



June 26, 2018

Dear Mr. Apperloo,

I write to you in response to the email you sent to me on June 21, 2018. Your email cc'd the BC Hatching Egg Producer Associations' President Bryan Brandsma, as such he has been cc'd on my response.

In the interest of transparency and information sharing, my response will also be posted to the BCBHEC website. Please advise if you would like your letter posted there as well.

On May 25, 2018 the BC Hatching Egg Commission Chair, Jim Collins wrote to Producers outlining the catching and loading requirements along with the required catching and loading fillable form. I have attached that letter to this correspondence.

The May 25, 2018 decision followed an update to Producers at the May 22, 2018 Producer meeting regarding the letter from BC FIRB dated May 4, 2018. The BCFIRB letter was also attached to the June 2018 monthly newsletter and I have attached that letter to this correspondence.

The new catching and loading requirements are mandatory. They follow a supervisory determination by BCFIRB in 2017 that it is sound marketing policy to have effective measures in place governing catching and loading. All four poultry boards have agreed and all four poultry boards have or are putting such measures in place. All Processors are also using the mandatory forms.

The area subject to review by the Commission and the other 3 poultry boards is BCFIRB's further expectations communicated in its May 4, 2018 letter, including the requirement for a producer or responsible delegate to be physically present for the full duration of catching and loading.

As was discussed at the May 22, 2018 producer meeting, this requirement is still being reviewed with BCFIRB. If BCFIRB does not alter this expectation, then the Commission will be required to amend its catching and loading order accordingly.

Please note that this requirement would not be appealable as it is not a decision of the Commission but is a direction of BCFIRB subject only to judicial review.

Given the foregoing and that the Commission form is a copy of the BC Chicken Marketing Board's form already in use, it is difficult to see an appeal being successful. However, it is for you to determine whether you wish to pursue that option.

The Commission is committed to ensuring that there is a balance between BC FIRB's expectations and the producers logistical needs moving forward. Producers know that animal care is the highest priority and the Commission is hopeful that there is a potential compromise that can be made with BCFIRB.



This compromise can only be reached if hatching egg producers show they understand the importance of the current regulations and ensure they are on site for the current required check ins as per the catching and loading documentation. This may be enough regulation to satisfy BCFIRB's concerns without them feeling there is need for further direction.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Nelson".

Stephanie Nelson, Executive Director  
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission



May 25, 2018

The attached Catching and Load out report has been made mandatory by the BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission for all flocks shipped as of May 23, 2018. These forms are to be sent to the Commission office post shipping

Many of you are very familiar with this form as BC Chicken Growers and the BC processors currently use a version of it.

A key element to the report is the requirement for Producers to be attendance prior to the beginning of catching, at least once during the process, and when catching/ loading has been completed.

Correspondence from BCFIRB was received by all 4 feather groups regarding catching/loading. That letter is attached for your review. As a result, the BC Hatching Egg Commission is reviewing their concerns and the attached form is subject to that review.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. K. Collins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Jim Collins, Chair  
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission

**BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission**

#180 – 32160 South Fraser Way, Abbotsford, BC V2T 1W5 • [www.bcbhec.com](http://www.bcbhec.com)

# LOAD OUT REPORT

Ship Date:	Farm Name:
Farm Representative:	Catching Contractor:
Contact Email:	Lead Catching Supervisor:
Contact Phone:	Start Time:

## PRIOR TO LOADING

<b>Producer Responsibilities</b> Barn doors unlocked: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Feed & water lines raised: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Temperature & ventilation adjusted: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Barn lighting adjusted: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Notify catchers of abnormalities <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>Comments:</b>     
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<b>Lead Supervisor Responsibilities</b> Ensure catchers are trained: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Training records available: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Catching SOP's available: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Notify farmer of abnormalities: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<b>Comments:</b>    
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<b>Farm Review</b> Yard conditions facilitate loading: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Washroom facilities available: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Loading area: <input type="checkbox"/> smooth <input type="checkbox"/> rough <input type="checkbox"/> other Confirm barns/floors being shipped:	<b>Comments:</b>    
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<b>Names of Catchers:</b>		

<b>Transfer of Care</b> Discussed health and condition of flock: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no Are birds ready to be loaded and shipped? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	<b>Comments:</b>  
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**Farm Representative Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Lead Supervisor Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

## DURING CATCHING

Max # of birds per drawer:	
Max # of birds per hand:	

<b>Observations during Catching</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
Did the farm representative observe the catching process? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Was the load out equipment in good working condition? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
<i>If no, please explain:</i>	
Corrective action(s) taken:	

## AFTER LOADING

<b>Observations after Catching</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
Were birds loaded in a timely, efficient manner to minimize bird stress? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
<i>If no, please explain:</i>	
Corrective action(s) taken:	
Was it necessary to contact the farm representative during catching? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
<i>If yes, was the representative readily available?</i>	

<b>Barn Conditions</b>	<b>Comments:</b>
Litter condition: <input type="checkbox"/> wet <input type="checkbox"/> damp <input type="checkbox"/> dry <input type="checkbox"/> other	
Did you notify the farm representative of any abnormalities? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> N/A	
Damage to barns or equipment: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no	
Estimated number of birds not fit for loading:	
Estimated number of mortalities left in barn:	

<b>Completion of Catching</b>	<b>Time:</b>
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**Farm Representative Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Lead Supervisor Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_



May 4, 2018

File: 44200-20 WELF

**DELIVERED BY EMAIL**

Jim Collins, Chair  
BC Broiler Hatching Egg Commission  
180 – 32160 South Fraser Way  
Abbotsford BC V2T 1W5

Gunta Vitins, Chair  
BC Egg Marketing Board  
250 – 32160 South Fraser Way  
Abbotsford BC V2T 1W5

Robin Smith, Chair  
BC Chicken Marketing Board  
101 – 32450 Simon Ave  
Abbotsford BC V2T 4J2

Kevin Klippenstein, Chair  
BC Turkey Marketing Board  
106 – 19329 Enterprise Way  
Surrey BC V3S 6J8

Dear Sirs and Madame:

**POULTRY CATCHING AND ANIMAL WELFARE – BCFIRB EXPECTATIONS UPDATE**

This letter is in follow up to the BC Farm Industry Review Board’s (BCFIRB) assessment of the actions taken, to date, by the BC poultry boards to help ensure sound animal care practices during the catching and loading of poultry.

As first instance regulators, the provincial poultry boards play a key role in establishing and enforcing animal care standards during the catching and loading process.<sup>1</sup> Following the June 2017 animal welfare issue in the chicken industry, the poultry boards became aware that more controls were needed to ensure that producers and catching crews comply with animal care standards during catching and loading.

**Review of Catching Oversight**

To begin, BCFIRB observes that all poultry boards have made sound animal care practices mandatory for producers. These care requirements were in place prior to the 2017 incident.

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<sup>1</sup> June 23, 2017 [BCFIRB Regulated Marketing and Animal Welfare](#); August 1, 2014 [Regulated Marketing and Animal Welfare](#)

The Broiler Hatching Egg Commission and BC Egg Marketing Board General Orders clearly specify that their producers must comply with the poultry Codes of Practice.<sup>2</sup> Compliance with national on-farm animal care programs, based on the Codes of Practice, is mandatory for turkey, chicken, and egg producers under their respective General Orders.<sup>3</sup> The national hatching egg Animal Care Program is not yet mandatory under the provincial General Orders due to delays at the national level.<sup>4</sup>

Despite these requirements, the 2017 June incident highlighted gaps in oversight during the catching and loading process. Following this, the majority of poultry boards took immediate steps, including:

Step	Board	Status
Requiring producer or delegate signatures on load-out reports to demonstrate attendance at catching	Chicken	Mandatory
	Turkey	Voluntary, pilot
	Hatching egg	Under review
Licencing catching companies	Chicken	In place
	Egg	In development
Auditing the catching and loading process	Chicken	In place
	Egg	In place
	Hatching egg	Limited
	Turkey	Under review

### BCFIRB Expectations

The *Natural Products Marketing (BC) Act* provides the poultry boards with the regulatory authority and related responsibility to adopt and enforce rules necessary to maintain orderly marketing. BCFIRB's role is to ensure the marketing boards fulfill this responsibility.

BCFIRB expects that poultry boards will:

- Take immediate steps (if not already in place) to ensure, through an appropriate means, that producers or a responsible delegate are physically present for the full duration of catching and loading. Producers are reminded they have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that their birds are being handled humanely, and to intervene where necessary.
- Continue to ensure appropriate monitoring and enforcement of mandatory animal care programs.
- Remain alert to any potential gaps in the Code of Practice and/or national animal care programs now or in the future that may impact orderly marketing, and respond accordingly.

<sup>2</sup> Guidelines for the care and handling of farm animals are contained in the National Farm Animal Care Council Codes of Practice. These Codes promote sound management and welfare practices for housing, care, transportation, and other animal husbandry practices.

<sup>3</sup> TFC [Flock Care Program](#); CFC [Raised by a Canadian Farmer Animal Care Program](#); CHEP [Animal Care Program](#); EFC [Animal Care Program](#)

<sup>4</sup> It is anticipated that the national hatching egg Animal Care Program will be ready for adoption by provincial boards (including the BC Hatching Egg Commission) in 2018.

If your boards have any questions, please feel free to contact BCFIRB.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Les". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

John Les  
Chair

cc: James Mack, Assistant Deputy Minister  
Agriculture Science and Policy  
Ministry of Agriculture

Jack Brown, Chair  
BC Cranberry Marketing Commission

Debbie Etsell, Chair  
BC Vegetable Marketing Commission

Bert Van Dalfsen, Chair  
BC Hog Marketing Commission

Ben Janzen, Chair  
BC Milk Marketing Board

BCFIRB website