

RSPCA Assured pauses new laying hen standards until February 2025

To provide tailored support to members to help them meet the new standards

Friday 26 April 2024

To allow more time to provide tailored support for their members, RSPCA Assured has today announced it will be extending the pause for the start date of the new RSPCA laying hen welfare standards for a total of nine months.

This means members can continue to use the current version of the standards, published in 2017, until 1 February 2025.

The extended pause follows RSPCA Assured's original announcement in March this year, that it would be pausing the implementation of the standards for three months (from May 2024 to August 2024), in response to member and industry feedback.



Kelly Grellier, interim chief operations officer at RSPCA Assured, said: "Our members are fundamental in helping us improve hen welfare. Therefore, ensuring we listen to them and provide proper support to help them meet the new standards is our top priority. To do this effectively, we have to be flexible. Extending the current pause until 2025 will give us more time to talk to more members and offer more support tailored to their specific needs"

Over the coming months, the RSPCA and RSPCA Assured will be offering in person meetings to their members. The aim of these will be to fully understand any challenges producers are facing and work with them to find practical solutions to help them achieve the new standards.

Members who want to find out more about attending a laying hen standards support session should email help@rspcaassured.org.uk for more information.

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RSPCA Assured and the RSPCA will also be developing UK based case studies to demonstrate how natural daylight** can be practically applied in a variety of laying hen farming systems, such as multi-tiered, flat deck, free range and barn.

The development of case studies will be ongoing over the next few years. When each case study is completed, it will be shared with both RSPCA Assured members and industry.

“In addition to case studies and in person support, we will continue to review how we can improve engagement with members and the industry when developing new standards.” Kelly continued.

New, potential or existing RSPCA Assured members who are in need of support or advice about meeting the new laying hen standards can [contact](#) RSPCA Assured membership services via the RSPCA Assured website.



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Notes to editors:

- **The RSPCA welfare standards do not require natural daylight to be implemented until 1 January 2031, giving producers over six years to meet the standards in full.
- You can find full details of the new laying hen standards [here](#), including all updates and amendments.
- Please find further information for barn members on the benefits of verandas [here](#).
- Read further information for barn and free-range members on the benefits of natural daylight [here](#).
- Find out more about egg-laying hens [here](#).

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