LANGa17v1 - SQA Unit Code D9LG 04
Manage the incubation of gamebird eggs

Overview

This standard deals with the competence required by individuals who are involved in production of gamebird chicks. It can be applied to any game bird eggs which are incubated and hatched under controlled conditions. This standard is aimed at those who work in game conservation on either a full- or part-time basis.

To meet this standard you will be able to:

1. plan the production of game chicks
2. establish and maintain hygienic incubation
3. manage the incubation process
4. maintain the production of farmed day-old gamebird chicks.

This standard relates to the following applications or context:

Establishing the condition of equipment used for:
incubating
hatching

Establishing procedures to deal with the following factors:
variations in environmental conditions
resources shortfalls
equipment failure

Establishing a recording system to record:
fertility
percentage hatch of fertile eggs
percentage overall hatch
numbers in incubation

Developing hatchery operations relating to:
egg preparation
egg incubation
egg hatching
dispatch of deformed chicks
boxing day-old chicks

Taking action to deal with factors which can disrupt production:
incubation failure
environmental changes
resource shortages
disease and abnormality

Maintaining production according to the availability of the following resources:
people
materials
feed and water
equipment
power
time

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Plan and organise incubation

P1 plan hatchery production such that targets can be achieved in accordance with legal requirements
P2 develop hatchery operations to achieve required production in compliance with organisational and legal requirements
P3 test and establish the working condition and hygiene of hatchery equipment
P4 establish procedures to establish and compare fertility in gamebird eggs
P5 establish procedures to be followed to minimise the effect of factors which can disrupt production
P6 establish a recording system to support the planned production programme

You must be able to:

Manage incubation

P7 ensure eggs are selected and prepared to support planned hatchery production
P8 operate incubation and hatching equipment to maintain the temperature and humidity essential to chick production
P9 maintain chick production within known resource constraints and according to welfare requirements
P10 ensure that the welfare of chicks is maintained during hatching and boxing
P11 maintain communication with those implementing hatchery operations to facilitate effective hatchery production
P12 modify production operations to take account of factors which affect production
P13 maintain accurate records in respect of the production of gamebirds

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Plan and organise incubation

K1 the legal requirements and relevant codes of practice pertaining to the production, transport and welfare of reared game chicks
K2 legal constraints controlling hatchery production
K3 how to establish and maintain the hygienic condition of incubation equipment
K4 the problems associated with poor hatchery hygiene
K5 how to establish a production programme to achieve planned targets
K6 how to test and establish the working condition of incubation equipment
K7 the conditions and time required for a successful incubation, hatching and transport
K8 the record keeping requirements associated with the production of gamebird chicks
K9 how to minimise the potential impact of factors which disrupt production
K10 how to monitor and control temperature and humidity
K11 the manufacturer's operating procedures including the emergency back-up systems associated with the incubation equipment and the time period of insulation

You need to know and understand:

Manage incubation

K12 the legal requirements and relevant codes of practice pertaining to production and welfare of reared gamebirds
K13 the legal requirements associated with the disposal of dead stock
K14 specialist handling requirements of gamebird chicks
K15 how to prepare eggs to maximise production
K16 the importance of good hygiene practices
K17 the environmental conditions required to support successful incubation, hatching and transport
K18 the methods used to humanely dispatch chicks
K19 how the external environment can impact on the operation of hatchery processes
K20 the voluntary codes of practice which support the production of game chicks
K21 the reasons for keeping records and the importance of their accuracy
K22 the boxing requirements for day-old chicks
K23 the impact of fluctuations in temperature and humidity on incubation and hatching
K24 manufacturer instructions controlling the regulation of temperature and humidity
K25 causes of abnormality in game chicks

Glossary

For you to fully understand the content of the standard, and the activities it describes, it is important that you are able to understand the terms used within the standard.
The definitions below should help you with this.

Incubation
Process used to support the development of chicks inside the egg

Hatching
Process used to support the hatching of chicks from the egg

Game
Pheasant, partridges, duck

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