

How various initiatives compare to CIWF criteria for higher animal welfare: Laying Hens

Animal Welfare Initiative	Logo	Country	Is the production cage-free?	Are combi-systems forbidden?	Do hens have enough space?	Is beak trimming forbidden?	Do hens have sufficient nest boxes to lay their eggs on?	Do hens have access to perches?	Do hens have access to natural lighting?	Are hens provided with litter on the floor?	Do hens have access to areas where they can scratch?	Do hens have access to an outdoor range?	Does this AW initiative meet CIWF higher AW criteria?
CIWF - Food business - better level of animal welfare		Global	YES	YES	YES - 9hens/m ²	NO- Just as recommendation	1 next box/ 7 hens. If group nesting 1m ² /120 hens	YES - At least 15 cm/hen	NO- Just as recommendation	YES - At least 250cm ² of littered area per hen	YES	NO - Not required, but strongly recommended	YES
Demeter (Bio- Dynamic Research Institute)		Global	YES	Caged systems are prohibited ¹	YES	YES	Quantity not specified	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	MAYBE
RSPCA Approved Indoor		Australia	YES	Only non-cage systems allowed ¹	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES
RSPCA Approved Outdoor		Australia	YES	Only non-cage systems allowed ¹	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Australian Certified Organic		Australia	YES	Cages are prohibited for all certified animals ¹	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Australian Egg Corporation Limited (Egg Corp Assured, Free Range)		Australia	YES	Birds are housed in sheds and have access to an outdoor range ¹	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Australian Egg Corporation Limited (Egg Corp Assured, Barn Standards)		Australia	YES	Birds are free to roam within a shed which may have vertical levels ¹	yes	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO (slats and wire mesh permitted)	YES	NO	NO
Free Range Egg and Poultry Australia Ltd. (FREPA)		Australia	YES	Birds are housed in sheds and have access to an outdoor range ¹	10 hens/m ² allowed	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	MAYBE
Free Range Farmers Association Inc. - Victoria (FRFA Inc. VIC)		Australia	YES	Birds are housed in sheds and have access to an outdoor range ¹	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Humane Choice-True Free Range		Australia	YES	Birds must not be kept in cages.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Organic Food Chain		Australia	YES	not specified ¹	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	UNCLEAR	YES	YES	MAYBE
EU organic legislation		EU	YES	Poultry shall not be kept in cages ¹	YES	MAYBE - May be authorised by the competent authority for reasons of safety or to improve the health, welfare or hygiene of the livestock	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Soil Association		UK	YES	No caged systems ¹	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Organic Farmers and Growers		UK	YES	Poultry shall not be kept in cages ¹	YES	MAYBE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Label Rouge		France	YES	not specified ¹	YES	Not specified	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
KAT		Germany	YES	not specified ¹	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES (for buildings constructed from 13 March 2012)	YES	YES	NO (They also certify free range and organic)	YES
Neuland		Germany	YES	not specified ¹	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Tierschutz (1 Star and premium levels)		Germany	YES	3 tiers max. allowed. Combi systems aren't mentioned ¹	YES (more space for premium)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES (Premium level)	YES
Beter Leven (1*)		Netherlands	YES	not specified ¹	YES	NO	Not specified	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	MAYBE
Beter Leven (2*)- free range		Netherlands	YES	not specified ¹	YES	NO	Not specified	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	MAYBE
Beter Leven (3* / SKAL)		Netherlands	YES	not specified ¹	YES	YES	Not specified	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Milieukeur (mandatory)		Netherlands	YES	not specified ¹	YES	MAYBE - Except with vet consent	Not specified	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	MAYBE
Milieukeur (welfare options)		Netherlands	YES	not specified ¹	YES	YES	Not specified	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
KRAV Standard (Sweden)		Sweden	YES	not specified ²	YES	YES	Not specified	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Agriqualita		Tuscany, Italy	YES	not specified ³	YES	Not specified	Not specified	Not specified	UNCLEAR	Not specified	Not specified	NO	NO
RSPCA Assured		UK	YES	NO, but recommendations are provided	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES (if free range)	YES
Animal Welfare Approved(AWA)		USA	YES	YES- Confinement systems, in-house or field-based pens or cages that restrict the birds' natural behaviours, are prohibited.	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Certified Humane		USA	YES	YES- All Cages, such as battery cages, furnished or enriched cages, as well as aviary systems that are designed to confine birds such as lock back cages that would be open during the day but closed at night, are prohibited. In aviary systems, all hens must have access to all levels of the system at all times	MAYBE - allow up to 11 hens/m ²	NO	YES	YES	NO	MAYBE - only 15% of the floor area	MAYBE - only 15% of the floor area	YES (if pasture raised or free-range)	NO
American Humane Association - CAGE-FREE STANDARDS		USA	YES	NO -temporary confinement of young laying hens when being transferred into a cage free production house is allowed	MAYBE - allow up to 11 hens/m ²	NO	YES	YES	NO	MAYBE - only 15% of the floor area and may be inaccessible for part of the day	MAYBE - only 15% of the floor area and may be inaccessible for part of the day	NO	NO
GAP - 5step®		USA	YES (all steps)	YES- In a multi-tier system all hens must have free access to all tiers at all times	YES (all steps)	YES (from step 4)	YES (all steps)	12,5 cm/hen in all steps	YES (from step 3)	YES (all steps)	YES (from step 2)	YES (from step 3)	YES (from step 3)

Disclaimer: These standards were correct at the date of publishing (April 2017) and may have changed since then. Also, this table only represents a portion of the standards. We recommend users to read the full standards.

¹This animal welfare initiative does not clearly state that combi systems are not allowed. CIWF encourages these standards to be more clear regarding this subject