LOADING AND TRANSPORTING SPENT LAYERS: DECISION TREE

SHOULD THIS BIRD BE LOADED?
Guidelines for Transporting Poultry

DO NOT LOAD
DO NOT TRANSPORT

- Weak and/or not alert
- Dark red, purple, or black combs or wattles
- Discharge from eyes/nostrils
- Swollen head/neck
- Skin on head or neck is dark red or very pale (Exception: Toms may have bright blue skin in this area)
- Bloody and/or prolapsed vents
- Emaciated and weak: very thin, easily felt breastbone (Exception: End-of-lay hens may have pronounced breastbones but if emaciated they must not be loaded)
- Dislocated, broken, or exposed bones (including injury due to handling)
- Unable to rise or walk due to physical abnormality or injury

*Birds not loaded should be segregated according to on-farm protocol. Notify farm manager of birds left on the farm before leaving.*

CAUTION
Conditions requiring assessment before loading

Environmental
- Wet birds in cool or cold weather
- Heat and/or humidity
- Cold and/or wind chill
- Road closures

Individual Bird
- Minor trauma, wounds or bleeding (including injury due to handling)

Flock
- Diarrhea
- Coughing and sneezing -“snicking”
- If a flock is diagnosed with a disease by a veterinarian or laboratory, special provisions for loading may be required.

Assessment and joint decisions should be made by the producer, catching crew, hauler and processing plant when faced with CAUTION conditions.

LOAD & TRANSPORT HEALTHY BIRDS

 Regulations
No person shall load or cause to be loaded... an animal that by reason of infirmity, illness, injury, fatigue or any other cause cannot be transported without undue suffering during the expected journey.
Health of Animals Regulations; Part XII, 136, 2a

DO NOT
- Transport a sick or injured bird
- Load or unload a bird in a way likely to cause injury or suffering
- Crowd birds to such an extent as to cause injury or undue suffering

www.inspection.gc.ca

Violators of the Health of Animals Act:
⇒ Fines up to $10,000
⇒ Increased fines for repeat offenders
⇒ Repeat offenders posted on CFIA website

Adapted from Poultry Industry Council "Poultry Handling and Transportation Manual"