



# Best Practice

at the Airport Warehouse



Handling and Care  
of Day-Old Chicks  
in Transport Boxes





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## Handling and Care of Day-Old Chicks in Transport Boxes

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Aviagen® production employees have given day-old chicks (DOC) the best care possible up to the point where they arrive at the airport. Aviagen drivers are trained to understand and implement welfare regulations as well as how to control the environmental conditions required for the optimal comfort of DOC. Once the chicks are unloaded at the airport it

becomes the responsibility of the freight forwarders and airline personnel to ensure the proper handling of DOC during palletization, storage and on the plane. Best practices during palletization, storage and on the plane must be carefully followed to ensure DOC arrive at their final destination in the best possible condition.

### 2 BEST PRACTICE FOR HANDLING AND CARE OF DOC

1 It is important that all DOC are handled in a calm and correct way at all times. People handling DOC boxes should be experienced and properly trained so that they can handle DOC with the care that is appropriate for the purpose of unloading, palletizing and storage. DOC boxes should be kept upright at all times. Proper handling includes comfortable storage temperatures (more details are in the DOC Comfort section of this document).

#### Proper care of DOC includes:

- Ensuring biosecurity
- Providing a suitable storage location
- Maintaining a comfortable temperature
- Reducing noise levels
- Preventing sudden or jarring movements



#### BIOSECURITY

**Only touch DOC when wearing protective clothing: disinfected gloves and clothes.**

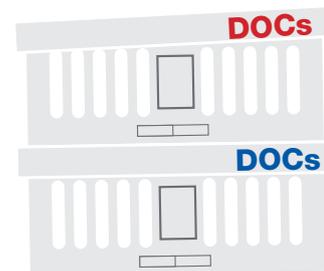
- Refer to the Best Practice at the Airport Warehouse, Ensuring the Biosecurity of DOC for more information on donning protective clothing.



#### STRAIN SECURITY

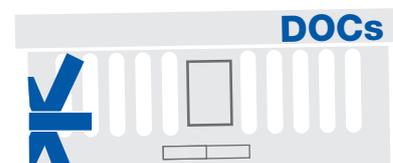
- **Never mix DOC coming from boxes having different colored lids, never switch box lids.**

***One box color = one genetic strain***



#### WELFARE

**If a box is broken, repair it with tape without taping the holes needed for DOC to breathe and so that DOC do not jump out of the box during transport.**



## 3 UNLOADING DOC FROM THE TRANSPORT TRUCK

### 1 SECURED FREIGHT

DOC which have already been securely palletized at an Aviagen hatchery are not required to pass through screening controls (X-ray machine) at the airport. The shipment must go directly to the airport customs area in the departure warehouse.

### 2 SHIPPING DOCUMENTS

Shipping documentation must be checked prior to unloading DOC from the transport vehicle.

The compulsory documents are:

- Commercial Invoice
- Packing list
- Health Certificate in two languages (export and import country)
- Certificate of Origin or Free-Trade Agreement (e.g., EUR1)
- Airway Bill (AWB)
- Introduction letter
- Temperature logger document
- 7-Day Livability Report
- For some countries: non-wood packing material (e.g., China)  
*If applicable: Known Consignor/ Shipper documents*



### 3 UNSECURED FREIGHT

Non-palletized boxes of DOC arriving on transport trolleys must go directly to the freight forwarder's warehouse to be palletized under a Known Consigner security certificate (provided that the hatchery is not Known Consigner or certified). No further checks are required by freight forwarders.

- Following palletization, the DOC are moved into the airline warehouse under a Regulated Agent security certificate. No further checks are required by freight forwarders or receiving handling agents.
- Materials needed for palletization travel with the chicks directly to airline warehouse at the airports where there is not a freight forwarder's warehouse, and therefore arrive under Known Consigner Seal. The materials are therefore not required to be screened in an X-Ray machine before going into the warehouse (with the exception of flights with airlines where all materials and chicks are required to be screened or airlines that do not recognize Known Consigner Scheme).
- If possible, avoid screening DOC using machines dedicated for live animals due to biosecurity risks (many species pass through the X-ray machine with no control of their sanitary status).



### 4 THE EXPORT DOCUMENTATION COMMERCIAL INVOICE

The commercial invoice and packing list containing the brand (Arbor Acres®, Indian River®, Ross®, Rowan Range® or Specialty Males®) of the description of **GOODS** must be compared to the **LOGO ON THE BOX**.

*If the brand on the DOC box is different from the Export Documentation:*

*Contact the Aviagen Export Department, Logistics, or the Hatchery for more information on how to rectify the problem.*





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## Handling and Care of Day-Old Chicks in Transport Boxes

The Aviagen Checklist Report is necessary to determine arrival weather and ensure the proper pallet configuration and design. The following is an example of the Aviagen Checklist Report that must be filed by the Freight Forwarder:

### 4 AVIAGEN CHECKLIST REPORT

Consignee: PEACE & FORWARD INTL  
Order #145526 - AWB #999-50507391  
ETD 2020 (28/02/2019)



TRUCK	Yes	No	Comment
Truck Sealed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Only one shipment in the truck	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	By-product shipment included.
Temperature in truck between 18° and 24° C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Full set of documents	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Boxes are stacked less than 10 high	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

WORKING AREA	Yes	No	Comment
Area disinfected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other animals unloaded at the same time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pallet of parrots in holding area.
Animal activity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pigeons present.
Temperature between 18° and 24° C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Equipment needed for temperature control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Color plan used	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Aviagen palletization configuration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

DROP OFF AREA	Yes	No	Comment
Other feathered animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Was there a delay?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Length of delay?
Temperature between 18° and 24° C	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

#### WEATHER AT DEPARTURE

Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Few Showers	Rain or Snow
Cloudy	Hard Rain	Fog	Night
<b>CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY</b>			

#### WEATHER IN TRANSIT

Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Few Showers	Rain or Snow
Cloudy	Hard Rain	Fog	Night
<b>CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY</b>			

#### WEATHER EXPECTED AT DESTINATION

Sunny	Mostly Sunny	Few Showers	Rain or Snow
Cloudy	Hard Rain	Fog	Night
<b>CIRCLE ALL THAT APPLY</b>			

## 5 DOC COMFORT

**TEMPERATURE AND AIR CIRCULATION MUST BE CORRECT, TAKING CARE TO ENSURE AIR DOES NOT BLOW DIRECTLY ONTO THE DOC BOXES.**

### 1 DETERMINING DOC COMFORT

It is important that storage temperature targets suggested for DOC are followed closely. DOC cannot self-regulate body temperature and therefore, require external sources for temperature control.

- If the temperature is just right and the noise level signifies contentment, DOC will spread evenly throughout the box and sleep.
- If the temperature is too high, DOC will pant.
- If the temperature is too low, DOC will huddle together and make a lot of noise.
- If there is a draft or direct sunlight, DOC will huddle to one side of the box.



**Hot chicks**



**Comfortable chicks**



**Cold chicks**

If DOC are found to be uncomfortable, the following should be checked:

- Air temperature in the chick holding area is correct.
- Air circulation around DOC boxes.

### 2 CHECKING THE TEMPERATURE OF DOC



The temperature at DOC box level can be checked by reading the temperature data logger attached to an outside box with pink tape.

- The optimum temperature range in the room is 18 to 24 °C.



The temperature inside the DOC box can be measured using any reliable temperature meter.

- The optimum temperature range inside the DOC boxes is 28 to 32 °C.



Take temperature readings from the inside of DOC boxes in the following locations:

- Front, side and back of the pallet.
- Top, middle, and bottom of the DOC box stacks.

### 3 DEDICATED PLACE OR ROOM FOR ANIMALS

If a dedicated place or room for animals is established in the airport, make sure it provides enough biosecurity and an adequate environment:

- To ensure biosecurity, no other animals should be in the area, especially birds.
- Turn the room light off or reduce lighting to create a calming effect for DOC.
- Check the temperature frequently.
- Ventilation should be provided by fans.



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### 6 NO DEDICATED PLACE OR ROOM FOR ANIMALS

1 If there is no **dedicated place or room** for animals in the airport, choose the best location possible for DOC:

- The best location will be away from other animals, especially birds.
- Avoid areas with excessive or extremely loud noises.
- Keep DOC away from extreme cold or heat.
- Avoid windy areas or cold drafts.
- Never place DOC in direct sunlight.
- Never tightly wrap DOC boxes with plastic or other materials.

### 2 COOLER CLIMATES/ SEASONS

When DOC are stored in a warehouse which is not dedicated for animals during cooler climates/seasons:

- Place the DOC away from drafts (such as open doors and windows) in a quiet place.
- Use any available heating system (patio heaters, hot-air gun) to ensure the DOC are comfortable.
- Never allow warm air to blow directly on the DOC.
- If available, place palletized DOC inside a tunnel curtain.
- Frequently check that DOC stored within the tunnel curtain are comfortable.



### 3 WARMER CLIMATES/ SEASONS

When DOC are stored in a warehouse which is not dedicated for animals during warmer climates/seasons:

- If the warehouse is hot, place DOC in a ventilated area (close to a door) or use fans to ventilate. Use rotating or oscillating fans.
- If it is hotter outside than inside the warehouse, place the DOC in a quiet area and ventilate using fans.
- Never place DOC inside a tunnel curtain during hot weather.
- Check the chicks frequently (every 20 minutes) to make sure that they are not overheating.



### 7 TRANSPORT TO THE AIRCRAFT IN DEDICATED VEHICLE

#### 1 DEDICATED VEHICLE FOR ANIMAL TRANSPORT

Some airlines have special live animal vehicles to transport palletized DOC from the warehouse to the aircraft.

**Ask for availability.** If a live animal vehicle is available:

- It should be clean and free of debris, animal waste/droppings and feathers.
- It should offer adequate ventilation to DOC.
- It should be kept at a temperature between 18 and 24°C.
- Leave DOC in the transport vehicle if less than 3 hours.
- Move DOC to the warehouse between two flights if the duration of the layover is greater than 4 hours.

## 8 TRANSPORT TO THE AIRCRAFT USING A NON-DEDICATED VEHICLE

### 1 RAINY, SNOWY OR COLD WEATHER

DOC must be protected from weather conditions such as rain, snow, extreme wind or cold temperatures. This is especially important if there are no vehicles for animal transport. Ask for availability of any kind of protection for the DOC.

- Trucks equipped with a roof (canvas or hard top) will protect the DOC from rain and block some wind.
- Plastic sheeting placed loosely over the pallet with holes for ventilation is acceptable (DOC require ventilation in order to breathe).
- Ask for a thermal blanket in cooler climates (check DOC frequently to ensure they are comfortable).
- If possible, ask that the DOC leave the warehouse at the last minute.

#### PRECAUTIONS

- **REMOVE PLASTIC SHEETING AFTER LOADING THE PALLET OF DOC INTO THE AIRCRAFT!**
- **REMOVE THE THERMAL BLANKET AFTER LOADING THE PALLET OF DOC INTO THE AIRCRAFT!**
- **NEVER SHRINK WRAP PALLETIZED DOC IN TRANSPORT BOXES!**

### 2 HOT WEATHER

- In warmer climates DOC must be protected from direct sunlight. DOC can quickly overheat if they are stored too long in extremely hot weather.
- Trucks equipped with a roof (canvas or hard top) will protect the DOC from direct sunlight.
- Never cover DOC with plastic sheeting or other materials in hot weather and provide adequate ventilation at all times.

- Limit the time in transit from the warehouse to the aircraft.
- Minimize the time DOC spend at the foot of the plane waiting to be loaded.
- If possible, ask that the DOC leave the warehouse at the last minute.

### 3 LOADING DOC PALLET INTO AIRCRAFT

- Load the DOC pallet last in the aircraft in order for the DOC pallet to be unloaded first.
- In the aircraft, the DOC must be placed away from other animals, especially birds.
- In the event other animals are meant to be transported with Aviagen DOC, contact Aviagen and make them aware.

- Inform the aircraft crew that they are transporting live animals.
- The temperature in the aircraft should be maintained between 18 and 24 °C.

### 4 EMERGENCY CONTACT



Each pallet of DOC contains a plastic sleeve with shipping documents and information regarding an emergency contact.





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