

Background

The welfare of all animals within our supply chain continues to be an integral consideration of our responsible sourcing strategy. All sentient beings have the right to freedom from hunger, thirst, discomfort, pain and distress and we are committed to continuously enhancing the [welfare standards](#) throughout our supply chain to reflect this. Recognising that improving farm animal welfare standards is increasingly a collective issue for our industry, Compass Group Plc became a founding member of the Global Coalition for Animal Welfare (GCAW) in 2018. GCAW is the world’s first industry-led initiative aimed at advancing animal welfare globally.

Compass Group UK & I, along with Compass across Europe signed up to the Better Chicken Commitment in 2019. The multi-stakeholder commitment seeks to improve the quality of lives of broiler chickens by addressing [improvements](#) in stocking density, environmental factors, stunning techniques and use of slower growing breeds by 2026. Coupled with our commitment to achieve a 25% switch from animal protein by 2025, we can ensure that whilst we reduce our chicken consumption, the chicken we do source is of the highest welfare standards.

Progress

We have been working with our core supplier of chicken to understand our baseline and the path to target completion and have followed the guidance of Compassion in World Farming to share our first public update for our UK Progress*:

Key Metric	January 2023 Position - UK	Insights & Challenges
Comply with all EU animal welfare laws and regulations, regardless of the country of production	55%	We will continue to increase our percentage of UK/EU sourced chicken and will be 100% compliant in 2024.
Implement a maximum stocking density of 30kg/m2 or less. Thinning is discouraged and if practiced must be limited to one thin per flock	0%	We are working pre-competitively with our peers to understand the impacts and best practices of a reduced stocking density and determining the best way forward with our suppliers to meet 30kg/m2.
Use only BCC-approved breeds that demonstrate higher welfare outcomes: Hubbard Redbro (indoor use only); Hubbard Norfolk Black, JA757, JACY57, 787, 957, or 987, Rambler Ranger, Ranger Classic, and	0%	The use of BCC approved breeds has not been fully adopted within the poultry industry. We are working closely with our suppliers and peers in a pre-competitive manner to learn more

Compass Group UK & I Better Chicken Commitment - January 2023 Update

Ranger Gold, or other breeds that meet the criteria of the RSPCA Broiler Breed Welfare Assessment Protocol.		about the new breeds and will be piloting approved BCC breeds in 2024.
Improved environmental standard: At least 50 lux of light including natural light	44%	Supply chain disruptions in 2021 and 2022 inhibited our ability to make progress on environmental standards but we are working closely with our suppliers to increase the percent of birds that are reared in accordance with these requirements.
Improved environmental standard: At least two metres of usable perch space, and two pecking substrates, per 1,000 birds.	44%	
Improved environmental standard: On air quality, the maximum requirements of Annex 2.3 of the EU broiler directive, regardless of stocking density.	34%	
Improved environmental standard: no cages or multi-tier systems	44%	
Adopt controlled atmospheric stunning using inert gas or multi-phase systems, or effective electrical stunning without live inversion.	0%	The broader industry adoption of CAS is slow. We will continue to learn more about the best practices associated with CAS and will work closely with our suppliers to increase the percent of birds we purchase that are processed in this manner.
Demonstrate compliance with all standards via third-party auditing and annual public reporting on progress toward this commitment.	44%	We will continue to publish annual progress updates and will identify our method of third-party auditing by 2024.

*Our first progress update for Ireland will be available by April 2023.