

VICTORIAN FREE RANGE REGULATIONS

SCHEDULE 10

Regulation 5

EGG INDUSTRY ACT, 1989 EGG INDUSTRY GENERAL REGULATIONS 1989

CONDITIONS FOR FREE RANGE HEN ENVIRONMENT

Hens must have access to an area in which to range during daylight hours.

The maximum stocking density is 300 birds per acre (750 per hectare).

The land where the hens are permitted to range must be capable of continued production of vegetation for food. If the land becomes barren an adequate alternative area must be provided and used on a rotational basis.

Hens must have permanent access to shade and protection, weatherproof shelter with adequate dry litter, food, fresh water, nesting boxes and perches.

Natural foods only are permitted. These may include grains, grain products, green feeds, meat by-products, natural sources of vitamins and minerals.

No synthetic yolk colourings are permitted, but natural xanthophylls, such as maize, lucerne or other naturally-derived pigments, may be used.

Routine use of antibiotics or other medications is not permitted except on veterinary direction.

Induced moulting and the use of "polypeepers" are not permitted.

Beak trimming is not permitted.