**Aim to Sustain Game Assurance - Standards**

**Lowland Shoot Standards**

It is expected that Aim to Sustain Game Assurance Members will always adhere to these standards. The 3rd party audit will gather the evidence to show adherence to the standards, enabling certification as a member of the game assurance scheme. Evidence will be gathered through review of physical records (paper or electronic), conversations with shoot operators and observation on site at the time of the audit.

Information collected and reviewed as part of a member’s audit will remain confidential between the shoot and the assurance scheme (Aim to Sustain and our certification body Intertek SAI Global).

The fine detail of each standard and their evidence requirements will be available to the shoot operator as they prepare for audit, along with guidance and templates to assist with evidence gathering.

**8 areas of the shoot will be assessed:**

* **Section 1 - Shoot procedures & operation**. Shoots must comply with all legal obligations and not bring the shoot, shooting sector or the Aim to Sustain Assurance Scheme into disrepute.
  + The shoot is expected to comply with the Code of Good Shooting Practice (CoGSP).
  + Documentation should include:
    - Site map (including release pens, boundaries and locations of European protected sites/SSSI), key contacts list, health and safety policy and emergency plan.
    - How to manage complaints, including any regarding following the CoGSP.
    - Registration with the UK Government Poultry Register.
    - Training provided and records kept for essential qualifications.
    - Sources of the game birds, numbers, delivery information, release dates and first shooting dates.
  + Assess risks. Have procedures and equipment to manage likely incidents or emergencies.
* **Section 2 - Bio security.** Shoots must have systems in place and necessary equipment to prevent the spread of a notifiable disease.
  + Comply with bio-security requirements for their situation. Show ability to enhance bio-security if the situation changes.
* **Section 3 - Pest and predation control.** Shoots must show effective and responsible pest and predation management.
  + Show how pest and predation control is planned to consider the shoot’s situation, legislation and regulation requirements (including use of toxic baits and HCR/traps).
* **Section 4 - Feed & water.** Game birds must be provided a nutritionally balanced diet appropriate for the age and species.
  + Show sufficient access to suitable feed and water throughout the season.
  + Purchase or source feed from an appropriate source, keep records and ensure it is correctly labelled (medicated and non-medicated).
  + Store feed to reduce of contamination, weather spoilage, access by vermin and ensure separation of medicated and non-medicated feed.
* **Section 5 - Health and welfare.** Shoots must demonstrate the highest standards of game bird health and welfare (whilst in release pens).
  + The Shoot must be registered with a vet practice, with appropriate flock health and welfare plan.
  + Bird husbandry must show procedures to monitor the flock and manage injury, illness, and stress.
* **Section 6 - Veterinary medicines.** Shoots must demonstrate legal, responsible and competent use of veterinary medicines or treatments.
  + Any medicines must be authorised, appropriate and used by a competent person (trained). This includes use of HP-CIA.
  + All medicine records for purchase, administering and disposal must be kept in line with regulatory requirement.
  + All medicines must be stored appropriately.
* **Section 7 - Animal by products.** Shoots must demonstrate legal management of all damaged or contaminated dead birds (shot, euthanised or died in release pens) that cannot enter the food chain.
  + Show legal disposal methods, with appropriate record keeping.
* **Section 8 - Game handling, transport, and food hygiene.** Shoots must demonstrate systems and equipment in place to manage wild game and game meat intended for human consumption.
  + All shot game must be regarded as a food product (until assessed as damaged or contaminated).
  + Shot game must be transferred to a chiller (if applicable) at the earliest opportunity, in a suitable vehicle.
  + All game processing facilities and equipment must be maintained in a clean, serviceable condition, designed appropriately to enable food safe handling, including the provision of appropriate safe water supplies.
  + All necessary records and plans for the scale and style of shoot operation must be in place.

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