

Policies of UK Supermarkets: Broiler chickens



Overview of standards

Standard chicken

EU production:

- Chickens can be stocked at up to 42kg/m², severely restricting their movement
- Fast growing birds which can suffer difficulty walking
- Enrichment is not a requirement and birds are kept in sheds on litter without natural light

UK production:

• UK legislation is in-line with EU standards except stocked at up to 39kg/m²

Certification schemes for indoor birds

Red Tractor indoor:

- Chickens can be stocked at up to 38kg/m²
- Fast growing birds which can suffer difficulty walking
- Enrichment is not a requirement of standards and birds can be kept in sheds on litter without daylight

RSPCA Freedom Foods Indoor:

- Stocked at not more than 30kg/m² to allow birds room to move around the shed
- Slower growing or intermediate growth bird to improve their health and welfare
- Natural light and enrichment required

Free-range (including RSPCA RSPCA AssuredFR):

- Stocking density up to 27.5kg/m²
- Enrichment required in the shed and access to the outdoors during the day
- Slower growing breeds typically used to improve leg health

Organic

- Stocking densities from 21kg/m² to 30kg/m²
- Enrichment required in the shed and access to the outdoors during the day
- Slower growing breeds used to improve leg health

Retailer	Whole Chicken	Chicken Portions	Chicken Products
Morrisons	Majority: Morrisons: Red Tractor indoors with natural light and enrichment Selection of: UK Standard RSPCA Asssured Indoor Free-range Organic	 Majority: Red Tractor indoor Morrisons: Red Tractor indoors with natural light and enrichment Selection of: Free-range Organic 	 Morrisons: Red Tractor indoors with natural light and enrichment Standard Chicken (assumed EU unless British flag labelled)
ASDA	Majority: • Red Tractor Indoor chicken • EU standard chicken Selection of: • RSPCA Assured • Free-range chicken • Organic		 Standard chicken (assumed EU unless British flag labelled) Some ASDA <i>Extra Special</i> products are RSPCA Assured– but look out for the FF logo
The Co-operative	Majority: • Standard Red Tractor Indoor chicken Selection of: • RSPCA Assured Indoor • Free-range		 Standard (Red Tractor level or Red Tractor certified) Co-op: stocked at not more than 34kg/m², natural light and enrichment required RSPCA Assured Indoor – including some ready meals Free-range
M&S	Majority: • M&S Oakham: stocked at not more than 34kg/m ² , natural light and enrichment required, fast growing breed. Selection of: • Free-range • Organic		 Standard (Red Tractor level or Red Tractor certified) Free-range Organic

Retailer	Whole Chicken and Chicken Portions	Chicken Products
Sainsbury's Commitment to moving all fresh chicken (whole birds and portions) to higher welfare	Majority: • Sainsbury's British (Red Tractor level) Selection of: • RSPCA Assured indoor • Free-range • Organic	 Standard Chicken (Red Tractor level) RSPCA Assured– including some ready meals Organic
Tesco	 Majority UK Standard Tesco Improved Welfare: UK standard with enrichment and natural lighting (Similar to Red Tractor) Selection of: EU Standard Free-range Organic 	 Standard chicken (assumed EU unless British flag labelled)
Waitrose Higher welfare indoor minimum standard Image: Standards and the majority chicken products All fresh and portioned chicken is reared to higher welfare standards and the majority chicken products Waitrose Essential: stocked at not more than 30kg/m², natural light, fast growth rates with a leg health plan and enrichment Free-range Organic 		 Waitrose Essential: stocked at not more than 30kg/m², natural light, fast growth rates with a leg health plan and enrichment