



# Policies of UK Supermarkets: *Broiler chickens*

Retailer	Own Brand Fresh Whole and Portioned Chicken	Own Brand Chicken Products	Other Information
<b>ASDA</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard chicken</li> <li>• Red Tractor chicken</li> <li>• RSPCA Assured</li> <li>• Free-range chicken</li> <li>• Organic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard chicken (assumed EU unless British flag labelled)</li> <li>• Some ASDA <i>Extra Special</i> products are RSPCA Assured – look out for the RSPCA Assured logo</li> </ul>	Asda weblink: <a href="https://www.asda.com/creating-change-for-better/environmental/farming-and-nature/animal-welfare">https://www.asda.com/creating-change-for-better/environmental/farming-and-nature/animal-welfare</a>
<b>The Co-op</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Tractor chicken</li> <li>• RSPCA Assured</li> <li>• Free-range</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Tractor, or Red Tractor equivalent (if non-UK)</li> <li>• RSPCA Assured – including some ready meals</li> <li>• Free-range</li> </ul>	Coop weblink: <a href="http://www.co-operativefood.co.uk/food-matters/farming-food/animal-welfare/">http://www.co-operativefood.co.uk/food-matters/farming-food/animal-welfare/</a>
<b>M&amp;S</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hubbard higher welfare chicken: stocked at not more than 30kg/m<sup>2</sup>, slower grown, natural light and enrichment provided</li> <li>• M&amp;S Oakham: stocked at not more than 30kg/m<sup>2</sup>, natural light and enrichment provided, fast growing breed</li> <li>• Free-range</li> <li>• Organic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Tractor, or Red Tractor equivalent (if non-UK)</li> <li>• Free-range</li> <li>• Organic</li> </ul>	M&S has signed up to the 2026 <a href="#">European Chicken Commitment (ECC)</a> . As of January 2020, M&S has launched new range of higher welfare chicken which meets the requirements of the ECC - their Hubbard chickens are grown for 25% longer. M&S weblink: <a href="https://corporate.marksandspencer.com/animal-welfare/">https://corporate.marksandspencer.com/animal-welfare/</a>
<b>Morrisons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Tractor chicken</li> <li>• Free-range chicken</li> <li>• Organic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard chicken (assumed EU unless British flag labelled)</li> <li>• Red Tractor</li> </ul>	Morrisons weblink: <a href="https://www.morrisons-corporate.com/cr/animal-welfare/">https://www.morrisons-corporate.com/cr/animal-welfare/</a>

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<b>Sainsbury's</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Tractor chicken</li> <li>• RSPCA Assured</li> <li>• Free-range</li> <li>• Organic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard chicken (assumed EU unless British flag labelled)</li> <li>• RSPCA Assured – including some ready meals</li> <li>• Organic</li> </ul>	Sainsbury's weblink: <a href="https://www.about.sainsburys.co.uk/making-a-difference/sourcing/animal-health-and-welfare">https://www.about.sainsburys.co.uk/making-a-difference/sourcing/animal-health-and-welfare</a>
<b>Tesco</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Tractor, or Red Tractor equivalent (if non-UK)</li> <li>• Free-range</li> <li>• Organic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Standard chicken (assumed EU unless British flag labelled)</li> <li>• Red Tractor, or Red Tractor equivalent (if non-UK)</li> <li>• Free-range</li> <li>• Organic</li> </ul>	Tesco weblink: <a href="https://www.tescopl.com/sustainability/documents/policies/maintaining-and-improving-animal-welfare/">https://www.tescopl.com/sustainability/documents/policies/maintaining-and-improving-animal-welfare/</a>
<b>Waitrose</b>  	<p><b><u>Higher welfare indoor minimum standard</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waitrose Essential: stocked at not more than 30kg/m<sup>2</sup>, natural light, fast growth rates with a leg health plan and enrichment</li> <li>• Free-range</li> <li>• Organic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waitrose Essential: stocked at not more than 30kg/m<sup>2</sup>, natural light, fast growth rates with a leg health plan and enrichment</li> <li>• Free-range</li> <li>• Organic</li> </ul>	Waitrose has signed up to the <a href="#">European Chicken Commitment</a> - committing to higher standards of welfare for broiler chickens by 2026, including using a slower growing breed.  Waitrose weblink: <a href="http://www.waitrose.com/content/waitrose/en/home/inspiration/about_waitrose/the_waitrose_way/waitrose_animal_welfarecommitments.html">http://www.waitrose.com/content/waitrose/en/home/inspiration/about_waitrose/the_waitrose_way/waitrose_animal_welfarecommitments.html</a>

# Overview of standards

## Standard chicken

EU production:

- Chickens can be stocked up to 42kg/m<sup>2</sup>, severely restricting their movement
- Fast growing birds are used which can suffer difficulty walking, have a poor immune system, cardiac disease and be lethargic
- 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 up to 39kg/m<sup>2</sup>

## Certification schemes for indoor birds

Red Tractor indoor:

- Chickens can be stocked up to 38kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Fast growing birds which can suffer difficulty walking, have a poor immune system, cardiac disease and be lethargic
- Enrichment is not a requirement of standards and birds can be kept in sheds on litter without daylight

RSPCA Assured Indoor:

- Stocked at not more than 30kg/m<sup>2</sup> to allow birds room to move around the shed
- Slower growing birds are mandatory to improve broilers' health and welfare
- Natural light and enrichment required

## Certification schemes for Free range birds

Red Tractor free range:

- Stocking density up to 27.5kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Fast growing birds are allowed, which can suffer difficulty walking, have a poor immune system, cardiac disease and be lethargic
- Enrichment required in the shed and access to the outdoors during the day

RSPCA Assured free range:

- Stocking density up to 27.5kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Slower growing birds are mandatory to improve broilers' health and welfare
- Enrichment required in the shed and access to the outdoors during the day

## Organic UK (including Soil Association and Organic Farmers and Growers)

- Stocking densities from 21kg/m<sup>2</sup> to 30kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Enrichment required in the shed and access to the outdoors during the day
- Slower growing breeds are recommended for improved broiler's health and welfare, but not mandatory