



October 8, 2024

Response to Bill C-275 Senate Hearing

To the Standing Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry,

Chicken Farmers of Canada (CFC) would like to add clarify to recent discussions that have been had at Senate hearings on Bill C-275.

Discussions at the Senate hearings have questioned whether biosecurity standards are publicly available, and whether or not these standards are mandatory.

Biosecurity requirements for Canadian chicken farms are publicly available. These standards can be found on the chickenfarmers.ca website.

These requirements are stipulated in CFC's *Raised by a Canadian Farmer* On-Farm Food Safety Program. The biosecurity requirements of this program are based on science and federal government recommendations.

The elements of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency's (CFIA) [National Avian On-Farm Biosecurity Standard](#) are included in CFC's *Raised by a Canadian Farmer* On-Farm Food Safety Program.

CFC's *Raised by a Canadian Farmer* On-Farm Food Safety Program is a mandatory program for farmers and all other individuals accessing chicken barns. This program has been made mandatory by each provincial chicken board using the regulatory authorities over production granted by provincial governments. Farmers undergo annual audits to verify program implementation and the program receives an annual 3rd party audit to verify effective operations and implementation.

CFC would also like to take this opportunity to underscore farmers' and veterinarians' responsibility concerning a foreign animal disease incursion on chicken farms and the significant negative impacts that can ensue. Farmers and veterinarians are legally obligated to report foreign animal diseases to CFIA. When this occurs, the regulating authority (i.e. CFIA) quarantines and assumes control of the farm, with the end result being depopulation of all birds on the premises. This results in negative animal welfare outcomes and carries a significant economic and mental health toll for farmers and industry stakeholders.

In closing, CFC believes the scope of Bill C-275 is appropriate and that no further amendments are required.