

Modular Loading of Broiler Chickens in Barn

Introduction

This section outlines safe work practice for catching/loading broiler chickens into modules.

Hazards

Biotic Conditions	Gravity
Chemical	Mechanical
Climatic Conditions	Pedestrian
Electrical	Vehicular
Ergonomics	

Legislation

General Legislation
Work in a Safe Environment
OHS Guidelines for Farming Operations

Legislation	PRO/RSO	Section Referenced
Construction	213/91	21,26.3,125

General Information

The following are the general mandatory requirements for all personnel catching/handling broiler chickens in barn.

- All appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shall be worn while catching and loading broiler chickens, i.e. N95 dust masks, reflective safety vests, etc. Reflective safety vests must be worn by all individuals on site when loading activities are underway (drivers, catchers, farmers, farm workers, etc.) to ensure visibility by the forklift driver.
- Barn must be prepared before catchers enter space, i.e. all portable equipment such as feed lines, water lines and temperature probes have been raised high enough so forklift can move modules without any obstructions.
- Vertical clearance for all fixed items located in the barn such as radiant tube heaters, box heaters, gas lines, etc. have been verified to exceed the height required by forklift
- Ventilation system is operating to provide fresh air and remove contaminants (dust, products of combustion, etc.) from barn area for the duration of loading.
- All required safety guards are in place over ventilation equipment (fan guards) so a person cannot contact any moving fan parts.
- Stairways between floors are well lit, free of clutter, and have a hand rail in place.

- Lighting at loading doors (dimmable is recommended).
- Forklift equipment must be large enough to handle the expected load, operated by a certified/trained person and maintained in good condition including ensuring that carbon monoxide emissions are within acceptable limits.
- Forklift must have operating headlights (coloured for catching), taillights and a back-up alarm.
- Only forklift operator is allowed on the equipment (no passengers).
- It is recommended that all barn doorways where forklifts/modules enter or pass through have reflective tape or markers on their jambs to increase their visibility for fork lift operators.
- Avoid door sills where forklifts will be traveling (first floor) and also where modules will be placed, i.e. on second floor. Fork lifts are not able to get underneath the modules to lift them out of the second storey when sills are in place. Removable door sills are an option.
- For side door loading, eaves trough must be located over load-out doors.
- The roof above load-out doors must be clear of ice and snow to protect personnel from falling hazards (for side door loading).
- Yard/pad area adjacent to load-out doors is hard packed material and of sufficient area to allow forklift to turn without leaving the pad
- Stationary objects in the yard area, i.e. water well casing, fuel storage, gas meters, etc. that are exposed to forklift traffic and cannot be relocated should have vehicle protection, i.e. guard rails, bollards, etc.
- Multi-storey barns must be structurally assessed by an engineering firm or Architectural Technologist to determine what changes are required to accommodate modular equipment on second floor.
- For renovated multi-storey barns, a signed engineer's report (may include the stamped drawings) is required to certify that the barn renovations were done correctly and will meet the load requirements necessary to proceed with loading chickens into modules on the second floor. This will provide assurance to all parties that the barn is properly prepared for modules and limit any potential liabilities.
- The processor and catching company will request a copy of the engineering report and final building inspection for their files.

Work Practice

1.0 Loading Procedure

Loading Ground Floor

STEP	ACTION
Inspect load-out doors and area adjacent to doors.	Ensure all load-out doorways are in good state of repair – no sharp objects protruding from the building. The area outside the door has a hard packed surface, is level and clear of ice/snow/debris. No obstructions in work area.
Placing modules in the barn	Forklift operator will retrieve empty module from transport trailer and deliver into barn to area beside where birds are being caught. Forklift operator will drop empty module and will retrieve full module while chickens are caught. Forklift operator must be aware of catchers and any other individuals working in this area and potential hazards.
Catch and load birds	Catchers will collect broiler chickens in barn area adjacent to module and place them in drawers. Catchers must remain aware at all times of forklift movements and surrounding conditions, i.e. potential crush points such as posts, walls, stationary modules, etc.
Remove full modules from barn	When module is full of birds, the forklift driver will come back into barn with empty module to drop and driver will retrieve the full module. Loaded module is delivered to waiting transport trailer and placed on trailer. Forklift operator must be aware of catchers and any other individuals working in this area and potential hazards.

Loading Second Floor - Side Door Loading

STEP	ACTION
Inspect second floor load-out doors	<p>Open doors on second floor</p> <p>Ensure all load-out doorways are in good state of repair – no sharp objects protruding from the door frame</p>
Position modules on second floor	Forklift will retrieve empty module from transport trailer and set it inside second floor load-out door.
Catch and pass birds	<p>Catchers will collect broiler chickens in barn area adjacent to module and place them in drawers.</p> <p>Catchers must remain aware at all times of forklift and surrounding conditions, i.e. potential crush points such as walls, stationary modules, etc..</p> <p>Catchers will normally walk back and forth between two adjacent doorways filling modules</p>
Retrieving module from second floor	<p>When all birds adjacent to load-out doors have been loaded, i.e. module is full, the forklift outside the building will come back to the doorway and retrieve module through doorway. Full module delivered to transport trailer.</p>

Loading Second Floor - Railway Track System Loading

STEP	ACTION
Inspect second floor load-out doors	<p>Ensure all load-out doorways are in good state of repair – no sharp objects protruding from the building.</p>
Set up track system on second floor	<p>Forklift will retrieve the track end piece from transport trailer and place it inside the end door on second floor.</p> <p>Forklift will then retrieve and place track transport cart from transport trailer inside the second floor doorway on top of track.</p> <p>Minimum two person crew will install the track sections down the length of the building in a straight line, advancing the transport cart as they go.</p>
Position modules on second floor	Forklift will retrieve empty module from transport trailer and set it inside second floor load-out door on top of

	<p>track system. Forklift will continue to bring empty modules until all of units required for second floor load-out are inside the barn.</p> <p>Catchers will push empty modules down the length of barn until all required modules for loadout are inside barn.</p>
<p>Catch and pass birds</p>	<p>Catchers will collect broiler chickens in barn area adjacent to module and place them in drawers.</p>
<p>Retrieving module from second floor</p>	<p>As modules are filled, starting at the end closest to the load-out door, the crew will push full modules (by hand or with assistance from small tractor) along the track system towards the doorway.</p> <p>When moving modules the crew must remain aware at all times of surrounding conditions, i.e. potential crush points such as stationary modules, etc.</p> <p>The forklift outside the building will come back to the doorway and retrieve the full module through doorway. Full module delivered to transport trailer.</p>
<p>Dismantling track system</p>	<p>After all of the birds and modules have been removed from second floor, two-person crew will dismantle the track system and place sections back on the transport cart as they move back down the barn towards loadout door. Once they reach the loadout doorway the forklift will retrieve the loaded cart and transfer it to transport trailer. Forklift will then retrieve the last piece of track and transport to trailer.</p>

Loading Third Floor

STEP	ACTION
<p>Inspect pass through holes and load-out equipment present in the barn.</p>	<p>Second floor - determine location of 30 in. x 48 in. (76 cm x 122 cm) openings for passing birds relative to load-out doors.</p> <p>Ensure portable construction/industrial grade Canadian Standard Association (CSA) approved scaffold unit or equivalent with secured non-slip work platform and safety rails is present and setup on second floor.</p> <p>Ensure no equipment (feed or water lines) present under floor opening that could impede workers.</p> <p>Third floor ensure guard rail system to place around floor openings is present. Pass through holes have been located and litter cleared from over the door.</p>
<p>Set up loading equipment in barn.</p>	<p>Second floor - set up scaffold unit directly under pass through hole. Ensure scaffold is level, work platform is secure and guard rails in place.</p> <p>Third Floor - Remove floor panel and secure guard rail system around floor opening.</p>
<p>Catch and pass birds.</p>	<p>Personnel on third floor catch and pass birds through floor hole to personnel standing on scaffold (second floor). Individual on scaffold pass birds to personnel on second floor who places them in drawers of waiting module.</p> <p><i>Delivery/retrieval of modules to second floor described above.</i></p>
<p>Move loading equipment between holes</p>	<p>When all birds around third floor pass through have been caught:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - remove safety guard rail around third floor opening; - replace and secure floor panel over floor opening; and , - move safety guard rail to next floor pass through and repeat process. <p>Second Floor - move scaffold unit to next pass through; repeat set up directly under this opening.</p>

Dismantle loading equipment.	When all birds around third floor pass through have been caught: - remove safety guard rail around third floor opening and store -replace and secure floor panel over opening - remove second floor scaffold unit and store.
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Working on Live Haul Broiler Transport Trailers – Equipped with Solid Roof

Introduction

This section outlines the safe work practice for working on live haul broiler transport trailers that are equipped with a solid roof system.

Hazards

Biotic Conditions	Gravity
Chemical	Mechanical
Climatic Conditions	Pedestrian
Electrical	Vehicular
Ergonomics	

Legislation/Safe Work Practice

General Legislation

Work in a Safe Environment

Occupational Health & Safety Guidelines for Farming Operations

Legislation	PRO/SRO	Section Referenced
Construction	213/91	21,26.4

Mandatory Information

The following are the general mandatory requirements for all personnel working on live haul trailers at heights greater than eight feet (2.4 m) above ground.

- Truck driver is responsible for placing the truck for loading, chaining/strapping and tarping load in preparation for transport.
- Driver should wear reflective safety vest when working outside of cab so he is visible to forklift operator.
- Truck should be equipped with movement alert/alarm system that is activated when the truck is being moved during loading.

STEP	ACTION
Position trailer in loading area near barn at end of barn	Inspect intended loading/parking area beside barn for trailer. Ensure area is level and free of ice and snow accumulation that could cause trailer to slant.
Prepare trailer for receiving birds.	Open sliding curtain on side of trailer (possibly both sides to allow better ventilation). Release straps securing modules on trailer. Raise roof on trailer to allow forklift to access module for transportation in to the barn.
Loading modules onto trailer	Truck driver to ensure there are no obstructions on trailer deck for forklift operator to place modules. Forklift operator to place loaded modules on the trailer. Truck driver responsible to manage curtains/tarps during inclement weather to protect birds during loading. Must remain vigilant of fork lift operator working in area between barn and trailer.
Prepare trailer for highway travel	Ensure roof is lowered on top of modules. Walk along side of trailer and apply straps to secure the modules. Walk along side of trailer and apply side curtains if required. Adjust any vents as necessary.