

# Bird Welfare Acceptance Checklist

This checklist is an optional tool for airlines, cargo companies, and all other carriers and intermediate handlers. Use it to determine whether a live bird traveling within or to the United States meets the welfare standards established by the Animal Welfare Act and Regulations (Part 3, Subpart G, § 3.161 – 3.168).

## Required Paperwork

- ☐ Is the paperwork secured to the outside of the container?
  - Does the paperwork include ALL the following?
    - Consignor's name, address, telephone number, and email address
    - Number of birds
    - Species or common names of the birds
    - Time and date birds were last fed and watered with instructions for feeding(s) and watering(s) in the next 24-hour period
    - Consignor's signature with date and time
  - Is certification provided that the bird(s) have been offered food and water during the 4 hours prior to delivery?
    - Is there an adequate amount of food and water with the bird for the length of transport?
- ☐ If unweaned birds are present, are there transport instructions from a veterinarian that were signed within 10 days of shipment?
- ☐ For birds in brooders or other temperature-regulating units, are there written instructions?

## Bird

- ☐ Does the bird appear healthy? **Any bird that is ill, injured, or in physical distress must be provided veterinary care immediately.**
- ☐ Has the bird arrived no sooner than 4 hours BEFORE the scheduled departure time? A two-hour extension is allowed if scheduled and is not detrimental to the bird's health and well-being.

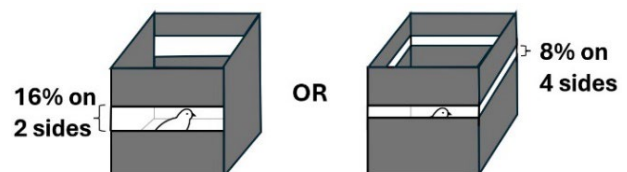
## Transport Enclosure/Container

- ☐ Is the bird comfortably contained? The enclosure must be big enough so each bird has sufficient room to turn freely and make normal movements. Note: Certain species may be restricted according to professionally accepted standards.
- ☐ Is the container strong enough to withstand the stress of transportation and contain the bird securely?
- ☐ Is the interior of the container free of sharp points or edges that could injure the bird?
- ☐ Is the container made of materials that are non-toxic to the bird?
- ☐ Can the bird easily and quickly be removed in an emergency?
- ☐ Does the container prevent the bird putting any part of its body outside the enclosure or through the floor's openings that could result in injury to itself, people, or other animals.

- ☐ Does the container have exterior handholds that prevent tilting or coming into contact with the bird when the container is being moved? Transport containers that are permanently attached to the mechanism of transport do not require exterior handholds.
- ☐ Are the words "Live Animals" marked on the top and at least one side of the container's exterior with at least 1 inch (2.54 cm) lettering and with arrows or drawings to show the correct "UP" position for the container?
- ☐ Is the container padded on the top and sides for fractious or stress-prone birds to prevent injury?
- ☐ Does the container have a solid, leak-proof bottom OR a removable, leak-proof collection tray?
- ☐ Is the enclosure clean and sanitary as to prevent excessive buildup of feces and food waste that prevents the soiling of the birds and reduces disease hazards, insects, pests, and odors?
- ☐ If the container holds multiple birds or other animals, are all the animals compatible? There should be no evidence of injury, aggression, or insufficient space for all animals within the container.

## Ventilation

- ☐ Does the enclosure have either ventilation openings on two vertical walls that are at least 16% of the surface area of each wall or ventilation openings on all four walls of the enclosure that are at least 8% of the total surface area of each wall?



- ☐ Does the container have projecting rims or a device on the outside to prevent blocking of the ventilation openings and allow for a minimum ventilation space of 0.75 in. (1.9 cm)?
- ☐ Are the ventilation openings clear to allow good airflow and not blocked? If there are additional coverings intended to block light or limit the bird's ability to see outside the crate, does this material allow for good air exchange and ventilation?