

Council Directive 1999/74/EC of 19 July 1999 laying  
down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens

CHAPTER III

**Provisions applicable to rearing in enriched cages**

*Article 6*

Member States shall ensure that after 1 January 2002 all the cages referred to in this chapter comply at least with the following requirements:

1. laying hens must have:
  - (a) at least 750 cm<sup>2</sup> of cage area per hen, 600 cm<sup>2</sup> of which shall be usable; the height of the cage other than that above the usable area shall be at least 20 cm at every point and no cage shall have a total area that is less than 2000 cm<sup>2</sup>;
  - (b) a nest;
  - (c) litter such that pecking and scratching are possible;
  - (d) appropriate perches allowing at least 15 cm per hen;
2. a feed trough which may be used without restriction must be provided. Its length must be at least 12 cm multiplied by the number of hens in the cage;
3. each cage must have a drinking system appropriate to the size of the group; where nipple drinkers are provided, at least two nipple drinkers or two cups must be within the reach of each hen;
4. to facilitate inspection, installation and depopulation of hens there must be a minimum aisle width of 90 cm between tiers of cages and a space of at least 35 cm must be allowed between the floor of the building and the bottom tier of cages;
5. cages must be fitted with suitable claw-shortening devices.