



# Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland

## Position Paper on the Sustainable Sourcing of Eggs



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## **1. Our Understanding**

Lidl Ireland and Northern Ireland (we) are committed to being a responsible retailer and upholding economic, social and environmental responsibilities in all of our daily activities. We have created this position paper whereby we outline our commitment to the sustainable sourcing of cage-free whole shell eggs and the use of cage-free eggs as product ingredients.

Our overarching goals in relation to the sourcing and use of cage-free eggs are defined as per the "5 freedoms" of the Farm Animal Welfare Committee (FAWC):

1. Freedom from hunger and thirst, by ready access to water and a diet to maintain health and vigour.
2. Freedom from discomfort, by providing an appropriate environment.
3. Freedom from pain, injury and disease, by prevention or rapid diagnosis and treatment.
4. Freedom to express normal behaviour, by providing sufficient space, proper facilities and appropriate company of the animal's own kind.
5. Freedom from fear and distress, by ensuring conditions and treatment, which avoid mental suffering.

## **2. Our Objective**

We realise that our customers have expectations for higher animal welfare standards, therefore, we have made it a priority to address this expectation. We require our suppliers to comply with, at the very least, domestic legal standards for animal welfare. Moreover, we promote and support animal welfare aspects that go beyond the minimum legal requirement.

We have developed a Code of Conduct which stipulates the minimum social standards which form the foundation of collaboration between ourselves and our business partners. We also require our suppliers and business partners to implement this Code of Conduct, based on the International Labour Organisation (ILO) core labour standards, which includes important objectives such as the prohibition of forced and child labour. The overarching goal is to protect people and their labour rights in the production of animal products.

This position paper is based on our own-brand range of goods including both whole shell eggs and eggs used as product ingredients. Our buyers are required to purchase eggs and egg-containing products only in accordance with this position paper.

### **3. Our Position**

**We are committed to sourcing only cage-free eggs & using only cage-free eggs, both as whole shell eggs and as product ingredients within our entire own-brand product range by 2025.**

The following is a list of areas in which we are focusing our efforts in the sustainable production and responsible sourcing of eggs:

3.1 Responsible Assortment

3.2 Origin, Transparency and Traceability

3.3 Poultry, Farming and Feeding

3.4 Medication and its Effect on Animals

3.5 Further Development of Standards

#### **3.1 Responsible Assortment**

As a retailer we are aware of our ecological and social responsibilities and endeavor to offer customers products that are sustainably sourced and contain sustainably sourced ingredients. An important component of our commitment is to work with our current supplier base to promote and support the development of cage-free egg production and the use of cage-free eggs as product ingredient.

#### **3.2 Origin, Transparency and Traceability**

We aim to offer our customers greater transparency regarding the traceability and origin of our products. Our objective is to provide clear, legible and understandable information on the packaging of our own-brand products, where possible, therefore supporting our customers with their product selection.

#### **3.3 Poultry, Farming and Feeding**

We promote breeding conditions beyond the legal EU standards and are committed to improvements in animal welfare.

In poultry feeding, we support the use of non-genetically modified soya. The Lidl group are actively working with industry organisations to promote the sustainable production of soya and to reduce the use of genetically modified soya.

#### **3.4 Medication and its Effect on Animals**

We require our suppliers to adhere to EU legislation regarding the use of medication on animals.

#### **3.5 Further Development of Standards**

The Lidl group is actively involved in the development of animal welfare standards and certification standards and we encourage our suppliers to develop projects to promote good animal welfare.