

RCW 69.25.065 Egg handler's or dealer's license—Renewal applications—Commercial egg layer operation requirements—Proof. (1) All new and renewal applications submitted under RCW 69.25.050 before January 1, 2024, must include proof that all eggs and egg products provided in intrastate commerce by the applicant are produced by commercial egg layer operations:

(a) With a current certification under the 2010 version of the united egg producers animal husbandry guidelines for United States egg laying flocks for conventional cage systems or cage-free housing systems or a subsequent version of the guidelines recognized by the department in rule; or

(b) Operated in strict compliance with any standards, adopted by the department in rule, that are equivalent to or more stringent than the standards identified in (a) of this subsection.

(2) All new and renewal applications submitted under RCW 69.25.050 before January 1, 2017, must, in addition to complying with subsection (1) of this section, include proof that all eggs and egg products provided in intrastate commerce by the applicant are produced by commercial egg layer operations whose housing facilities, if built between January 1, 2012, and December 31, 2016, are either:

(a) Approved under, or convertible to, the American humane association facility system plan for enriched colony housing in effect on January 1, 2011, or a subsequent version of the plan recognized by the department in rule and, in addition, are convertible to the standards identified in RCW 69.25.107; or

(b) Operated in strict compliance with any standards, adopted by the department in rule, that are equivalent to or more stringent than the standards identified in (a) of this subsection.

(3) All new and renewal applications submitted under RCW 69.25.050 between January 1, 2017, and December 31, 2023, must, in addition to complying with subsection (1) of this section, include proof that all eggs and egg products provided in intrastate commerce by the applicant are produced by commercial egg layer operations whose housing facilities, if built on or after January 1, 2012, are either:

(a) Approved under the American humane association facility system plan and audit protocol for enriched colony housing in effect on January 1, 2011, or a subsequent version of the plan recognized by the department in rule and, in addition, are operated to the standards identified in RCW 69.25.107; or

(b) Operated in strict compliance with any standards, adopted by the department in rule, that are equivalent to or more stringent than the standards identified in (a) of this subsection.

(4) All new and renewal applications submitted under RCW 69.25.050 on or after January 1, 2024, must include proof that all eggs and egg products provided in intrastate commerce by the applicant are produced by commercial egg layer operations that are either:

(a) Housing egg-laying hens with at a minimum the amount of usable floor space per hen required by the 2017 edition of the united egg producers' Animal Husbandry Guidelines for United States Egg-Laying Flocks: Guidelines for Cage-Free Housing, or a subsequent version of the plan recognized by the department in rule as providing equal or more usable floor space per egg-laying hen and, in addition, are operated to the standards identified in RCW 69.25.107; or

(b) Operated in strict compliance with any standards, adopted by the department in rule, that are equivalent to or more stringent than the standards identified in (a) of this subsection.

- (5) The following are exempt from the requirements of subsections (2) and (3) of this section:
- (a) Applicants with fewer than three thousand laying chickens;
- and
- (b) Commercial egg layer operations when producing eggs or egg products from turkeys, ducks, geese, guineas, or other species of fowl other than domestic chickens. [2019 c 276 s 4; 2011 c 306 s 3.]

Construction—2019 c 276: "The provisions of this act are in addition to, and not in lieu of, any other laws protecting animal welfare. This act shall not be construed to limit any other state laws or regulations protecting the welfare of animals or to prevent a local governing body from adopting and enforcing its own animal welfare laws and regulations." [2019 c 276 s 9.]

Finding—Purpose—2019 c 276: See note following RCW 69.25.010.

Effective date—2011 c 306: See note following RCW 69.25.020.