



## FEATHER POLICY

### Background:

- As a precaution to the avian influenza virus, Asda want to give **guidelines** to their suppliers on the processes required for feather use. These are set as a minimum standard, and must be followed at all times. All feathers should be sourced from animals that are treated humanely during their rearing, transportation, lairage handling and slaughter.
- Adherence to the current Welfare of Farmed Animals Regulations (2000). ASDA will use these standards in demanding equivalence in other countries where product is purchased or processed outside the UK.

Husbandry methods must avoid stress and discomfort by creating freedom from fear, hunger, thirst, malnutrition, pain and allow normal patterns of behaviour within the constraints of the husbandry system used.

The rapid diagnosis of injury, disease or infestation must be assured and treated only by approved veterinary procedures.

### Implementation:

- Only properly processed feathers (as method below) can be supplied to Asda
- All feathers must be a by-product of the commercial food industry.
- Asda require feathers to come from poultry – ie, chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys. (Ostrich and marabou from an EU country may potentially be used with previous agreement with the technologist).
- Feathers are not permitted from protected species (refer to [www.cites.org](http://www.cites.org))
- Feather recovery must be from slaughtered birds - live plucking is not permitted.
- Consignment must pass through an authorised Border Inspection Post
- Asda require full traceability of commercial documents for process / fumigation & veterinary certification
- Asda intends to implement full traceability of feathers (from farm to finished product) used within their products at the earliest opportunity and not later than Jan 2010.

### Minimum process for treatment of all feathers is as follows:

1. All feathers must be washed, rinsed and dried
2. Feathers must be dried at a temperature of at least 70° degrees (as this is considered effective in reducing the risk of the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) virus to a negligible level).
3. The use of a steam current for cleaning or drying is acceptable.
4. Then the feathers must be fumigated using one of the recommended methods from DEFRA: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/int-trde/cins/2004/0423.htm>

### Testing

All feathers & marabou must be tested to the following:

European Pharmacopeia Total Viable Aerobic Count or Total Viable Aerobic Count and Absence of E-Coli



Feather and down used in filled products – must comply with current European legislation

**Banned products**

Products derived from non-poultry birds including feathers are banned from all non-EU countries. This includes fancy feathers, processed feathers, decorative feathers and decorative eggs are banned where the feathers come from non-poultry birds from non-EU countries. Please also refer to the DEFRA website for further information.

**Declaration of conformity**

Asda require a signed the declaration of conformity to this policy as per attached for each product.



**DECLARATION OF CONFORMITY**

<b>Products</b>	
<b>Spec Codes</b>	

**..(supplier).....declares that the products listed comply with the ASDA Feather policy.**

**Furthermore, Feather and down used in filled products have been tested and comply with current European legislation.**

**Signed:**

**Name:**

**Position:**

**Date:**