



CD/K/621:2010  
ICS 67.120.20

## **EAST AFRICAN STANDARD**

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**Day-old chicks (layers and broilers) — Basic requirements**

**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

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## Foreword

Development of the East African Standards has been necessitated by the need for harmonizing requirements governing quality of products and services in East Africa. It is envisaged that through harmonized standardization, trade barriers which are encountered when goods and services are exchanged within the Community will be removed.

In order to meet the above objectives, the EAC Partner States have enacted an East African Standardization, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Test Act, 2006 (EAC SQMT Act, 2006) to make provisions for ensuring standardization, quality assurance, metrology and testing of products produced or originating in a third country and traded in the Community in order to facilitate industrial development and trade as well as helping to protect the health and safety of society and the environment in the Community.

East African Standards are formulated in accordance with the procedures established by the East African Standards Committee. The East African Standards Committee is established under the provisions of Article 4 of the EAC SQMT Act, 2006. The Committee is composed of representatives of the National Standards Bodies in Partner States, together with the representatives from the private sectors and consumer organizations. Draft East African Standards are circulated to stakeholders through the National Standards Bodies in the Partner States. The comments received are discussed and incorporated before finalization of standards, in accordance with the procedures of the Community.

Article 15(1) of the EAC SQMT Act, 2006 provides that "Within six months of the declaration of an East African Standard, the Partner States shall adopt, without deviation from the approved text of the standard, the East African Standard as a national standard and withdraw any existing national standard with similar scope and purpose".

East African Standards are subject to review, to keep pace with technological advances. Users of the East African Standards are therefore expected to ensure that they always have the latest versions of the standards they are implementing.

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## Introduction

Day-old chicks are sold in large numbers to the farmers by various poultry breeding agencies. However, any under-size or under-mass and defective chicks may affect the economics of the poultry farming and may act as a disincentive to a farmer. This standard has been formulated with a view to defining the requirements of day old layer and broiler chicks.

In the preparation of this East African Standard, the following sources were consulted extensively:

IS 9800:1993(R2005), *Meat and Meat Products — Day-Old Chicks (layers and broilers) — Basic Requirements*

Codex Alimentarius website: [http://www.codexalimentarius.net/mrls/vetdrugs/jsp/vetd\\_q-e.jsp](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/mrls/vetdrugs/jsp/vetd_q-e.jsp)

USDA Foreign Agricultural Service website: <http://www.mrlidatabase.com>

USDA Agricultural Marketing Service website: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSv1.0/Standards>

European Union: [http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/pharmaceuticals/veterinary-use/maximum-residue-limits/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/pharmaceuticals/veterinary-use/maximum-residue-limits/index_en.htm)

Assistance derived from these sources is hereby acknowledged.

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## Day-old chicks (layers and broilers) — Basic requirements

### 1 Scope

This standard lays down basic requirements for day-old chicks (layers and broilers).

### 2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

CD-K-620:2010, *Poultry — Glossary of terms*

EAS 12, *Drinking (potable water) — Specification*

EAS 38, *Labelling of prepackaged foods — Specification*

EAS 39, *Hygiene in the food and drink manufacturing industry — Code of practice*

EAS 123, *Distilled water — Specification*

ISO 1736, *Dried milk and dried milk products — Determination of fat content — Gravimetric method (Reference method)*

ISO 6579, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the detection of Salmonella spp.*

ISO 8156, *Dried milk and dried milk products — Determination of insolubility index*

ISO 9390, *Water quality — Determination of borate — Spectrometric method using azomethine-H*

ISO 21527-1, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of yeasts and moulds — Part 1: Colony count technique in products with water activity greater than 0.95*

ISO 21527-2, *Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs — Horizontal method for the enumeration of yeasts and moulds — Part 2: Colony count technique in products with water activity less than or equal to 0.95*

### 3 Definitions

For the purpose of this standard the definitions given in CD-K-621:2010 shall apply.

### 4 Requirements

#### 4.1 Mass of chicks

The minimum mass of day-old chicks, when weighed within 24 hours after hatching, shall be as follows:

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| a) Layers   | 32 g, and |
| b) Broilers | 38 g      |

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### 4.2 Physical condition

The chicks shall be healthy, alert and free from the following physical defects:

- a) Star gazing condition
- b) Head shaking
- c) Ruffled feathers
- d) Wet or sticky feathers
- e) Deformed beak
- f) Drooping wings
- g) Curly toes
- h) Blindness of either one eye or both eyes
- i) Pasty vent
- j) Large abdomen and unhealed navel, and
- m) Any other physical deformity

### 4.3 Percentage of males

In layer chicks sex error shall not be more than 2 percent.

### 4.4 Veterinarian Immunity Certificate

If vaccinated, a certificate to this effect shall be given by the competent authority.

### 4.5 Diseases

The chicks shall be free from the following diseases:

- a) *Aspergillosis*
- b) *Bronchitis*
- c) *Colibacillosis*
- d) *Salmonellosis*
- e) *Mycoplasmosis*
- f) *Paratyphoid*, and
- g) *Viral encephalomyelitis*

## 5 Sampling and tests

All the chicks shall be subjected to the tests for the various characteristics specified in Clauses 4.1 to 4.5.

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