**National Standard of Canada for Organic Agriculture**

**Norme nationale du Canada pour l’agriculture biologique**

**Revision Proposal Form / Formulaire pour proposition de révision**

**General Principles and Management Standards/ Principes généraux et normes de gestion**

**CAN/CGSB-32.310-2020**

The present form should be used by stakeholders requesting modifications to the Canadian Organic Standard – CAN/CGSB-32.310-2020, *Organic Production Systems* [– *General Principles and Management Standards*.](https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards/internet/032-310/032-310-eng.html)

**Please note that you should justify and provide a clear explanation of why you are requesting a modification. Unclear requests could be put aside. Thanks for your interest.**

Le présent formulaire doit être utilisé par les intervenants qui demandent une modification à la Norme biologique canadienne – CAN/CGSB-32.310-2020, *Systèmes de production biologique –* [*Principes généraux et normes de gestion*.](https://www.tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca/ongc-cgsb/programme-program/normes-standards/internet/032-310/032-310-fra.html)

**Veuillez noter que vous devez fournir une explication claire et justifier votre demande de modification. Les demandes qui ne sont pas claires pourraient être ignorées. Merci pour votre intérêt.**

***Section I***

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| **Company Name / Nom de l’entreprise** |  |
| **Contact Name / Nom** |  |
| **Mailing Address / Coordonnées** |  |
| **Telephone / Téléphone** |  |
| **Web Site / Site Web** |  |
| **Email Address / Adresse de courriel** |  |
| **Date Submitted / Date de la demande** |  |

***Section II CAN/CGSB-32.310-2020***

***Organic Production Systems — General Principles and Management Standards***

***Systèmes de production biologique — Principes généraux et normes de gestion***

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| ***Please complete this section if you request a modification to the Principles and Management standards in organic production / Veuillez remplir cette section si vous demandez une modification aux principes et normes de gestion en production biologique.*** | |
| Standard Section Number Numéro de la section de la norme | Pullets  6.13.13  Table 5 ─ Maximum indoor and outdoor densities for poultry |
| **Description of the issue - Background Information and References /**  **Information de base et références** | |
| Pullets 0-8 weeks old have a maximum prescribed density in indoor areas of 24 birds/square metre (10.76 square feet), which is equivalent to 64.56 square inches/bird.  Pullets 9-18 weeks old have a maximum prescribed density in indoor areas of 15 birds/square metre (10.76 square feet), which is equivalent to 103.30 square inches/bird.    Indoor densities in Table 5 have been copied for many years from previous organic production standards. These densities were determined prior to the development and implementation of aviary housing in pullet operations. These were standards originally developed for single-level barns, on floors or on bedding, where thousands of chicks are grouped into small groups at the age of one day, following the original requirements of the code of practice of the National Farm Animal Care Council (NFACC) on the density of housing without cage (code of 2003).  With the development of new housing and livestock systems and technologies, we expected that the Canadian Organic Standards would amend Table 5 to divide the 0-8 week period into at least two separate periods, as it was done with the new NFACC 2017 Pullet and Layer Care and Handling Code of Practice. | |
| **Proposed Change (include proposed wording) /**  **Modification proposée (inclure le libellé proposé)** | |
| We propose to modify Table 5 in section 6.13.13 so that the 0-8 week period is divided into two separate periods as follows:  Pullets 0-4 weeks old: maximum density in indoor areas of 35 birds/square metre (10.76 square feet), equivalent to 44.27 square inches/bird.  Pullets 4-8 weeks old: maximum density in indoor areas of 24 birds/square metre (10.76 square feet), which is equivalent to 64.56 square inches/bird.  Pending the next iteration of the Canadian Organic Standards, an amendment to the current standards would be appropriate as it would allow pullet growers to quickly adapt their housing systems to changes that egg farmers have made in recent years. | |
| **Rationale /Justification** | |
| For reasons of animal welfare, including an optimal start of breeding, a reduction in the initial mortality rate and the promotion of discovery of food and watering, it is advised by all genetics companies and breeding experts to start day-old chick rearing at higher densities for at least the first 2 to 3 weeks after hatching. Indeed, chicks are not able to properly regulate their body temperature by themselves. They develop their ability to thermoregulate around the age of 21 to 28 days, but still require higher densities and additional heat until the age of about 42 days.  The rearing of day-old chicks at the current maximum prescribed indoor density of 64.56 square inches per bird would result in a poor start for chicks in aviary-type housing systems. In accordance with Table 1.2 of the NFACC Code of Practice, aviary housing must provide a minimum of 44 square inches per chick at all times during the breeding period. The doors of the large aviary starting cages can be successfully opened so that the pullets have access to the entire environment of the barn – litter floor, perches and additional deck space – starting at 28 days of age without causing negative effects on their well-being.  We observed that the last two updates to the Canadian Organic Standards were aligned with many of the NFACC Code of Practice requirements for laying hens, so it is reasonable that they would also be aligned for pullets. | |

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| **Please send your completed forms to:**  **Veuillez envoyer les formulaires complétés à l’adresse électronique suivante :**  [**Standards-normes@organicfederation.ca**](mailto:Standards-normes@organicfederation.ca) |

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| WL / LT # | Date Received / Reçu : |