



# Best Practice

at the Airport Warehouse



Providing Hydration  
Material to Day-Old Chicks





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## Providing Hydration Material to Day-Old Chicks in Transport Boxes

### 1 INTRODUCTION

Providing hydration material to day-old chicks (DOC) is a process requested by Aviagen® customers. Hydration gel is:

- Largely water in a gel form
- Designed to hydrate DOC during transportation
- Given to DOC prior to palletization or at the in-transit airport

### 2 SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

#### BIOSECURITY

Only touch DOC when wearing protective clothing:

- Disposable gloves and clothes
- Never give DOC a hydration cube that was in contact with soil, dust, or has fallen on the floor
- Containers used to hold hydration gel must be washed, disinfected and covered with a new plastic garbage bag prior to use
- Refer to **Best Practice at the Airport Warehouse Ensuring the Biosecurity of DOC** for more information on donning protective clothing



#### TRAINING

Anyone who prepares and provides hydration gel to DOC must be trained by an Aviagen employee.



#### EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

- A fresh supply of hydration gel that has been kept clean
- A clean plastic box to hold the gel
- Hydration gel cutter, a clean pair of scissors or snap-off knife
- Plenty of large, clean plastic bags (garbage bin liners are ideal)
- Plastic storage bags or pastry bags

## 2 SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS



### STRAIN SECURITY

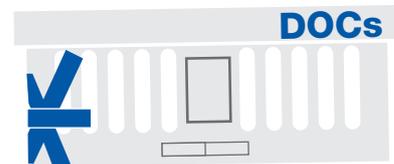
Never mix DOC coming from boxes having different colored lids, never switch box lids.

***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 PREPARATIONS

1 Use a dedicated, labelled and clean storage box to store all the equipment which will be needed for the hydration of DOC.

2 Choose a suitable flat surface such as a long table or stacked wooden pallets and protect it with a clean, unused garbage bag or plastic sheeting.





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### 3 PREPARATIONS

- 3 Everyone handling DOC must wear disposable clothing and use hand sanitizer before starting work. Disposable clothing prevents the spread of disease by protecting DOC from pathogens carried on human hands, clothing, shoes or hair (refer to **Best Practice at the Airport Warehouse Ensuring the Biosecurity of DOC** for more information on donning protective clothing).



- 4 Wash and disinfect the cutting machine and the plastic box. Line the plastic box with a clean, unused garbage bag.
- Store the cutting machine, plastic box and garbage bags in a clean, dry place to protect them from contamination between uses.



- 5 Scissors or a snap-off knife may be required to open the hydration gel.
- Only use the scissors or snap-off knife stored in the clean storage box.



- 6 Plastic storage bags or pastry bags should be used to push hydration material inside sealed DOC boxes (e.g., temperature boxes with pink tape).
- Prevent wetting of box material.



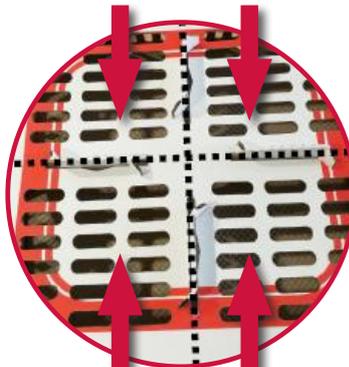
## 4 PROCEDURES FOR DEPARTURE AIRPORT

*Only those trained by an Aviagen employee are authorized to follow these procedures.*



### 7 Departure Airport – Preparing Hydration Material:

- Place the cutting machine inside the plastic box which has been lined with a clean, unused garbage bag.
- Open a bag of hydration gel, remove all packaging and place the gel inside the cutting machine.
- Push with the press in order to cut the gel into cubes.
- Single dose - 1 bag per 12 DOC boxes  
Double dose - 2 bags per 12 DOC boxes.



### 8 Departure Airport - Where to Apply Hydration Material:

Open the DOC box and add one cube of hydration gel in each quarter of the box. If a double dose is requested by the customer, add two cubes per quarter. Close the box, and move on to the next one.

DOC boxes that contain temperature loggers are sealed with pink tape and should not be opened.

- Use a pastry bag or plastic storage bag filled with cube(s) and squeeze through a hole in the box lid.

***Do not squeeze hydration gel over the temperature sensors.***

#### CAUTION

***When closing the box, check that DOC are not caught between the lid and the box dividers.***



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## 5 PROCEDURES FOR IN-TRANSIT AIRPORT

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### 9 In-Transit Airport – Preparing Hydration Material:

- Create a working area using a support (pallet) and a clean, unused garbage bag.
- Use a clean and disinfected snap-off knife to remove the hydration material from the plastic storage bag.
- Using the snap-off knife, cut the hydration material linearly into 49 parts (7 horizontal cuts by 7 vertical cuts).
- Each square should be approx. 2.5 cm x 2.5 cm (1 in x 1 in).

*Do not push hydration material directly through holes in the box as this will cause the cardboard to become wet, break and fail to hold DOC inside.*

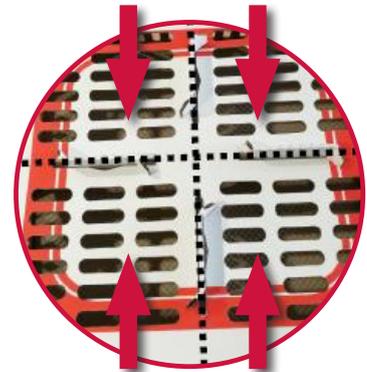


### 10 In-Transit Airport – Preparing the Application Bag:

- Use a pastry bag or plastic storage bag filled with hydration cubes.
- Fill the bags about half-way.
- Cut an opening in the bottom corner of the pastry bag or plastic storage bag large enough to allow one cube to pass through.

## 6 PROCEDURES FOR IN-TRANSIT AIRPORT

*Do not push hydration material directly through holes in the box as this will cause the cardboard to become wet, break and fail to hold DOC inside.*



### 11 In-Transit Airport – Applying Hydration Material to DOC boxes:

- Add a cube of hydration material into the DOC box by squeezing it through the opening in the bottom of the bag so that it passes between the ventilation openings in the box side or lid.
- Add one cube per quarter for a total of 4 cubes per DOC box.

### 12 In-Transit Airport – Applying Hydration Material to DOC boxes on the pallet:

- Shoe covers should be replaced each time someone leaves and enters the pallet area.
- For best results, have one person prepare the gel bags and one person apply the gel to the DOC boxes.



## 7 PROCEDURES FOR CLEAN-UP AND STORAGE

### 13 Departure and In-Transit Airport:

- Discard any unused portions of the hydration product (open bags).
- Discard all used protective gloves, shoe covers and coveralls. Used protective clothing should never be re-used.
- Discard any used plastic sheeting and do not re-use.
- Discard used plastic storage bags or pastry bags and do not re-use.
- Containers, scissors, snap-off knife and the hydration gel cutter must be cleaned and disinfected prior to the next use.
- Store all equipment in a dedicated, labelled, and clean storage box.



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