofed against bird access.

2.5 Windows that are habitually left open must be screened or caged to prevent access by birds.

2.6 Spillages of goods must be promptly removed to avoid attracting birds.

2.7 Containers utilised to hold edible waste, such as skips and bins, must be covered to prevent access to birds.

2.8 Any birds gaining access to buildings must not be allowed to settle and must be removed as promptly as possible. Access points must be discovered and effective remedial action taken.

2.9 Intakes and loading points must be enclosed or covered when not in use.